

DISABILITY WORKING GROUP

Key Messages July 2023

Members: John Marrable, Kim Kennedy, Adam Hall, Jacqui Eggleton, Te Aroha Springford, Heather Clay,

Standing members: William Robertson, Kathryn Harkin, Jack Devereux, Vanessa Taane

Apologies: Kirsten Dixon, Jaime Randhawa, Paula Waby, David Bainbridge-Zafar

Guests: Michele Henderson, Danica Davies

The Disability Working Group members met on Friday 28 July 2023.

- Manaaki programme – still attempting to identify whether Ministry dataset (Socrates) can be merged with SIPICS so that we have all the data from this and potentially can provide that to WellSouth for identification of consumers who would benefit from Pou Manaaki. A work in progress.
- Michele Henderson – SIPICS (South Island Patient Information Care System) – combining information systems to minimise the silos of patient health information so that information is more. Taking data out of several current systems into SIPICS and ensuring it is connected to other systems, repointing reports so that reporting is not interrupted. Going live in October. An impairment indicator is available in this system which flags an alert to our staff that the consumer has identified as having a disability – these follow across all screens within the system – known as “banner indicators” and have a space for comments as well. This system will be South Island wide and will mean that consumers do not have to repeat information when they are in another location across the island.
- Some work commencing to ensure that there is connection between this system and ERMS (referral system) and Health Connect South (whether all comments go through back to this from SIPICS). Query around number of characters in comments field. Michele to provide responses to Jack for feeding back to the group. Also interested to know whether Health Passport digitalisation could be integrated with this as well.
- Query about ability of SIPICS to send appointment letters to two parents – confirmed this is possible through Circle of Care section of SIPICS.
- Query about appropriate communication mechanisms for blind people (for example) – there is the ability to send PDF versions of the letter via email (once validated)
- Query about integration between public and private sector and cross-agency information sharing as well, particularly in early intervention space.
- Potential for integration between SIPICS and Hira as well. PICS is a hospital information system but Hira is a health information system encompassing hospital, primary, community.
- Hira programme gathering more momentum and are seeking advice on specific aspects from the disabled community that they need to be considering from a digital healthcare perspective. Also will mean consumers will have the ability to update their own health information.

- Query around spaces with Maori names – understanding is that within SIPICS this should no longer be a problem. Also confirmed that internal referrals should encompass impairment information from SIPICS as well.
- Discussion about Consumer Engagement Quality Service Marker. Presented question which was included last year (What is happening within your service to improve equitable access for the disabled community?) and a snapshot of the responses received. Members discussed and identified an amendment to the question for the September 2023 submission - What is happening within your service to improve equitable access for the disabled community (including those with physical, sensory, intellectual, mental disabilities)?
- Round Table:
 - Challenges accessing supports, housework etc – example of an elderly man with a new colostomy bag who is not able to care for himself but NASC assessment did not provide sufficient to help him with self cares. Reflection that similar concerns are being felt in Wanaka and Queenstown, as well as Invercargill. Some consumers going back into hospital to be reassessed for appropriate care, however concern for elderly that they may have to go into residential care. Also affecting the whānau around the individual.
 - Still having challenges getting bus from Oamaru to Dunedin – a gentleman is providing the service but it is being abused. St John are looking at this and need to identify a van which can be used. ORC and Waitaki Council are also looking to identify a solution.
 - Concern around individuals falling from scooter/walker and not being able to communicate needs – health passport digital would be very helpful to mitigate this
 - Disability Awareness Training being worked on, more to be in place for this by the next meeting.