

Update from the Health and Disability NGO Council

February 2020

The Health & Disability NGO Council held its first meeting of 2020 at the Ministry of Health in Wellington on 14 February.

Keriana Brooking (Deputy Director General, Health System Innovation and Improvement) briefed the Council on a range of current issues:

- Ministry background preparations in advance of the completion of the Health and Disability System Review, to enable the Ministry to be ready for Government decisions on the Review recommendations;
- the interface between the timing of Budget 2020 and future decisions on the Review Report, noting that the date for Budget 2020 is set but the date for the release of the Report is not. The Council also notes the constraints on time available for Government decisions and actions this year given the general election in September and the decision stand down prior to the election;
- the Ministry's work to set up a dedicated team focusing on the Coronavirus; and
- the effect of these issues on the timing of Ministry work on procurement.

The Council discussed planning for the annual NGO Council Forum to be held later this year. The Council has decided on the theme Equity for the Forum and is well into planning sessions and speakers. The Forum details will be announced shortly.

The Council received an update report from the NZ Navigator Trust. The Council is supporting a project run by the Trust that will establish a repository of existing useful apps for the community sector. Examples include apps to create videos, infographics, charts, and maps, send large files, run wellbeing surveys, find professionals who do pro bono work etc. The Council believes the repository will be a valuable resource for NGOs.

The Council spent some time refining its work plan for 2020. NGO stakeholders can expect to receive a brief electronic survey in the second quarter of 2020 seeking feedback on key issues facing NGO services in the Health and Disability sector. Issues have been drawn from the Health and Disability Review Interim Report. Responses to the survey will help shape the nature and prioritisation of ongoing advice to the Ministry from the Council, as well as identify where further work by the Council should be focused to support NGOs. (Update: survey cancelled due to Covid-19.)

Update provided by Frances Blyth, Personal Health Representative