



2021 – A year in review

Well, here we are at the end of another year! I am not sure if it is because I am heading towards the gold card – but the years just seem to get faster and faster! So much to do and so little time to do it in! 2021 has not been without its challenges, but we are getting used to the covid environment and our lives are beginning to adapt to this new norm. It has been particularly difficult for our affiliates in Auckland and more latterly in the Waikato and I know that all our centres in these areas are looking forward to a business as usual approach.

Ministry for Disabled People

We were excited to hear the announcement in November of the new Ministry – not sure about the name though? We think the Ministry for Human Potential has a nice positive ring to it! With any change, excitement always comes with a degree of trepidation. Our desire is to see the new Ministry being driven by the Enabling Good Lives principles, a fresh holistic approach that is focused on the people that it serves. It would be really disappointing to see a continuation of the same – with just a name change and new logo.

Enabling Good Lives

NZFCE, CE Southern and CE Canterbury have participated in workshops facilitated by Humanly with a focus on service transformation. With CE services being established by parents and still largely governed by parents, we have always been close to the people who sit at the heart of our work. We have however been challenged through our workshops to encourage all people who benefit from CE to share their goals and aspirations and assist us to evolve to meet the changing needs of the sector. Enabling Good Lives needs to happen at all levels of organisations – governance, our teams that work directly with the people we serve and of course most importantly the people.

Conductor Recruitment

We are currently wanting to recruit (entice) new Conductors to New Zealand. These specialists are in demand internationally and the covid environment plus the changing immigration landscape do not make this an easy task. We are looking at a range of initiatives that will increase the number of Conductors we have working here.

Welcome

We have welcomed a new Trustee onto the Board of NZFCE at this year's AGM – we are delighted to have Vicki Coddington join the table. Vicki is Manager of Conductive Education Waikato Trust and has a background in Occupational Therapy. It is great to have you as part of the team Vicki.

New Support Funds

The Board of NZFCE are always looking at ways that we can add value to our affiliates and the lives of the people that attend their programmes. We are implementing three new support funds - one already in place and two for 2022:

- **Wellbeing Fund** which recognises that we all face challenges that come out of the blue at times, for both our teams and the people we support. As an organisation it is nice to be able to lighten the load a little by providing some assistance.
- **Human Resources** fund will see us develop templates for contracts that our affiliates can use and subsidising direct support if required.
- **Counselling Support** – We are all aware that coming to terms with disability is a difficult time. We would therefore like to facilitate some workshops, utilising external expertise, around coming to terms with grief as a way of supporting individuals and whānau.

Professional Development

As part of our Annual General Meeting professional development in 2021 we had a facilitated full-day workshop on Governance and Funding Sustainability. The information shared was valuable. We have also supported a number of

other opportunities including Supervision and courses run through the National Institute for Conductive Education online.

Strategic Plan 2022 – 2024

The Board have been going through our Strategic Planning process, taking into consideration feedback from our affiliates in our mid-year survey and the changing environment that we find ourselves in. We are unclear at this point what the new Ministry for Disabled People will be responsible for – so it will be an evolving plan!

New Ambassador joins the line-up

We were delighted that Brad Mooar accepted our invitation to become an Ambassador for Conductive Education. It has been a busy year for him in his role as Assistant All Blacks Coach, but he always manages to slot some time in for CE as well. Brad, thank you so much for all that you do!

CE International

It has been great this year to connect with the National Institute for Conductive Education in Birmingham and we are incredibly grateful for their leadership in providing ongoing training in CE for qualified Conductors. We are looking forward to working closely with them over the coming year.

Thank you to the following – we are so grateful for everything you do for us!

Chris Harris who continues to do such a wonderful job as Patron for NZFCE. Chris is so generous with his time and articulates so well about CE. He is also fabulous at turning up at events supporting our affiliates.

With covid in our midst we have not had the opportunity to connect with our other two Ambassadors, Mary Lambie and Laura McGoldrick, but we hope that 2022 will afford us opportunities to catch-up.

To our amazing supporters – **Independent Fisheries, Lotteries, CJB Norwood Trust** – we could not operate without your input. You are the glue that holds us together! Thank you so much!

Thank you so much to our Trustees – your support of NZFCE, your passion, guidance and knowledge are much appreciated.

Best wishes to all of our supporters, our affiliates, the individuals and whānau they support and our wonderful centre staff. Have a happy and safe Christmas break and we look forward to connecting in 2022.

Ngā mihi

Sally Thomas
National Coordinator

