

NGO Council Update from Chair – March 2016



Kia ora NGO Health and Disability Network members.

Crowd-sourced video project

Firstly, thank you to those of you who responded to our crowd-sourcing call for videos about the value your non-profit, community services deliver around New Zealand. We've received approximately 50 videos from around 18 NGOs – and they certainly illustrate a real diversity of support and services.

Some of you sent us very slick and polished videos that you already had, while others went to the extra effort of specifically filming video clips to contribute to our project. Over the coming weeks, we will share some of the videos on our [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#) while we are working through the process of selecting and editing clips to use in our video compilation. Once this is completed, we'll share the video compilations widely to help build awareness of what our sector can offer.

If you are still thinking about contributing a video, please send this through when you can, as all contributions help to paint a picture of our sector.

Who and what we stand for

Our NGO Council meeting last month explored the unique features of our non-profit sector and our Network, as part of our focus on being an effective voice for our members.

We recognised that as organisations and as a sector, we need to remind funders and decision-makers that we have strong client and community input to our work. Many of our NGOs originated from people coming together to meet a need, and of course many of us have service users on our boards and staff; however often funders don't recognise the valuable knowledge and connections that we have, and only seek to engage with individual consumers/clients.

This is reflected in the membership of DHBs' Alliance Leadership Teams, which sometimes have a consumer or Māori representative but no-one from an NGO. DHBs' approaches to annual planning also miss opportunities to make a real difference in communities, as their annual plans are not usually accessible to the public until they are finalised, so there is no opportunity for input from well-connected NGOs that often know how to address the causes of poor health. As a sector, we must claim our space and ensure our collective voice is heard.

As well as illustrating how we each include client voices in our service, we must also focus on the outcomes that we can achieve and look to establish strategic alliances with others, so together we can provide comprehensive services that can address the multiple causes of poor health and co-morbidity. Each of our NGOs excels at different things – so rather than become a generic service that does everything, we must work with others who do complementary things well, so we can go to funders and offer a complete package. It's not easy and it can be hard to get them to listen – but it will be worth it in the long run.

Sector leadership

Your elected NGO Council has recommitted itself to taking a stronger leadership role for our sector, but we encourage each of you to also [target your local DHB management](#) to have your say on service decisions in your area. We may get knocked back or ignored, but if we continue to highlight what we can offer, we will make progress.

I believe the environment for greater influence by community-based, non-profit NGOs is improving – the new [NZ Health Strategy](#) offers us opportunities with terms like 'one team' and 'closer to home'. The Government continues its focus on funding based on achieving outcomes and the [new Executive Leadership Team structure](#) in the Ministry of Health provides greater clarity and brings service

commissioning into one area – something that could create more consistency for many of us.

Commissioning is a major theme in the recommendations from the Productivity Commission's report on [More Effective Social Services](#), and your NGO Council has identified several recommendations from this that we think have potential to have a significant impact on our sector. As a consequence, we will be exploring these ideas over coming months to try and influence how they might be implemented in a positive way.

Influencing public policy

Speaking of influence – we'll be running **free** workshops on influencing public policy and making submissions in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland over the next couple of months, so watch for details on how to register for these.

We'll also be adding additional guidance and resources to the current [tips and links on our website](#).

Opportunities to engage and feedback

In the meantime, you have the following opportunities to engage with others to boost your skills or have your say on changes that could impact on our sector:

- The Collaborative Trust for Research and Training in Youth Health & Development's 8th Annual Hui is on 8-9 April 2016 at Rydges Hotel, Latimer Square, Christchurch – an exciting, interactive and practical two days aimed at extending skills of those working with young people to positively impact on youth development and wellbeing. See more here: www.collaborative.org.nz/index.php?page=hui or www.facebook.com/TheCollaborativeTrust
- The Ministry of Health is seeking input on an update to the [Health of Older People Strategy](#) via workshops and [online suggestions](#).
- MBIE is seeking submissions on the [Exposure Draft of the Incorporated Societies Bill](#) before 30 June 2016 and Hui E! is currently running a [series of consultation seminars](#) so you can find out more.
- MBIE is also conducting its [annual procurement survey](#) – to seek feedback on your experiences of bidding for government contracts with any government department, crown entity, district health board, tertiary education institution or local authority.
- Health Workforce NZ is running [an online survey](#) until 25 March to get feedback on the draft shared core competency framework for the New Zealand children's workforce. (See attached PDF)
- Complete the [not-for-profit online survey about information technology](#) (IT) use in NZ and Australia and go in the draw for various prizes.

Mauri Ora.

Donna Matahaere-Atariki

Chair, NGO Health & Disability Council

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