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| Meeting minutes for  Independent Monitoring Mechanism quarterly governance meeting  Held on 6 May 2020 from 10:00am to 12:00pm by video conferencing. | | | |
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| Present Chief Ombudsman Peter Boshier (Chair)  Chloe Longdin-Prisk (OOTO)  Andrew McCaw (OOTO)  Leo McIntyre (DPO Coalition)  Dr Tristram Ingham (DPO Coalition)  Rose Wilkinson (DPO Coalition)  Victoria Manning (DPO Coalition)  Gaylene Te Rauna (DPO Coalition)  Frances Anderson (HRC)  Douglas Hancock (HRC)  Laura Cherrington (NZSL interpreter)  Kerry Locker-Lampson (NZSL interpreter)  Wenda Walton (NZSL interpreter)  Kevin Allen (HDC)  Rose Wall (HDC)  From 11.30 am:  Brian Coffey (ODI)  Jacinda Allwood (ODI) | | Apologies Disability Rights Commissioner  Paula Tesoriero MNZM  Emma Leach (OOTO)  Judge Andrew Becroft (Children’s Commissioner) | Minute-taker Vicki Hall (OOTO) |
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| Item number | Item |
| 1. Karakia (TI), welcome and introductions  (Peter) |  |
| 2. Review of  19 February 2020 meeting minutes and actions (PB) | Review of minutes and actions from the quarterly governance meeting on 19 February 2020, and the extraordinary governance meeting on 14 April 2020. Note minutes were formally approved by email following the meeting. |
| 3. Agenda check and confirmation (PB) | No further agenda items. |
| 4.IMM monitoring during Covid-19 restrictions | **Review of position statement circulated following the extraordinary governance meeting on 14 April 2020**  Partners are comfortable with the position statement on ways of working during the COVID-19 restrictions. While new joint monitoring initiatives are unlikely at this stage, HRC and DPO Coalition would nevertheless like to issue a joint public statement to stakeholders and disabled people confirming that the IMM is actively monitoring the unfolding situation. A number of areas of concern for disabled people are emerging around implementation of the COVID-19 restrictions. PB noted that he needs to be cautious in expressing views that may be interpreted as advocacy, given his Office’s independent investigations function. Subject to agreeing the content, OOTO is however willing to support a joint public statement. TI suggested that any statement should emphasise the need for agencies to listen to the voices of disabled people, and to ensure these voices are reflected in current policy decisions, as required by Article 11 and 4.3 of the UNCRPD. This is crucial when policies and legislation are being developed/passed under urgency.  Partners also agreed to progress a thematic report detailing disabled New Zealander’s experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions. OOTO is well placed to project manage this report as it has done for the *Making Disability Rights Real* report. CLP will draft a project plan for consideration by the working group.  Outcome: position statement on ways of working during Covid-19 restrictions agreed. Subject to content, partners agreed in principle to issue a joint public statement confirming the IMM is actively monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 emergency on disabled New Zealanders. Partners agreed to progress a thematic report on disabled people’s experiences of the Covid-19 restrictions. |
| 5. Update on IMM Terms of Reference, including production of accessible formats | **DPO Coalition to advise position on Easy Read and NZSL formats**  Outcome: LM will seek approval from DPO Coalition during its meeting this afternoon (6 May) and advise CLP of outcome. Once costs have been approved, CLP will arrange production of these formats in direct discussion with VM, RW and People First. |
| 6. Update on progress of the Making Disability Rights Real report | **Status of report**  CLP advised that the text has been finalised and production of accessible formats has commenced.  **Launch**  There was general consensus that the previous launch format (large function at National Portrait Gallery) was no longer feasible due to restrictions on large gatherings. Even if these restrictions are relaxed, some disabled people will still feel uncomfortable gathering in large groups due to underlying health conditions and other vulnerabilities. It is also difficult to plan a large in-person event, as there are so many ‘unknowns’ moving forward into the COVD-19 recovery phase.  RW suggested a ‘mixed media’ launch involving a small number of people, including Minister Sepuloni, attending in-person and the majority via livestream. This would be an inclusive format as it will allow large numbers to participate, regardless of restrictions on events, and will not limit attendance to those based in Wellington.  PB confirmed that OOTO will coordinate and fund a launch in the format suggested by RW, and suggested it take place in late June. 30 June was suggested as a possible date. CLP will make further inquiries and confirm this date.  LM noted that with the Minister attending the event, it could be helpful to promote messaging around the necessity for disabled people to be involved in decision-making. TI concurred and noted the launch is an opportunity to highlight disabled people’s contributions and place in society.  Outcome: consensus reached to hold a launch in late June with a small number of attendees, including the Minister, attending in person. The majority of attendees will attend via livestream, using Zoom, Facebook Live or similar. OOTO will coordinate and fund the launch.  Rose Wall and Kevin Allen joined the meeting (10.45 am). |
