



Blind Citizens NZ

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Inc

Annual General Meeting and Conference

Friday 4 October to Sunday 6 October 2019

Getting on with it - A new Horizon

Naumi Hotel

153 Kirkbride Road, Mangere, Auckland

Funding and Sponsorship

Our thanks for funding and sponsorship support from:

Blind Foundation

Lotteries Commission

Members (some prefer to remain anonymous)

Friday 4 October to Sunday 6 October 2019

Getting on with it – A new Horizon

Sessions

1. Friday 4 October

- 12.15 pm to 1.15 pm (Lunch)
- 1.30 pm to 1.55 pm (afternoon tea)
- 2.00 pm to 5.15 pm (Opening / Business)
- 5.40 pm to 6.10 pm (President's half-hour)
- 6.15 pm to 7.20 pm (Dinner)
- 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm (Speakers / Business)

2. Saturday 5 October (Official Opening / Open Day)

- 9.00 am to 9.15 am (Roll Call)
- 9,15am-9,25am (Official Opening)
- 9.25 am to 10.10 am (Speaker / Discussion)
- 10.10 am to 10.30 am (Morning Tea)
- 10.30 am to 12.00 pm (Speakers / Discussions)
- 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm (Lunch)
- 1.00 pm to 3.15 pm (Speakers / Discussions)
- 3.15 pm to 3.40 pm (Afternoon Tea)
- 3.40 pm to 4.30 pm (Speakers / Discussions)
- 4.30 pm – 5.00 pm (Discussion / Business)
- 7.00 pm onwards (Conference Dinner / Presentation of Blind Citizens NZ's Awards)

3. Sunday 6 October

- 9.00 am to 10.30 am (Business)
- 10.30 am to 10.50 am (Morning Tea)
- 10.50 am to 12.15 pm (Business)
- 12.15 pm to 1.15pm (lunch)
- 1.15pm to 2.00pm (Business / Closing)

Agenda Items

We advise:

- The order of agenda items as presented may change.
- The schedule of guest speakers and the sequence they will present is located at the end of this section. Changes may occur.
- Resolutions Committee - there will be reports from the Resolutions Committee as required throughout the Annual General Meeting and Conference.

1. Welcome and opening – Jonathan Godfrey National President
2. Karakia / Roll Call
3. Apologies
4. Obituaries
5. National President's Address
6. Appointments
 - 6.1 Resolutions Committee
 - 6.2 Returning Officer
 - 6.3 Scrutineers
7. Annual General Meeting
 - 7.1 Outcome of 2019 Scheduled Election; Report from Returning Officer
 - National President
 - Four Member-at-Large Positions
 - 7.2 Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting and Conference, 5-7 October 2018.

- 7.3** Confirmation of Minutes of National Council, 12 December 2018.
- 7.4** Matters Arising from Minutes of 2018, not otherwise addressed within the Annual Report or Agenda (Attachment “A”).
- 7.5** Notification of items of other business – inclusion of matters that have arisen since the close of the agenda on 14 September 2019 on the Annual General Meeting and Conference Agenda is at the discretion of the Chair.
- 7.6** Annual Report (Attachment “B”)
- National President / Executive Officer (combined)
 - National Office, Performance Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2019 (Moore Markhams Wellington Audit)
 - Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ)
 - Ministry of Health Disability Services Consumer Consortium
 - The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust (BANZAT)
 - World Blind Union (WBU)
 - Workbridge
- 7.7** Consolidated Audit of National Office and Branches, Performance Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2019, Moore Markhams Wellington Audit) (Attachment “C”)
- 7.8** Appointment of Auditor
- 7.9** Remits (Attachment “D”)

7.10 National Councillor / Network Representative Reports (Attachment "E")

Auckland

Wellington

Whanganui

Nelson

Otago

Southland

South Canterbury

Guide Dog Handler Special Interest Network

Note: there may be verbal reports for the following:

Hastings

Rotorua

Taranaki

Christchurch

Gisborne

7.11 Environment and Climate Change Discussion Paper, presented by Blind Citizens NZ Auckland Branch (Attachment "F")

7.12 Preparation for Blind Foundation new Strategic Plan (Attachment "G")

7.13 Representative Appointments (Attachment "H")

- 8.** Celebrating 75 Years - Conference 2020 (Attachment "I")
 - Speakers, Topics, Themes;
 - Clive Lansink – gather recordings of notable historic events;
 - Greg Newbold – documenting 1995-2020
- 9.** Other Business as notified in Item 6.6
- 10.** General Business (time permitting)

Guest Speakers, and Facilitated Discussions

Notes

- Pre-determined times have been allocated for addresses (most include provision for questions and answers).
- Cameos – as time allows, these may be interspersed with business sessions and guest speakers during the three days.

