

REPORT TO NZSSD

Membership has increased in excess of 360 in the past financial year which is very pleasing. It is still quite amazing to meet people who either have diabetes, or a family/whanau member does but they either did not know about Diabetes New Zealand or one of our 39 societies, or were not given the data to enable them to make a membership application.

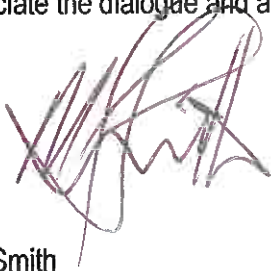
We have built up an excellent relationship with Fomana Capital, a Maori business organisation with strong contacts with all Marae throughout New Zealand. This will assist us with our on-going endeavours to establish a much wider dialogue with our Maori diabetes family.

The 'Parliamentarians for Diabetes' meetings, with the wonderful support and energy of some of your members have continued to be a great way to update the key decision makers in Parliament about issues affecting people with diabetes and the related costs. Our thanks to you all.

Without a doubt, the major highlight was our co-hosting of the 7th International Diabetes Federation Western Pacific Region Congress held in Wellington in March/April. Our thanks go to all Directors and Management of Diabetes Congress Limited for the commitment to the task and their ability to produce an outstanding congress that also provided a financial return to both organisations.

We continue to be represented at the New Zealand Guidelines Group meetings and the Cardiovascular and Diabetes Quality Improvement Plan Group. We are continuing our lobbying of the Ministry and Government for the National Diabetes Strategy particularly for Type 1. We have enjoyed a massive increase in awareness amongst all forms of the media which is positive. Funding and its challenges have been an issue and all signs indicate further challenges ahead.

Finally a vote of thanks to your Executive for their continued on-going support, we really do appreciate the dialogue and assistance.



Mike Smith
Immediate Past President

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