

Chair's Annual Report 2012

It is my pleasure to give Platform's 2012 annual report and my fourth as Chair. It has been a busy year and the challenges facing our organisations are significant. But I am always struck by the energy with which you all continue to meet these challenges and your unswerving commitment to provide mental health and addiction services that make a difference to individuals, families and communities. Platform is proud to be part of such a vibrant and innovative sector.

Changes in Trustees

Having had very few changes to Trustees over the last few years we had four depart during the year. We said goodbye to Kath Fox, Virginia MacEwan, Matiu Julian and more recently Tim Harding. We were pleased to welcome Naomi Cowan who strengthens Platform's link with Auckland providers through her role as co-chair of Navigate. We currently have three vacancies. The Trust Board has discussed the composition of the Board and talked about extending the net more widely. However, at this time, the Board felt it important not to lose sight of our core purpose and to reaffirm our primary responsibility to community based mental health and addiction service providers. We do have gaps in services for young people and families and need to strengthen our links with providers for Maori and Pacific peoples. With the departure of three of our Wellington based trustees it will also be important to consider a replacement from Wellington.

We will be seeking expressions of interest for replacement trustees in the New Year.

Objectives for 2012

At the end of 2011 Platform trustees and Marion set a number of objectives for 2012. Those objectives were:

- To forge stronger connections with the leaders in the sector
- To build stronger strategic alliances and effective coalitions
- To be smarter and bolder in our advocacy
- To take a lead in documenting trends in the sector

1. Stronger links with leaders.

Trustees gave priority to building stronger links with leaders not only to enhance Platform's own knowledge and credibility as an informed commentator but also to connect leaders with each other and key power brokers.

This year we convened two leadership forums in place of our regular trust board meetings. These have been useful opportunities for members to network, receive information and convey key messages. We have partnered with an investing member on a piece of work of national importance and are keen to do so more often. We have also

identified contacts in work areas which means that instead of relying so heavily on trustees for information we can cast the net more widely among members.

We see Platform's role shifting more to one of facilitator, galvanising the collective strength and wisdom of the sector.

2. Stronger alliances and coalitions

The pressures for collaboration and mergers apply equally to umbrella organisations. Trustees have discussed the future of Platform as a standalone organisation and recognise the potential to make greater impact through the sharing of resources. Currently our focus is on working more closely with partners rather than looking to more formal coalitions.

The most recent example of successful working together was the joint approach from Platform, New Zealand Disability Support Network, the New Zealand Home Health Association and the New Zealand Aged Care Association in response to the Ministry of Health's draft standard contract.

Platform, through Marion, has developed a very valuable partnership with ANGOA who work on pieces of work that affect the landscape for all NGOs. Through this partnership Platform has kept abreast of work on the Lobbying Disclosure Bill, the FBT tax changes, the proposed changes to external accounting reporting standards and the Treasury work on streamlining contracts. This partnership helps ensure our submissions on these matters reflects a mental health and addictions perspective and are aligned with our other NGO colleagues.

Platform also values its links with Navigate and its working relationship with Te Pou.

3. Smarter advocacy

Platform identified the key components to smarter and bolder advocacy as being;

- advocacy that is data informed and evidenced based
- advocacy that offers solutions and models how things might be

Drawing on the material from the leadership forum in February 2012 and responding to Mai Chen's challenge to identify "killer facts" we have started to pull together up to date facts and stories about the sector. The purpose is to have at our finger tips information about the impact and value of the sector. While we have good information about the size and scope of the sector we are struggling with information about the sectors cost effectiveness and value. Trustees are talking about the possibility of commissioning some sound economic analysis to address the important questions of value.

4. Taking a lead in monitoring

With the closure of the Mental Health Commission the sector has lost its independent watchdog. However, an opportunity does exist to support the Mental Health Commissioner Dr Lynne Lane in her role within the Health and Disability Commission. Blueprint II heralds a significant and positive change away from dependence on secondary services towards a strong primary system of support. Shifts of resource and the strengthening of community supports is very dependent on individual District Health Boards. Our own fear is that there is no commitment to monitoring progress towards achieving the outcomes sought in Blueprint II.