Friday 4 October

2.00 pm Karakia

Opening of 2019 Annual General Meeting and Conference: Jonathan Godfrey, National President

5.25 pm Break for President's half-hour (social time), and dinner

5.40 pm President's half-hour.

6.15pm Evening meal / Dinner (in the Oomph Room)

7.30pm Reconvene for business session

Karakia (at the conclusion of Friday's business)

Saturday 5 October

9.00 am Karakia and Roll Call.

9.15 am Through until approximately 4.30 pm, guest speakers, which include question and answer opportunities are scheduled.

Roll Call

Official Opening

**Robert Martin MNZM, Independent Expert
(9.15am-9.25 am)**

**Brian Coffey, Director, Office for Disability Issues
(9.25am-10.10am)**

Signs of Progress

Brian Coffey and his team have led work on the Disability Strategy, the new Disability Action Plan, and many, many other pieces of work...

**Jonathan Mosen, Chief Executive, Workbridge
(10.30am-11.15am)**

Sharing a Vision

Jonathan will share his vision for Workbridge and its role supporting employment of disabled people

**Robert Martin, MNZM, Independent Expert
(11.15am-12 noon)**

Robert is the first person elected to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with a Learning Disability, and from New Zealand

Pic Picot – Pushing New Horizons (1.00pm-1.45pm)

Pic's "can do" attitude, has seen him push boundaries and explore new horizons – he is the creator of Pic's Peanut Butter and will talk about his challenges and successes

John Mulka, Chief Executive, Blind Foundation (1.45pm-2.30pm)

John will talk about his background at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and share his vision for the Blind Foundation as he reviews and implements change that will positively influence the lives of blind, deafblind and vision impaired people

Hannah Pascoe, Para-Athlete and Lover of Life (2.30pm-3.15pm)

A para-athlete, Hannah will talk about the boundaries she has pushed as a marathon runner and tandem cyclist and her zest for living life to the full.

Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Disability Issues (3.40 pm – 4.30pm)

Minister Sepuloni has championed Accessibility Legislation within and external to Government, including at the UN Conference of State Parties. The Minister will talk about her work to progress the diversity of issues and barriers faced by disabled people

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Attachment “A”

Matters Arising from the 2018, Annual General Meeting and Conference

The Board at its November 2018 meeting considered outcomes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting and Conference. These, along with the many issues already on the work programme, were by agreement, given a priority level of either:

- High: the issue / activity will be progressed as a matter of priority.
- Medium: watch for opportunities and act.
- Low: low threshold for action i.e. will not go searching out the issue, but will be vigilant so that the issue can be progressed and action taken when there is movement or an influencing person/entity asks.

The following is a brief commentary on items requiring an update, where there is no reference anywhere else in this agenda.

1. **Statistics NZ:** Conference urged the Board to continue its advocacy work with Statistics NZ to create a user-friendly print version, and communicate fully, effectively and adequately with the blind community to ensure full accessibility to all formats; of the Census. Blind Citizens NZ continues to work with Statistics NZ to influence positive progress on all facets of accessibility of the Census both directly and collectively through the DPO Coalition.
2. **Government’s Accessibility Charter:** The Accessibility Charter identifies Government’s requirement to provide accessible information, communication, and services. As this can be a powerful advocacy tool for individuals to use, Blind Citizens NZ publicised the Charter in Focus.

