# **Summary of Board Meeting**

# **11 March 2022 via Zoom**

**Governance Mark**.  We received notification in mid-February that we have been awarded the SportsNZ Governance Mark - something we have been working towards now for some time.  SportsNZ has awarded this recognition to a relatively small number of sports-focused organisations to acknowledge that they demonstrate sound processes for strategy development and monitoring efficiency, and that the business of the organisation is conducted within a clear ethical framework.  Receiving this award is a feather in the cap of Special Olympics New Zealand - more details can be found here:  [www.specialolympics.org.nz/sonz-achieves-governance-mark-for-sport-and-recreation](http://www.specialolympics.org.nz/sonz-achieves-governance-mark-for-sport-and-recreation).

**Athlete Input Council.**  Grace Payne (Co-Chair of AIC and a Board Trustee) reported that the Council met on 28 February via Zoom.  All five AIC members were present (Chris Rielly - LSI, Hamish Hurst - USI, Ryan Smith - LNI, Kym O’Grady - CNI and Grace Payne - UNI).  The meeting went well, a range of topics were covered, including the challenges for our athletes in residential care and the inability for them to attend trainings and events.  The AIC members noted that although sport had re-started a number of athletes were needing reassurance about the ongoing Covid restrictions. AIC are also working on an information pamphlet for athletes providing some coping skills during these difficult times.  The AIC also learnt about group and self-evaluation when running a meeting, which will be helpful for each of the members when running meetings in their region.

Additionally, Grace has also been the co-chair of the Asia Pacific Regional Athlete Input Council and although her term has now finished, Grace has been asked to stay on as an advisor for SOAP AIC. The Board congratulated Grace for her success in this role, and acknowledged all the work she has done during a difficult period..

**Schools Programme*.***The Board Trustees received a presentation from Josie Fitzsimons (RSC Director) on the Schools Programme and how this has evolved and developed over the last two years with the impact of Covid.  School students with an intellectual disability are often overlooked in the sports and games offered to other students, and around 2000 of them were offered the opportunity as part of this programme to try a range of sports that support the cognitive development, fitness and co-ordination of the students.  The feedback from the students themselves and from their teachers is that they love having this opportunity to participate in sports - and they are encouraged to join their local Special Olympics Club where appropriate.

**Special Olympics Asia Pacific**(SOAP) has an Asia Pacific Advisory Council (APAC) whose purpose is to represent all accredited programs within the Asia Pacific Region to advise SOI and SOAP on policy-related issues that affect those accredited programs. The Council is divided into four regional groups within the SOAP programs, and we are part of 13 Pacific programs. Our CEO Carolyn has been  elected as the Chair of our group and will lead consultation with all of the Pacific programs and then take any feedback and suggestions to the wider Council meetings with SOAP. This opportunity will provide New Zealand with good insight into the challenges and opportunities that other programs experience and also strengthen our relationship with SOAP.

**Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (FAR*)***reported that after the first two months of the financial year we are tracking to budget, however it has been flagged by a number of funding Trusts that given the impact of COVID on the economic environment there is pressure on funds available this year. We are sure that many Clubs may be hearing this same message. Several new commercial leads to diversify our funding options are being pursued by the management team.

**National Summer Games** planning continues for December this year.  The FAR Committee continues to monitor all the potential risks to holding a successful and safe Games for our athletes and volunteers.  Regular updates and any requirements are provided by the Events Director to each clubs key contact for the Games.  Special thanks to Asti for all the ground work she has in place for the Games as she goes on maternity leave, we wish her well for what is an exciting time for her family.

**SONZ Annual General Meeting.**Arrangements for the AGM have been finalised with the AGM scheduled for 5 May at 6pm via zoom.