

# DISABILITY WORKING GROUP

## Key Messages February 2022

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

Standing members: Mel Warhurst, William Robertson, Kathryn Harkin, Jack Devereux

Guests: David Pirie, Chris Ford

Apologies: Dr Ra Baillie

The Disability Working Group members met on Friday 11 February 2022.

- Requirements for hospital entry confirmed – no requirement for vaccine pass to be shown, screening on entry, and patients will be sent a text from the ward to show at entry as well.
- Members received an update on the viability of incorporating health passport information into current Patient Management System. This is a work in progress, however initial indications are that this can be done via local alerts. Requires members to make suggestions for subcategories or alerts. Comments can also be added. Opportunities to add information around needs, e.g. interpreter. Focus questions for category – should it be called impairment or disability and what are the subcategories/what would staff recognise?
- Information sought from members around the key issues which have been raised within their networks. Key themes:
  - Support for disabled people who catch Covid: provider protocols for providing continued care including staff changes and the impact of these, care in HDU and ICU, face to face service availability for those without online access, those without a registered GP, how to access medication such as repeat prescriptions, support and contacts for Deaf
  - Vaccinations: availability of homebased vaccinations, vaccinating children of parents with anxiety
  - Specific issues for Deaf people: clear masks need to be available to health professionals, awareness of how to communicate with Deaf people and shortage of interpreters in Southern, Need a short NZSL video for covid-positive
  - Concerns from those on low incomes: unable to stock up on food, paying bills during isolation with no online capabilities, frozen meal availability
  - Community links within region not universally strong
  - NGO's restricting access for the unvaccinated
  - Current concerns over access to Dunedin hospital
- Members received an update on the training plans for SDHB. Accessibility Game has been booked for four more rounds in Dunedin and looking to roll this out regionally as well. Being run online currently due to Covid. Every 3 months a networking group will be run for those who have participated in the game prior. Members discussed the Accessibility Tick – accepted this may have a place under Health NZ but were concerned it can be regarded as a box-ticking exercise.