

Update from ASENZ Board Meeting

ASENZ Conference

The date for this year's conference has been changed to 19th and 20th November 2007. There will be post conference workshops on the 21st November. It will be held in the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington

The conference theme will be 'From Pathways to Highways'.

There will be 3 streams (or side roads) for the conference:

- 1) Working IS Working** – Focussing on evidence based practice strategies, statistics, hard facts and research
- 2) Organisational Excellence** - Strategy, leadership, governance and organisational efficiency and quality
- 3) Practice HAS made perfect** – Examples of “best practice”, innovative strategies and practical examples of outstanding work

Awards

This year we will be calling for nominations for:

- Employer of the year
- SE practitioner of year
- Service user of the year
- Leadership award.

We will also be introducing a “Sages” hall of fame, this will honour past board members who continue to contribute their time and energy to the ongoing progress of ASENZ and SE.

Recognition of Prior Learning and Workplace Assessment for the Diploma in SE

11 candidates have been selected from 33 applicants - John Taylor will commence with the project this month and will complete the 11 assessments before the end of the year. The others who applied will be first in line for assessment, as soon as we can have some more assessors accredited.

Certificate in SE

We are in discussion with various parties with a view to progressing with the certificate. We intend to redesign our current workshops and develop new ones which will align themselves with the relevant unit standards. More info soon.

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Contracting

Awaiting further information from MSD re time frames – we have spoken to the ministry re timeliness. Please direct any questions or concerns to ASENZ ASAP and we will do our best to assist.

Job Support Funds

No date as yet as to release of new manual – it is currently with policy people within the ministry.

Christchurch Forum

The most successful forum held in recent times at The Arts Centre. 70 people from throughout the sector attended and were inspired by the stories from two clients who experience mental illness and one Deaf client who has worked in a variety of data entry roles over the past 15 years.

We were also blessed with the anecdotes of two employers; Laurel Devlin from Livestock Improvement Corporation who has employed a number of clients over the years and was the recipient of the ASENZ Employer of the Year in 2005; and Guy Adams from PEEEP trust who have up to 30 clients working in a variety of jobs at any one time. Victoria Gallington from Vision Employment spoke on behalf of Janine Aldwin, Cleaning Services Manager at Hillmorton and Princess Margaret Hospitals. Janine was the winner of the ASENZ Employer of the Year in 2006 and currently employs six clients from two services in Christchurch.

Training

Various training programmes have taken place this year, some successfully and two that had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. The board discussed the difficulty in arrange programmes and allowing adequate timeframes for presenters regarding them getting cheaper airfares, accommodation etc and then having to cancel. This also causes much discomfort for those who register early and also need to travel by air and need accommodation.

It was suggested that, as there has been 3 programmes organized in Christchurch, all of which had to be cancelled, that for the coming year, we concentrate all training programmes in Auckland and Wellington. There will be more programmes introduced in the coming months.

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Regional Areas

Board is keen to support services in outlying areas. Some board members will be in Otago, Taranaki and other regions throughout the year and will endeavour to meet with local providers. Local service providers are encouraged to let us know of what they are doing or what problems they may be encountering

Reviewing the ASENZ Constitution

Work has begun on the review of the constitution, this will be completed and relevant remits sent out in time for discussion and decision making at the AGM (November). We are also in the process of reviewing policies and procedures and other relevant documentation

Membership

Membership fees will be due in July and we are keen to increase our membership by clarifying and increasing membership benefits and by actively encouraging other related organizations to consider joining as either full members or as associate members. Current members are encouraged to let the Executive Officer know of any potential members that they are aware of.

Website

The website was discussed and will be moving to its next phase of development. This will be a major project for the next two months

MSD Conferences

ASENZ will have a static display and Ian Harper will present a 30 minute presentation at each of the three conferences. Various Board members will be in attendance and will assist with the promotion of ASENZ and the gathering of relevant info from the meetings