



**Annual Report from the Board of  
SPELD New Zealand Incorporated | Te Rōpū Whakaoho Matauranga  
For the year ending 31 March 2024  
Incorporating the Reports of the Board, the Executive and Financial Statements**

**Values of SPELD New Zealand Inc**

**Respect**

We treat all people with respect.

**Equity**

We treat all people fairly.

**Integrity**

We act with honesty and good intent.

**Empowerment**

We empower those with SLD to reach their potential.

**Professionalism**

We take personal responsibility for our professional practice.

**Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

SPELD New Zealand:

- honours the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- seeks to be a good Tiriti partner
- seeks to apply in our practice, the elements of te whare tapa whā/the four sides of wellbeing (tapa tinana: physical, tapa hinengaro: mental, tapa whanau: family and tapa wairua: spiritual).



**The Annual Report from the Board and the Executive is presented under our four Strategic Goals.**

### **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. We are proud to have the opportunity of the AGM to report on the accomplishments of the organisation.

#### **Governance highlights:**

- Revisited organisational Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities and Threats
- Revisited the current Political, Economic, Legal, Socio-cultural, Technological and Environmental Landscape
- Begun Review of Strategic Plan
- Reviewed Board and PSC Code of Conduct, Board Position Description and Declaration of Commitment, and the Process of Evaluating Board performance
- Ongoing cyclic review of Policies
- Monthly Board discussions on key requirements for our new constitution.

#### **Professional Standards and Training highlights:**

- Creation of online Professional Development on The Guide to Assessment and Lesson Planning
- Retirement of Level 5 Course from NZQA in January 2024: A major decision driven by the financial and human resources cost of compliance, and lack of flexibility in programme changes
- Rewriting of new Teaching Certificate in SLD to replace the NZQA-accredited course
- Reinstatement of Assessor Peer Reviews after a hiatus
- Working group established by Board to investigate interpretation of DSM-5-TR diagnostic criteria.

#### **Our Courses/Programmes**

- 2023 L5 NZ Certificate in Teaching Individuals with Specific Learning Disabilities: Of the 30 candidates enrolled in the 2023 programme, 26 graduated with 24 becoming probationary teachers by financial year's end.
- 2024 Teaching Certificate in Specific Learning Disabilities: 27 candidates enrolled in the new 2024 programme
- New trainee TCSLD Kaiārahi will increase our capacity to enrol more candidates
- 19 Introduction to SLD (ISLD) courses hosted in the 2023 calendar year, in 13 locations, and 2 delivered online. 213 attended

- 6 enrolled in 2023 Assessor training with 5 progressing to the practicum. 9 enrolled in the 2024 assessor training
- Discussions with NZCER regarding eligibility requirements for assessor training
- Kōwae Ako | Learning Capsules. Our first capsule (developed in 2020) is in revision with two others in development.

## **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 Primary Health & Wellbeing Directory, Kidslink, DFNZ website, NZ Herald, Bay of Plenty Times/Stuff, Education Gazette
- Producing two colourful and inspirational editions of The Record magazine.
- Regular updates of our Facebook page: growing our followers from 6296 to 6800 followers
- Growing followers of our LinkedIn page with regular posts
- Dyslexia Awareness Month Facebook activities in October
- Sending marketing material to schools etc to promote assessment in some areas
- Supporting a SPELD NZ member with an appeal for admission to university
- Meeting with staff at Auckland South Corrections Facility
- Presentations at three Auckland City Libraries
- Webinars created and held: Webinar featuring Bayley Garnham, webinar targeted at educators of the early learning years was developed, webinar for members Top Ten Ways to Support your Child's Literacy and Numeracy at Home, and webinars for parents of Primary and secondary-aged students, in production.

## **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 stakeholders to develop and maintain strong relationships in the sector.

Activities included:

- 20,206 telephone calls | 1096 hours providing support and advice to individuals with SLD, parents of those with SLD, classroom teachers, employers, medical health practitioners, librarians, and tertiary students writing papers on SLD, Tertiary providers
- Updating our support package for SPELD NZ family and adult members. The support package is emailed to all new Regular members
- Connecting with Ngai Tahu; Sharon Scurr (Dyslexia Evidence Based); Seabrook McKenzie, Mike Styles, Sarah Sharp, Whaikaha (Ministry of Disabled People), Matt Billington (Neurodiversity in Education) and Bronwyn Bayne (Lifting Literacy Aotearoa)
- Presenting to Auckland/Te Tai Tokerau RTLit group
- Presenting in June to the Parliamentary Petitions Committee in support of the petition of Mike Styles for an inquiry in support of Dyslexia/Neurodiversity
- Endorsing DEB's complaint to the Ombudsman about continued use of public Funding for Reading Recovery

