

DISABILITY WORKING GROUP

Key Messages July 2021

Members: John Marrable (Chair), Jasmin Taylor, Simon Fogarty, George

Standing members: Mel Warhurst, William Robertson, Mike Burrows, Sharon Adler

In attendance: Charlotte Adank, Hywel Lloyd

Apologies: William Todd, Andy Crossman, Doug Funnell,

The Disability Working Group members met on Friday 9 July 2021.

- Hywel Lloyd, Acting Executive Director for Quality and Clinical Governance Solutions, was introduced to the Disability Working Group. Hywel is the DHB Executive responsible for sponsoring the Disability Strategy and the work that needs to happen.
- Iwi representative for this group – this has been requested and awaiting confirmation.
- The Disability Working Group (DWG) was provided an update from Mel Warhurst about the pilot programme that occurred with Dunedin administration staff called the Accessibility Game led by Julie Woods. Feedback from participants had been good to date and the group would be coming together next week. The DWG has developed some questions for participants to gauge what they have learnt from this programme.
- Charlotte Adank (DHB Disability Lead – COVID-19 Vaccination) updated the working group on what was happening with the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out to the disability community. A national disability network had been set up by the Ministry of Health to support DHBs with connecting, communicating, and rolling out the vaccination to the disability community. Members were advised that the COVID-19 Programme Team have been working with Disability Support Service providers across the Southern district and building a relationship and understanding of what they required for the people they support in residences (Group 2b). It was decided that outreach clinics, with vaccinators going out to familiar residential settings, was the best model for delivery of the vaccine for this population group. This has been an extensive exercise as the DHBs historically did not have the relationship with these providers, as they are normally managed by the Ministry of Health. In terms of the number of people each provider supported, the Ministry had to provide DHBs with this data to enable planning. Invitations would be sent out to people with underlying health conditions or disabilities (Group 3) next week inviting them into one of the clinics across the district. The difficulty the DHB has is we do not have a system of knowing who these people are, so they cannot be contacted directly, and we are heavily reliant on community networks which the communication has been sent out through.

The Ministry of Health had recently requested information from DHBs around accessibility for the disability community to the vaccination clinics. The DWG had agreed at the June meeting that undertaking some accessibility audits of the vaccination clinics would be something that should be prioritised. The Chair and some members from the disability community would undertake an audit of the Dunedin Meridian Vaccination Clinic this afternoon and provide recommendations. The Southland site would have an accessibility audit undertaken before the end of July.

- Members reviewed a paper around the action plan which aligns actions to the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026¹. Of the eight outcomes identified in this strategy, there are six key outcome areas that connect in with the work for the DHBs. DWG members will review and feedback to the Chair and Charlotte in the coming weeks.
- John Marrable (Chair) will present to Disability Support Advisory Committee (DSAC) in August on work that has happened.
- A newsletter has been created and sent out through disability networks as well as going on Pulse. [Disability Strategy News and Updates 2 \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Next meeting: Friday 13 August 2021

Further information about the Disability Strategy can be found on the Southern Health website <https://www.southernhealth.nz/disability-strategy>
Email disability@southerndhb.govt.nz for further enquiries.

¹ <https://www.odi.govt.nz/nz-disability-strategy/>