



# Collaborative **Advocacy** NZ

## **Annual General Meeting 2018**

### **Chairperson's Report**

#### **Introduction**

It is a pleasure to reflect on this past year and prepare this Chair's report for Collaborative Advocacy NZ (CANZ).

#### **The Committee**

An election is required at this year's AGM of our executive Committee.

The 9 member Committee serves for a 2 year term, although many of our members have tirelessly served for far longer in consecutive terms.

We have 9 nominations:

- Amanda Billington (Treasurer & Committee)
- Cilla Dickinson (Committee)
- Dr Gaye Greenwood (Committee)
- Moira Green (Committee)
- Rob Harte (Committee)
- Amanda Kennedy (Committee *awaiting confirmation of acceptance of nomination*)
- Karen Monet (Committee)
- Jennifer Perry (Committee)
- Selina Trigg (Chair & Committee)

As there are 9 committee positions and 9 nominations, a formal election is not required and I will move at the AGM that these nominations be accepted and approved as the new Committee.

We have three Committee members who have chosen not to accept nominations for another term. Those are: Kirsty Swadling, Ian Telford and Tania Belz. As you will all be aware, they are all very busy with other contributions they are making locally and, in Kirsty's case, nationally for the profession. It has been a pleasure working with all three of them on the committee and I thank them all for their contributions to CANZ. I hope that they will consider standing for the Committee or assisting CANZ in some other capacity in the future.

I wish to give particular thanks to Kirsty Swadling who has been a founding member of the Committee and a long time advocate of Collaborative Practice. She has tirelessly served as our Secretary and juggled committee duties with her more recent roles as Deputy Chair and then Chair of the Family Law Section. With her assistance, we have forged stronger relations with the Family Law Section. The Committee will miss the significant contribution she has made over the years of her time, skills and knowledge and I personally will miss her wise advice and support. She has promised she will come back once her commitments allow this.

I thank all the Committee members for their ongoing commitment to Collaborative Practice and the work of CANZ, their hard work and for making our work together so enjoyable. We have also been ably assisted by Xaviera Mikkelson with the Association's day to day administration and processes. She is critical to keeping the wheels turning!

## **Initiatives**

There has not been a complete year between AGMs as the AGM last year was held much later than usual in November. Therefore, I was concerned there would not be a lot to report in the initiatives. I needn't have worried as this year has already been very productive in terms of meeting our mission and purpose of promoting Collaborative Practice and providing education and support to members.

Our initiatives this year have included:

- Xaviera and I created a calendar of key CANZ events for the 2018-2019 year which has been useful for ensuring our initiatives are kept on track.
- A more streamlined administrative process for the collection of membership subscriptions and membership record keeping was developed by Xaviera and I. This has resulted in much quicker receipt of membership invoices this year and less administrative expense incurred in chasing up unpaid memberships.
- After consultation with members, the decision was made to change our "trading name" to Collaborative Resolution NZ. We are waiting for consultation regarding a Te Reo version of the name to be finalised and then the new name will be incorporated into our logo, publicity materials and website.
- Regular quarterly newsletters have been sent out to members. I strongly urge all members to read the newsletter as this is where they will learn of upcoming events and education opportunities to assist them in their practice.
- A designer has been engaged to review and correct issues with the existing website, including issues with the member profiles/search functionality and the overall functionality and appearance of the website.
- Committee member Moira Green secured permission for CANZ to use a video about CP that was created overseas and this will be incorporated into the overhauled website.

- We have set up a platform and administrative process for running webinars and designed a series of four webinars for the 2018 year. The first two of those webinars have been successfully held.
- We now have members outside Auckland in Kerikeri, Whangarei, Tauranga, Christchurch and Dunedin. We aim to increase the membership in those areas as well as move into other regions in a significant way.
- Our work in the area of developing and training more Collaborative Professionals has continued to make great progress this year:
  - On 26 & 27 June, a further training occurred in Auckland. The feedback from the same hasn't been properly evaluated but a preliminary review of them indicates they are all overwhelmingly positive in terms of content, value for money and the quality of the training which reflects the work that has been put in by the trainers into redesigning the training and continually looking to improve it.
  - On 18 May, a Collaborative Practice Taster workshop was held in Christchurch which has led to Christchurch professionals organising a two day training to be held there on 21 & 22 September.
  - Another Collaborative Practice Taster workshop has been organised for Dunedin on 10 August with a group of professionals there motivated to capture interest there in training with a view to a two day training being held in Dunedin in late October.
  - Committee member Moira Green and myself have each spoken at various events about Collaborative Practice as has Dr Gaye Greenwood.
  - At the Te Tai Tokerau Intensive, considerable interest was shown in further training in Northland.

## Looking ahead

The following initiatives are firmly on the Committee's radar for the coming year:

- Training in Christchurch, workshop and possible training in Dunedin, possible training in Northland.
- Further trainings in the regions outside Auckland to be developed using the same approach adopted for the Whangarei training, including taking on the road the "taster" workshop which appears to be critical to engaging interest and a local pod of professionals to organise a training. Having local professionals take ownership of their trainings allows CANZ to take the trainings to a higher number of areas, gives those local groups control over their training arrangements and allows them to begin to work together in groups that can become local practice pods.
- Completion of the website overhaul and incorporation of the new name into our publicity materials and electronic logo for members to use


- Continuing with our webinar programme provided support for the same continues in terms of registrations.
- Encouraging and supporting local pods to meet regularly or for online practice support and learning meetings to begin to occur via Skype or Zoom.

I have largely dedicated one day per week (usually a Tuesday) to work on CANZ projects. The practical support and assistance of other members in getting projects off the ground would be most appreciated and would enable us to achieve more!

Given how time poor we all are I simply urge you to do two simple things: firstly, support your local Pod events and the wonderful members who work hard to pull together Pod meetings by attending those. Secondly, continue your membership of CANZ so we can continue to develop and grow. At a recent webinar, the presenters spoke about how much more positive CP is for the parties but also for them and their own wellbeing. With more professionals onboard, we can all expect to have more cases use CP..

### **Conclusion**

Thank you to those of you who continue to support CANZ with your continued membership, attending events, speaking to your colleagues about Collaborative Practice and looking at every new case and client as an opportunity to use the Collaborative Process.



**SELINA J TRIGG**  
**Chairperson**