



The Paediatric Society of New Zealand Te Kāhui Mātai Arotamariki o Aotearoa

PSNZ President report 17th September 2021

I'm pleased to report on the activity of Te Kāhui Mātai Arotamariki o Aotearoa.

Since April 2021 we have had new staff and new positions which have supported the executive and council in leading the Society's team.



Despite Covid disruptions over the last two years, Council is still able to hold a face to face meeting in Wellington in early July to kick start our development of a new strategy for the Society. We had Dr's Owen Sinclair and Danny de Lore join us as well as Ronnie Thompson, the Māori Cultural Advisor of the RACP. The interaction showed the importance of *Kanohi ki te kanohi* (face to face) meetings. The progress since then will be further discussed at this September's Council meeting.

Reflecting on the 2016-2021 strategy was an important place to begin. A number of successes should be mentioned. An updated constitution, new PSNZ website, introduction of Discourse for membership communication, increased membership across all professional groups and the outputs of the Networks and SIG's.

Going forward Te Tiriti o Waitangi underpins the direction with an equity lens to the front and centre for the 2021-2026 strategy. The themes also include partnership, people and improving practice. This will be throughout the four programmes of the Society.

How we do this and how we measure our progress is very important. One key enabler is the proposal to appoint a Māori advisor to support our Māori membership and all of us. Improving cultural competency and owning the solutions is a responsibility for everyone. Accepting that institutional racism exists and the complex reasons behind the inequities that affect Māori tamariki and rangatahi are needed to make change.

The Society is maturing and the Executive, in our first meeting with members of the Transitional Unit DPMC in July, was able to clearly articulate on your behalf the importance of child and family centred care and our place in being a voice for them. The Network development since 2010 places us in a strong position to promote how access to evidence-based care can be further enhanced with a whole of system and NZ wide approach.

We have had two important hui this year (by zoom) led by Dawn Elder, Chair of the NCYCN. In March with Māori members and in July with Pasifika. The Position Statement on inequities in Māori Health was a start to informing the strategy and we are seeking an MOU with the Pacific Medical Association as a step to improving engagement.

We have responded to two submissions recently. The first on the NZ performance on our UNCROC obligations. We believe the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy is the right direction but improved engagement is needed. Māori, Pasifika and disabled children continue to have poorer outcomes

than Pākehā. Improved data collection in a timely manner across systems is needed. Health, education, social agencies and Oranga Tamariki continue to work in siloes. This has to change.

The second submission, lead by Andrew Marshall in Wellington, was in support of the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill. In a short time before the deadline discourse came to life with thoughtful, and knowledgeable expression of opinions of the pros and concerns. The submission was followed by an oral presentation.

We have an increasing media presence with the help of Ally Clelland our new Communications Manager. Breast feeding week saw us link with the NZ Breastfeeding Association and NZCOM. We have released RSV parent information in a timely way. Thanks to Katherine Lissienko our KidsHealth Director who activated ID leaders to update existing COVID information. For KidsHealth progress on national connections with an MOU with Health Navigator, and with ADHB and Safe Kids is overseen by the advisory group.

The NZCYES service also held a face to face meeting in May. A report will be presented by Mavis Duncanson and summary has been posted on Discourse. Equity was the theme of presentations, and we also showcased the Network work. MOH relationships are good and this ensures ongoing funding at this important stage.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are important for our Society in our delivering on our purpose and vision. Through education and collaboration we can promote the health of our tamariki. We are looking to support SIG's in an improved way going forward.

Our finances are good and we will soon have an Innovation Fund as well as the Education Fund to support PSNZ and members. Thanks to John Garrett as treasurer.

Pam Henry, the programme director, and I work closely on governance issues, ably supported by an administrative group with Denise Tringham in the senior role.

Kia pai tō rā (enjoy the day ahead).

Nicola Austin