

President's report - 2022

He aha te mea nui o te Ao?
What is the most important thing in the world?

He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata.
It is people, it is people, it is people, it is people.

For the Cerebral Palsy Society Board and Team, this proverb/whakataukī formed the basis of our response to the challenges faced by our members, whānau, and our aiga, throughout the last 12 months.

2021 was a milestone year for the Society, as it marked 70 years of supporting and advocating for people living with cerebral palsy (CP). Unfortunately, we could not celebrate this milestone in the way we had hoped, however the team did an awesome job to make sure it was acknowledged virtually.

After significant work by the Board and Team, we were delighted to share the Society's new strategic plan with you, our members, and our stakeholders in July 2021. It was fantastic to hear the excitement around this, and to see the potential of the Society in print.

The Society has become a dynamic organisation, with new processes and positions being put in place to help us meet our ambitious strategy. On behalf of the Board, I would like to acknowledge the incredible mahi of Clare and the whole team who have worked extremely hard this year and have picked up the strategy and run with it. There have been many exciting changes to benefit our CP whānau, including:

- A new e-card system to make sure the process for claiming and using our programmes is as smooth as possible for members and suppliers
- The launch of our annual Be Green & Be Seen campaign to build awareness around CP and celebrate World CP Day on October 6th
- The launch of Connecting Over Coffee to provide a virtual space for members to meet and learn about different aspects of living with CP
- Partnering with the NZ Cerebral Palsy Register and the Cerebral Palsy Clinical network to improve information gathering and better understand the needs of people living with CP so we can make sure our services and programmes meet these needs



- Collaborating with the Cerebral Palsy Clinical Network to support their nationwide mahi working with health professionals to deliver high quality, cost effective and integrated programmes of care for children, youth and their whānau
- Partnering with the Halberg Foundation on the Pathways to Activity project to ensure our tamariki and rangatahi are given equal opportunity to participate in sport and recreation activities.

Another very exciting thing to happen this year was the development of a new strengths-based term for people with CP – Hōkai Nukurangi. There's a great [article](#) about the journey to create the term on the Society website.

On the governance front, we are continuing to invest in our professional development and have been busy implementing the recommendations of independent, external reviews to ensure the organisation is operating according to best practice.

We made the difficult decision to stop the lease on the Railway St office to focus resources back into progressing the offerings of the Society to benefit our members. Our staff have adapted to working from home brilliantly, and it's great seeing the flexibility this affords them.

This is just a snapshot of the progress we have made as a Society over the past 12 months, and I'm looking forward to continued growth and success in the year to come.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the great work of the Society – your passion and belief in our kaupapa guides us through all current and future projects.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa – great acknowledgements to you all.

Meg Smith,
Cerebral Palsy Society Chairperson

