**DISABILITY WORKING GROUP**

**Key Messages April 2023 - Easy Read Format**

Members: John Marrable, George Kerr, Te Aroha Springford,

Te Whatu Ora Southern members: William Robertson, Kathryn Harkin, Jack Devereux,

Apologies: David Bainbridge-Zafar, Heather Clay, Will Todd, Paula Waby, Vanessa Taane,

Guests: Isabella Daly, Kelly Palmer from the Ministry of Health

The Disability Working Group members met on Friday 21 April 2023.

* Manaaki programme – at the February Disability Working Group meeting, we had heard about a member who was helped by this service and Disability Working Group members wanted to know if it could be opened out to cover all disabled people.

Through talks it has become clear that the programme is not currently contracted, however the programme has had excellent outcomes in helping consumers to attend their medical appointments. Inquiries are in progress to look at how this programme can be extended to all.

* NZSL – current NZSL interpreter is not renewing her contract with Te Whatu Ora.

Access to NZSL interpreters is hard, especially for face to face meetings in the Southern region. Te Whatu Ora is committed to make sure there is always an interpreter available.

Recent visits have been made to Gore, Balclutha, Oamaru Hospitals, as well as with the Southland Deaf Community. We are in talks with this group to identify how we can support them better.

* Disability Awareness Training - Advice from groups contacted about what the learning ideas for an in-house training should be.

Values and beliefs are a big part of the training, everything comes from that. If you don’t have a good manner it won’t work.

Need staff to have the tools to communicate with disabled people.

Need to have a system in place, with feedback after the meeting, appointment etc, to identify the success of support provided.

Suggestion that information pamphlet be included into appointment letters advising how to get any support needed for a meeting, appointment etc.

* Guests: Isabella Daly and Kelly Palmer from the Ministry of Health.

Ministry of Health aware that the current system is not working so needs to be changed.

Question around where Tangata Whaikaha (Māori disability advisor) fit – they fit everywhere.

Need to have a strategy for Disabled People in place by July this year – however the Ministry of Health is looking to have a draft Strategy to enable the Ministry of Health to fully engage with their community, but also recognising the interaction with Whaikaha.

The Ministry of Health have already looked at the data they have, although know it is limited and have also linked with DPA and other organisations.

Also working alongside Māori Health and Pacific Health strategy teams and Ethnic Health.

The Ministry of Health know they have not talked to everyone in this first round of talks.

Mental Health seen as fitting across all the parts of the strategies. The Ministry of Health knows that the social model of disability is being followed rather than biomedical model of health.

* Key items including ensuring health system enables disabled people to fully exercise their rights, includes self-determination for groups within the community as a whole, individual rights and those of the wider whanau/family.

Access of the health system to everyone in the community, including the building locations, such as 15 minutes doctor’s appointments is not long enough time.

Need to ensure the link of health services to ensure that there is smooth access across system, accessible formats, interpreters, cultural awareness and safety, variety of cultures and disabled persons in the workforce, need for data and visibility, also a key theme around the social factors of health.

* At the last meeting, members had been asked to develop a question to include in the Consumer Engagement Quality Service Marker.

Feedback was given on the answers – some areas were looking for support to ensure they provided equal access to all persons. Others were making some progress and others were doing very little in this area. A very wide range of support given.

* Members farewelled and thanked George for her hard work and commitment over the past two years.