



# THE PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

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## Presidents report June 2020

You will all understand when I say the first 6 months as president is not what I was expecting.

Firstly I want to thank Tim Jelleyman for the handover and the good position he steered the Paediatric Society to over 2018/19. Tim agreed to stay on the Executive committee with John Garrett, Mollie Wilson, Denise Tringham and myself given we had not found a President elect.

I spent February getting to know better the components of the Society. This included a day trip to Auckland where I met with Starship Foundation, Cure Kids, Kidshealth Director and the Clinical leaders in Auckland John Beca and Mike Shepherd.

I had a leadership course in the second week in March and then COVID-19 planning hit. Fortunately it wasn't the virus itself. There were a number of key areas that needed guidance - the management of the newborn at risk was my focus, but others dealt with child protection and PICU. Kidshealth supported with parent information in collaboration with NZCOM for the newborn period.

Several meetings have needed to be postponed: The Epidemiology service update and the Paediatric Society Scientific Meeting. We are required to have an AGM so this will be planned for November.

Before lockdown we met with MOH representatives and secured 2-year funding for the clinical networks, Kidshealth and the Epidemiology service. I thank Mollie for her progressing with the renewed contracts for those involved, and Denise for her continued administrative role.

Our strategic plan of the Paediatric Society 2016-2021, was reviewed in April 2019 and we need to plan for the next period. We will need to incorporate the National Health review – out today and Children and Youth Wellbeing programme of the Department of the Prime Minister into our future strategy.

Our current VISION: The Paediatric Society of New Zealand believes all children /tamariki and youth/ rangatahi should, by right, **attain optimal physical, mental and social health and wellbeing**. By working as a coordinated national network of health professionals the Society dedicates its efforts and resources to this end. Fundamental to this vision is the Society's commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi principles. The Plan will be achieved by having a Society that is:

- connected, multi-disciplinary, diverse and responsive
- the go-to body for advice on child health issues, **a voice for and with children and young people, politically connected but independent and focussed on the needs of New Zealand's tamariki / children and rangatahi /youth**.
- increasing its focus on primary care
- Informed by evidence and relevant data

As we move forward we need to develop new ways of meeting the needs of our members and support services for children and young people.

The use of webinars, short presentations as well as traditional newsletters. The platforms we use has expanded. Paediatric Society had already utilised a professional zoom account, and Telehealth. Microsoft teams has been added in many areas.

We will hear and see more of the website enhancement in the next 3 months, and I hope that makes connecting between groups and individuals easier and filling the current unmet needs.

Thanks for your continued support.

Nicola Austin  
16.6.2020