- 3. Data collection by government agencies:** Conference required the Board to continue to work with all government agencies to ensure that every data collection exercise, especially the Census, is accessible to everyone so they can participate in whichever way best meets their needs. The sentiments of this requirement continue to be at the forefront of Blind Citizens NZ's work with Government, and often references Government's Accessibility Charter. The ability for people to engage in data collection independently, with confidence and dignity is paramount.
- 4. Proposed new Constitution:** The Board was required to formulate a Constitution that best meets the needs of Blind Citizens NZ now and into the future. By the end of February this year, financial members received for input, a draft proposed new Constitution. A significant amount of feedback has influenced the final proposed new Constitution. In July, financial members received three months' notice when the final of the proposed new Constitution was distributed. Voting commences on 2 October 2019.
- 5. Service Provider Entities:** Conference required the board to work with service-provider entities to ensure they uphold the same standard of equity expected from Central Government. As opportunities arise expectations are reinforced – levers include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Government's Accessibility Charter (which local government is being encouraged to adopt), and System Transformation.
- 6. Governance Review Panel:** requirements for inclusion in the proposed new Constitution, passed by the 2018 Annual General Meeting and Conference have been actioned. Following the AGM and Conference, a draft Constitution ran the rigours of engagement with, and input from financial Ordinary Members. The proposed new Constitution retains the requirements adopted in 2018.

These include:

- a)** A clause that describes the purpose of the Annual General Meeting and Conference, which replaces the term ‘supreme government body’.
- b)** Adoption of the following package of Board reforms:
 - A three-year term of office for all Board members, including the National President;
 - The elimination of extraordinary elections;
 - The shedding of two member-at-large positions on the Board, leaving a Board of seven;
 - An annual election for two out of the now six member-at-large positions;
 - The optional appointment (co-option) of a maximum of two Blind Citizens NZ members to the Board for a period of any length but not exceeding two years;
 - The World Blind Union Representative to be an appointed rather than an elected position, with the WBU Representative being co-opted to the board for the term of their appointment unless the appointee is already an elected member on the Board.
- c)** The disestablishment of National Council.
- d)** The term “Branch Representative” replaces the term “Branch National Councillor”.
- e)** Provision for financial Ordinary Members to vote to amend and/or adopt future Constitutions.
- f)** A draft proposed new Constitution was made available to all financial ordinary members in their preferred format in the first half of 2019 prior to voting, which commences (commenced) 2 October).

Attachment “B”

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Inc

Annual Report

1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

National Office, Ground Floor, 113 Adelaide Road
Newtown, Wellington 6022
PO Box 7144, Newtown, Wellington 6242

Board

National President	Jonathan Godfrey
Vice President	Martine Abel-Williamson
Board Members	Andrea Courtney
	Geraldine Glanville
	Shaun Johnson
	Paula Waby

Staff

Chief Executive	Rose Wilkinson
Administrative Support	Puti Rutene
Finance Assistant	Mary Yee

Blind Citizens NZ Branches

Auckland	Hastings
Headquarters	Nelson
Rotorua	Southland
South Canterbury	Whanganui
Wellington	

Blind Citizens NZ Geographical and Special Interest Networks

Christchurch	Gisborne
Otago	Taranaki
Guide Dog Handlers	

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Reports

- National President / Chief Executive (combined)
- National Office, Performance Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2019 (Moore Markhams Audit Wellington)
- Summary of Financial Information – National Office
- Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ
- Ministry of Health Disability Services Consumer Consortium
- The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust
- Workbridge Council
- World Blind Union

Blind Citizens NZ

Report to Members 2019

Each of the Board's meetings during 2019 started with a review of activity pertaining to our Strategic Plan. There are several recurring themes, that have a major impact on the organisation's performance, some positive, but also some that continue to hinder progress towards meeting our collective aspirations. In short, these are:

- progress with central government through our work with the Disabled Peoples' Organisation (DPO) Coalition;
- a need to improve our communications; and
- a strong desire to do more for our membership.

Our actions demonstrate our agreed statement of purpose, namely that Blind Citizens NZ exists to give voice to the aspirations and lived experiences of blind, deafblind and vision-impaired New Zealanders. Our Strategic Plan list seven goals:

1. Blind people live in an accessible, equitable and inclusive society.
2. The community's response to blindness is reflected in affirmative actions and attitudes.
3. Blind people are confident and successful advocates on both a personal and systemic level.
4. Blind people receive the services they need to approach everyday life with independence, confidence and dignity.
5. Blind Citizens NZ is recognised for its leadership in the blind community, and as a leading Disabled People's Organisation in the disability sector.
6. Blind Citizens NZ is a listening, receptive and responsive organisation that encourages people to want to belong.
7. The value of what Blind Citizens NZ adds to the blind community and society in general is evidenced both in growing membership and funder support.

