

REPORT TO THE NZSSD FROM SARAH THOMSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DIABETES NEW ZEALAND.

2009 was a busy year for Diabetes New Zealand. In spite of the world wide recession and many challenges, including the tragic death of our Co-Patron, Professor Sir Don Beaven, DCNZM, CBE, on 4 November. We delivered, in spite of reducing our costs, on all our outcomes as outlined in Diabetes New Zealand's Strategic and Business Plan, 2007-2011 and came in under budget for the year.

At its AGM in May Chris Baty was elected President and Paul Bowe Vice-President.

Diabetes New Zealand continued its mission to enhance the quality of life of people with diabetes. In doing so we ensured diabetes issues were well represented to the recently elected National led coalition government, Members of Parliament and government officials. We appreciated having several meetings with the Minister of Health, the Hon Tony Ryall and Associate Minister of Health Hon Tariana Turia and we were delighted in May when the Minister announced that 'Improving diabetes and cardiovascular services' had been retained as a target for 2009-2010.

Four meetings of the 'Parliamentarians for Diabetes' group were held. Thanks go to Dr Helen Lunt, who presented on 'Diabetes, the Quiet Thief'; Dr Rick Cutfield, on 'Reducing the burden of Diabetes Complications on a Budget' and Dr Jeremy Krebs on 'Primary and Secondary Care: Getting the twain to meet'. To celebrate the 5th anniversary of the group the Hon Jim Sutton, former Minister of Trade and Agriculture addressed the group on his experience of living with Type 2 diabetes.

Submissions were made to:

- The Ministerial Review group's report 'Meeting the Challenge' recommending that some services be combined to integrate models of health care in order to improve access to health services and reduce inequalities and that the report address the prevention of chronic diseases such as Type 2 diabetes.
- The Maori Affairs Select Committee on the role the tobacco industry plays in the disproportionate morbidity and mortality rates of tobacco use among Maori. Co-Patron Professor Don Beaven and I had a letter published in the New Zealand Medical Journal on tobacco use in New Zealand.
- Podiatrist Board on the Designated Prescribing Rights for Podiatrists
- Pharmac on governance of the Consumer Advocacy Committee
- The Ministry of Health's on its draft report of the Long Term Conditions Direction for Action report.
- The Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) meeting on recognising the importance of preventing chronic diseases (This was a joint letter from the Peak Group for Chronic Disease Prevention).
- The Ministry on the Health Survey Discussion Document

- The Ministry of Health on the discussion document 'How do we determine if statutory regulation is the most appropriate way to regulate health professions?'

We worked with Diabetes NZ Pacific Wellington, the IDF 'Insulin for Life' programme and countries in the Pacific on the supply of insulin for the Pacific countries following the earthquakes and tsunamis.

Diabetes New Zealand awarded the Edgar National Centre for Diabetes Research an Education and Research Grant for a diabetes knowledge survey.

For Diabetes Awareness Week Diabetes New Zealand appreciated the support of Dr Paul Drury in his new position as Medical Director of NZSSD.

Diabetes New Zealand worked with members of NZSSD to put information on www.diabetes.org.nz on the two year phase of the changes to the HBA1C results for people with diabetes and its reporting.

Initial meetings for a register for Type 1 diabetes began in 2002 and some progress with District Health Board New Zealand Inc was made on their draft report on the establishment of a register.

To reduce costs we produced just three editions of *Diabetes* magazine, down from four the previous year. The magazine has a circulation of over 18,000.

The benefits of NZSSD members in belonging to Diabetes New Zealand

International:

IDF levy 50 cents

Diabetes New Zealand is the member country of the International Diabetes Federation and the Western Pacific Region. Examples of recent DNZ actions:

1. Presented: To the WPR meeting in Korea where Robyn Toomath and I won the bid to host the 7th WPR Congress in Wellington, 2005
2. Arranged: Visits for Professor Martin Silink, IDF President Elect (2005) Hon Judi Moylan, Australian MP (2007) and Diabetes Australia (2007)
3. Proposed: Diabetes Congress Ltd to NZSSD/ DNZ (2006) and held a successful WPR Congress (2008)
4. Invited: NZSSD members to the launch of the IDF 'Western Pacific Region Parliamentarians for Diabetes', (2008)
5. Agreed: At WPR meeting, Taiwan, 2009 the WPR Plan of Action, 2006-2010
6. Attended meeting: Robyn Toomath, Member, IDF Change Management Group

National:

\$12.00 per member

NB: The number of votes Diabetes New Zealand can exercise at an international level is determined by the size of our membership. Examples of DNZ actions:

1. Opened: National office, Wellington with coordinated activity (Since 2000)

2. Developed: New policies and produced reports. (Since 2001)
 3. Represented: Diabetes to many Government Departments (Since 2001)
 4. Launched: FOE Inc. Robyn Toomath and I launched FOE (2001)
 5. Writes letters of support on research grant applications (Since 2002)
 6. Maintained: Credibility of diabetes information and the Diabetes magazine
 7. Launched: Parliamentarians for Diabetes (2005) and invited NZSSD members as speakers
 8. Plays a key role in advocating for people with diabetes and their families
- Total \$12.50 per member

As this is my last report I want to thank the Members of NZSSD for their support over the past ten years. I have enjoyed and appreciated the many friendships I have made during this time and wish you all the very best for the future.

Sarah Thomson
Chief Executive
Diabetes New Zealand