



# Annual Report Board Chair

AGM Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Welcome to the 51<sup>st</sup> AGM for The Personal Advocacy Trust, which is now The Personal Advocacy and Safeguarding Adults Trust. 2019 has again been a busy year, there does not seem to be any other kind these days.

We have two national managers now with Erika Butters managing the core Personal Advocacy service stream and Sue Hobbs managing the Safeguarding Adults service stream.

We are very appreciative of the IHC Foundation again for funding this merger and safeguarding adults work stream this year.

This is also the final year of the IHC Foundation financial support for the Advocacy stream so from now on we need to make it on our own.

To ensure we are on track we have sought another actuarial report due in the next few weeks to help us determine how well our changes and new structure will sustain us.

To ensure the Safeguarding Adults work stream is supported at board level we have been able to recruit Michelle Clayton from the Auckland Safeguarding Adults collective.

We have also been lucky enough to secure the service of a member onto the board as well so we also welcome Taz, a Wellington based member.. We now have a full complement and wide range of skills and expertise on the board, so that's great. We also have the expertise of Annette Brown as an advisor to us in the area of advocacy. Annette is an expert in this area so we are very appreciative of her skills around the table.

We have some board rotations due for completion this year so there may be a call out for new board members later in the year.

This year we also received a large grant of \$50,000 to regenerate the Rangiteria Fund for people who are not members but need advocacy for a short-term issues they have. This is a great resource and has made a difference for a number of people already.

As a board, we need to continue to look at ways we can extend our advocacy skills out to more people, as we understand that this is a large gap across the country and our membership fee is not affordable by everyone.

Access to advocacy and access to Safeguarding of Adults at risk are fundamental rights and we will be working hard over the next 12 months to raise this again with government and their officials.

They need to recognize the service gap in these areas as other countries have done and fund some solutions. NZ is not leading the way in these areas and we need to catch up.

The government have dipped their toe in the water with the SDM contract in Mana Whaikaha in mid-central, but these areas need total emersion funding or a large part of NZ citizen's struggle to be safe and to have a voice.

We will continue to collect data to provide the evidence base, of the need that is out there, to back our argument, that all New Zealanders need to be heard and safe for abuse and that they, the NZ government have a key responsibility in these areas.

Thanks to all the board for their contributions over the year, John, Kath, Ross, Don, Taz, Gerard and an extra thanks to Michelle and Janine for the executive commitments that eat into your busy lives. It is all much appreciated and makes my job a lot easier.

As does the excellent work done by Erika, Sue, Johanna and all the RAs.

PASAT is an exciting organization to be a part of as it is helping to make a difference in so many people's lives.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Barney Cooper', written vertically.

Barney Cooper

Board Chair

Personal advocacy and Safeguarding Adults Trust