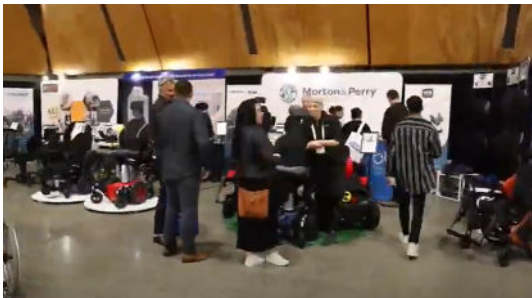




Welcome to our February 2023 newsletter. This exciting newsletter is full of the latest developments that will keep you up-to-date with our industry.

It is best to view this in your browser.

[ATSNZ DISABILITY EXPO – 2023 – 1 & 2 November](#)



At the start of this year, our event management team (Icon & CML) geared up a notch in preparation of the ATSNZ Disability Expo 2023. There have been a few meetings with the Expo subcommittee (Tania Bowkett, Jason Clare & Ingrid van Rijn) to consolidate

the identified changes. We are currently in full swing and are nearly ready to launch the exhibitor, speaker and visitor marketing for this event.

Once the exhibitor prospectus is finalised, we will notify (via email) all ATSNZ members before any other potential exhibitors, so that ATSNZ members have the benefit of first choice of available booths. This will be a short period of time as we wish to get the sales happening as soon as possible.

The 2023 Floorplan has been changed, so that the entrance to the expo is in the front of the venue. This is to maximise the traffic through the main hall.

We will have a small stage in the main cafe area, which will be available during the expo for short product presentations. This is a new feature for our expo, which we hope will provide additional opportunities to showcase your products.

As always, the expo is a highlight in our calendar and we are looking forward to a bigger and better expo this year.

## TECHNICIAN TRAINING



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, is going to be a reality very soon.

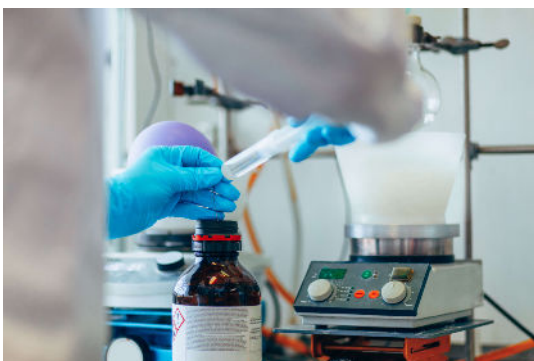
Katie Noble provided an update at the February committee meeting, indicating that testing is taking place next month and that the training will be ready to launch in the next quarter.

If you haven't already, you can register your interest with My Skill, for the launch next quarter.

### **Expression of Interest in Online Technician Training**

ATSNZ members will receive a discount on the training and ATSNZ will be the point of contact.

## THERAPEUTIC PRODUCTS BILL



The closing date for submissions to the Therapeutic Products Bill was extended to 5 March 2023, after we lobbied with 7 other industry bodies to have more preparation time, given the weather issues and the impact they were having on businesses, not to mention that the consultation timeframe was short for such a

lengthy draft bill.

We had e-meetings with Dr Shane Reti (National MP) and Toni Severin (ACT MP) which provided us with a sense that many of our views are shared with these MPs, who are on the Health Select Committee.

MTANZ finalized their submission and we have adopted most of the content for our own submission, as we worked closely together, given we both work in the medical devices sector.

We will send our draft submission out to members in the next couple of days, along with a template letter of support that members can adapt and send to

the Health Select Committee.

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

## MINISTER FOR DISABILITY ISSUES



Priyanca Radhakrishnan is the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Minister for Disability Issues, Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities, as well as Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment and Associate Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety. She is the first person of Indian origin to become a Minister in New Zealand.

Priyanca has lived and worked overseas, and in Aotearoa New

Zealand. She was born in India, went to school in Singapore, and then moved to New Zealand to further her education. She has a Master of Development Studies from Victoria University and chose to make Aotearoa her home.

She has spent her work life advocating on behalf of people whose voices are often unheard – survivors of domestic violence, and migrant workers who have been exploited. She has also worked as a policy advisor to former Labour MP, Hon Phil Goff.

Priyanca has worked with our diverse communities across Aotearoa. She is committed to ensuring that their voices are heard in Parliament and that they're supported to thrive.

For Priyanca, politics is about choices. She believes that decision-making should be community-led and should lead to better outcomes for everyone, not just the privileged few.

Priyanca strongly believes that everyone – regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexuality or socio-economic status – should have the opportunity to live with dignity. That means equitable access to affordable housing, quality education and decent, secure work. It also means that everyone should feel safe both in their homes and on the streets.

Priyanca is a proud union member. She is also a member of the Asia New Zealand Foundation Leadership Network, National Council of Women (Auckland) and UN Women.

Priyanca lives in Auckland with her husband and two lovely rescue dogs. Issues concerning animal welfare are also close to her heart and she's a strong supporter of dog-friendly spaces.

#### ENABLE SUPPLIERS MEETING



Enable is planning a Suppliers Meeting on the afternoon of 16 March, the pack-in day for Palmerston North's Show Your Ability expo. This will be an opportunity to hear about developments at Enable and for suppliers to ask questions.

#### TRIALS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT



The EMS Portfolio manager at Whaikaha is spearheading collaboration between Whaikaha, Enable, Accessable and ATSNZ with the purpose of improving the trials

process.

We met towards the end of 2022 and had the opportunity to discuss what needs to change in the process and what works from different stakeholders' perspectives.

Following on from that, the ATSNZ subcommittee (Katie Noble, Jason Clare and Ingrid van Rijn) discussed and drafted a trials process document, clearly stating what the parameters need to be in any communication with stakeholders in the process.

Further discussions will result in new communications from Whaikaha to all professional parties in the process.

#### **ATSNZ**

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