Trustees believe Platform has a role in supporting the Commissioner in her monitoring role. Monitoring of progress was critical to achieving the outcomes of Blueprint I and will be more so with Blueprint II.



5. Positive Signals

For many years the issues that have been top of the list for the sector are the complexity and one-sided nature of contracts, the myriad of reporting audit requirements and the costs of compliance. Despite many attempts by Platform to raise these issues with officials and Ministers we have failed to get much traction. Finally, through the Better Public Service initiatives there are signs of a growing appreciation emerging from Treasury officials in particular, of the time and resources tied up in unnecessary bureaucracy. Platform's vision of providers having one contract with government may not be such a wild dream.

6. Platform's Value

Having to tender for the Ministry of Health contract this year provided an opportunity to reflect on Platform's value and what would it mean if our contract was not renewed.

I strongly believe Platform gives the community mental health and addiction sector a sense of cohesion and strength. It provides a vehicle by which people can come together for a broader collective good. It offers a safe place for providers to test ideas and for officials and Ministers to seek opinion. Through Marion the sector has a voice that can inform, shape and influence the direction of the mental health and addiction service system.

We can do this thanks to the remarkable work and dedication of Marion and Anne; because of the commitment of the Trustees who find time in their busy schedules to put aside the interests of their own organisations to work for the collective good; and because of investing members and members on whom we rely not only for financial support but to help us in our work.

My thanks to you all for a good year.

Jan Dowland

Chair



CEO Annual Report 2012

Since the last CEO Annual Report the impacts of the global recession are beginning to show in New Zealand's health and welfare systems. This can be seen in terms of the reduction of Government financial support to programmes, the many mergers/coalitions of agencies from the public, private and community sectors, rethinking long held ideas and reshaping of the ways of doing things. Not all of this is driven by fiscal constraint. Significant learning about collaborative solutions and systems that have emerged from Christchurch to replace some of the inefficient systems are refreshing and provide examples of how things could be.

Many of the projects that we have participated in and contributed to this year are outcomes from previous years' planning or policy direction. Key policy development groups such *Towards the next Wave of Mental health and Addiction Services and Capability Workforce service review*, *Blueprint II Improving health and wellbeing for New Zealanders* and *Rising to the Challenge The mental health and addiction services development plan 2012-2017* have all described the direction of what needs to be done. Effective NGO input is reflected in the content which clearly describes the critical responsibilities of community organisations in the future system. This call is not just from mental health and addiction community organisations themselves but from a range of those who can see the value of well performing community based agencies.

At the direction of the members and trustees Platform's key broad work areas over the past year have been:

- Information
- Employment
- Primary Health

Information

Understanding performance by using information and measureable evidence is the challenge that is in front of us. Platform has undertaken to encourage and support NGOs to report to PRIMHD and there are now 265 organisations reporting. The net effect is that, for the first time, we can begin to see the numbers of people seen by community organisations and the sorts of health funded services that they are using nationally. With approximately \$290 million used to provide services in the NGO sector PRIMHD data is now being used to provide information to a wide range of sources about how this is used this includes; the KPI programme, advice and responses to Ministerial questions, planning, accountability, ad hoc queries, publications and research.

Platform members have taken active leadership roles in the development, trialling and testing NGO PRIMHD reports; we know that the system has been frustrating at times however I want to acknowledge and thank the sector for its perseverance and tolerance. This willingness to participate also applies to the KPI programme with NGOs as early adopters and being prepared to publically share information which is not always 100% accurate. With these sorts of role models, the leadership of the Navigate group and the general 'can do' attitude of the sector our next approach is to add economics to the story of the effectiveness of community organisations.



