



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our June 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.

[ACC CONVERSATIONS](#)



**He Kaupare. He Manaaki.
He Whakaora.**
prevention. care. recovery.

In the last issue we commented on the activities being undertaken to improve the trials process. These are ongoing. We are in conversation with ACC to address some of the issues

our members are facing currently (and have been for some time now).

They appreciate the time we spent collating the feedback from members on trials and sharing this with them. They stated that it is useful insight for them to look at future opportunities for process improvements for trials.

They also indicated that there is at present some higher priority work that they are currently getting through with the transition with Enable. Once they have had a chance to discuss further internally, they will come back to us.

It great to have a positive response and a willingness to engage and we can assure you that we will be following up on a regular basis, to achieve the opportunities mentioned above.

[ATSNZ DISABILITY EXPO 2022](#)

The call for abstracts for seminar sessions at our Expo is open until Thursday 30 June, 11pm. Its not too late to put in a submission, so please



SAVE THE DATE

CALL FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS
to present at the Expo are now open!

Visit www.atsnzexpo.nz/Abstracts for further information

ATSNZ Disability Expo
28 - 29 September 2022
Vodafone Events Centre, Manukau Auckland

Proudly supported by:
Auckland Unlimited, Manukau City Council, Auckland Council

The ATSNZ Disability Expo will be THE event for showcasing products and services designed for the rehabilitation, aged care, home care markets and leisure and recreation markets.

www.atsnzexpo.nz

OVER 70% of exhibition spaces sold! Don't miss out.

A focus on mental health & what that means in relation to assistive technology.

do encourage those you thinking about it, to get onto it. Details around the submission process can be found on our expo specific website.

<https://www.atsnzexpo.nz/abstracts>

PHARMAC & MEDICAL DEVICES



There is a lot changing in the world of health these days but removing responsibility from Pharmac for medical devices isn't one of them.

The review summary on Pharmac contains the following recommendations to the Minister:

- transfer cataloguing and contracting medical devices from Pharmac to Health NZ, which is better placed to manage procurement and supply chain for medical devices
- direct that this transition happens at the speed Health NZ determines
- direct Pharmac to work with Health NZ to complete the design of the health technology assessment process
- direct Pharmac and Health NZ to report to the Minister on any ongoing role for Pharmac with medical devices.

Pharmac in their most recent update communicated that they will retain the responsibility for devices.

You can read a summary of the review here:

<https://pharmacreview.health.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/final-report/Pharmac-Review-Executive-Summary.pdf>

Interim HEALTH NZ and MAORI HEALTH AUTHORITY



The deadline for legally operating under a new health structure is drawing ever closer. In the lead up the Chief Executives are holding virtual hui to keep us all informed. We've been presented to a couple of times now by Margie Apa, Chief Executive for Health NZ.

The updates cover structures, roles, objectives and timelines. At the end of these presentations a few questions from the audience have been selected and responded to. This is where we learned that Margie will be appointing a Disability Advisor to her office.

This new role will work in collaboration with existing Disability networks, consumer advocate groups and the new Ministry for Disabled People. Its good to know that there will be a point of contact for Disability within Health NZ that will focus on achieving better outcomes for disabled people.

<https://www.hnz.govt.nz/future-of-health/for-sector-and-service-providers/stakeholder-hui/chief-executives-virtual-hui-14-june-2022/>

MINISTRY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE



The establishment unit of the new ministry for Disabled People, that sits under the Ministry of Social Development, communicates with the sector on a regular basis. The new name and chief executive are still to be revealed. Community input has been sought along the way.

Minister Carmel Sepuloni, who holds the Disability Issues portfolio recently presented a paper to cabinet. This paper provides an update on progress towards the establishment of a Ministry for Disabled People ('the new Ministry') and the national implementation of the Enabling Good Lives approach to disability support services. It identifies future opportunities for further disability system transformation once the new Ministry is established and fully operational.

<https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2022/disability-system-transformation.html>

This paper seeks agreement that the new Ministry will:

- integrate the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) and its functions and responsibilities (which in the meantime has been confirmed)
- be responsible for cross-government accessibility leadership once accessibility legislation is passed.

Some of the key points noted are:

- most Disability Support Services (DSS) currently funded through the Ministry of Health will be transferred to the new ministry (this includes EMS the portfolio currently managed by Cath Williams)
- the national scaling of the Enabling Good Lives approach which requires work:
 - to establish a partnership approach for the implementation with the community

- on an investment strategy
 - to develop person-directed funding approaches
 - on a proposed transition pathway to new regional EGL entities for local service commissioning
 - to develop workforce and monitoring/evaluation strategies
 - to put a disabled people and their whānau capacity and capability strategy in place.
- the movement from a service delivery and medical model to a social model of disability that supports self-determination and choice and embraces Te Aō Māori models
 - the new ministry becomes responsible for supporting the new accessibility framework once accessibility legislation is passed.

IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY through LEGISLATION



Access Alliance is a disabled people's advocacy group that has actively requested and supported the drive for accessibility legislation in New Zealand, and promoted their cause through the Access Matters campaign.

Access Alliance includes Blind Citizens NZ, CCS Disability Action, Cerebral Palsy Society, Deaf Aotearoa, Disabled Persons Assembly NZ, Kāpō Māori Aotearoa NZ, National Foundation for the Deaf, Blind Low Vision NZ, Parents of Vision Impaired New Zealanders, and People First | Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.

The legislation is in development and is likely to be presented to parliament in six weeks' time. The Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill will include a suite of measures like:

- methodologies for addressing accessibility barriers,
- monitoring,
- evaluation and reporting requirements,
- expectations for engaging with and listening to disabled people,
- as well as the purpose and principles for the accessibility framework.

The cabinet paper on this, that was presented last year in October, outlines what the intentions are.

<https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2021/accelerating-accessibility/accelerating-accessibility-in-new-zealand-october.html>



LEAH STEWART – MEDIFAB

What is your company's area of specialty?

Medifab specialises in Complex Rehab Technology for children and adults with significant disabilities and medical conditions. We provide equipment and seating to allow individuals to be active and functional in their daily lives at home and in their community.

Where do you see our sector in 5 years?

Busier and thriving, with an advancement of technology, products and options for people with disabilities.

Can you please share a recent success you have had with a client and one of your products?

Working in paediatrics, I get to meet some amazing families with a range of stories and experiences. One set up that I really enjoyed was duplicating a set up of two Carrot car seats for special needs twins who were visiting from Australia. We were able to recreate their home set up right here in New Zealand and deliver them to the airport for their arrival. Being able to go the extra mile for our families is a part of my job that I really enjoy, knowing that we can make a positive difference to our client's lives.

If you could change one thing about our sector, what would it be?

Stabilising the disparity in funding between clients and systems so that everyone has equal access to equipment and technology.

What's the best piece of advice you have ever received?

In this role, on the road every day, eat when you can.



HAPPY MATARIKI

Matariki marks the beginning of the Māori new year. It coincides with the rising of a cluster of stars – Matariki, and her daughters, Tupu-ā-nuku, Tupu-ā-rangi, Waipunarangi, Waitī, Waitā, and Ururangi.

This is the first time Matariki is celebrated with a public holiday. This time next week, enjoy Matariki is whichever way you choose!

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