

## **Update from the Health and Disability NGO Council**

**June 2020**

### **Covid-19 response update**

Council members provided a round table update on the Covid-19 response and reinforced the valuable role played by the NGO sector in providing ongoing support within our communities. People were agile and flexible in their responses to meeting presenting community needs. We all had to make adjustments to how we provided services. One of the key factors was the engagement with funders and for some the feeling that this came with enhanced respect as we were seen as important partners in the overall response network. We are keen to hear from you all about any positive Covid-19 stories that exemplify our innovation and agility over this period. If you are able to send through video clips of less than 3 minutes, we will look to profile these on our website. Some of you may already have these on your own websites.

### **NGO Council Business Plan**

The Council reviewed and confirmed our workplan which has four key components for the coming year and is focused around the NGO network and engagement including our annual NGO Council Forum; Council business which includes gathering information and intelligence from across our sector and responding to policy and actions that impact on us; consolidating an ongoing relationship with the Ministry of Health so that we are in a prime position to influence policies and processes as they impact on our sector; and the fourth area of special projects which will have an equity focus for the coming year.

### **The Health and Disability NGO Forum**

The NGO Council is contracted to provide an Annual Forum. The purpose of the Forum is to provide an opportunity for the Ministry of Health and Health and Disability NGOs to engage with each other. The Forum was originally scheduled for June but had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. We intend to reschedule this for November and to hold it electronically. The focus will be on Equity, more information to come soon.

### **NGO Council Elections 2020**

Elections are held every eighteen months, in either April or October. At each election half of the Council will be up for re-election. Group B is up for re-election in October 2020, all members of Group B are eligible to stand for a second term. Council members will confirm whether they wish to stand and there will be a call for additional nominations prior to the October election.

## **The Health and Disability System Review Report**

The Council spent considerable time in the meeting discussing the recently released Review Report. We see there will be significant opportunities for shaping the future as recommendations are consulted more widely and implemented. The Council are particularly interested in looking at the implications for NGOs. We support the wider focus on population health and equity within the report, but we are also keen to explore where we may want to advocate for stronger or different approaches. The NGO Council will commission a piece of work to evaluate the recommendations within the report through the lens of the impact on:

- Māori
- Pacific People
- Disability Support sector

The Council will contract for these three pieces of work so that we can share them widely with the NGO sector and be in a strong position to influence our future in a positive and constructive way.

**Update provided by Barbara Disley, Mental Health representative**