



Welcome to our December 2023 newsletter. This 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.

Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People – Trial Process Review



The Whaikaha Trial Process review has reached an agreeable outcome with Jason Clare, Levi Murray, Katie Noble and Ingrid van Rijn representing

the ATSNZ members. There have been many meetings during 2023, with both assessors from across the country, as well as representatives from Enable and Accessable involved.

All parties appreciate the multiple challenges of trials and that we need to make the process simpler for assessors, and cost effective from both suppliers and processing point of view, while still delivering the right outcomes for our clients. We also know that given the ageing population the demand for trials will only continue and we need to ensure that the processes are also scalable to meet this demand.

The team worked through the trial data gained from all the stakeholders to determine where some changes could be made. From this data, it was clear that there are a number of items that are almost always successful when trialled and that the need for these trials is unnecessary. It was also very clear that lower value items have a high cost to trial, which led to the conclusion that the threshold for trials from where it currently sits at \$500, could be raised to \$1,000.

Also discussed was the responsibility for trial follow up. As there was some duplication by both the suppliers and the funding administrators, agreement was reached that the funding administrators would pick up the responsibility after 40 days, unless requested by the supplier to step in earlier.

Whaikaha has sent out a communication to all parties, documenting the agreed changes to the trials process. Since then, Cath Williams (who facilitated

the meetings) has retired and Nicky Bank has stepped in to coordinate follow-up discussions and monitor progress. The next meeting will likely take place in March 2024.

ATSNZ DISABILITY EXPO – its a wrap for 2023 - looking forward to 2024



The 2023 ATSNZ Disability Expo (our 4th) was perceived by many to be our best expo to date. We learn from each expo and work diligently to improve this annual event.

Our visitors and our exhibitors were surveyed after the event and the results of these surveys are available to all our

members. The feedback and suggestions we received will be taken on board for the planning of the 2024 ATSNZ Disability Expo.

The date of the **2024** event is **6–7 November** and will be held at the Due Drop Event Centre in Manukau. We are also working on adding a Christchurch event, for which we are still looking at options in terms of timing, duration and location. We would like to trial a Christchurch expo in addition to the Auckland expo. For the location of the 2024 expo, the preference of exhibitors is the largest for Auckland, followed by Christchurch and then Wellington.

The booth sales for the 2024 Auckland expo will start in January and will open to our members first. We would love for you to come on board for 2024 and help us make it a bigger and better event yet again.

Spotlight on an ATSNZ member



Allied Medical won the Excellence in Large Business category at the Business North Harbour Business Excellence Awards 2023. The other finalists were McCore Group (Runner Up), Metro Commercial Interiors and Metalhartt Contractors.

A huge congratulations to Allied Medical for taking the top spot!

Merry Christmas and all the best for 2024



We are getting very close to the end of the 2023 and would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2024.

Its been a pleasure working with the old and new committees and it feels like we've had a good year.

Its been wonderful seeing and speaking with members at the Enable suppliers meeting, the expos (both ours and SYA's) and our AGM.

The ATSNZ 'office' will be unattended between 23 Dec and 8 Jan. Have a great time over the summer break and 'see' you all next year.

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