

NGO Council Chair's Update – April 2014



It was great to see such a large crowd at last month's [Ministry of Health NGO Health & Disability National Forum](#). There were 280 attendees at the forum, with 220 people from over 150 NGOs across the country. In addition to the NGO attendees, sixty Ministry of Health staff attended which has increased significantly since 2012 (15 attendees) and 2013 (51 attendees), but only five DHBs were represented. Despite the lack of DHB engagement, the forum provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the NGO sector.

The decision to feature presentations by fellow NGOs proved a popular one, with many of you identifying these as a highlight in your evaluations. These [PowerPoint presentations are available on our website](#) and [video of some of the Snapshots of Success](#) is now viewable on [YouTube](#) for those who missed them or want to watch them again.

The interest in our eight [afternoon discussion sessions](#) showed these were clearly topics that resonated with you, but there is a need to explore some in more detail and define how we best meet your needs in terms of providing constructive opportunities to engage with the Ministry and other government departments in the future. Similarly, there is a desire for more meaningful engagement with DHBs and high expectations around implementation of [recommendations from the Disability Support Services Review](#). The consultation process on the [Tier 2 and 3 public health service specifications](#), which was discussed at the Forum, is currently underway so those who wish to can have more of a say on the proposed changes. See the consultation documents on the [Nationwide Service Framework Library](#) and make your submission by 5pm on Friday 16 May 2014.

Finally; learning, listening to colleagues and networking came through as the key valuable features of the Forum and we are pleased that so many of you took the time to attend and enjoy what was an excellent day.

We'll be taking on board the feedback from this year's Forum evaluations to influence future events, so thanks to all those who took the time to tell us what you thought.

Forthcoming events

For those of you wanting to participate in another national gathering this year, there are at least four upcoming opportunities:

- [Services for Older People Conference – The Next Stretch](#)
8-9 May, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin.
The theme of this NZ Council of Christian Social Services event reflects the desire of the sector to look ahead and respond to changes such as: Increasing demand, expectations, focus on quality, finite resources, the need for sustainability and the ability to adapt.
– See more at: www.etches.com/ehome/nzccss/159001/
- [2014 National Outcomes and Information Forum: Rising to the information challenge](#)
27 June 2014, Holiday Inn, 2 Ascot Rd, Mangere, Auckland.
This forum will explore the key themes in [Rising to the Challenge](#) and consider the mental health information and outcomes interface. Te Pou will also officially launch an exciting new tool developed to support the collection and effective use of [HoNOS](#) information in clinical practice.
– See more at: www.tepou.co.nz/events/06/2014

- [First New Zealand Population Health Congress: Connecting communities policy and science](#)
6-8 October 2014, Aotea Centre, Auckland.

This major inaugural event will provide a variety of opportunities to learn, discuss and debate advances in areas of population health thinking and practice such as: child poverty, housing, nutrition, indigenous health and climate change.

– See more at: www.hauora.co.nz/first-nz-population-health-congress.html

- [Resilience, Change and the Third Sector – 12th Biennial Third Sector Research Conference](#)
18-20 November 2014, Otautahi Christchurch.

This premier Australasian conference will bring together researchers, academics, practitioners, activists, and policymakers with a shared interest in non-profit organisations, communities, Tangata Whenua/Indigenous organisations, volunteering and philanthropy.

– See more at: www.thirdsectorresearch2014.com/

Welcome input

At our recent NGO Council meeting, your elected representatives talked with the Ministry of Health's Chief Financial Officer, Mike McCarthy about contracting and procurement improvements that are taking place across government. These changes should bring significant reductions in the compliance burden and administration of contracts for many in our sector; however the roll-out will take time to reach everyone. See information about these changes at:

www.business.govt.nz/procurement/procurement-reform/streamlined-contracting-with-ngos

We also met with Darryl Benge, who has been seconded from a disability NGO to work with the [Children's Action Plan](#) team since February. Darryl's frontline experience has proved useful as he's been taking a lead on a project to develop a common assessment framework to assess risk and protection factors.

Projects and submissions

At the April meeting, the NGO Council agreed to commit some project funding to the phase 2 development of the [NZ Navigator self-assessment tool](#). We also allocated additional project funding towards another [Good Governance workshop](#) – to be held in Hastings in June/July.

Council reps also agreed to support the joint submission developed by DPA and CCS Disability Action on the [Building \(Earthquake-prone Buildings\) Amendment Bill](#) – this is another example of how our sector voice can be stronger when we work together.

Kathryn Jones

Chair, NGO Health & Disability Council

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