

## Chair's Update – June 2013

### Renewed commitment to partnership

Your elected-representatives met earlier this month and discussed the refreshed *Relationship Framework* with Chai Chuah (National Health Board Director) and Jill Lane (General Manager, National Services Purchasing, Ministry of Health).

The [original Framework](#) dated back to 2002, so it was time to revisit how the Ministry and our NGO sector can work together and what commitments we can make for the future. Much of the original Framework is still relevant, but it was worthwhile discussing how we can collaborate in key areas such as communication, consultation and capacity building. This also provided an opportunity for the Ministry to look more actively at how it can engage with us and the sector.

We believe the new version makes our mutual expectations of each other clearer. We also took the opportunity to distinguish between our wider membership body of approx 265 NGOs and the 13 elected representatives. As a result, we will move away from the 'Working Group' name and refer to the 'Ministry of Health NGO Health & Disability Network' for our broad membership base as we believe 'network' more accurately describes what we are. The elected reps will form the 'Ministry of Health NGO Health & Disability Council'.

The refreshed Framework is now being formally approved within the Ministry and we will then present it for ratification by the NGO network during the election process later in the year.

We are continuing to develop our work plan for the year ahead and will aim to confirm this at our August meeting. The work plan will help give life to the Framework. As always, we appreciate any comments and feedback from the sector to ensure that the Ministry of Health NGO Health & Disability Network remains relevant and well informed about issues pertaining to our members.

### National Forum follow up

The Ministry of Health made a commitment at the National Forum to respond to the many questions submitted by our sector prior to the Forum. National Health Board Director, Chai Chuah has informed us that the Ministry is grouping similar themed questions for response and providing context to issues, so the answers are delayed. We will circulate these to you as soon as we receive them.

If you wish to review the questions already answered at the Forum, you can [watch the video of the 3 Ministry leaders online](#). (The video description includes a list of the questions covered.)

Other Forum presentations online to view are:

- [Health Minister, Tony Ryall](#), including a [question and answer session in Part 2](#)
- [Gill Genet from Careerforce talking about the national qualifications review](#)
- [Doug Craig from the State Services Commission talking about \*Better Public Services\*](#)

### Wellbeing research

Also at our June meeting we got a preview of the new research from the Sovereign Wellbeing Index, which explores this country's social and personal wellbeing and related mental health issues. This research by AUT will be available on 14 July, and will be launched with a feature on TV's *Sunday* programme. Watch out for this exciting data and make your views known after it is public – it provides much food for thought.

## Opportunities to influence your DHBs

Many of us wonder how our NGO sector can have more influence on the decisions and priorities of our 20 District Health Boards (DHBs) around the country. One way is to be a board member and now is the time to consider if you or someone from your NGO might be a suitable candidate.

Nominations open on 19 July and close at noon on 16 August 2013. DHBs are big organisations: their total annual budget is around \$11 billion, which goes to healthcare in the community, health promotion, and hospital and specialist services. DHBs are also responsible for addressing disparities in the health of particular population groups, including Māori. By standing for your local board you can play your part in helping improve the health of your community. If you'd like to know more about getting elected, go to [www.health.govt.nz/dhbelections](http://www.health.govt.nz/dhbelections) to see details on criteria and processes for nomination.

DHBs also have up to four board members appointed by the Minister of Health. In making his appointments to each DHB, the Minister considers a range of people who may be able fill any gaps in the expertise the board needs to best achieve its functions and objectives. For example, the Minister may wish to appoint people with financial or other experience in the governance of a large organisation, or people from groups not represented among the elected members.

The Ministry of Health assists the Minister in the appointment process and maintains a database of people who have expressed an interest in serving as appointed members. If you wish to be considered for appointment to a DHB (not election), [read the information on the Ministry's website](#) and fill out an application form and send it, along with a copy of your CV, to [appointments@moh.govt.nz](mailto:appointments@moh.govt.nz), or post it to:

*Appointments Advisor*  
Governance and Crown Entities  
Ministry of Health  
PO Box 5013  
Wellington 6145

Individuals and organisations may support a candidate for a specific appointment. To do so, write to the above address, specifying the name of the nominee and the specific vacancy for which they are being nominated. It is the nominator's responsibility to ensure the nominee has submitted an application. See more [information on Ministerial appointments online](#).

If being a DHB board member is not for you, simply going to your DHB's regular board meetings can be an interesting and informative activity. See [My DHB](#) for details on your local DHB and links to their websites or see the meeting dates table on the [NZ Doctor website](#).

Regards

*Kathryn Jones*  
Chair, Ministry of Health NGO Health & Disability Council  
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