



# Annual Report of SPELD New Zealand Incorporated

For the year ending 31 March 2021

**Incorporating the Reports of the Board, the Executive and Financial Statements**

**The Reports are presented under the four Strategic Goals of SPELD NZ.**

SPELD NZ's performance in the last financial year was dominated by the Covid-19, which continues to restrict our performance.

## **Strategic Goal 1: Expertise and Leadership**

**To be recognised as the leading provider of services within the field of Specific Learning Disabilities and to remain current on all aspects of SLD.**

The Board, our Kaitiaki, acts as the guardian of SPELD NZ's assets both tangible and intangible. The Board's role is to ensure that we meet the objects of the Constitution and manage our assets to maintain and grow a sustainable organisation. These 'assets' include our Kaitiaki, our Professional Standards Committee, professionals, our staff/Kaimahi and volunteers.

50 years ago, our organisation began in Christchurch. We salute those founders and those who have been involved in the governance of SPELD NZ and the governance of the former Member Associations (now Local Liaison Groups) since then. Without their efforts, we would not be here today, still transforming lives of those with SLD.

Grateful thanks are given to departing kaitiaki Lynne Ashman for her huge contribution to SPELD NZ.

The Board pays tribute to Terry Gentle for continuing in the PSC role on her own. We are delighted to have Debbie Williams nominated for PSC from the floor of this meeting, however, we still need others to step forward. If you would be interested, please talk to Jeremy Drummond for details of the role.

Highlights of the year included:

- Ongoing participation in working groups for Ako Aotearoa Dyslexia Quality Mark and Tertiary Education Commission's Dyslexia Advisory Group
- Attending seminars held by NZQA and Independent Tertiary Education New Zealand
- Peer reviewing Ministry of Education's Dyslexia and Learning Guide
- Implementing NZQA's Domestic Code of Pastoral Care

Significant Professional Standards and Training achievements:

- Developing and strengthening appraiser and mentor roles with 3 meetings to provide support and consistency of standards
- Revising Appraiser Appointment process and inducted new appraisers
- Meetings to provide guidance for Probationary Teachers and their mentors
- One-on-one coaching for Probationary Teachers
- Ongoing review of Teacher forms and professional development

Our Courses/Programmes

- The new 600-hour L5 NZ Certificate in Teaching Individuals with SLD was delivered for the first time in 2020 with 27 enrolled. 26 graduated with 24 becoming probationary teachers by financial year's end. 30 candidates are currently enrolled in 2021.
- Adaptation of L5 week-long face to face workshop to zoom delivery, due to covid restrictions
- Three L5 Kaiārahi in training in 2021
- Adaptation of L3 two face to face course to zoom delivery due to covid restrictions
- 20 Face to Face Level 3 Introduction to SLD (ISLD) Courses hosted in the last financial year: in 9 locations and 5 Online courses. 282 attended. Several teachers attending later applied for the 2021 Level 5 programme
- Review of Level 3 course material
- 8 enrolled on the 2020 assessor training, with 5 graduates currently in the probationary practicum
- Development of first Kōwae Ako (online learning capsule)
- Delivering presentations to University and Polytech departments of Polytech, schools
- Participation in NZQA's qualification review of Level 4 and 5 SLD programmes
- Letter written to Professor Juliet Gerrard (Chief Science Adviser to Prime Minister), Ministers Hipkins and Martin, in response to the release of the report on the Literacy Landscape in Aotearoa New Zealand

## **Strategic Goal 2: Awareness**

**To raise awareness and understanding of the impact of SLD within society and to raise awareness of SPELD NZ and its services.**

Meeting this strategic goal was achieved by:

- Advertising and or articles in Education Gazette, School News, NZ Principal magazines, Local papers such as Gisborne Herald, Southland Express, KidsLink and Primary Health & Wellbeing Directory, DFNZ
- Producing three colourful and inspirational editions of The Record magazine. Thanks to all who have contributed. Story highlights include Katy Knight's story, Benee's story, and Learning in Lockdown.
- Keeping our Facebook page regularly updated: growing our followers from 3666 to 4651. 91 % of our followers are women & 7 % men. 71% of followers are aged between 35 and 54. The top five NZ regions for followers are (in order): Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington, Tauranga, Hamilton. The top four countries are NZ, Australia, UK and USA  
Our biggest engagement was our call for a Sea Change in NZ's Literacy Landscape which reached 17,400 people
- Supporting stakeholders with over 27,621 telephone calls (previous year - 24,839), 1755 telephone hours
- Engaging in Dyslexia Awareness activities in October
- Sending training flyers, membership information packs or course information to schools, to local magazines, schools and RTLB clusters
- Engaging with master's programme and other tertiary students seeking information or participants related to their studies
- Numerous conversations with Learning Support Coordinators, teachers, SENCO and Teacher Aides about SPELD NZ services and training
- Collaborating with BERL (Business and Economic Research), The NZ Initiative, and Mike Styles on SLD statistics

### **Strategic Goal 3: Relationships with Stakeholders**

**To create and maintain strong relationships with stakeholders and to enhance professional collegiality (internal and/or external).**

The Executive Officer, Board Chair and other SPELD NZ representatives continue to schedule meetings with key stakeholders to develop and maintain strong relationships in the sector. Activities included:

- Meetings with Ministry of Education including farewell for Sally Jackson (Chief Advisor Learning Support) after her 52 years in education
- Attending Professor Karen Waldie's inaugural lecture
- Meeting with Teaching Council of Aotearoa NZ
- Attending DFNZ's Neurodiversity Day
- Engagement with AUT, Unitec and te Wananga o Aotearoa, about tertiary assessments
- Providing advice to employers on dyslexia friendly work environments
- Engagement with Auckland Public Libraries
- providing support and advice to hundreds of callers seeking advice, whether individuals with SLD, parents of those with SLD, classroom teachers, employers, medical health practitioners, and tertiary students writing papers on SLD.

