

# NGO Council Update from Chair – June 2016



Kia ora NGO Health and Disability Network members.

Thank you to all those Disability Support Service (DSS) members who voted in our recent election to select a new DSS representative on the [NGO Council](#). I am pleased to welcome [Marese McGee](#) from the Community Living Trust to the NGO Council for a two year term. I also want to thank the other candidates who stood for this vacancy – it was good to have such a strong field for members to select from. This election was to fill the vacancy created by Victoria Manning's resignation from the NGO Council, but several other positions will be open to new candidates in our annual election in October – so please start to think about whether a leader from your NGO might be suitable for a [Council role](#).

## Ministry on the Move changes

Our June NGO Council provided us with an opportunity to learn more about the Ministry's changes that are occurring as part of the Ministry on the Move initiative to ensure the Ministry is well-equipped to deliver on the [new NZ Health Strategy](#).

Council members heard from [Jill Lane](#) (the newly-appointed *Director, Service Commissioning*), as well as [Keriana Brooking](#) (*Chief Advisor - Service Improvement and Change*) and [Jill Bond](#) (*Executive Director, Office of the Director General*), who are playing key roles in helping to create change throughout the Ministry.

Council members were heartened to hear that strong connections are already being made at the tier two level between Service Commissioning and Strategy and Policy. I encourage you to check the Ministry's website to familiarise yourselves with the [new leadership structure](#) and [role of each business unit](#), but also know that the Ministry is committed to a 'no wrong door' approach – so if sector organisations have new ideas or initiatives to discuss with the Ministry, they will ensure the right people are around the table for the discussion, no matter where it is raised.

With these changes, the new [NZ Health Strategy](#) and the government's interest in taking a [social investment approach](#), it is more important than ever that our services can clearly [show the differences we are making](#) for clients/consumers and that we are listening to the voices of our customers/clients. For many of us in the non-profit sector, this is part of our kaupapa already, but we need to be sure to communicate this to those we are seeking funding from.

## National NGO Forum

Bringing these ideas together, the NGO Council has started to plan for the next annual NGO Forum, which is likely to be held in October. This national NGO Forum will be based around the [new NZ Health Strategy](#) and its five strategic themes of [one team](#) in a [high performing, smart system](#) that delivers [people-powered](#) services [closer to home](#).

If you have ideas of great speakers on these topics or short case studies to share that can help others do this well, please let our Secretariat ([secretariatngo@gmail.com](mailto:secretariatngo@gmail.com)) know, so that we can consider these for the programme. We are also exploring opportunities to complement presentations and discussions that will take place at the Ministry's next [Powering Up Our Future Health Symposium](#).

## Influencing public policy

Our free [workshops on influencing public policy and making submissions](#) in Christchurch and Wellington in May were very well-received and we are now accepting bookings or workshops in [Auckland \(28 July\)](#) and [Hamilton \(27 July\)](#). We have also added some [additional resources and guidance](#) to our website, including some short how-to videos.

Currently, you can have your say on various topics that could impact on our sector:

- Share views on the NZ Health Research Strategy discussion document by 29 July 2016 [www.health.govt.nz/publication/new-zealand-health-research-strategy-discussion-document](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/new-zealand-health-research-strategy-discussion-document)
- The Office for Disability Issues is asking people to share what the most important things are for

disabled New Zealanders and their whānau to live a good life, to feel valued, supported and able to participate in their communities.

You can contribute ideas at <http://jointheconversation.nz/>

- Comment on draft plain packaging regulations for tobacco by 29 July 2016  
[www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-releases/consultation-opens-draft-plain-packaging-regulations](http://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-releases/consultation-opens-draft-plain-packaging-regulations)
- Share approaches that give disabled people greater choice and control over their supports and lives to inform development of advice to Government on how to apply the *Enabling Good Lives* approach to disability support services. Deadline 21 October 2016.  
[www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/gatheringinformation](http://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/gatheringinformation)

Until next time, Mauri Ora.

*Donna Matahaere-Atariki*

*Chair, NGO Health & Disability Council*

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