

# NGO Council Update from Chair – September 2016



Kia ora NGO Health and Disability Network members.

At our NGO Council meeting last week, we farewelled Council representatives Kathryn Jones, Mark Brown and Jackie Edmond who are all stepping down this year. Sadly, we also said goodbye to NGO Relationship Manager Caroline Speight, who has now left the Ministry to work in the community sector at [Skylight](#). We will miss their collective wisdom and input at our meetings, but look forward to welcoming new members to the Council after the current election process is complete.

On a brighter note, the Council welcomed Terry Hibbert, who will be picking up the reins from Caroline for a while, and met with the Ministry's GM Communications, Catherine Delore and Keriana Brooking again to hear more about the proposed changes within the service commissioning unit and provide feedback. We also focused on our work plan for the year ahead and how we can continue to build capability in our sector and share useful knowledge and resources.

## Elections

We have 19 nominations for 7 vacancies on the NGO Council, so later this week our Secretariat will send out links for voting to those Network members registered in the Disability Support, Personal Health, Maori Health, and Public Health categories. There was only one nomination in the Pacific Health category so current rep [Robert Muller](#) is re-appointed for two more years. The NGO Council election results are almost always very close – so please be sure to exercise your voting rights and give a strong mandate to the candidates you think will best be able to contribute to our Council discussions and meetings with the Ministry.

Speaking of elections, when casting your postal votes for your [local DHBs](#), you may want to support candidates with knowledge and experience in the non-profit community sector as a way to broaden the range of people making decisions about your local health services. DHBs have a key role in implementing the [NZ Health Strategy](#), and one of the 5 key themes is [Closer to Home](#) – so there is definitely a need for DHBs to look beyond the hospital and strengthen services in their communities. If you feel this expertise is missing from your area's DHB, you might choose to [write to the Minister of Health](#) and encourage him to consider this when making his ministerial appointments after the DHB elections.

## National NGO Forum

How non-government organisations (NGOs) can respond to the 5 key themes of the [NZ Health Strategy](#) and work with others to maximise positive outcomes for mutual clients is the focus for the [NGO National Forum in Wellington](#) on 12 October.

Registrations are going well, so don't delay in [booking your place](#) for this key free networking and idea sharing event. Speakers include:

- Hon. Dame Tariana Turia, former Minister for Whanau Ora, Disability Issues and the Community & Voluntary Sector
- Marama Parore, Pou Ahorangi – CEO, Te Rau Matatini
- Keriana Brooking, Project Lead Transformation Projects, Ministry of Health
- Carolyn Gullery, GM Planning & Funding, Canterbury DHB
- Edward Montague, Lead – Investments, The Social Investment Unit
- Kate Frykberg, Philanthropy & Community Advisor

- Derek Sherwood, Chair of the Council of Medical Colleges NZ
- Marion Blake, CEO, Platform Trust
- Deborah Balmer, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland.

### **Influencing policy**

Earlier this month, your NGO Council [made a submission on the draft Health of Older People Strategy](#), and this is [on our website](#) for those interested to see our thoughts.

There are also [tips on influencing public policy and making submissions](#) on our website, so check these out if you are thinking of making a submission on:

- the [National Cervical Screening Programme's Clinical Guidelines](#), which are being updated to align with the transition to HPV primary screening. Consultation runs until 28 October.
- [supporting disabled people to have greater choice and control](#) over their supports and lives as part of gathering information for the Enabling Good Lives programme – feedback is due by 21 October.

I hope to see many of you at the Forum on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Mauri Ora.

*Donna Matahaere-Atariki*

*Chair, NGO Health & Disability Council*

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