

UPDATE December 2020

Kia ora koutou

This is our last update for 2020. On the one hand, the year seems to have flown by; on the other, taken its time getting to this point. Everyone is in need of some 'stepping-off' time. I hope you have a well-deserved break planned for over the summer.

For OHCAN, 2021 welcomes a new Executive. Thank you to everyone for your nominations and participation in the election process. It was heartening to have so much interest; there were 16 high-calibre candidates and a total of 80 ballots.

I am pleased to advise that the new OHCAN Executive members for 2021/22 are: *Jennifer Norris, Jonathan Broadbent, Kathy Fuge, Katie Ayers, Lester Settle, Moira Smith, Pauline Koopu and Sam Carrington*. Collectively, the range of skills, experience, expertise and perspectives within this group will be invaluable in progressing OHCAN's current of work and in developing new work streams. As per OHCAN's Terms of Reference, a new Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson will be elected at the next Exec meeting, to be held in mid-February.

Much thanks goes to the out-going Exec for their work and contributions during the last two years, and for some, a number of years prior. Special thanks to Neil Croucher, who is a foundation member of OHCAN since its inception in 2008. Over that time, he has generously shared his knowledge, expertise and wisdom, and encouraged new and emerging leaders in the sector.

The arrangements for the next all sector meeting (postponed from this year) is an agenda item for the February meeting.

Work streams

Oral health service provision for high needs and vulnerable New Zealanders Plans to progress action on the HNV Implementation plan has been interrupted by Covid-19-related disruptions and the general election. With new ministers comes new opportunities, and members are planning to meet with them and other key people in 2021. In September, Moira was invited to present the key findings to the Oral Health Landscape Review Group (TAS), and in October with Juliet Gray to the NZDA Board.

Oral health of older people Liz and Moira continue to work on the primary care project. Next year, they along with Dr Justin Wall and A/P Lynne McBain (general medical practitioner; Dept. General Practice and Primary Care, Wellington School of Medicine), will work on a project to improve primary medical care practitioners' engagement in oral health.

Clinical guidelines Another print run of the Clinical Guidelines has been ordered. For more copies please email Jane Dunbier. There are plans for an evaluation of the guidelines in 2021.

NEXT EXEC MEETING: mid-February 2021, date TBC

Contact details

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