



CE Update

We hope everyone has managed through the hammering delivered by the weather in the past month and can take advantage of winter activities.

It is a very busy time with a number of really important pieces of work happening in the sector. The recent media revisiting of a number of incidents that have occurred over the last four or five years seems to have abated.

I'm concerned at the apparent lack of balance and natural justice of some media coverage, while others have really done a lot of preparation to present different viewpoints, such as the Radio New Zealand *Insight* programme.

We've had a meeting with MoH officials to discuss what we can collaboratively do to restore a perceived lack of confidence in providers. We will also be meeting with the external review panel in August so **[please forward your views to us by clicking here.](#)**

In the June newsletter, we referred to mentoring for providers that may wish some support. This would apply to a situation where a provider thinks that a mentor could be of benefit to their organisation.

To further explain this, we can seek consideration for MoH funding on a case-by-case basis to match and support providers with mentors, where demonstrated benefit would be identified and agreed.

The mentoring sought may relate to governance, management or operational matters that impact on the quality of service provision. Mentors could be provided by a member of NZDSN that was willing and had expertise in that area, or possibly from elsewhere.

If you are interested in this, either as a mentor or seeking a mentor, or to provide comment on the initiative, please contact me at 04 4734678 **[or click here to send an email.](#)**

Last BCP workshops planned for Otago and Tauranga

This is an essential workshop and there are only TWO to go – one in Dunedin on 25 July and the other in Tauranga (date TBC).

- **[Click here to register for the Otago BCP workshop](#)**

We're fortunate to have secured a 'Te Pou Leadership Grant' to deliver our BCP workshops at six locations nationwide. For those that hold a MoH DSS contracts, there is only a small registration fee.



CE, Clare Teague

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Connexions

Editorial team:

- Justin Walsh
- Matt Frost

For advertising enquiries, story suggestions or general information contact Lynne: phone 04 473 4678 or email info@nzdsn.org.nz

Update on MoH's review of DSS pricing methodologies and models

The MoH has contracted accounting firm KPMG to deliver the review of pricing methodologies and models for Disability Support Services and the firm is holding five workshops over the next two weeks to gather input on pricing principles.

If you can manage to attend one of these workshops, we encourage you to do so.

- [Contact for Susan Fernandes more information by clicking here](#)

2013 NZDSN Conference

'Keeping the Flame Alive – Investing in our Future'

The 2013 New Zealand Disability Support Network Annual Conference is happening on 14-15 August 2013 at Te Papa, Wellington.

The close-off for early bird registrations has been extended to Friday 5 July – so get in now to make your savings!

For those of you travelling to Wellington for the conference, we've negotiated a fantastic rate with the Comfort & Quality Hotel – let them know you're a member of NZDSN to receive the discount.

There are also exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities available. Remember, this conference is the only one of its kind in New Zealand, and offers unique and fantastic opportunities for businesses wishing to expand their presence. This is the place to do it!

- [Click here to contact NZDSN](#)
- [Click here to view the Conference programme](#)

We're delighted to confirm that Dr Simon Duffy (Director of The Centre for Welfare Reform) is our international keynote speaker. Simon is a philosopher and social innovator who has worked for over 20 years to find practical ways to try and improve the welfare system.

He's a regular public speaker and government policy advisor, both nationally and internationally, and his awards include the RSA's Prince Albert Medal and the SPA Award for Outstanding Contribution to Social Policy.

His interest began in this field after university when he worked for the NHS as a General Management trainee. He then went on to found and lead Inclusion Glasgow in 1996 and, following on from this, helped set up many new organisations in Scotland including Partners for Inclusion and Altrum.

In 1999, he developed self-directed support in North Lanarkshire in order to reform social services. In 2003 he led the development of self-directed support in England.

Simon has a doctorate in moral philosophy and is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham's Health Service Management Centre. He writes on the moral philosophy, welfare state, citizenship, social justice and inclusion, with key publications that include *Unlocking the Imagination* (1996), *Keys to Citizenship* (2003), *Women at the Centre* (2011), *A Fair Income* (2011), *Peer Power* (2012), and *The Unmaking of Man* (2013).

He is also policy advisor to the Campaign for a Fair Society which campaigns for a fairer society and radical reform of the current welfare system in the UK.

Simon's focus for the NZDSN Conference will be on how service providers can play a full and positive role in the development of self-directed support.

- [Click here for more about the NZDSN Conference](#)

Invitation to participate in survey on improving employment services

'Improving existing employment services for disabled people' is an action point in the Government's Disability Action Plan.

To progress this work, MSD has convened a group of representatives from the disability and mental health sectors, as well as officials from MSD and ACC. Together, we are all jointly developing and informing the process to improve employment outcomes for disabled people.

The first step in this work is to survey organisations that provide employment support services and disabled people themselves. We hope to gain a comprehensive understanding of the types of employment support that are currently being offered (both contracted and not-contracted) and what you think the barriers and trends are.

If your organisation provides support which contributes to employment outcomes, then please complete the linked survey. This will include many disability support providers.

NZDSN is hosting this survey and, together with VASS, we'll be working on the analysis and summary report to go to the representative's group.

Responses are due by Friday 16 August 2013.

Please feel free to forward this survey on to anyone you think may be interested in participating.

- [Click to if you have any questions about the survey](#)
- [Click here to view the survey](#)

Carers Strategy

The MSD is seeking to update the Carers Strategy for the next five years (2013-2018) and is doing this via a survey on the draft strategy that has already had feedback from the Carers Alliance.

NZDSN will be making a submission and [if you wish to be part of this please click here](#).

Submissions are due by Friday 2 August 2013.

- [Click here for more about the draft strategy](#)

Work and Income benefits are changing

A number of changes to employment, disability and sole parent support payments are currently taking place.

From 15 July 2013, Work and Income will have three main benefits for people of working age:

1. Supported Living Payment
2. Jobseeker Support
3. Sole Parent Support

The Supported Living Payment is for people who have, or are caring for someone with a health condition, injury or disability.

- [Click here for more about these support payments](#)

Please remember to check [our website](#), as it is continuously being updated with links and information.

All the best for the months ahead...

Clare Teague

Chief Executive – NZDSN