- Complimentary attendance at Learning Matters' Symposium
- Meetings with NZCER regarding assessor training eligibility
- Being interviewed by One News regarding Te Reo dyslexia screening tool
- Helping University researchers find participants for their studies

## **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:

- Continued an on ongoing cyclic review of our policies, strategic plan, and risk assessment
- Connected with LLG through the reports which are read and discussed by the Board. The Board values the commitment of the LLG and the strength that they bring to SPELD NZ
- Attracted new professionals into our ranks, by offering subsidies of \$50965: \$4000 for 4 assessor trainees, \$20,000 for 20 NZCTISLD trainees, \$23,385 for 115 teachers enrolled on the ISLD course, and \$3580 for 33 Kōwae Ako trainees
- Provided financial assistance subsidies: \$49,544 for assessments and \$28,141 for tuition
- Sent regular Pānui from Board and PSC, to connect our professionals
- Continued support for Local Liaison Group volunteers to upgrade from manual to digital library systems
- Supported our assessors who want to begin online assessment; improving our Handbook for new Assessors; improving collegial connections by instigating, quarterly Zoom Q & A sessions
- Instigated a pastoral support zoom session for new Probationary teachers; shortened practicum period; held collegial zoom session for mentors
- Improved our internal systems to connect Regional Coordinators with assessors and teachers who offer services online
- Welcomed Dr Mike Sleeman to the Board and Sharon de Castro to Professional Standards Committee at the 2023 AGM
- Welcomed two new staff to help with fundraising, admin support and training
- Extended appraiser criteria to allow recently retired teacher/appraisers to temporarily continue in the appraiser role
- Increased our focus on supporting probationary teachers
- Provided each local liaison group with a copy of Writing Matters
- Entered into a new assessment supply agreement with a tertiary organisation
- Provided Zoom hosting for LLG collegial support and professional development workshops

### **Financial Report**

Our Year End performance report presented to you today has been registered with the Charities Commission and Public Trust. The report can be found in the Events page of our website and in Ngā Rauemi.

Items of note from our audited accounts:

- 1 Membership numbers have dropped in the last financial year by 221. We believe that this reflects better record keeping (removing non-financial members from the database) more than a lack of new members.
- 2 The number of assessments has dropped: this may reflect that new members join already assessed. We thank four assessors and teachers who encourage their private clients to join as SPELD NZ members.
- 3 Grant revenue decreased by over 16%, largely due to significant reduction in the usual grants received from two major funders, and being without a dedicated fundraiser for over 6 months. We are delighted with our new fundraiser and predict a better result for the next financial year.
- 4 Better interest rates on SPELD NZ's funds held with the bank, has increased interest revenue by over \$10K.
- 5 In Note 1 Analysis of revenue: The major grant funders are listed. Please note that for accounting purposes this does not include the names of those who made small grant or donations. Names of large and small funders and large donations 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. Grants and donations are essential to help cover our operating expenses and ensure the continuation of SPELD NZ's work.

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, Aoraki Foundation, Auckland Airport Community Trust, Bernard Chambers Charitable Trust, Beth Newnham Estate, Betty Campbell Trust-Wellington City Council, Bruce and Merle McIntosh, Central Lakes Trust, Community Organisation Grants Scheme, Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury, Community Trust South, DV Bryant Trust, Eastern and Central Community Trust, Foundation North, Freemasons Lower Hutt Lodge No 299, Frimley Foundation, Gwen Malden Charitable Trust, JBS Dudding Charitable Trust, J N Williams Memorial Trust/HB Williams Turanga Trust, Invercargill Licensing Trust, Julie Goodyer, , Lindsay Foundation, The Lion Foundation, Lottery Grants Board, Luci Carter, L W Nelson Charitable Trust, Manchester Trust, Mary Lloyd SPELD Auckland Trust, Otago Community Trust, Phillip Dallow Dyslexia Trust, Roy Owen Dixey Charitable Trust, The Sage Foundation, Sutherland Self-Help Trust, Tauranga City Council Community Grant Fund, Toi Foundation, Wel Energy Trust, W. Duncan Bickley Trust Fund, Wellington Children's Foundation, Wellington Community Trust, West Coast Community 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
- Our volunteer librarians and other volunteers who help LLG, Regional and National Offices in various ways
- Jean Roulston who continues to collate the statistical information from new membership applications.

