

In this issue:

- NZDSN's new website
- NZDSN Annual Conference Information
- Leadership Workshop



Update from the CE Dr Garth Bennie

We have been working hard over the past few months creating a new look for NZDSN – both with our brand and our website which will launch on **TUESDAY 21 JUNE**. We will also be opening registrations for

... this year's NZDSN Annual Conference for which registrations are now open. Further details are below.

NZDSN Website

As our business has grown over these past seven years and with constantly evolving technology we identified the need to create a more comprehensive, user friendly, electronic portal for access to sector information, hence the decision to build a new website.

As with all new things, there will need to be a bedding in process and we ask for your patience in the first couple of weeks from going "live". We also ask for your feedback and suggestions to ensure we are providing a site that gives you what you need.

Our new website is designed to be interactive for our members – including a blog-space and an online event registration portal which will be used for all our Provider Development Programmes, Conferences and Leadership Workshops. Essentially we'd like our website to be a one-stop shop for our members.

There will be a direct communication going out to our members asking if they could please review their information on the website to ensure it is current and to ask them to reset their passwords. Please bear with us as we go through this process.

All feedback should be sent, via email, to Libby Carson at libbyc@nzdsn.org.nz

We hope you like it as much as we do and join us in our journey to a new look NZDSN!

NZDSN Annual Conference 2016

We are very excited to be opening registrations for this year's annual conference being held at Te Papa, Wellington on Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 August.

Conference Theme

Up For It: Embracing and Leading Change

There are major changes underway in how we understand disability services, personalised support and the relationships between service providers and disabled people. At the heart of these changes is a shift in power. These impacts will be felt by everyone across the sector in terms of

- how the service system is organised and funded
- how disabled people access services and resources
- how providers adapt and respond accordingly

We will all be challenged in various ways as we seek to both embrace and lead change where the road ahead will at times be uncertain and ambiguous.

The NZDSN Annual Conference 2016 will explore the changes in front of and around us and we invite contributors and participants to consider how we need to go about embracing *and* leading change – as disabled people, families, providers, support staff, policy makers and funders. We are looking to hear from innovators who are leading change. We have also included a work stream focussed on how business (both sector and non-sector based) can assist through the products and services they have on offer.

Keynote presentations will focus on service and system transformation, growing leadership, understanding community and realising employment outcomes. Papers and presentations will be organised around the following six work streams:

The Service System: what “whole of system” design features will facilitate the changes and outcomes being sought?”

Papers that focus on service design changes such as approaches to personalised planning and resourcing; the outcomes of policy reviews and system evaluations – whether these have an employment or living focus; current system changes being implemented or considered. We are particularly interested in papers from Government agencies.

Growing Leadership: developing our leadership capacity and capability – as disabled people, as families, as providers, as policy makers.

Papers that focus on how we identify and grow leadership particularly in the context of anticipating the changes ahead. What are the new leadership roles in employment, living, family and community services and how are we developing these?

Leading change: transforming organisations; leading and managing change; supporting others.

Papers that look at organisational change and how services make the shift from centre or facility based to more individualised community focused options. What are the challenges in the change process – for leaders, for people using services, for Boards and for direct service staff?

Research that supports and informs change: evaluating outcomes; measuring progress; building and sharing the evidence for what works.

Papers that have a research focus and contribute new data and knowledge and thus build the evidence base for effective practice in living, employment and community services.

The Workforce: professional learning and development; qualifications that anticipate the future; supervision and support in a changing service system; balancing flexibility and career stability; communities of practice.

Papers that explore and offer guidance in how we develop and organise the workforce of the future – across settings and including leadership, management and direct service roles.

Business – Products and Services: what products and services are out there that can help us in our day to day business; products and services that support new ways of doing things and improve the quality of lives simply and easily.

The response to our Call for Papers was huge and from that we are able to provide to you a broadly appealing and interesting range of speakers. Added to that we have secured some fantastic keynote speakers as follows:

Keynote Speakers

Michael Kendrick – Kendrick Consulting International

Michael is currently an independent international consultant in human services and community work with a focus on work in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom as well as occasionally in other countries, e.g. Nicaragua, Honduras, Ireland, and Belgium etc. His interests, involvements and writings have included leadership, service quality, the creation of safeguards for vulnerable persons, social integration, change, innovation, values, advocacy, the role of individual persons and small groups in creating advances, evaluation, alternatives to bureaucracy, personalized approaches to supporting people, and reform in the human service field amongst others. He has most consistently worked in the disability, mental health and aged care fields for nearly thirty years but has also occasionally worked in areas such as drug abuse, child protection and community education. In this work he has occupied a variety of roles including being the Assistant Commissioner for Program Development with the Massachusetts government, the Director for the Institute for Leadership and Community Development and the Director of the Safeguards Project.

Bruce Uditsky – CEO, Alberta Association for Community Living (AACL)

Bruce is the Chief Executive Officer of the Alberta Association for Community Living. He is recognized internationally as an advocate and leader in community inclusion and social justice for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Bruce has served on the boards of numerous community organizations and was a founding member and Chair of the Alberta Disabilities Forum, a federation of provincial organizations representing persons with disabilities. He has been instrumental in the development of a number of unique and innovative community initiatives, in particular, in founding and expanding inclusive post-secondary education and employment across Alberta and in other parts of the world.

Anne Hughson – Director/Associate Professor, CDRS, University of Calgary

Anne Hughson is an Associate Professor in Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, University of Calgary, a Registered Psychologist and a member in good standing with the College of Alberta Psychologists (CAP). Prior to joining the University of Calgary in 1985, Anne had an extensive background in working directly with families and individuals with development disabilities, in particular in addressing issues of violence and abuse, sexual assault, emotional and behavioral concerns related to disability.

