

**April 2008**



**asenz**  
THE ASSOCIATION FOR SUPPORTED  
EMPLOYMENT IN NEW ZEALAND

## **Update from ASENZ Board Meeting**

**Kia ora koutou!**  
**Greetings from the Chair!**

**The following is an update from the ASENZ Board including highlights from the meeting held in Christchurch 16/17 April 2008.**

### **Conference 2008 – just when you thought things couldn't get any better!**

This year we will be staging 3 regional conferences:

**Christchurch** - Sudima Hotel - 28th and 29th October  
**Auckland** - Mount Richmond Hotel - 3rd and 4th November  
**Wellington** - Brentwood Hotel — 17th and 18th November

The aim of the regional conferences is to reduce particularly the travel and accommodation costs for local and regional service providers and allow more frontline staff to attend.

### **ASENZ Training & SE Qualifications – building and maintaining competencies!**

#### **Upcoming training:**

**19th and 20th May** – “Use of the six thinking hats in SE” facilitated by Sue Willmore and Jacque Biggs from Poly-emp (Auckland)

**17th June** – “Career Planning” facilitated by Pam Greenlee (Wellington)

**7th and 8th July** – “Mentoring and Coaching” facilitated by Ian Harper and Magdel Hammond (Auckland)

**24th and 25th July** - “Leadership in not-for-profit Organisations” facilitated by Ian Harper and Tyron Pini (Wellington)

Much negotiation and information gathering is going into developing the availability and accessibility of the **Certificate** and **Diploma of Employment Support**. Our EO has been in discussions with the Industry Training Organisation, Te Kaiawhina Ahumahi to progress the certificate and diploma and has kept us all informed about developments. You will have seen our EO canvassing for potential trainers and assessors from within the ASENZ membership.

We have entered into a partnership and a Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted to formalize that relationship.

If you have a training need or an idea for a training event, please let our EO know and watch for further updates from our EO.

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### Strategic Plan – our way forward!

The Board signed off the Strategic Plan developed at the February meeting in Rotorua. The 5 direction areas are:

**Membership** – including communication, orientation, involvement, services and development/maintenance

**Professional development** – including conference, training, supervision/mentoring for managers

**Relationships** – including general advice & guidance, advocacy, contracts information/lobbying, public relations incl. ASENZ profile, maintaining key relationships and formalizing as necessary.

**Organisational Risk Management** – including funding, budgeting, policies and procedures, contracts management, conflicts of interest, compliances.

**Research** – including identifying research needs, funding, research partners and members' data.

Five Board members will be responsible for reporting progress against each of those areas and will be assisted by any other Board members available, the EO and Chair. See website for other details.

### Members' Survey – keeping us informed!

Our EO is about to email a link to our 2008 online survey questionnaire. Surveys were completed in 2004 and 2006 and results can be viewed on our website.

Members' surveys provide all of us with a snapshot of the health of SE services across the country as well as assists us with future planning and direction. Our future research needs planning will be greatly assisted by a commitment to information gathering too. We encourage all members to participate as far as possible.

### Providers' Forum – sharing information!

The Board provided an update to a group of local Christchurch providers as to the activities of ASENZ nationally. It was also an opportunity for those providers to share information as to what was working or not for them.

### Employment, the 15-hour rule and eligibility for the invalid's benefit

Board members Cindy Johns and Kervin Farr have recently been involved with discussing issues regarding Work and Income assessing entitlement to the invalid's benefit where there is also paid employment. For more information click on IHC Hot Issues:

<http://www.ihc.org.nz/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=mfP2gmj83xs%3d&tabid=1537&mid=2618>

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### Standards review project – for good measures!

The ASENZ Standards review is underway. The project team of, Louise Deane, Rachel Jones, Rob Warriner and myself have teleconferenced and have some processes underway. At this stage we are aiming at having a draft discussion document ready for release by end of September 2008.

At the moment we are attempting to include other key stakeholders in the process such as MSD and possibly ACC. MSD is currently involved in a project to develop a service review framework that would necessarily be of assistance to or could be assisted by our review project. . . . . More to come!

### Multimedia Campaign – disabled people in employment!

By now you would have heard that our application to the FDR grant fund to initiate a joint multimedia disability awareness campaign focusing on the employment of disabled people was unsuccessful. We intend to push ahead with finding the resource to initially develop the necessary plans that lead to this happening.

Our congratulations have been conveyed to DPA, CCS Disability Action and People First as the successful recipients of the grant.

### Constitution Revision – sticking to the rules!

As advised earlier our Constitution is overdue an overhaul! If you have a special interest in its review please let us know.

### Transition or SE in schools – from school to community/work!

The process contradictions reported in our last update still exist in the difference between guidelines and contract conditions. Does anyone have any new information? As also previously reported the issue of non-ORRS funded students remains on our agenda.

### ACC SE and Transition – another master or a responsibility?

ACC advises there remains a window of opportunity for ASENZ members who did not respond to the SE RFP to indicate their interest in submitting a proposal at a later date. You should contact Mary Leighton directly. ACC also indicate they are about to release a 'Transition' service RFP.

### **Again, we welcome any feedback!**

Regards, Les Gilsenan. Chair