There is no question of commitment to our organisation, whether it is the board, our staff, or members working on issues at a local level. However, we know there is always more we could be doing if only we had more time, more energy, and more resources. In considering progress against the stated goals, board discussions reflect what our membership would probably be saying - more needs to be done. While it is all too easy to be critical about what is not being done, the reality is that to have undertaken any other activity would mean we would need to have given up something we did do. Having said that, there is an expectation that we report to the membership by way of our agreed Strategic Plan.

On this occasion, there is a sense we are delivering for our members on Goals 1, 2, 5, and 6. If we are to be critical, then we must increase our effort on Goals 3, 4, and 7 and pay greater attention to them in the coming year.

As a Disabled Peoples Organisation, Blind Citizens NZ listens to what our members have to say. The views we express on behalf of our members are those formed by way of discussion, debate, and consideration of different perspectives. In recent years, we have admitted that we cannot deliver on every issue our members want to see progressed. The board has needed to decide which issues must be progressed and which we will work on if or when opportunities arise. We are making progress, perhaps though, not quickly enough...

The progress we have made on behalf of our members by working within the DPO Coalition have been immense over the last twelve months. Perhaps it is fair to say this has led to a reduction in our efforts to create opportunities outside the DPO Coalition. While this may be so, we hasten to add that we have grasped opportunities that have come our way through our work within the DPO Coalition. The new Disability Action Plan, our leadership in the Independent Monitoring Mechanism and Disabled People Led Monitoring of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities have all contributed to an increased workload for the board and staff.

As an organisation, we believe you can be proud that Blind Citizens NZ is a heavy contributor to all facets of this work, and that our influence is noticeable, and often noted for example, by government officials.

Blind Citizens NZ continues to work with central government officials to progress issues including access to information, access to physical spaces, and our safety on footpaths and other public places in particular. We have played a major contributor in bringing to fruition the Kiwi Access Card, a new form of identification that is for everyone. After many years of plugging away, Blind Citizens NZ took this issue to the DPO Coalition who supported taking a collective approach with Government. Progressed over a couple of years, the creation of a new form of identification became a significant piece of work with a great outcome. There is still work to do on this issue, but let us remember that it was Blind Citizens NZ's democratic processes and the voice of our members, along with continued advocacy, and the support of others too, that New Zealand now has the Kiwi Access Card.

An issue we had on our organisational "to do list", and to which Citizens NZ has been a contributor, is the development of guidelines to use the Optional Protocol for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Called "Making complaints to the United Nations Disability Committee: A Guide for New Zealanders", this document explains all about what is an optional protocol, and how you go about making a complaint to the international committee, if everything else you have tried, has not worked. Launched in April this year, these guidelines are available in the full range of alternate formats.

Blind Citizens NZ is a member of the Access Alliance Steering Group, where we have worked collaboratively to progress accessibility legislation.

Our involvement includes leading some of the policy work with government officials. We have also been involved in delegation-meetings with Ministers, to profile the importance of accessibility legislation and the potential difference this can make for us all.

The Minister for Disability Issues Hon Carmel Sepuloni is a champion of this work – she achieved on our collective behalf in December last year, a commitment from across Government to continue exploring options to progress accessibility legislation. This extends beyond disability and recognises for example, the needs of older people, people with temporary impairments, and those for whom English is a second language. We remain optimistic that by the June 2020, we will achieve a first reading in the House, for accessibility legislation.

Blind Citizens NZ has been fortunate to experience an increased share of publicity these past 12 months. The National President was interviewed on the first ever World Braille Day this year (4 January), applauding the merits of braille and raising awareness of its importance for our community. Involving members for news-items such as George Taggart when he expertly navigated his way around Wellington airport using Ira for the first time ever.

There have been several interviews about the nuisance value and danger e-scooters create for us all. Media interest in e-scooters on footpaths continues to attract attention, and those who attended last year's AGM and Conference will remember we had our own personal demonstration and experience, when our sound technician rode around the conference room on his e-scooter. Blind Citizens NZ has collaborated with Living Streets Aotearoa and a wide range of other organisations to take this issue to Ministers.

Access to information has always been a challenge for our community of people. During the past 12 months, we have been able to build on the work done in 2018 on Government's Accessibility Charter, with implementation across all central government agencies being everyone's aim. This is one area where our work is extremely important, but may well end up being unnoticed by our members, or at least may not result in direct acknowledgement.

Imagine for a moment the day you receive all public information in a form you can read, and independently access, all government-funded services you receive are easily accessed because the people who provide them acknowledge your specific needs and attend to them.