Professor Rhonda Galbally – NDIA Board Member

Professor Rhonda Galbally AO is a member of the NDIA Board and Principal Member of NDIA's Independent Advisory Council. She has made a number of contributions to Australian and international social development, particularly for people with disability. From 2008-2013, Professor Galbally was the Chair of the National People with Disabilities and Carer Council. She was a member of the Independent Panel appointed to advise the Productivity Commission and Government during the Inquiry into long-term care and support for Australians with disability. She was also a member of the former National Disability Insurance Scheme Advisory Group. Professor Galbally was awarded an Order of Australia in 1990 and the Centenary Medal in 2003, in recognition of her service to the community. In 2012, Professor Galbally was awarded the Prime Minister's Outstanding Achievement Award in the National Disability Awards.

Speaker Breakfast – sponsored by Careerforce

2016 sees the introduction of the NZDSN Speaker Breakfast and this year we are delighted to have the Hon. Bill English present to us his views on how he sees the investment approach applying to the disability sector and the future of Enabling Good Lives.

Will also be hearing the Minister's views on the disability sector, what the challenges have been and are, what he would like to see happen in the sector, what influence Government has on this sector and what the sector needs to be doing to help itself and to better integrate with Government.

A plated breakfast will be served and this event is open to all delegates, exhibitors, sponsors and external parties who wish to join us for this event. Tickets are \$65 plus GST per person and are additional to the conference registration.

Sponsorship Opportunities

The NZDSN Annual Conference is the sector conference to attend. It's the space where you have the opportunity to have your say, to check out what's happening in the sector and to interact with Government, other providers, suppliers, exhibitors, etc.

As this is a premier sector event, why not become a sponsor? Our sponsors received multiple passes to the various events we hold during the conference and there are multiple ways to be involved. If you are interested please contact Libby Carson at libbyc@nzdsn.org.nz for sponsorship information.

NZDSN Annual Awards

We will be hosting the NZDSN Annual Awards on Wednesday 11 August and strongly encourage you to think about nominations for this year's categories listed below: Further information will be coming out in the coming weeks regarding the awards:

- NZDSN Most Innovative Technology or Research in 2014/15
- NZDSN Leadership Award
- NZDSN Long Service within the Disabilities Sector
- NZDSN Community Choice Award
- NZDSN Excellence in Supported Employment Practice
- NZDSN Best Conference Exhibition Stand (voted for at the conference)

Exhibitor's Lounge

With the conference growing each year, we have reconfigured the use of the space within the Te Papa and increased the number of workstreams to six. With those changes, we are pleased to announce the introduction of the Exhibitor's Lounge which will hold up to 24 exhibition spaces. This dedicated area is where we will hold all our morning/afternoon tea and lunches and there will be plenty of time in the schedule for our delegates to interact with the exhibitors.

If you are interested in exhibiting at our conference, and we strongly urge you to do so, please see our website for details.

Conference Hotel

We have been working with the team at CQ Hotels who have offered an exceptionally good rate this year for our guests, for which we are very grateful. Together we've also developed some added extras that will make your stay in Wellington even better (as if that could happen!):

- **Shuttle service** – for guests attending the NZDSN Annual Conference, CQ Hotels will organize a daily shuttle between the hotel and Te Papa – to ensure you get to the conference in time and are returned safely back to the hotel

- **Welcome drinks** – on Tuesday 10 August, for those guests arriving the night before the conference, CQ Hotels is hosting an exclusive NZDSN Happy Hour between 5-7pm.
- **Post-Awards Dinner** – for those guests returning to the hotel after the NZDSN Annual Awards on Wednesday 10 August, the CQ Hotel has set aside a special menu for NZDSN guests to enjoy

All details regarding these added extras are noted on the website.

Early Bird

Early-Bird starts on Tuesday 21 June at 3pm and closes at midnight Sunday 10 July – so get in early while you can.

Please note – if you think you have registered for this year's conference – you HAVEN'T. We have received emails from members believing they have registered – when in fact there has been no portal to do so. Please ensure you get your registrations in quick!

Registering for the conference

You will be able to register for the conference through our website. There are some things you'll need to know to help your registration process really easy:

- Following are promotional codes for specific delegates – these must be entered for discounts to apply:
- If you are a member your promotional code is **MEMBER**
- If you are a presenter your promotional code is **PRESENTER**

Exhibitor's must register separately to the conference. If you are getting a DOUBLE STAND – please email libbyc@nzdsn.org.nz so she can process this for you

You can register multiple people from one organisation – please follow the instructions on screen.

There is the facility to pay by credit card and those who register will receive a Tax Invoice via email, please keep an eye out for it.

If you are having trouble registering (and please bear with us this is a new website so there may be some teething problems) please email libbyc@nzdsn.org.nz and she will get in touch with you to work through any technical issues you might be experiencing

Leadership Workshops

Following the success of our Auckland Workshop, we will be hosting a workshop directly following the NZDSN Annual Conference. The workshop will be held in Wellington on Friday 12 August and will start with a networking opportunity from 5-7pm at the CQ Hotel on

Thursday 11 August.

Information will be posted on our website on **Tuesday 21 June** and we encourage you to join us for three days in Wellington in August – it'll be well worth it.

The workshop will focus on Health and Safety due diligence responsibilities and an afternoon session with the Ministry of Health officials on strategic issues.