Employment

Platform members have always paid attention to the role of employment as a part of recovery which can break the poverty cycle and create opportunities for inclusion and relationship building. It was therefore logical that Platform made representations during the Government's consultations about the welfare reform and has stayed involved with the developments. Because there are significant numbers of number of people currently in receipt of a benefit as direct consequence of mental health and addiction or whose mental health is impacted by long term unemployment, this is an area where community agencies will be able to mobilise their skills.

Our approach has been to encourage and promote success of supported employment, to develop Mindful Employer NZ and to begin collaborative initiatives with colleagues in other parts of the health environment. There are many groups of people who have concern or investment in this work and we have worked hard to include this diversity in recent symposiums hosted in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. These meetings have presented research, international ideas and practise, views of clinicians, consumers and employment providers with the intention of creating the conversations and dialogue about how to support more people into employment.

Primary Health

During the year Platform published the latest in the NGOIT series - Towards Integration - Building an integrated mental health and addiction service. This work takes the summary of meetings and conversations with our members and Primary Health Organisations and makes suggestions about the systemic issues that if addressed could improve things. The report identifies that while NGOs and primary care providers can make some progress, we can only fully achieve a more integrated environment with the support and collaboration of key partners including Health Workforce New Zealand, District Health Boards and the workforce agencies. It is encouraging to see the emergent role place in the primary health world for early intervention and on-going support for mental health and for many community organisations continuing to grow the relationship with Primary care is logical.

The Environment

In February 2012 Minister English met with Platform leaders and talked about the Government's key result areas and the Better Public Services programme. These are both drivers of significant impact and change with the potential to achieve the cross 'Government department joined up approach' that Platform has been calling for since we began in 2001. Expectations are being set that all Government agencies have a responsibility to achieve the results described by the Government and not just to focus on their own Ministry aims. The effect of this is that agencies other than Health are identifying and seeking to address the impacts of mental health and addictions in the populations they serve. The focus on youth and young people will continue to drive the central agenda and we can expect some high impacts in mental health and addictions of the children's White paper.

Platform members will need to keep adjusting and adapting to this working environment which will continue to change as current strategies begin to impact on practice. I have tried to stay close to these developments in order to both understand the impacts for community organisations and also to work with officials to members as well as to try to stay abreast and encourage changing world.

Sustainability

Platform's income is made up from contracts for service, membership fees, grants and sector contributions. It was signalled to us early in the year that the principle contract that Platform has had with the Ministry of Health for



many years would be put out to competitive tender. Fortunately we were successful in our proposal and reasonably surprised that others would be interested in this type of sector development work. Our members provide both the mandate for our advocacy and the reality check that we are focussed on the right things for people living with mental health and addiction issues and the agencies that support them.

We want to thank the Platform members:

The Investors - organisations who take a leadership role in the Trust and are investing in community development and social change in New Zealand

The Members – Individuals and organisations who want to participate in and contribute to a community

The Supporters – individuals or small organisations who support the work of Platform

Thank you also to:

- 🌐 The Lotteries Grant Board who have annually assisted Platform with a contribution to our administration costs.
- 🌐 The Wise Group for their contribution to Platform's office rental and building expenses
- 🌐 Platform Trust Chair Jan Dowland and Trustees Paul Ingle, Rob Warriner, Lynette Hutson, Tim Harding, Kay Fletcher and Donald Shand for their wise Governance and strategic leadership
- 🌐 Kath Fox, Virginia MacEwan and Matiu Julian who resigned as trustees during the year
- 🌐 District Health Board, Ministry of Health and Workforce Centre colleagues across the mental health and addictions sector who have supported our work
- 🌐 Colleagues in other community agencies that we have collaborated over the last year

Audit Report 2011 - 2012

The Platform Charitable Trust audit was completed on 04 October 2012 by WHK Wellington Partnership Chartered Accountants. Following the AGM the full Financial Report is available on the Charities Commission website www.charities.govt.nz.

