



Update from ASENZ Board Meetings

ASENZ Board Update for the February 12th and 13th meeting held in Hamilton

Notes from the Chair.

Hello and happy New Year for 2009 from the ASENZ board. As you may be aware February is the traditional time for the ASENZ board's first full meeting after the AGM. This is also the planning or board retreat where we outline and review the strategic plan and get ourselves organized for the work ahead. This year is no different. The planning session was held in Hamilton on the 12-13th February.

The year ahead looks to be a busy one with not only a conference in September and the role out of the current training but also a changing landscape of economic down turn and coalition discussions. Whilst this may create some interesting challenges it also creates a time of great opportunity.

Through the year I am sure as services we will be challenged on many levels to not only do more for less but to clearly demonstrate outcomes whilst maintaining the philosophies of Supported Employment and that it is the right job for the person, not any job especially when the jobs may be fewer.

ASENZ Board Planning days

The first board meeting of the year is set as a planning day along with a number of operational issues. As the saying goes if you fail to plan, you plan to fail. The meeting was framed by a series of sessions on governance, finance and allocation of portfolios. By focusing on our way of working for the year we have set strong expectations around what it means to be on the board and how we can realistically achieve the work plans we have for the year.

This was a very robust process and outlined a number of areas for the board to work on including:

- # Increasing transparency for nomination organizations
- # Reviewing our costs to ensure we remain viable in changing economic climates
- # Establishing what we can achieve and how we wish to do this.

Once the list of portfolios is confirmed these will be sent out to the membership and posted on the website.

The operational issue 'hot topics' identified included:

- # Coalition (peak body) position
- # VASS position
- # Transition position
- # Conference
- # 2009-2010 budget
- # Continued development of training and up take



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These topics will be the focus of the board and more information will be released shortly around these areas. I would like to thank the board for their energy and ideas during these two days.

AGM follow up

Following from the AGM we also needed to tidy up a number of outstanding issues.

At the board meeting the board has appointed new auditors following the mandate from the membership to investigate our current position. We obtained two quotes and have selected Silks Chartered Accountants from Wanganui as our new auditors. Having them in the same city as the EO and the financial support person will ensure that we get our end of year accounts on time.

The proposed changes to the constitution have been submitted and registered to Companies Office and other relevant places.

Ongoing sector relationships

The year has also seen a number of sector meetings and representation occurs. As part of ensuring members are aware of what the board is attending and doing to represent in the wider sector we will be looking to establish a calendar of activities of the board. Where appropriate we will also ensure that minutes from any of the meetings attended can be circulated to the full membership. Examples of these sector forums include:

- # Disability Provider Coalition meetings
- # ACC Rehabilitation Provider Liaison Group
- # Transition networks

Board members will attend these meetings on ASENZ behalf and feedback. We will also be looking to touch base with other ASENZ members who may be promoting supported employment through various networks to feedback to the wider membership.

Over the next months there will be a range of meetings in relation to the Disability Provider Coalition formation. Whilst we are generating our response to this as a Board, based on feedback received to date, we do encourage individual organizations to attend meetings if they occur in their area.



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Ministry of Social Development

Kevin Farr, Ian Harper and myself met for our regular catch up with Gordon Pryde and Scott Josling from the Ministry.

There were a number of broad topics discussed in this meeting relating to not only the current economic position of the world but also the Ministry. There are clear indications that there will be little change to existing contracts.

We have asked for MSD to put out a statement around their contract round intentions, which will start after the 3rd quarter reports and to restate any position around providers who have previously over delivered.

The National Contract team are also thinking around the population / intent of the contracts and how to manage increased demand. Whilst no formal direction has been established the thoughts have begun.

ASENZ strongly recommended that if any thoughts around this were to progress that we and our members as experts in the field are included in finding solutions to these challenges.

Next Meeting is in Christchurch on 23rd and 24th April

I look forward to catching up with members through the year.

Tyron Pini – ASENZ Chair.