

The Ministry of Health is pleased to confirm the membership of the National Reference Group as its national point of reference for strategic input into the work on its New Model for Supporting Disabled People. The New Model seeks to improve the way disabled people get information and individual support, bringing more choice, control and flexibility.

The National Reference Group will enable disabled people and disability organisations to support the New Model by providing strategic input during the planning and implementation of the demonstration project and the development of the New Model. It will also provide a link for communication between the Ministry's Disability Support Services and a wider national audience. The Group is committed to working with MOH to ensure disabled people/whanau have easier access to a wider range of resources to improve quality of life and community engagement.

The Ministry's Programme Leader, Jenny Moor, said that it was vital to work closely with disabled people, families and services to share ideas, refine and evaluate the New Model. The large number of nominations received reflected the wide interest in the sector and the selection panel had to make some hard choices to ensure that the group is a workable size.

Sixteen people have been selected. They provide a diverse mix of people with varied life experiences as disabled people and families/whanau. The group includes disabled people and family/whanau (or representatives) with experience of physical and intellectual disability and sensory impairment, complex conditions and Maori and Pasifika members. Alongside them are people experienced in disability services: in Needs Assessment and Service Coordination, Supported Living and Disability Information and Advisory Services.

Members of the group are: Richard Buchanan, Tony Blackett, Mary Butler, David Corner, David Darling, Bronwen Foxx, Matt Frost, Paul Gibson, Latoa Halatau, Dale Johnson, Philip Patston, Lorna Sullivan, David Tamatea, John Taylor, Maaka Tibble and Anne Wilkinson.

Details of the New Model and updates on the work can be found on the Ministry's website at

<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/disability-keyprojects-model>

For further information contact :

Inclusion Aotearoa Ruth Gerzon Ph (07) 3124191 and (0274) 308 149
inclusionaotearoa@gmail.com