### **Strategic Goal 4: Sustainability**

**To identify, access and maintain revenue streams, attract new and retain existing SLD professionals and to ensure all legal requirements and organisational responsibilities are met.**

In meeting this strategic goal, we have:

- Connected with LLG through the reports which are read and discussed. We value the commitment of the LLGs and the strength that they bring to SPELD NZ
- Welcomed the creation of a new LLG - Central Otago/Uruuruwhenua
- Welcomed new staff member Lyn Davis training coordinator whose focus is on Assessor and L5 teacher training and Kōwae Ako courses (our new online training initiative)
- To attract new professionals into our ranks, we offered subsidies of nearly \$37,400 to 69 recipients: 8 assessor trainees (\$7,600), 22 L5 teacher trainees (\$22,000), and 39 teachers enrolled on the L3 course (\$7,800)
- Funded travelling assessors to visit cities with lengthy waiting lists
- Provided \$58,864 in financial assistance subsidies for Regular members (adults and children), who would otherwise not be able to afford our assessment and tuition
- Sent Pānui from Board and PSC, to connect our professionals
- Sent Pānui from National Office to our professional and family (regular) members to provide support in Lockdown
- Continued support for Local Liaison Group volunteers to upgrade from manual to digital library systems
- Encouraged Online assessment, making our services accessible for our geographically isolated members and those confined by Covid Alert levels.

### **Financial Report**

Our Year End performance report presented to you today has been registered with the Charities Commission and Public Trust. As a Category 1 Provider we only need file Audited accounts with NZQA every second year. The report can be found in the Events page of our website and in Ngā Rauemi. Items of note:

- The significant difference in workshop revenue is due to conference income in the financial year 2019 -2020
- Drop in interest on bank deposits

While we ran at a loss at year end, looking at our balance sheet (page 6) we are in a healthy operating position.

The Financial Reports (page 9) lists our grant funders. Please note that for accounting purposes this does not include the names of those who made donations however, their names are included in the list of sponsors and supporters below and in each Record magazine.

### **Sponsors and Supporters**

As a not-for-profit, SPELD NZ tries to keep all fees for families as low as possible, to make our services accessible. We receive no government funding. Grant money is essential to help cover our operating expenses and ensure the continuation of SPELD NZ's work. We have signalled the need to increase our membership subscriptions. This will be discussed at the AGM in 2022.

From everyone involved with SPELD NZ, we'd like to express our thanks and appreciation for the grants, donations or other assistance we have received over the past financial year, especially from: *Acorn Foundation, ANZ NZ Staff Foundation, Auckland Airport Charitable Trust, Bernard Chambers Charitable Trust, Betty Campbell Trust, COGs, Community Trust South, DV Bryant Trust, Duncan Bickley Charitable Trust, Eastern and Central Community Trust, Estate of Gordon Lindsay Isaacs, Foundation North, Freemasons Lower Hutt Lodge No 299, Four Winds Foundation, General Charitable Trusts South Canterbury, George Brown Charitable Trust, Gwen Malden Charitable Trust, Gordon Lindsey Isaacs Trust, Hawkes Bay Foundation, Invercargill Licensing Trust, Invercargill Licensing Trust Foundation, JBS Dudding Trust, James Edgar Hazlett Trust, Julie Goodyer, King's College Trust, Kathleen Dorothy Kirkby Charitable Trust, Kingston Sedgefield (NZ) Charitable Trust, Len Reynolds Trust, Lion Foundation, Lottery Grants Board, L W Nelson Trust, Manchester Trust, Margaret and Huia Clarke Trust, Mary Lloyd SPELD Auckland Trust, Mt Wellington Foundation, Network Tasman Trust, Nikau Foundation, One Foundation, Otago Community Trust, Page Trust, Philip Dallow Trust, Rata Foundation, Redwood Trust, Riccarton Youth Trust, Roy Owen Dixey Charitable Trust, SI Wellington, Sky City Hamilton, TSB Community Trust, Vernon Hall Trust Fund, Vernon Hall Charitable Trust, Vogelmorn Foundation, Wellington Children's Foundation, Wellington Community Trust, Wel Energy Trust, West Coast Community Trust, Winton and Margaret Bear Charitable Trust, J N Williams Memorial Trust/HB Williams Turanga Trust, and the many others who have given donations or volunteered their time.*

### **Our thanks also to:**

- Fellow Board and Committee members
- LLG members who organise meetings, workshops, mentoring, interviews, and libraries
- Our staff, each of whom brings their talents to our small but effective team
- Our auditors William Buck for their support and guidance and their amazing free NFP workshops attended by staff and board from time to time
- Our volunteer librarians and other volunteers who help LLG, Regional and National Offices in various ways
- The children of staff who continue to help with admin 'housekeeping' from time to time
- Jean Roulston who continues to collate the statistical information from new membership applications