



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our December 2022 newsletter. This exciting newsletter is full of the latest developments that will keep you up-to-date with our industry.

It is best to view this in your browser.

ATSNZ DISABILITY EXPO – 2023 – 1 & 2 November



After a debate about the timing and venue for the 2023 ATSNZ Disability Expo, we have settled on continuing in Auckland at the Due Drop Event Centre. Of the available venues it was perceived to be better suited to our needs and the potential audience is

the largest in Auckland.

The September dates we hoped for weren't available, so we've moved to the week before ATSA in Canberra. This may provide an opportunity to share international speakers.

There are several changes we will be making to the set up for 2023.

- Change the floorplan
 - to guide the visitors through the tradeshow to access the seminars,
 - to accommodate a greater variety of exhibitors.
- Improve catering
 - to keep visitors on site during lunchtime and the free coffees need to be more readily available.
- Improve seminar session schedule
 - to create more opportunity to visit the exhibits,
 - to increase the ability to see more of the seminars.
- Improve sensory room
 - to provide an opportunity to show case more exhibitor products.

- Create a platform for product demonstrations and user group performances
 - to give exhibitors an opportunity to highlight their products on stage,
 - provide opportunities for the disabled community to be involved.
- Develop more direct activities for marketing the event
 - to give user organisations more involvement,
 - to access relevant health professional networks for attracting quality attendees.

In 2024 we anticipate that we may host the expo in Christchurch or look at the possibility of hosting two expos (Auckland and Christchurch). A review of the 2023 expo will happen immediately after the 2023 show and a decision will be made promptly.

TECHNICIAN TRAINING



For some time now Katie Noble, on behalf of ATSNZ, has been involved in developing a platform for technician training. This is for training that meets the requirements of the DMERT (Durable Medical Equipment Repair Technician) Group, which is the recognised standards organisation for technicians across USA and Canada.

Soon technicians will be able to access foundational training across a range of wheelchair and disability equipment, which can then be

supplemented by manufacturer specific training.

My Skill is the organisation that is entering into an agreement with Altas-FIOS (Matt Macpherson) to be able to provide the training in New Zealand. In recognition of the collaboration on this project, My Skill will be offering discounted training for the Enable NZ and Accessable subcontractor networks, and member organisations of ATSNZ.

You can register your interest with My Skill already, for the launch in early 2023. We will send out an email to all members early next year to remind you of this opportunity.

Expression of Interest in Online Technician Training

THERAPEUTIC PRODUCTS BILL



On 30 November the Therapeutic Products Bill (TPB) was submitted to parliament for its first reading. It was supported by 117 of the MPs and opposed by 2. It is currently with the select committee and submissions have been invited. The closing date for submissions is 15 February 2023, giving us 55 days to prepare.

MTANZ is currently working on an industry submission from a medical devices perspective and ATSNZ is collaborating with MTANZ. The people at the Ministry of Health that have drafted the bill engaged with MTANZ members on 2 occasions recently, 2 and 16 December via Zoom. The second session provided an opportunity to ask many questions and was followed by a workshop to prepare key points for the submission to the bill.

Any feedback from ATSNZ members on this piece of legislation is welcome and if anyone is interested in working on a subcommittee in preparing the ATSNZ submission, please contact Ingrid. Parliament keeps us up to date with the process via the following link:

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_130084/therapeutic-products-bill

MINISTER FOR DISABILITY ISSUES



The Minister for Disability Issues, Poto Williams, announced that she won't be standing as an MP in Christchurch East in the 2023 election. Effectively this means that her role as the Minister for Disability Issues will likely come to an end within the next 12 months.

Her involvement with the Disability sector started several years ago. Prior to coming into Parliament, Williams worked in the disability sector as a provider.

She also worked in health and community health, supporting support workers of disabled people. Williams became a member of Parliament in 2013 and was also the Labour Party spokesperson for disability issues from 2015 to 2017.

In her short time as Minister for Disability Issues the new Ministry for Disabled People/ Whaikaha has been established and a bill for Accessibility for New Zealanders is in progress, currently with select committee. There were 548 submissions made on this bill, in which we were included. Our submission reiterated what the disability advocates are communicating widely about what the bill doesn't include and that more work is needed for a more effective piece of legislation.

ENABLE SYSTEM CHANGE



Many of our members will have received a communication from Enable yesterday about their new date for a switch to a new system – 1 February 2023.

If you haven't received the communication and expect to be

impacted by the system change, best get in touch with Enable for the info provided in the communication.

FESTIVE ENDINGS to 2022



Despite a rocky start to 2022 and many challenges along the way, ATSNZ has had a productive year working on behalf of our members.

We wish you all a well-deserved summer break and a festive period ahead.

Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

See you in 2023!

ATSNZ

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