

# NASCA NOTICES

20 November 2014

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**This edition of Notices is particularly relevant to DSS with updates and requests following the MOH DSS Reference Group, and the DSS National Operations Meetings last week.**

**Please note deadline dates for feedback and responses.**

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Notes and copies of presentations from the DSS National Operations meeting will be available in the next couple of days on the NASCA website.

## DSS Newsletter

We assume that most NASC Managers will receive the regular MOH DSS Newsletters. If not here is a [MOH DSS Newsletter](#). Included in this edition are details of how to sign up for regular email version.

## MOH Budget 'Overspend'

The MOH raised the issue with NASC Managers regarding an \$8M (\$3.5%) overspend year to date to end of October.

At the meeting various factors and suggestions were discussed for managing the overspend and seeking to bring spend back within budget by the end of the financial year. Areas of concern include Residential, Supported Living, Home and Community Supports and IF.

Some of the factors identified and strategies mentioned last week are listed below. The Ministry is seeking further feedback from NASCA - however please do not be constrained by these - further ideas and enhancements are most welcome.

Factors identified:

- Pressures on residential providers - eg cost of housing in some areas, increased

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Health and Safety responsibilities and perceived risks

- Providers tough negotiators with NASC and 'holding to ransom' – this price or no service
- Increased pressure with RIDCA moving many Civil clients back to mainstream services
- Changes to MSD funding Day Services increasing pressure for residential package to provide for day time support
- Requests to reassess clients as house now 3 rather than 4 person house
- Possibility that DSS is shouldering too much responsibility and funding long term chronic health, health of older people or mental health clients

Strategies mentioned:

- Possible MOH amendment to eligibility criteria or guidelines or cap the size of particular service components in packages
- Joint work on dual funding packages with other funding partners – long term chronic and health of older people etc
- MOH to consider alternative contracting strategies for residential beds to mitigate ability of providers to take tough stances on price negotiations

- Look at innovative ways of contracting to get better value for money for the around 260 residential clients on packages over \$160K

Both NASCA and the Ministry acknowledge that further work is required to analyse and quantify the overspend so that patterns and causes can be better understood.

NASCA undertook to collate further feedback to the Ministry from NASC Managers particularly around:

1. Feedback and suggestions as to why there has been a substantial increase over the past year in funding packages. Identify and quantify the significant factors which have contributed to the overall increase in funding packages.

2. Suggest high level strategies as to steps which could be taken by NASCs or by the Ministry to manage this situation. This is seeking your views on the steps which are most likely to be successful and practical. Please approach this from the point of view of across the whole system / all NASCs. Solutions or steps which are relevant more to your NASC only you should raise and discuss in your regular monthly reporting to your contract manager Doug or David,

Please feedback your ideas and suggestions to Judy [info@nznasca.co.nz](mailto:info@nznasca.co.nz) by **Friday 05 December**.

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## Expressions of Interest

### Behaviour Support Reference Group

Expressions of Interest are being sought for an additional NASC representative on the Behaviour Support Reference Group. With the introduction this year of the new national contract for Behaviour Support (Explore) the Ministry are re-engaging this Reference Group.

- Raewyn Cameron is currently our representative and a second person is now sought
- The original [Terms of Reference](#) are attached – these are likely to be updated as the group is re-established

### Flexible Carer Support Working Group

The Ministry have signaled to NASCA an intention to make changes to the funding of Carer Support in order to both increase flexibility for clients and families and to reduce the administration burden.

The working group will likely involve one face to face meeting and subsequent email and teleconferencing over 6 – 8 weeks.

If you are interested in either role please forward a one page statement summarising your CV, and your interest and suitability for the role to Judy Preston [info@nznasca.co.nz](mailto:info@nznasca.co.nz) by **Monday 08 December**.

## Residential Assessments - ICare

The Ministry expressed their appreciation to NASCs for the work in undertaking and providing sample audits during the last couple of months. Further analysis of the results of this sample is being undertaken.

Arising from the MOH Pricing Model work all residential providers will be paid on a client by client basis as from 01 July 2015 on one of the 28 'price points' – initially this will be at the point nearest to the current funding level.

The MOH are continuing work to further develop the ICare Tool so that it will become the means of NASCs identifying the relevant price point arising from the assessment.

NASCA will be involved in review of this development in due course. We understand that the general approach is to maintain the robustness of the hours based approach, but to seek to make the NASC interface easier by perhaps using descriptors rather than calculation of time for a range of support tasks.

Although the change for providers will occur on 01 July 2015 it is recognised that for NASCs the implementation of ICare may be ready to go by that time, but full implementation will need to be phased in over a longer timeframe.

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## IF Respite Guidelines

Following recent training on IF Respite the Ministry are now working on Guidelines and clarifying some issues which have been raised during training.

Several weeks ago NASCA through Sonia Hawea circulated a request for feedback on the request below.

NASCs who have not already done so are asked to respond advising the criteria they use - to [Murray Penman](#), MOH Development Manager before **Friday 28 November**.

The NASC's indicated that respite allocated through IDEA's in home support was limited to people with an intellectual disability only.

In home support could be allocated to people with ASD (16%), physical (27%) and sensory disability (4%). This potentially presents a significant growth in cost related to unmet needs.

This specific need was not factored into the impact of implementing IF respite. While SPA tool allocation and volume thresholds to manage this, there is potential for increased allocation & costs to be realised due to this unmet need.

To provide advice around this issue we need to understand the criteria NASC is using to allocate IDEA in home support services.

