

UPDATE November 2021

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to the end-of-2021 update. The Exec has met (mostly by Zoom) twice since the last update and is due to meet (virtually) for the last time this year on December 8th.

Along with some of the existing work streams, new areas of work for this year have been discussed and some implemented. Recently, several members have enquired about OHCAN's membership process. Consequently, work has commenced on developing a more structured membership process. Membership is broad and includes anyone working in publicly-funded dentistry/oral health, and is not limited to clinicians.

We are in the process of developing a registration page on the OHCAN website. Along with new members, we will be using the registration process to update existing members' details. We will be asking all existing members who wish to remain on the contact list to complete the registration process, and will be sending a link in the next few weeks. Note: from February 2022, only contact information gathered through the registration process will be used for communication to members. Please feel free to circulate the link to colleagues who may be interested in OHCAN membership.

We are entering a period of uncertainty and unpredictability as we transition from an elimination approach to COVID-19 management to one of suppression. We are (over)due for a whole sector meeting. In principle, the Exec has agreed to hold a meeting later next year, although the format will be dependent on the COVID-19 environment at the time.

In case we do not get an update on the December meeting to you before the upcoming holiday period, I wish everyone a safe, restful and well-earned break in the coming weeks.

Clinical guidelines A survey to evaluate OHCAN's Clinical Guidelines for Children and Adolescents 2019 is attached along with this update. We would be grateful for your feedback. Please complete the attached form and return to jane@edresources.co.nz by Friday 17th December. Any suggestions for, or interest in working on, future guidelines, please email Jane at the above email address.

To inform discussions with the Ministry of Health's Telehealth Leadership Group, the Ministry's oral health team has expressed a need to find out more about teledentistry in NZ. Consequently, a few Exec members have arranged a summer studentship for a final year dental student to investigate the scope and nature of teledentistry use in NZ in recent years. A brief survey and an invitation to be interviewed will be sent out to members (and others in the sector) in December and January.

COVID-19 has slowed progress on **oral health service provision for high needs and vulnerable New Zealanders** and **Older People's Oral Health** work streams.

During the year, OHCAN Exec members were provided updates on:

- the Electronic Oral Health Record Programme by Bryan Pay, Senior Project Manager;
- the oral health workforce modelling by Emmanuel Jo, Manager Analytics and Intelligence, Health Workforce New Zealand, Ministry of Health;
- the National Oral Health Equity project by Emma Foster.

In June, OHCAN made a submission on the Inquiry into Supplementary Order Paper No. 38 on the Health (Fluoridation of Drinking Water) Amendment Bill.

NEXT EXEC MEETING: 8 December 2021

Contact details

If you have any questions or feedback about any of our work please contact:

Moira Smith – Exec Chairperson moira.smith@otago.ac.nz

Jane Dunbier – Administrator jane@edresources.co.nz