

Summary of Meeting of SONZ Board of Trustees

held 21 July 2022

The purpose of this summary is to provide transparency on Board matters and 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:

Strategic Planning Cycle. The Board discussed an updated Business Plan focused on strategic initiatives. To support this, insights across all Special Olympics activities and communities in New Zealand will be collated on an annual basis and will be used to support the development of future strategies and priorities. This would include data on gender, ethnicity, age, club data, volunteers etc. The Business Plan is built around four strategic priorities, namely:

- Quality Experiences - aiming to grow athlete participation and build volunteer succession and skills
- Profile – Special Olympics and partners actively promote the capabilities and achievements of people with intellectual disabilities
- Partnerships – organisations are attracted to invest in the diversity and inclusion benefits of engaging with Special Olympics, and
- Organisational Capability – aiming to create a foundation of operational excellence, with a sustainable system that collaboratively facilitates positive outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities; and SONZ builds alignment with principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Once approved, this business plan is confirmed for the next 18 months through to December 2023.

Update from Athlete Leader – Representative Grace Payne updated the Board on the Athlete Input Council (AIC) which continues to meet by Zoom. Grace provided updates from Papakura (Gracie), Counties (Shanae), HPK (Monique), North Harbour (Chrissa), Tamaki (Mohit), Manukau (Sarah) and Mangere (Jared). James Wilson (one of SONZ's Health Ambassadors) reported he had made a video on staying safe when returning to training which was posted on SONZ Facebook page and also in the March fan letter. Also in April he made a video for SONZ to celebrate World Health Day.

Grace also provided feedback on the results of a survey, designed and led by Grace in which Club athletes were asked a range of questions including:

- What do you think a good coach looks like? (e.g. – they are helpful, they are kind, etc.)
- What skills should a coach have? (e.g. – being on time (punctual), etc.)
- What does a bad coach look like?
- Why do you think it is important to have a good connection with your coaches?

The results were honest and informative. The outcomes from this survey will be collated and shared with clubs.

Awards. The Board discussed the variety of different awards for which people can be nominated – including Long Service Awards, Distinguished Service Award, Life Membership Award. Each of these has their own set of pre-requisites for nomination, and a set of criteria against which the nomination will be assessed. It was agreed that the current range is

complicated, and not easy for people to navigate in deciding whether to nominate someone. Therefore, work will be done over the coming months to clarify the Awards to be created, and define clear nomination and assessment criteria for each. Once complete this information will be available on the website.

Strengthen and Adapt.

The Board was updated on the progress being made with Special Olympics New Zealand's inclusion in the Sport NZ Strengthen and Adapt programme.

Background

- In May 2020, the Government announced that it would provide funding in the form of a Recovery Package to assist play, active recreation, and sport organisations to deal with the impacts of COVID-19.
- Sport New Zealand has formulated a recovery programme to assist National Partners to make the best use of the Recovery Package, which includes a Strengthen and Adapt Programme.
- Special Olympics New Zealand has been invited to be part of latest wave of partners.
- It is important that this project is completed with the sector's futures work and five pou front of mind. The five pou are - A Just Society, Empowered Communities, Giving Effect to the Treaty, Our Relationship with the Environment, Well-being

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to develop and implement a Strengthen and Adapt Plan for Special Olympics New Zealand to accelerate the strengthening and future proofing of the Special Olympics movement/delivery network to support the communities it serves. The Strengthen and Adapt process provides an opportunity to think beyond the status quo and explore and implement positive transformational changes that may not have been previously possible.

Desired Outcome

The desired outcome of the Special Olympics Strengthen and Adapt Project (the Project) is the development of a Special Olympics Strengthen and Adapt Plan, and implementation of system-transforming initiatives therein, that further strengthen and future-proof the Special Olympics movement/delivery network to realise and sustain our growth potential, and our Vision of - *People with intellectual disabilities in Aotearoa are valued.*

National Summer Games. It was confirmed that the Risk Committee is still regularly monitoring the Covid 19 situation as it relates to the Games. Ongoing monitoring will continue right through to when the Games are scheduled to be held in December. The priority is to provide an amazing experience for our athletes and clubs, within a safe environment.

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.