Disability population 2014	Male	Female	Total	%
Intellectual	8177	6222	14399	46%
Physical	3650	4645	8295	27%
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	3850	1048	4898	16%
Not DSS	708	749	1457	5%
Sensory	553	544	1097	4%
Neurological	501	454	955	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,439</b>	<b>13,662</b>	<b>31,101</b>	

## Service Specifications Review

The Ministry commenced a review of the NASC Service Specification earlier this year. To date several meetings have taken place with Doug Funnell, MOH and NASCA representatives - Sonia Hawea, Taikura Myree Ahpene, Enable NASC, and Angela Te Whaiti, AccessAbility.

The Ministry are now also progressing with Service Specification reviews to reflect results based accountability (RBA) performance measures across all major service areas. This is likely to include for example: Residential, Home and Community Support, Supported Living etc. The aim is to have this work completed by June 2015.



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Currently NASCA has strong input into the review of the NASC Service Specification. However as yet there is no process for NASCs to have input into other Service Specification for services that we refer people to.

Would you please feedback to NASCA [info@nznasca.co.nz](mailto:info@nznasca.co.nz) by **Monday 15 December** with any service specifications you believe NASCA should have input into and a brief description of the issues you think NASCA should focus on with that service specification.

## Funded Family Care (FFC)

**Evaluation** The Ministry is currently evaluating, through a contract with Artemis, the impact of FFC operational policy one year post implementation. The evaluation is planned to gauge how effective it has been for eligible disabled people and their family carers, in particular, focusing on the experience of those involved, including those that chose not to be. Feedback will be sought from NASC Managers by the contractor Artemis, and the MOH intends to involve NASCA in comment at a later stage in the process

The final document will communicate how the process has or hasn't worked.

**Access to FFC** The Ministry has received feedback from families and carer groups to the effect there may be barriers in the NASC process which mean that FFC is not always able to be considered.

The Ministry have asked NASCA to clarify that they wish NASCs to ensure that if FFC is a genuine option, that it is offered and discussed with a client so that there is no perception of a barrier.

**Socrates** NASCs are reminded to please ensure that all data is up to date in Socrates for FFC clients and families. There is high interest in the implementation of this policy from political and interest groups, and the Ministry need to be in a position to access reliable information regarding recipients of FFC.

## Young People in Aged Care

The Ministry discussed with NASC Managers a strategy to guide the work around younger people in or entering aged residential care. As part of this work the Ministry, in partnership with NASC would like to develop a standard assessment tool specifically for people who require rest home or hospital level care.

The Ministry would like to determine what specific assessment tools are currently being used when assessing people for entry into aged residential care. Would Managers please advise Raewyn Winiata directly of the tool that you are using and provide a copy. This will assist with evaluation and development of one assessment tool for national use.

Please forward to [Raewyn Winiata](#), MOH Development Manager by **15 December 2014**.

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Taikura Trust, LifeLinks and Support Net have agreed to be involved in looking at a strategy, which would include looking at assessment tools. If you would like to be involved in this work or can advise who else could assist with this work please [notify Raewyn](#).

## Meeting and Workshop Reminders

### NASCA General Meeting

**04 December 2014 – Register now**

*Copthorne Hotel Commodore  
Christchurch Airport*

### Workshop: Future NASC Information Management Needs

**03 December 2014 – Register now**

*Copthorne Hotel Commodore  
Christchurch Airport*

**Mitchel Pham** - Director of Augen Software, and guest speaker at last year NASCA Forum

**9.30am – 3.00pm**

**Cost \$50 plus GST will be invoiced**

**Please register before 26 November** with Judy Preston [info@nznasca.co.nz](mailto:info@nznasca.co.nz)

This workshop, on the day before the next General Meeting in Christchurch, aims to assist NASC Managers think strategically about their future information management needs, taking a blue skies approach, and considering how all parts of the health and

disability system could be available and accessible to all.

The workshop will have relevance to all streams of NASCA and is an opportunity to extend our thinking and understanding which will allow more meaningful and informed engagement with MOH when discussion arises about future information systems and needs. Specifically the workshop will not be selling or promoting any particular approach or product.

### Workshop: Respectful relationships and the role of gatekeeper

**09 December 2014 – Register now**

*Wellington  
Venue to be advised*

**Michael Kendrick** – International speaker and consultant

**9.00am – 4.00pm**

**Cost \$80 plus GST will be invoiced**

**Please register before 26 November** with Judy Preston [info@nznasca.co.nz](mailto:info@nznasca.co.nz)

Many in the disability sector know and appreciate the work of Michael Kendrick from Nova Scotia. He works across all areas of human services challenging people, systems and processes to value and support people as individuals. NASCA are taking the opportunity to engage Michael while he is in Australia / NZ on other business.

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The theme of respectful relationships and the role of gatekeeper recognises that there are tensions inherent in responsibly recognising and 'advocating for' the best supports possible to meet the needs of people and their families, whilst also being guardians of limited state funds. How can NASCs act with dignity and maintain respectful relationships with people when the role includes allocation of scarce resource?

## Upcoming NASCA Meetings

At any time go to:

[www.nznasca.co.nz/membership/news/](http://www.nznasca.co.nz/membership/news/)

Dates for NASCA Meetings for 2015:

05 March	Wellington
04 June	Auckland
03-04 September	Wellington National Forum & AGM
04 December	Christchurch

## NASCA Executive Members

### Mark Brown

Chairperson,  
(Life Unlimited)

### Don Sorrenson

Treasurer  
(Support Net, Bay of Plenty)

### Sonia Hawea

(Taikura Trust, Auckland)

### Bruce Green

(Hawkes Bay DHB, Hastings)

### Karen Bailey

(Nelson Marlborough DHB, Nelson)

### Susan Bowden

(Care Coordination, Hutt Valley)

### Sandie Cherrington

(Northland DHB)

### Helene Dore

(Focus Wairarapa DHB)

### Executive Assistant

(Judy Preston – Life Unlimited)