

## Notes from the IHC Pre AGM Association Forum

Friday 27 October 2023

### What are Associations Doing?

#### Events

Organising and hosting of:

- Balls, discos, and dances.
- Christmas dinners, events, and parties.
- Kite day.
- Easter picnic.
- Health Expo 2024.
- Weekend away camps.
- 1980's night.
- Charity auction events (Wellington).
- Celebrity debates.
- Wine tasting.
- All day bus trips for Oamaru and Timaru (North Otago).

#### Activities

- Helping with BBQs, Christmas events.
- Supporting Special Olympics.
- Supporting cultural groups.
- Involving recreational activities such as cycling, and gym sessions.
- Visiting ECE Plunket Centres, RTLBs and primary schools – packs with story books. Along with IHC and Library information.
- Cooking classes / shopping at the supermarket.
- Pizza nights, dances, Art Awards.
- Yoga (fully sponsored).
- Gym sessions, dance sessions for the term.
- Extend social groups.
- Regular monthly meetings (every month).
- Xmas house decorating competition.
- Information booklet of local support services.

- Committees communicating with other groups such as Parent to Parent.
- Visiting speakers at AGM.
- AGM – member of public attended after seeing advertisements in newspaper and is keen to join the Association.

## Funding

- Catching up with house maintenance.
- Mobile hoists that can be moved from home to home.
- Fire blankets for homes – for safety.
- Assistance with people attending the Berlin Special Olympics.
- Providing funding for Cycle Drome vouchers, Sailability, family holidays, swimming concession cards, movie passes, disco's, movies – children's / teens / adults – cinema hire, AGM event – Go Large.
- Support – Special Olympics athletes with financial support. Brain Injured Children's Trust.
- Gifts and gift baskets / Easter gift baskets vouchers / Prezzy cards for people in IDEA Services and Supporting Living.
- Funding of Kapa Haka uniforms, house ramp, bedding / clothing, Wish 4 Fish, Games afternoon tea, purchased garden games, outdoor furniture and BBQs.
- Café vouchers – coffee boxes with biscuits, coffee sachets.
- Flowers sent for IHC clients who have passed.
- First Aid courses.
- St Johns memberships.
- Top-up of B Cards (transport).
- Providing movie passes, coffee cards.
- Drama and music tuition.
- Support of the McKenzie Group (community group supporting people with intellectual disability) with funding for their rent and running costs (monthly donation) (Ashburton).
- Disney Plus subscription, ODT subscription.
- Interactive TV for staff and clients.
- Grocery vouchers supported living.
- Donations of \$5,000 to the Cyclone Gabrielle Relief Fund.
- Trips away.
- Gym memberships, swimming sessions.
- Trips away.
- Lounge suites.
- BBQ's.
- Musical instruments.
- Baking goods.
- Paid for equipment for the local pool, access.

- Transition to adult life.
- Support for local Kapa Haka groups.
- Art sessions for group – materials accessed by those using individualised funding.
- Support to Hillcrest High School for IHC students to travel overseas.
- Gala to raise money with Lions.

## **Other**

- Lack of communication between staff and Association Committees.
- How do we contact people with disabilities and how do we attract them to IHC?
- Working with Volunteer Coordinators.

## **Briefing to an Incoming Government**

### **Enabling Good Lives (EGL)**

- Review funding to accommodate EGL properly.
- More transparency in funding and accountability for spending the funding.
- Sort out the discrimination for people living in residential services and their funding.
- EGL is not new.
- More support is needed to help find and access services e.g. respite options.
- Standardise EGL countrywide.
- The ideology of EGL that families have been sold is not supported by NASC's and their limited contracts, and lack of funding to make wishes happen.
- Individualised funding is not delivering and is almost gaslighting families.
- Implement EGL throughout New Zealand including in terms of infrastructure eg having navigators / connectors.

### **Ministry of Education**

- More resourcing for teachers and professional development.
- Resource a life skills curriculum in schools for intellectual disability.
- Better education of government staff who handle and deal with funding of people who have a disability.
- Support and help for people who leave school and are transitioning to the wider world.
- Training for special education teachers.
- Education - provide choice in services, mainstream, special class, special schools and allow whanau to move between these on a needs basis to provide equitable access to specialist services.

- Increase funding for assessment of children so no-one is excluded, pending assessment. No waiting to attend school.
- Access for specialist services wherever attending school.
- Life skills. Suitable curriculum in the school.

## **Whaikaha**

- Standardise funding across the industry / sector.
- Clear timelines for Whaikaha to deliver measurable outcomes.
- Foetal alcohol syndrome / intellectual disability needs to be included and resourced, education.
- Respite care more than \$80 per day and speed up repayments.
- Whaikaha needs meaningful philosophy and values, dignity when talking to people with a disability. Ensure people with an intellectual disability have a proper voice.
- Disability – awareness of disability in action policy
- Whaikaha needs to understand the specific needs of people with an intellectual disability. Seems to be more of a focus on people with a physical disability.
- Whaikaha needs to be properly resourced and more responsive.
- Whaikaha – who are they and what are they doing?
- Certainty of funding for providers and adequate funding.
- Carers payment (for all but two tiers means-tested).
- Funding for vocational support for people in Supported Living, five days per week.
- Adult literacy and numeracy support (beyond six weeks).
- Allow payment of less than minimum wage so work programmes for intellectually disabled.
- Psychiatric services available for people with intellectual disability – funded.
- If there is an expansion of eligibility e.g., FAS needs to be properly funded.
- People are living for longer – there is a need to cater for people with an intellectual disability.
- Disability Ministry Whaikaha – what does it do?
- Flexible respite is required.
- Wages at only \$21, this is a hard job.
- Recognition of overseas qualification.
- A holistic view of intellectual disability – think Durie's Te Whare Tapawha – include the whole family.

## **Ministry of Health**

- Better GP training around intellectual disability.
- Subsidise medical blanket fee of \$10 visit.
- Funding to be prioritised. Access to medical same as rest of population when need more.
- Better dental care (free).
- Prescription costs?

## **Disability Sector**

- Training required for all professional groups.
- Recruitment of suitable staff.
- Retention of suitable staff is a priority.
- Make welfare guardianship simpler to assist in getting medical help etc.
- Disabled people are being treated differently to other members of the community (IDI data).
- Minister for Disabilities should be inside Cabinet, not outside.
- Needs to be info-sharing between MSD / Health and Whaikaha so that Whaikaha is a one-stop shop.
- Benefit\_pay over 65 year olds winter energy payment.
- No payment for full-time carers means no retirement savings for carer.
- Support workers better pay, training and career options.
- Increase in their benefits.
- Census form should clearly identify those with an intellectual disability.

## **Employment for People with an Intellectual Disability**

- What action will the Government take to employ people with intellectual disabilities?
- School leavers – training apprenticeships.
- Accredited employer status.
- Vocational training for intellectual disability.
- What is the government doing to employ people with disabilities – examples.

## **Accessibility**

- How will you make transportation more accessible for people with disabilities?
- How can the process of building houses be quicker?
- How will you increase accessibility to housing for people with disabilities?
- More information for the public about IHC and IDEA Services.