**DISABILITY WORKING GROUP**

**Key Messages April 2023**

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

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

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

Guests: Isabella Daly, Kelly Palmer

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

* Manaaki programme – at the last meeting, we had heard about the experience of a member who benefited from this service and members wanted to know if it could be expanded to cover all disabled people. Through investigations it has become clear that the programme is not currently contracted, however has had excellent outcomes in assisting consumers to attend their medical appointments. Investigations are underway to look at the feasibility of this and how it could operate in practice.
* NZSL – current NZSL interpreter resigning, access to NZSL interpreters is challenging, especially in person in the Southern region. Committed to ensuring there is always an interpreter available. Recent visits have been made to Gore, Balclutha, Oamaru Hospitals, as well as with the Southland Deaf Community. Currently engaging with this particular group to identify how we can support them better.
* Feedback from group sought about what the learning objectives for an in-house training should be. Values and attitudes a big part of the training, everything comes from that. If you don’t have a good attitude about it won’t work. Need staff to have the mental tools to communicate with disabled people. Need to have a process, with feedback afterwards about success of support measures. Suggestion of an insert into appointment letters.
* Guests Isabella Daly and Kelly Palmer from the Ministry of Health. Recognising that the system isn’t working so need to change that. Question around where tangata whaikaha fit – they fit everywhere. Need to have a strategy for Disabled People in place by July this year – however this programme is electing to implement a Provisional Strategy to enable them to full engage with their community, but also recognising the intersection with Whaikaha. They have already looked at the data they have, although recognise it is limited and have also linked with DPA as a whole and individual organisations. Also working alongside Maori Health and Pacific Health strategy teams and Ethnic Health. Aware they have not reached everyone in this initial round of engagement. Mental Health seen as fitting across the suite of strategies. They recognise the social model of disability and are implementing that rather than biomedical.
* Key emerging themes including ensuring health system enables disabled people to fully exercise their rights, includes self determination for broad groups within the community as a whole, individual rights and those of the wider whanau. Accessibility of the system to everyone in the community, including the structure, such as 15 minutes in primary care not enough. Need to ensure connection of health services to ensure that there is seamless movement across system, allowing accessible formats, interpreters, cultural competence and safety, diversity in the workforce, need for data and visibility, also a key theme around the social determinants 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 provided on the responses – some areas were seeking additional support to ensure they provided equitable access. Others were making some inroads and others were doing very little in this space. A very wide range.
* Members farewelled and expressed gratitude to George for her hard work and commitment over the past two years.