

Summary of Board Meeting held 3 September 2021 by Zoom

During the recent consultation it became clear that Club members would like to know more about the SONZ Board, and what the Board does. The Board has therefore committed that after each meeting a summary like this one will be published to provide club members with an overview of our discussion, an update on progress on key initiatives and any other matters of interest to the SONZ community.

In this meeting the key points to note were:

National Summer Games. The Risk Management and Finance sub-committee of the Board has been keeping a close watch all year on all the factors that could impact the viability and success of the Games in December. The sub-committee is meeting weekly during the current Covid-19 outbreak so that Asti can continue to keep members updated.

Key performance indicators (KPIs). At each meeting the Trustees and CEO jointly monitor a number of indicators which tell us how the organisation is performing, such as:

- **Budget.** SONZ is tracking well against the 2021 budget, and the Board is comfortable with the projected end-of-year position. The 2020 Annual Report (www.specialolympics.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2020-Annual-Report.pdf) shows the areas of expenditure to be met year on year.
- **Sponsorship, partners and funding.** The CEO reported that good progress has been made this year to date, and a number of further grant applications were approved at this meeting. This to cover costs associated with the NSGs and ongoing operational costs of the organisation.
- **Update from SONZ Management Team** (Sports Director Gary Peacham, RSC Director Josie Fitzsimons and Events Director Asti Farrell).
- **Media coverage** has been increasing month on month due to a number of stories about athlete and volunteer road to the Games. This visibility aligns with the strategic plan and increases our reach to kiwis with an intellectual disability and their families who might not be aware of the existence of Special Olympics in their region, and also for spreading the word about the upcoming NSGs.

Update from Athlete Leader. The Board received an update from the Athlete Representative Grace Payne, which reported that the (inaugural) Athlete Input Council meeting took place on 31st August by Zoom, and each Region's representative contributed to the discussion. It is hoped that the next meeting can be in-person. The meeting heard updates from James and Scott (HPK) will be helping at the games with the Healthy Athlete Programme and the Family Health forum

Grace attended a recent Asia Pacific/Youth for Inclusion forum talking about 2 of the UN sustainable development goals - Quality education and Economic Growth – and about how places can be made more inclusive and accessible for people with ID and what is important for people with ID. There will be a further 5-day forum in October that will be held over 5 days to include people from across the Asia Pacific. Region.

Sports New Zealand Governance Mark. At each meeting the Board ensures we are making good progress towards achieving this. This requires that the board has a process for strategy development and an ongoing regime for monitoring that strategy, that we demonstrate accountability to stakeholders through communication.

The Mark requires that the board has a Charter and as part of the completion of the Mark the Board is working through each section in the Charter at each Board meeting. At this meeting we looked at ethical leadership, and setting the tone for ethical leadership across the organisation.

Policies and papers for approval. This meeting gave final approval to a Whistleblowing Policy which will be available on our website soon at [Athlete and Club Resources - Special Olympics New Zealand](#) The Board also approved a Board Diversity policy.

Environmental Scan. All our meetings include a short environmental scan, which is an opportunity for Trustees to focus externally to the organisation. This is important so that we do not become inward-looking and lose focus on factors that may impact on SONZ in the future. At this meeting we added sustainability as a factor to be aware of, and in future meetings we will discuss our carbon footprint and how it can be minimized.

Who we are

You can find out who is on the Board at www.specialolympics.org.nz/about/the-board, and this will shortly be updated to show the formal and informal committees, their composition and the remit of each committee. Also beginning soon, you can find out more as follows:

- the schedule of Board meeting dates (6 during the year) will be published on the Special Olympics website. Before each meeting the meeting agenda will be published, again on the Special Olympics website, so members can see what is being discussed.
- after each meeting we will send out a summary like the one above.
- Online webinars – to be hosted 3 or 4 times a year with one or more Board Trustees – to which any and all members are welcome to attend, ask questions and hear updates from the Board directly.

Working together. Your Board sets the direction of SONZ and your executive team gets the job done. Along with the grassroots organisation at club level we all want to work together so that we can be a stronger organisation to meet the many challenges that we face on a daily basis. The Board looks forward to sharing with you more effectively this vision for the future and how we're going to get there together.