| 7. Agency updates | Updates from each agency on COVID-19 responses, other key pieces of work and current priorities:   1. **DPO Coalition**     * Advised that the DPO Coalition have established a new way working under COVID-19, Chair (LM) has authority to act on behalf of the DPO Coalition and to alert Governance Group of urgent issues that may need a rapid response.    * Following a meeting with Minister Sepuloni, DPOs were recognised as essential services.    * Issues noted at that meeting also included the need to deliver COVID-19 information in accessible formats, lack of PPE for disabled people and care support workers, access requirements for Civil Defence packages, and the risk of contagion in locked facilities. There have been instances where some representatives have not been paid when involved in consultation work with government agencies, which is concerning.    * Other DPO Coalition work, such as the housing monitoring report, is on hold due to COVID-19, however this delay is only a temporary delay.    * DPO Coalition is in the process of appointing a secretary, which will hopefully address some capacity issues. 2. **HRC (FA unless otherwise noted)**    * HRC have published a COVID-19 snapshot report. Disability-specific issues in the report include data collection, provision of accessible information, and access to PPE for disabled people and support workers.    * Dedicated COVID-19 micro-site is live on the HRC website. The aim is to capture as much information as possible about human rights issue during the crisis: <https://covid19.hrc.co.nz/>    * HRC is part of the Welfare Coordination Network and the Vulnerable Communities Network.    * The Commission is in contact with key officials at the Ministry of Health. Raised concerns with regard to the rationing of health services on the basis of disability in the event the health sector is overwhelmed, however thankfully this has not occurred.    * HRC is aware of issues around education for disabled children and young people during Alert levels 3 and 4. Noted the implications for disabled students receiving supports, the challenges and also identifying opportunities. Disability Rights Commissioner Paula Tesoriero and Judge Andrew Becroft have met with Ministry of Education officials to discuss these issues. 3. **OOTO**     * Regular meetings are being held with other integrity agencies to discuss the response to COVID-19 – including with HRC Commissioners, HDC, Privacy, Chief Censor, OOTO, Children’s Commissioner.    * A targeted programme of OPCAT inspections of secure aged care facilities commenced under Alert Level 4. The team have encountered some resistance but navigated through this. OPCAT teams are also conducting inspections of prisons and secure health and disability facilities with a specific COVID-19 lens.    * The Disability Rights team has been actively involved in OPCAT inspections, a number of which have already taken place.    * The team has been busy finalising the MDRR report, and has also been providing disability specific advice to the Office’s Children in Care team and in relation to the Chief Ombudsman’s self-initiated investigation of Oranga Tamariki and its removal of newborn babies.    * A new Senior Advisor Disability Rights has been appointed and will commence work in early June. 4. **HDC (Rose Wall)**    * Noted crossover in some issues. Rose is in regular contact with PT around accessible information and PPE.    * Raising wellbeing issues rapidly and advising other agencies to address appropriately.    * Concerned about comments appearing about eugenics (in social media) and some receiving treatment ahead of others. This is an important issue, as a society we need to be clear about this and have a clear position on. 5. **Kevin Allen**     * Mental health and addiction services – there has been a rapid movement to electronic methods of delivery, which is working well for many.    * Other areas of concern, in relation to prisons, and not getting enough access to, and support for, prisoners with mental health issues. Maintaining visibility as watchdog agencies is important especially in the current environment.    * Need to monitor domestic violence, and drugs and addiction issues which will show up post lockdown.    * Report underway on Mental Health and Addiction Services. Other work around reviewing the MH Act, and working with the Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee. |
