



Annual Report for the Board Chair

AGM Thursday 28 June 2018

Welcome everyone.

This has been another busy and productive year for the Personal Advocacy Trust and after 50 years of service we are really celebrating.

We are now tracking financially in the right direction and professionally we have great staff and a flexible model of service delivery for advocacy. Thank you to the IHC Foundation for their support over the past three years, without which we would not be able to be in the position we are.

The fee for service introduced this year has been picked up and allowed us to expand our service delivery options going forward.

We held a strategic planning day earlier this year which reaffirmed with us how much progress we have made in the past couple of years and enabled us to set a clear vision going forward. We are also reviewing our Trust Deed to ensure it is fit for purpose in 2018 and beyond.

The Ministry of Health's changes in the transformed sector and the strong need for independent advocacy alongside this transformation also fit nicely with the work we are wanting to do.

This has meant a slight reshuffle of the organisation to free up the National Director Erika Butters to progress some of the work. We have appointed 1 Team leader for support to all the advocates and a part time administrator to assist Erika and the organisation to move forward with our goals.

This year we welcomed John Stribrny as a new board member. He is the provider representative who works for Te Roopu Taurima and was nominated by the NZ Disability Support Network (NZDSN) as per the constitution. His significant financial skills and experience are a welcome asset to the board.

Annette Brown is stepping down from being a board member but has willingly offered to stay on as an advisor to the board which is much appreciated by the board. Annette is going to be doing the advisor role across more of the organisation, not just with the board and we are looking forward to the opportunity of working alongside her.

I would like to thank the board members for their contributions throughout the year. Being a board member to an evolving, changing and small organisation like PAT can be a challenge to keep up with all that is happening, and I would just like to express my thanks for their continued commitment to the organisation and most importantly the members.

PAT allows board members a pretty unique position to better ensure the safety of some of its members and sometimes, through the management of their discretionary Trusts, to enhance the opportunities members may have or experience.

A special thanks to Erika for her continuing excellent work that she delivers to and for us. The board very much appreciates her skills and the professionalism she brings to her role.

Finally, to the Regional Advocates without whom we couldn't provide the now, professional and quality advocacy service to members. This professional, quality and accountable advocacy to members is now something I am very proud of. When I hear feedback from people who don't know of my link with PAT saying "PAT seems to be doing a much better job now, -there have been some good changes there" then you know we are on the right path. I am looking forward to the next few years to see the continuation of the strong advocacy for some of the most vulnerable people across NZ.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barney Cooper', with a stylized, cursive style.

Barney Cooper
Chair
Personal Advocacy Trust