



Annual Report for the National Director Safeguarding Adults

AGM Wednesday 26th June 2019

Kia ora Koutou,

My journey with The Personal Advocacy Trust started in early 2018 when I met with the National Director Erika Butters, in my role with the Ministry of Health. At that time I was employed with the Ministry as the Safeguarding Project Lead for the Disability Support System Transformation. Erika and I discussed the mission of the Trust, the work of the Safeguarding Adults from Abuse (SAFA) Collective that I was leading in Auckland and how we could work together to ensure that adults at risk of abuse due to health needs, social care needs or disabilities could live their good life free from harm. The SAFA Collective and the Trust share the same vision, that everyone in New Zealand lives a good life free from harm, abuse and neglect, and their rights are protected.

The Trust and SAFA discussed the potential for a partnership. The case for “Safeguarding Adults and Personal Advocacy” or the strategic partnership between SAFA and PAT is both ideological and practical. Having one vision, the merger of both organisations to form a single unified organisation will improve outcomes for PAT ‘enrolled members’ and other ‘adults at risk.’

In June 2018 the SAFA Collective entered into a strategic partnership with the Trust. The work of both PAT and SAFA are underpinned and guided by the same values, and work towards protecting and promoting disabled people and ‘adults at risk’ human rights, health, safety and wellbeing. Both organisations are engaged in the work of safeguarding. Our mission is to ensure advocacy and safeguarding adults arrangements protect and promote the human rights, health, safety, wellbeing and culture of members and adults at risk.

A joint application to the IHC Foundation to develop and deliver the Safeguarding Adults Service was successful. Funding was secured for the appointment of a Safeguarding Adults National Director and a Safeguarding Adults Coordinator to be employed to support the development of safeguarding adults work and coordinate a multi-agency approach to safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect.

In January I commenced work as the National Director Safeguarding Adults for the Trust. Since then the Trust has changed its name to include all the work of the Trust ‘The Personal Advocacy and Safeguarding Adults Trust’. I have continued to advocate for the need for a national framework, legislation and policy for safeguarding adults to Government, as part of the Government’s Family Violence and Sexual Violence Work Programme.

The Safeguarding Adults Service

The Safeguarding Adults Service provides an integrated multi-agency approach to safeguarding adults at risk of harm, abuse and neglect due to health needs, social care needs, or disabilities.

An Adult at Risk is an adult who has care and support needs and is experiencing (or is at risk of) abuse, neglect and harm, and because of their care and support needs is unable to protect her/himself against the harm, abuse or neglect, or risk of it.

In March 2019 the Trust has secured additional funding from Foundation North to employ a Safeguarding Adults Coordinator in Waitemata District of Auckland. Cath Wilson, a former Detective with the New Zealand Police, Adult Sexual Assault Team (ASAT) took up the position in May 2019. Cath brings 30 years of experience and expertise working with vulnerable victims. I look forward to working with Cath to support the delivery of the Safeguarding Adults service in the Waitemata District and across wider Auckland.

What's next?

The Safeguarding Adults Service aims to:

- Provide information, education and training to individuals, organisations, and the community to build knowledge, skills and confidence in supported decision making and safeguarding adults arrangements that protect adults at risk's rights, and prevent and protect people from harm, abuse and neglect.
- Promote a common understanding, consistent and connected approach to:
 - supported decision making
 - adult safeguarding work.
- Deliver the integrated multi-agency approach that provides a single point of contact for adults at risk and their whānau.
- Provide safeguarding support to ensure that a member and/or adult at risk retain independence, wellbeing and decision-making authority over their supports and lives to achieve the outcomes they want.

What difference will the Safeguarding Adults response make?

The safeguarding adults approach is person-directed and whānau-centred. All our work is underpinned by the Tiriti O Waitangi, the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) Principles and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

For members/ Adults at risk / whānau:

- People's lives are enhanced through advocacy.
- Disabled people retain independence, wellbeing and decision-making authority over their supports and lives.
- Increased resilience and wellbeing.
- People are safe and feel safe.
- Increased capability to safeguard themselves.
- Improved access to universal services and specialist services.
- People's rights are protected, promoted and enhanced.
- Disabled people have the support they need to make decisions.
- Holistic needs of whānau are identified and addressed.

For the workforce and wider community:

- Improved collective understanding and practice for safeguarding adults and supported decision making.
- Increased capability in the workforce for adult safeguarding work.
- Strengthened leadership in adult safeguarding work.
- Increased reporting of safeguarding adult's concerns and abuse or neglect.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Erika Butters, Barney Cooper and the Executive Committee, for their support and patience whilst working through the merger of our organisations. I would like to thank the Board for their support and commitment to becoming a single unified organisation to improve outcomes for our 'enrolled members' and other 'adults at risk.' I would also like to acknowledge our Team Leader, Gail Bingham, Administrator, Johanna Lloyd and our Team of Advocates, Kaeti Rigarlsford, Gemma Claire, Sally Hartley, Irene Glennie, Wendy Rattray, Jennifer Shaw, Lynne King, Patrick Doherty, Marion Bayley, Joy Ward and Independent Supporter for Decision Making, Dawn Coronno, for their great work and their support and patience through the merger process. I look forward to working closely with the Team to provide support where needed to ensure that adults at risk and our members continue to achieve the best possible outcomes in life they can.

Thank you.

Sue Hobbs

National Director Safeguarding Adults

The Personal Advocacy and Safeguarding Adults Trust