| 8. ODI update | BC updated group on ODI activities.   * + ODI keen to participate in the *MDRR* launch.   + The current focus on COVID-19 has initiated a great deal of work between government agencies and NGOs, this has positive implications going forward.   + The need for accessible information was identified early on in the crisis. ODI worked with DPOs to ensure this was progressed.   + ODI working with HRC and HDC to monitor disabled people’s human rights. Some of risk has been reduced, but PPE has been difficult to address. * ODI weekly disability survey – co-designed with DPOs and based on early risks and issues identified. Analysis complete for first survey. 2nd iteration had less participation than the first. Those participating have access to internet and computer. The issue is how to reach those who don’t. The survey asks questions around access to food and vital supplies. Good information has been gathered but ODI is aware it doesn’t tell the whole story. 900 have participated, mainly disabled people and their families. Isolation is coming through as a significant issues. Results will be published. |
| 9. General business | **What have we learnt from Covid-19 around new ways of working?**  PB raised the question: what have we learnt during COVID-19 about inclusive participation? What has worked or not worked?  VM noted that while there were issues around protocol and interpreter practice that need to be ironed out, Deaf users were adapting to Zoom well and there is a good level of uptake. Limitations include unstable internet connections, and varying quality of web cams. Facial expressions are important as well as hand signs. It is more tiring to watch a two-dimensional image on Zoom. One positive is that online meetings have led to increased interpreter availability, as interpreters can be sourced from throughout the country.  GT advised that as a blind user of Zoom, her main challenges are logging in and navigating the actual programme. Similar issues to VM with regard to connection etc and also noting that feedback can be disruptive but otherwise works well. The main issue for disabled people is often a lack of access to device or internet.  LM noted that rural communities often have poor quality connections and this is an issue affecting many New Zealanders. Access to equipment and connection is a major issue due to poverty and inequity. There is different needs for different groups such as those with a learning disability.  No other items of general business. |
| 10. Closing karakia (Gaylene) |  |

# Action items

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| No. | Item | Responsible | Status |
| 1. | OOTO to consider review of the IMM guide *Reasonable Accommodation of persons with disabilities in New Zealand* and report back to partners. | Chloe | Ongoing |
| 2. | Invite SSC Deputy Commissioner Chappie to IMM quarterly governance meeting. | Chloe | On hold due to Covid-19 restrictions. |
| 3. | OOTO to scope a UNCRPD guide for local government and report back to partners. | Chloe | Ongoing |
| 4. | OOTO to scope improving access to information by including more NZSL content on its website. | Victoria /  Chloe | Complete – project plan in place. |
| 5. | Partners to source and send images for the report to OOTO. | DPO Coalition and HRC | Ongoing |
| 6. | Draft correspondence to pursue a meeting with Minister Woods. | Tristram | Outstanding |
| 7. | Write to Ms Carrigan thanking her for her correspondence but declining her request to appear in person before the IMM. | OOTO | Complete |
| 8. | Draft follow-up letter to Peter Hughes and Debbie Power to reinvigorate CEG meetings. | Peter | On hold due to Covid-19 restrictions. |
| 9. | Determine if there is the potential for the DPO Coalition to have its own slot at the MLGDI meetings. | Brian | Ongoing |
| 10. | HDC to further discuss collection of robust data with the DPO Coalition. | Rose W /  Rose Wall | Complete – to continue outside of IMM forum. |
| 11. | HRC with the DPO Coalition, to draft a public statement reflecting the IMM is monitoring unfolding events, and then share with the Governance Group. | Frances /  Rose | Complete |
| 12. | Draft a letter to Minister Sepuloni advising of the function of the IMM during the Covid-19 crisis and confirming its priorities in response to the pandemic. | Tristram /  Frances | Complete |
| 13. | OOTO to scope options and dates for launch function, including liaising with the Minister’s office initially to confirm a date. | Chloe | Complete |
| 14. | Leo to seek approval for extra costs to undertake the translations of the Easy Read and NZSL version of the IMM’s updated Terms of Reference. | Leo | Complete |
| 15. | Chloe to work with Rose and Victoria on progressing the NZSL and Easy Read formats of the Terms of Reference once costs approved by the DPO Coalition. | Choe / Rose  Victoria /  Vicki | Complete |
| 16. | ODI to send risk register to the Governance Group. | Brian | Complete |

# Meetings scheduled for the remainder of the year:

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| 13 August 2020 and 25 November 2020 | TBC by HRC as chair/secretariat post 30 June 2020 |