



yet, please do so as soon as possible, so that we can prepare the marketing of this event well in advance.

paediatric and new product, supported by two seminar sessions.

This event takes place in the Lower Hutt Town Hall, with a capacity of 20 3*3 spaces. We have 9 members signed up for this event to date (half of whom have booked double spaces) and will be taking further bookings until the end of August. If you haven't signed up for this

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT THE SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION OF FIJI



The Spinal Injury Association of Fiji (SIA) was founded in 1993 and ever since has provided equipment, care and servicing for those Fijians living with a disability.

Unique amongst the Pacific is that they have trained staff, in provision, set up and repair of rehab equipment. This allows donations of equipment and parts to be used to best meet

current needs and not rely on waiting for overseas agencies to turn up and do the hard work.

The Global Pandemic has shattered countries such as Fiji, and those who were already at marginal existence are the worst hit.

SIA assist those in need of mobility as there is nowhere for them to go or get help— a broken mobility device is a life confined to bed and being carried from place to place. There is no real Government assistance now or anyone else to help, unlike what we see in New Zealand.

With the funding available in NZ there is no real second-hand market, nor is dropping discounted product into a small market good business sense. All of these things can be written off, giving your business a tax break and with the need to show disposal, SIA can get these items to where they can still be of use. Examples include:

- assessment, Trial & Demo product that has been depreciated and can be written off and donated
- products superseded by newer models
- parts and components that are no longer current or in use
- seating components, odd laterals, leg rests, crutches, frames or the like
- wheels, Castors, axles that are used or not in shape for resale

It is this type of product SIA can send to their team in Fiji, where they have the skills to create worthwhile results for those in real need.

Contact Andy O'Sullivan: andy@rehabaction.co.nz if you can help SIA.

WHAIKAHA - MINISTRY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE



With Whaikaha, the new ministry for Disabled People, established we are noticing an influx of activity through various organizations. We will be taking part in many conversations and consultations as the voice for Assistive Technology Suppliers in New Zealand.

The MoH EMS team have shifted to Whaikaha and we are working with them to improve on the process for trials as a priority. For many years the process has been less than satisfactory for our members and there are numerous concerns that need to be addressed. The EMS team,

represented by Cath Williams, are initiating a workshop in the coming months for us to collaborate with funding administrators and work on solutions to address our concerns.

The Social Services and Community Committee is calling for submissions on the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill. We will put a team together to work on a submission on behalf of ATSNZ. Anyone who is interested in taking part should express their interest to the Executive Officer. Once the submission is drafted, we will share it with the membership for feedback prior to it being submitted.

DISABILITY REPORTING IN THE MEDIA

Olivia Chivas, journalist for Stuff.co.nz, is presenting a series of articles on ACC, with the first one on 8 August, highlighting the funding difference between ACC and the MoH/Whaikaha. It is a very interesting read!
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/pou-tiaki/128196662/big-gap-in-support-funding->



[between-disabled-people-on-ministry-of-health-and-acc?fbclid=IwAR0duC3Qw7L8N4nDeADPB8a3Cbzz-IWLmyo0wCBapDHSz_aKm4hpK49i25Q](#)

MEET OUR NEWEST COMMITTEE MEMBER



PHOEBE MASCULL – MEDIFAB

Our introduction to Phoebe deviates from our usual set of member introduction questions, following the structure of information we normally collect for electing candidates to the committee.

Description of business

Grown from small beginnings, the Medifab story is driven by a single-minded purpose – to bring comfort and functionality to people living with

disabilities.

Established in 1990, Medifab ‘shape better lives’ through design and manufacture of specialist seating and high-quality clinical equipment for children and adults with complex medical needs. We provide equipment and seating to allow individuals to be active and functional in their daily lives at home and in their community.

Medifab has three branches across New Zealand, in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington, as well an Australian division who service a network of distributors.

Relevant experience/qualifications

As the Marketing Manager for Medifab and Spex Seating, I have been with the company since 2009 and have experienced the changes in the industry throughout this period.

A creative thinker and enthusiast, I love to take campaigns and ideas from conceptualisation through to execution. I find it rewarding to meet users of Medifab product and their families, and hear their stories about how Assistive Technology can make a life-changing difference.

I also have experience and industry connections throughout Australia and stay up to date with global trends through the Spex international dealer network.

Vision for ATSNZ

To ensure end users of Assistive Technology in New Zealand have the best opportunity to meet their needs, which is equal (or superior) to what end users internationally can access.

ATSNZ

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