

*Welcome to our July 2019 newsletter – and our first year completed. Lots has been achieved with more in the pipeline which we're keen to tell you more about.*

## AGM

The ATSNZ AGM will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 10.30 AM - 12.30 PM at the Heartland Hotel close to the Auckland Airport, to make it easier for members outside of Auckland to attend. A calendar invite will be sent soon to enable RSVPs. An agenda and a reminder will be sent closer to the time.

## ATSNZ 2019 Independent Living Expo

The inaugural ATSNZ Independent Living Expo was well received by the industry, both from a suppliers/exhibitors' point of view as well as a visitors' (professionals and consumers) point of view. From a financial point of view, we are pleased to inform you that a small profit was generated, which for a first-time event is an excellent outcome.

The exhibition space was filled by 41 exhibitors and the conference programme included a good selection of interesting presentations, which were well attended. The Exhibition looked very professional and having the ability to give exhibitors a full day to set up contributed to some excellent looking stands.

The Education Seminars worked well, with the two tracks and starting a little later in the day. Almost every session had more than thirty attendees, with some over fifty. The feedback we received was positive and this was a key differentiator between our event and others within the sector.

## Exhibitors survey

After the event we conducted an exhibitor's survey with a few key questions and the opportunity to provide some verbal feedback on the event. The full results can be seen by using the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-2RC6RCGK7/>

The majority of our exhibitors had a positive experience and indicated that they are very likely to return to the next expo and would recommend to others to do so too. There are a few areas that we need to reflect on for making the next exhibition even better, but we have the confidence that we'll be able to improve on what most thought was a good start to the ATSNZ Independent Living Expos.

## Visitors survey

We also conducted a visitor's survey with many of the same questions but added a few questions around the presentations. The full results can be seen by using the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-JW7J7CGK7/>

Most of our visitors were positive about the inaugural expo and would also return and recommend others to attend. Space is an area we need to improve on for our visitors in wheelchairs, which will lead to a review of venues. Conference sessions were generally well received, with a least half of our visitors attending presentations.

We are planning an event for 2020 and hope to have more details to announce at the AGM.

## Managing Fairer Access to DHB Hospital Medical Devices Consultation

PHARMAC is proposing a new way of delivering fairer access to publicly funded medical devices that are purchased by DHBs for use in hospital or in the community. PHARMAC would be responsible for deciding which devices are funded and DHBs would choose the devices they use from the national medical devices list managed by PHARMAC. They would also develop a process to enable DHBs to access items outside of the list. Their proposal can be read online in their consultation document:

<https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/assets/pharmac-consultation-managing-fairer-access-to-hospital-medical-devices-2019.pdf>. The consultation has closed as of 28<sup>th</sup> June and we have submitted feedback as ATSNZ.

Our feedback was prepared by a subcommittee spear headed by Geoff Purtil. We took MTANZ feedback into consideration, as well as input from a few of our members. Our submission has been circulated to the members but can also be accessed via our website.

This is the first stage of their consultation process and they expect to have summary of the main findings out in September / October.

## Trials Workshops

With the consultation work completed for both the Draft Therapeutic Products Bill and the proposed PHARMAC approach and the inaugural ATSNZ Independent Living Expo successfully launched, we can now focus more time on our Equipment Trial Review project. The subcommittee has prepared a proposal document that we intend to discuss with the funders, seeking their support.

There will be more activity around this project in the next few months and we'll be asking for your involvement as we know there are numerous challenges around the current trial process that affects many – if not all - of our members. A survey will be sent out to members which will look at the scope of the trials issue and the experiences our member organisations have of the trials process. This is but one part of the project we envisage, as we are looking at conducting a full sector review of equipment trials over the coming months.

## Joint Standards Committee

At the February members meeting one of our Australian members asked for nominations to the Joints Standards committee ME-067. It was decided that Cubro would find a suitable candidate within their organisation. As a result, Lauren Roberts and Alan Tocker from Cubro have been nominated to join the ME-067 Joints Committee. All nominations are sent for approval to the Standards Approval Board, of Standards New Zealand. Once we have their nominations approved, we will update you.

## Membership

ATSNZ membership has grown from 27 to 33 in the first half of 2019 and we're hopeful that this trend will continue during the second half of 2019. We extend a warm welcome to our newest members Action Mobility, represented by Chris Hanley and Pride Mobility, represented by Warren Tipp.

The committee has debated the fee structure and have decided to continue with a tier structure similar to what we started with. We have the full membership and the affiliate membership categories. We've recently added the International category to accommodate the large overseas organisations that operate in the local market, without a subsidiary, who would like to be members. Voting rights are only for local members, but all other benefits are available to and shared with international members.

The membership is an annual fee, but we have introduced the opportunity to split the fee over two payments. As it involves extra administration costs, an additional payment of \$200 has been added.