

Date: 13/04/2021

Attendees

- Ruth Jones
- Lesley Campbell
- Paul Barclay
- Marty Van der Kley
- Simon Atkinson
- Gary Williams
- Shane Mcinroe
- Nick Stoneman

Apologies

- Henrietta Harper

Minutes

Welcomes and Introductions

Ruth introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She provided a summary of the organisation – DLC was established following the Christchurch Earthquakes and was originally the EDLG Trust. There is a website and social media that you can check out to find out more. If you would like to be added to our mailing list please let us know.

Notices

There are RATs (rapid antigen tests) available - please be in touch with Ruth if this is a resource you need.

If you know of disabled people who are needing support who have tested positive for Covid there are community connectors via MSD available to help. If you would like more information or to be put in contact with this service email Whaikaha Canterbury whaikaha2022@gmail.com or text Ruth 0274408573

Shane reported that the DHB are providing Easy Read information on how to correctly do a RAT as some of the tests are different.

This question is being taken back to the DHB and the easy read version of "how to do a RAT (rapid antigen test)" will be put on the DLC Facebook page and our website.

Funding Update

We have been granted \$45k funding from Te Pūtahitanga. and we are looking forward to doing good work with this funding. Part of this will be working to feedback to the CDHB and the Ministry of Health about the experiences of disabled people during this pandemic. The other part of this funding will be used to start a project that has been on the DLC backburner for a little while, the Legacy Project. This project is focused on telling our story as an organisation, from the earthquake through to current activities. including the experiences of the disabled community, the projects that we as an organisation have been involved in and the lessons that have been learnt from our time.

We had meetings last year where we collected information on people's experiences with the pandemic and Covid. This is something that we will continue to do as peoples experience change. If you have anyone that might like to get involved in this project and share their stories, email kiaora@dlcanterbury.co.nz. This can be at a national, international or local level.

Shane stated that he has been impressed with how Jacinda Ardern has handled the response and the pandemic.

An update on the establishment of the Ministry for Disabled People

Gary provided the context to System Transformation. the new Ministry is being set up on the advice of a working group that included disabled people. The approach is called Enabling Good Lives. For Gary the most important thing about the new Ministry is that it will be governed by disabled people.

Shane noted that the Ministry does not have an accessible building yet. Things are happening very quickly, Shane is disappointed that a survey about the new ministry <https://www.amplifyu.org.nz/amplifyu/amplifyu-home> is not accessible for everyone in our community. The ad for the CEO of the ministry has now closed.

Ruth stated that she believes that DLC is in the prime position to give advice to the Establishment Unit. Ruth would like to make sure that if there is anything that the unit needs to know from us that we can get that information to them. DLC's core work is accessibility and so we can still provide clear messages around access and what we want to see in the new ministry. Ruth will ask an Establishment Unit rep to speak to our group.

If you have any questions that you would like to send through to the establishment unit let us know.

Pauline- Update from the DHB on Vaccines

Since June last year clinics have been set up that are accessible for those who need it. They have been working with the deaf community for example, providing clinics with interpreters and having clinics held at familiar locations with familiar people.

It was noted that 5–11-year olds are now eligible for the vaccine and 16-17-year olds can get their boosters. They have been working with local GP's as well to work on getting people in through their own practitioner.

Ruth highlighted that one of the issues is the knowledge of when the accessible clinics are and the communication of those. It can be hard to find out this information.

Shane asked whether the vaccine sites are now also giving out the flu vaccine? This is something that they have thought about and as things change it will be announced.

Lesley highlighted that isolation has been a huge issue with this pandemic across communities.

General Notices and Questions

Ruth asked the group if there was any interest in wellbeing workshops within our community. There has been some interest expressed. People expressed that they believe that this would be a good use of funding. It would be ideal if these were run openly and not overly structured, this way it can be more of a discussion, allowing for people to talk, connect and have fun.

Ruth also asked whether people have attended the DPA sessions and how they went. There was comment about a lack of opportunity to speak.

DLC is looking for new trustees. information can be found via our [website](#)

