

NGO Council Update from Chair – April 2016



Kia ora NGO Health and Disability Network members.

NZ Health Strategy

The release of the [refreshed NZ Health Strategy](#) last week provides clearer direction for our sector as a whole and offers new opportunities for an open, collaborative approach. The Strategy lays out the [challenges and opportunities](#) facing the health system and identifies five strategic themes for key changes that will take us toward [the future we want](#), where issues are addressed sooner before they lead to expensive health interventions.

Powering Up our Future

It is good to know that a number of non-profit NGOs attended the Ministry's [Powering Up Our Future Health Symposium](#) last week, which had a strong focus on effective use of technology and being more responsive to consumers. It was clear from many of the presentations, and from Director-General of Health, Chai Chuah when he spoke at the Symposium and with the NGO Council at our meeting this month, that the government is looking for new models of care and new ways of achieving results.

Chai delivered strong messages about looking outside the health sector for ideas that can be adapted for health and that listening to new and different voices is important – this also came through strongly in two of the presentations at the symposium, which you will be able to watch online soon:

- Dr Michelle Dickinson from The University of Auckland gave a fascinating presentation highlighting examples of nanotechnology that could be put to use in health right now.
- Dr Catherine Mohr of Intuitive Surgical in the USA highlighted how a recreational activity such as geocaching can be put to use in delivery of vaccines – if only they could overcome system inertia.

When you watch these, you may think 'how is this relevant to what we do?' These specific examples may not be, but they illustrate the importance of looking more broadly for ideas and solutions that could be effective at achieving the health outcomes our communities are seeking.

It is clear from our discussions with Chai that the government is looking for major change from the sector, including what is known as '[disruptive innovation](#)'. There is strong call for those with innovative solutions to help identify how to scale up ideas that work to have a major impact on health outcomes and to identify what needs to change in the system to make this possible.

While many of our contracts currently tie us into very specific deliverables, we all need to start exploring new approaches and be able to demonstrate how we are including consumer voices in shaping our services – otherwise we may not be viewed as relevant or effective contributors to the resilience and sustainability of the whole system.

I encourage you to watch many of the [Powering Up videos](#) (including the [consumer voice ones](#)) when they are available and to read the [new NZ Health Strategy](#) to help you identify how your service can be part of [one team](#) in a [high performing, smart system](#) that delivers [people-powered](#) services [closer to home](#). As community providers, we are already connected and close to our consumers/clients – but we need to ensure that we can demonstrate this to our government funders and identify how to disrupt the system to achieve sustainable change.

NGO Council

Earlier this month, Disability Support Service representative Victoria Manning resigned from the NGO Council due to other commitments, which include being inaugural Chairperson of the Government's NZ Sign Language Board and co-chair of the Ministry of Social Development's NZ Disability Strategy Review Reference Group. We congratulate Victoria on these new opportunities and are sorry to see her go, however this does present an opportunity to appoint a new Disability Support representative to the

NGO Council. If your NGO is registered in this category, our Secretariat will send you an e-mail soon inviting nominations to fill the role. I encourage you to consider which leaders in your organisation may be suitable candidates.

Influencing public policy

Registrations are now open for our free workshops on influencing public policy and making submissions in [Christchurch \(23 May\)](#) and [Wellington \(31 May\)](#) - so hurry and [book your place](#).

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

- MBIE is [seeking feedback on the refreshed streamlined contracting templates](#) by 29 April.
- 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/>
- You still have time to input ideas to the Ministry of Health for the draft update to the [Health of Older People Strategy](#).

Until next time, Mauri Ora.

Donna Matahaere-Atariki

Chair, NGO Health & Disability Council

www.facebook.com/HealthDisabilityNGONZ

<https://twitter.com/NZHealthNGOs>

www.ngo.health.govt.nz

Note:

MBIE is running free half day Results Based Accountability (RBA) workshops for providers during May and June to support the introduction of Streamlined Contracting.

Locations include Whangarei, Auckland, Hamilton, Napier, New Plymouth, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

See dates and register here: <http://www.business.govt.nz/procurement/procurement-reform/streamlined-contracting-with-ngos/training-and-education-programme>