



Welcome to our June 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.

[ATS NZ AGM – 31 August 2023](#)



This year our AGM will be on 31 August. We will host those that can come to the AGM at the Jetpark in Mangere, not far from the airport. We will also have AV onsite so that those who can't make the trek to Auckland are able to connect in via Teams and be present.

After the formal part of the meeting, we have a guest speaker lined up for you, Sophia Malthus, who is a third year LLB student at Auckland University of Technology, with interests in employment and health law.

In 2016 Sophia sustained a high-level spinal cord injury and has been active in the disability community since, particularly concerning advocacy and representation in the media. This ranges from taking disability residency and rehabilitation issues to Parliament, to runway modelling for New Zealand Fashion Week 2019 and playing a lead role in a TVNZ drama.

Through her unique life experience, she has developed strong resiliency, problem solving, and communication skills. Sophia has developed a series called This Is Wheel Life. This series explores what life in their 20's looks like for Sophia who is quadriplegic, and Indy who is Sophia's carer and cousin. It is made with the support of NZ On Air.

Sophia will show one of the videos in the series, then talk to it and take any questions from the floor. Here is the link to the trailer for the series:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhUqu2GOn4Y&list=PL51Z3PEh7YMSgdB45wteQI2408SflrfZw&index=2>

After Sophia's presentation, a light lunch will be served along with coffee and tea, before everyone heads off again. Invitations will be sent out early in July along with invoices for 23/24 membership to ATSNZ. We hope to see many of you at the AGM!

ATSNZ DISABILITY EXPO – 1 & 2 November 2023



The 2023 ATSNZ Expo is shaping up nicely. The main hall is sold out and we have decided to open up additional space out by the seminar rooms. Those that have already booked are offered the opportunity to shift, should they want to (and if it's possible). After that, those on the

waiting list get to choose their space. This is shaping up to be our biggest expo yet and we're enthusiastic about our growth. The floorplan can be viewed by clicking the box on this webpage: <https://www.atsnzexpo.nz/book-your-space>

ACC and Whaikaha have agreed to jointly present at the seminar sessions. We're hoping to team them up with Enable and Accessable as well, filling the last slot on day 1, before the networking session that all exhibitors (and members) will be invited along to.

We are receiving quality abstracts for seminar sessions and will keep the call for abstracts open until the end of July. After that, Tania Bowkett (CI South) and her team of evaluators will select the best submissions for inclusion in our seminar programme. If you are aware of any great candidates that haven't yet submitted an abstract, please encourage them to do so, sooner rather than later. Direct them to this webpage <https://www.atsnzexpo.nz/abstracts>

MEMBERS IN THE MEDIA

Earlier this month one of our members was quoted in a Herald article:

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/travel/greece-is-making-290-beaches-wheelchair-accessible-nz-has-just-13/HLE6FDAPABGTFVOPQCIL4Z4XQ/>

"So far New Zealand has around 9-10 beaches with accessible matting and beach wheelchairs available with possibly another 3 coming on board



for the next summer,” says Tania Bowkett of Accessible Beaches and C1 South, a wheelchair seating specialist.

“New Zealand’s minister for disability issues, Priyanca Radhakrishnan told the Herald that the country had a duty to continue to make public places more accessible.” We look forward to seeing the results!

THERAPEUTIC PRODUCTS BILL



The Health Select Committee have published their report <https://selectcommittees.parliament.nz/v/SelectCommitteeReport/79a6a4a8-869e-452d-62b1-08db6bb870b9> after 16,756 submissions were reviewed.

Despite numerous submissions there were few changes to the legislation affecting medical devices. The relatively minor changes suggest that the bill will be passed before the Election.

ENABLE UPDATE



Enable has had some extreme issues with their new financial system and as a result suppliers were not getting some or most of their invoices paid. We’ve been monitoring the situation and having conversations with Enable on your behalf.

We sent you all the details of our last meeting on 25 May, where we garnered some confidence that the problems would be resolved, and payments would start returning to normal. Early feedback on the June payments suggests that progress is being made. However, there is still a substantial backlog for some and we need to keep the pressure on.

WHAIKAHA UPDATE



Since our last newsletter we have had two meetings with Whaikaha, Enable, Accessable and OTs to discuss the best way forward for equipment trials.

At the most recent workshop, all parties had the opportunity to share what they considered to be the role and responsibilities of the various parties. Most participants concentrated on their own roles and responsibilities and it was a good exercise to bring into view where the complexities sit.

Work continues with all parties, and we expect to see a graphic overview of the process at the next meeting. Timeframes were brought into the discussion, and we emphasised the need for a process that minimises the time that equipment is out on trial. Good support for this approach was seen amongst some of the OTs participating in the workshop.

ATSNZ

29 Triton Drive

North Harbour

Auckland

New Zealand

www.atsnz.org.nz

admin@atsnz.org.nz

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