

## WELCOME

*to our September 2019 newsletter*

### 2020 ATSNZ Expo

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We are looking forward to the next ATSNZ Independent Living Expo. In our 'save the date' communication we asked you to save 30th April/1st May, but in the process of organising the expo and listening to feedback from the surveys, we concluded that it is better to shift the expo to early September.

This year's venue, although pleasant, was a bit cramped and not as wheelchair friendly as we'd like it to be. The venue we've decided on is the Vodafone Events Centre in Manukau, easy enough to get to for Aucklanders and reasonably convenient for others, in terms of proximity to the airport and SH1. We're planning for a 2-day show, packing in the day before. The start time will be 10.00 AM and finish times will be 4:00 PM and 3:00 PM.

### aSAP Online Portal

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Accessible launched their aSAP portal on the 16th August. As with any new system, it is taking time for users to become familiar with this new system and this has taken a toll on many of you. Initially, suppliers had access to the system, but since 9th September this has been rescinded, until a date yet unknown. We asked for your feedback after two weeks of experiencing aSAP and collated this to share with Accessable. It hasn't been easy to get a meeting to discuss the feedback and work with them towards a lessening of the pain suffered. We have also shared your views with ACC and the Ministry of Health and have been assured that they are aware of the issues and are monitoring the situation. aSAP is not what it was promised to be and some of the issues are ongoing. It is important to keep updating us on your experiences and the impact that the launch of the new system is having on you, the assessors and their clients.



### MoH

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The Deputy Director General Disability is travelling around the country consulting about Disability Support Services. We attended the Auckland session to hear more about the strategy being developed and what service providers are contributing to the conversation. This is primarily an opportunity to network with people in the sector who have an influence on strategic decision making.

There is info available on <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/disability-services/disability-projects/disability-community-conversations#conversations>

### Delivering Disability Services Conference

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Mid October Conferenz are hosting a Delivering Disability Services Conference that we'll be attending. This is another activity at which we expect there will be people to network with, in the interest of developing beneficial relationships.

More info can be found at <https://www.conferenz.co.nz/events/delivering-disability-services>

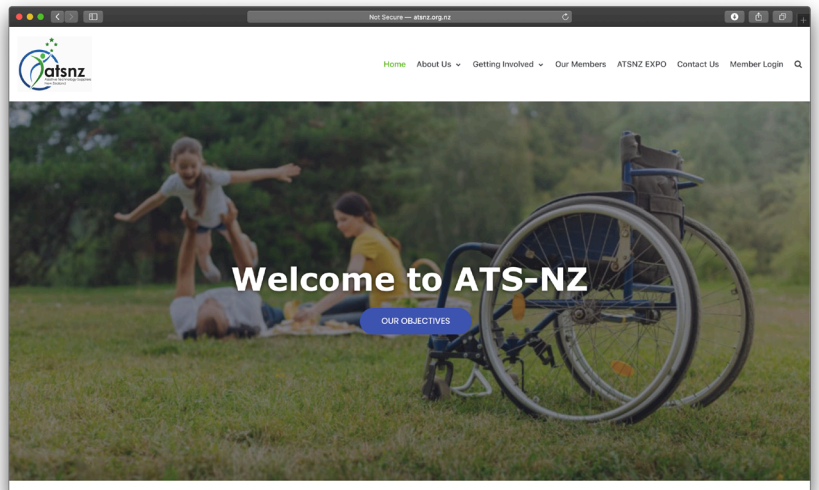
## Committee Member Roles

At the last committee meeting we allocated responsibility for portfolios to each member to help develop a focus to support our strategic direction. These allocations are:

- a. Regulatory – Jason Clare (Cubro)
- b. Membership – Aaron Morgan (Medix21)
- c. Expo – Geoff Purtil (Invacare)
- d. Website – Tania Bowkett (C1 South)
- e. Communication Planning – Terri Davies (Permobil)

## Website Improvements

Tania Bowkett (C1 South) is the ATSNZ committee member who has taken on the responsibility for our website. She has engaged the wonderful Chris Fryer from Euromedical to provide the technical management of the website. He has recently upgraded the website with a much-improved visual appeal and ease of accessing the relevant information. There is a member only section which requires a login, which we will be sending to you once we have the content loaded. In the meantime we would like to thank Chris and Tania for the work they do to help establish an ATSNZ presence online. It's a crucial piece of work and they donate their time generously to do this for all of us.



## Committee Member profile

Each newsletter we will introduce the members of the committee to you. First up is Aaron Morgan, who has recently been elected to the committee.



### Aaron Morgan

*Medix21*

I have worked in the Medical Device arena since 2007 starting my career with Tyco/Covidien Healthcare which later became part of Medtronic. Starting out in sales I looked after Suture and Hernia products in the Lower North Island.

In 2011 I moved into Business Development, and in 2015 into Sales Management. I saw great opportunities in the Rehabilitation and Patient Handling arena, and in 2018 joined Medix21 as the New Zealand Sales Manager. Helping people has

always been the best part of any role I have undertaken, whether it be my direct reports, or clients and patients. Knowing you can make a difference is extremely rewarding.

My prior experience working with PHARMAC, Health Alliance and other procurement arms has been very helpful in establishing a greater understanding and insight into the future of our industry. Having seen the shift in Australia to empowerment of the individual through NDIS, and the establishment here of Enabling Good Lives, I truly believe we have a great opening to develop a strong and sustainable industry in New Zealand. I have been lucky enough to join the ATSNZ committee this year and feel this will be the platform our industry needs to navigate the changes ahead.

Together we have a collective voice, and the ability to set standards of practice within our field. The future is bright but challenging and being a member of ATSNZ will give companies the best chance to successfully manage the changes we all face.