



THE PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

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February 2019 Update to Members

Last week we had our first 2019 council meeting and so here is an update of PSNZ activity which I hope will be of interest to you:

People and Events:

I was pleased to welcome on board two new PSNZ Council members: Dr Ailsa Tuck, and Susan Cato-Symonds, Upper North Island Representatives for Medical and Nursing respectively. The Council will be meeting for a strategic session on April 12th.

We were delighted to hear in New Years Honours, that Sir Ian Hassall had been appointed a Knight Companion of the NZ Order of Merit, for services to the welfare of children.
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/109590079/new-year-honours-ian-hassall-knighted-for-services-to-children>

I would like to publicly thank the Nelson team who put together such an engaging and educational conference in their town in November last year.

Planning is well underway now for the ASM in Waitemata this year, Nov 20-22nd. Book your leave now!. The request for SIGs who would like to run Satellite day sessions is currently out for expressions of interest.

The headings for the following summary are taken from our current strategy.

Promoting Child and Youth Health

Over the past quarter we have been involved in a range of submissions and media responses. The following represent the major activities.

- Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy - government led process in which late last year a number of hui were held across the country and many members participated. I was pleased to see also a number of submissions under the PSNZ banner be entered into the process, and these included:
 - PSNZ (overall response)
 - Sleep SIG
 - Dev and Behav SIG
 - Child Protection SIG
- Healthy Homes Standards - PSNZ made a submission to select committee
- Proposal to delist Vitadol C and replace with Colecalciferol (Puria) - letter from Dr Austin, Chair of Newborn Network requesting review of decision by Pharmac.

Currently the Wellbeing strategy continues under review, and a Well Child Tamariki Ora review is being developed.

Grow

At last count our membership was 553. The membership has continued to grow slowly but steadily during this period, and there is still scope for growth in numbers.

Connect

Developing relationships with other key organisations

- RACP MoU confirmed.
- International Society of Social Pediatrics - MoU confirmed.
- Dr Shuman Mitic will be representing PSNZ at the Asia Pacific Paediatric Association AGM in Panama later in March.
- Dr Nicki Blair represented PSNZ at Aotearoa Health Coalition in Wellington Nov 2018.

Enable

- Constitution review - this is being prepared alongside a summary of the key changes to be re-circulated to membership in the next couple of months seeking membership endorsement, so that it is ready to be ratified at AGM in November this year.
- Website review and upgrade being planned: we have received valuable feedback from members and are currently working on specifications for improvements to the current website with the goals of improving ease of use by members, clarity of communications in discussion groups and better frontpage information. This is critical business from my perspective and has been a key area of discussion with PSNZ council and with the web developer. We will be involving a user group in testing the upgrade.
- SIG Chair conversations: I have commenced informal videoconferences one-to-one with each of the Special Interest Group (SIG) chairs/covenors. The purpose has been to check how different SIGs are going and so far I have been learning a lot. We continue to look for ways to better support SIG activity.
- Recent major donations for which we are very grateful:
 - The Leo Buchanan Maori Health lecture fund has been established
 - The Estate of Dr Keitha Farmer also donated funds to support a lecture at ASM or other.

This is just a short summary, which I hope is informative. If you have any questions or things about this to discuss do not hesitate to contact me or executive directly.

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