

NGO Council Update from New Chair – December 2014



The NGO Council met at the end of November and welcomed our newly-elected members to their first meeting: Victoria Manning (Disability Support), Robert Muller (Pacific Health), Karaitiana Tickell (Māori Health) and Josie Smith (Māori Health). Jackie Edmond (Public Health) was also elected to the NGO Council after a break away and has agreed to take on the role of Vice-Chair.

Our outgoing Chair, Kathryn Jones remains on the Council as a Personal Health representative and I'd like to thank Kathryn for her leadership and hard work during her tenure. I am confident that the Council will join me in recognising her commitment to ensuring a strong NGO voice at all times. You can read more about all the [NGO Council members on our website](#).

Thank you to all those who commented during the NGO Council election process on funding, the results-based accountability (RBA) framework and topics/issues you need to hear more about or want the NGO Council to look into. This highlighted a number of areas for us to explore in 2015 and will inform our planning for our next National Forum. There is already good information and workshops happening on two of the topics of interest to some of you:

- [New Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profits/Charities](#)
– including a [webinar on 8 December](#) and more [workshops in 2015](#)
- [Results Based Accountability Framework](#) – including [online training and workshops](#)

Productivity Commission's inquiry on More Effective Social Services

Our November meeting provided an opportunity to meet with James Soligo and Geoff Lewis from the Productivity Commission before we finalised our submission on the [More Effective Social Services issues paper](#). I know many of you have also made submissions on this important topic and we look forward to seeing the draft report from the Productivity Commission in March, when we will all have another opportunity to provide input and comment before the report is finalised for Government.

Healthy Families NZ

Grant Pollard (Group Manager, Public Health) from the Ministry of Health also met with us to update us on the introduction of the new [Healthy Families NZ programme](#). *Healthy Families NZ* is about encouraging families to live healthy lives and empowering communities to decide on how to achieve this. Contracts have been signed with lead providers in 10 identified communities and a key expectation is that they will all form strong prevention partnerships with others working in the field. Lead providers have to 'scale up' to deliver to large numbers of the populations in their areas, so this presents a collaboration opportunity for NGOs already working to improve nutrition, increase physical activity, and moderate alcohol intake or helping people to become smokefree. You can see the list of lead providers and their assigned areas in [Grant's presentation, which is on our website](#).

Vulnerable Children Act

Your recent feedback on the guidelines for introducing [Worker Safety Checks](#) and [Child Protection Policies](#) has been collated and passed to the Ministry of Health to discuss with the [Children's Action Plan directorate](#). Thanks to all those who took the time to share their experience and ideas to improve the guidance material, which will be available for us all to access in the near future. Some areas requiring greater clarification were also highlighted in the responses and suggestions, along with other concerns.

Public health workforce development

Two no-cost opportunities for lifting capability in the public health workforce are currently available – one with a tight deadline and one with more time to get your application in.

- ***Fee grants for Massey University's 2015 Certificate in Public Health***

Ministry of Health fees grants and travel subsidies are available to NGO applicants who want to do this part-time, undergraduate, distance learning programme. Applicants don't need to have done prior tertiary study and students can customise course content to fit with their specific area of work or interests.

Applications for grants for fully-funded course fees close **12 December 2014**, with places issued on first-in first-served basis. Apply online at

www.publichealthworkforce.org.nz/FeesGrantOnlineApplication.aspx

- ***Public Health Leadership Programme (PHLP)***

This Ministry of Health funded programme allows participants to discover their leadership potential and equips them with practical and tested leadership tools and resources. The six-day leadership component is delivered as three two-day sessions in Wellington or Auckland.

PHLP participants are expected to have a good knowledge of public health principles including an understanding of social determinants of health, inequalities in health, how culture influences health, and the significance of the Treaty of Waitangi in health.

Applications close Monday, 16 March 2015. See more at:

www.publichealthworkforce.org.nz/Public-Health-Leadership-Programme_182.aspx

On behalf of the Council, Grant, Caroline and Mark, I wish you a relaxing and rejuvenating break over the holiday season. We are entering a new phase of commissioning, a struggle as well as an opportunity and the terms under which we choose to engage will have a lasting impact for organisations and the communities we serve.

I look forward to sharing that journey with you all.

Mauri Ora.

Donna Matahaere-Atariki

Chair, NGO Health & Disability Council

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www.ngo.health.govt.nz