The board recognises that the way we communicate with our current members, our potential members, and the wider public needs to be modernised so that we reach the greatest number of people using the mechanisms that best suit them. Hana Bainbridge carried out our Member Engagement Project and she contacted many of you. Through Hana, we asked our members, one by one, how we should be reaching out to you. By reaching out to you, we have heard what you have said, and we are making changes. We are preparing the next stage in this work, and Hana was to be a mainstay once again. Sadly, Hana passed away suddenly in August, and we must now rethink how we will repeat this work without her.

Member feedback through Hana's work both last year and early this year, has informed our Communication's Plan which takes a more modern approach than we have been using. We will shortly be implementing this plan, with regular reviews of how we are doing.

We continue to use Facebook and Focus well, and our email lists are well used. We have a lot of support out there, but we must find a way to translate this into increased membership. Telling our stories is a powerful tool that we make use of quite sparingly. Our Focus magazine is going out to many people who are not members of our organisation through the Blind Foundation's Library Service, as well as to a host of key contacts who have an interest in the work we are doing.

Readers of Focus and the National President's articles, will know that he believes life is for living. It is time more of our community stood up and told the world we are proud of what we have achieved, what made it possible, what made it challenging, and make it blatantly obvious to anyone who will listen that we do want a life that is for living.

If Blind Citizens NZ has had a role in making a blind bit of difference, then we should be proud to promote that too. We encourage you all to seek the opportunities to tell your stories, to tell decision-makers about your aspirations and about your lived experience.

Our Annual Report is a fitting opportunity to acknowledge publicly, two individuals who had to resign their board positions this year. Obtaining and retaining meaningful employment is a challenge for many people in our community. The energy and commitment required to uproot yourself to move to a different city for a new job is not to be underestimated. We congratulate Vaughan Dodd for doing so even if his new job meant he could no longer serve on your board. Becoming a parent is a massive commitment too. Murray Peat's decision to put family first has our respect and support. We also recognise the years Geraldine Glanville has given to the board of Blind Citizens NZ. We point out though, that the board has made sure to line some work up for her over the next twelve months as we work with Greg Newbold to write up the history of our organisation over the last 25 years leading up to our 75th birthday in 2020.

The departure of three board members opens up opportunities for some new faces on the board, and as we head towards this year's AGM and Conference, we already know we will have three new board members. Shortly after they join the board, we will learn the outcome of the months of work that have gone into drafting a proposed new Constitution, engaging with our members seeking your input, and then issuing the final for voting. Many of you took considerable time to read that first draft, to ask questions and to provide suggested amendments, many of which were implemented. It is now up to you, our members to ensure the hard yards we have all put in over the past two years, including the work of the Governance Review Panel, to get us to this point, becomes reality. Please do remember to vote in support of the proposed new Constitution.

The year ahead promises more opportunities for Blind Citizens NZ to cement itself as the lead player in shaping how the New Zealand Government works with and for disabled people. How the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind works with and for blind people, and how each member of this great organisation works with and for each other in our 75th year.

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated

National Office

Performance Report

For the year ended 30 June 2019

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Notes to reader

1. A summary of financial information for these accounts can be located at the end of the presentation of accounts.
2. Page numbering applies solely to the audited accounts, and not page-numbers in this agenda.
3. All statements presented in these accounts should be read in conjunction with the respective Notes to the Performance Report.

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Statement of Financial Performance, for the year ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue			
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	1	37,996	42,079
Subscriptions from members	1	1,174	834
Revenue from providing goods or services	1	370,466	367,646
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1	14,966	17,866
Conference/Forum	1	7,756	15,812
Legacies and bequests		14,610	642,500
Other revenue	1	-	-
Total Revenue		446,968	1,086,737
Expenses			
Expenses related to public fundraising	2	4,747	1,931
Volunteer and employee related costs	2	171,255	140,866
Costs related to providing goods or services	2	307,738	239,158
Other expenses	2	48,976	48,798
Total Expenses		532,716	430,753
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		(85,748)	655,984

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Statement of Financial Position, as at 30 June 2019

Assets		2019	2018
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Bank accounts and cash	3	712,187	759,203
Debtors and prepayments	3	201,092	227,904
Inventory	3	-	12
Total Current Assets		913,279	987,119
Non-Current Assets			
		2019	2018
		\$	\$
Property, plant and equipment	4	17,831	19,785
Investments	3	737,100	733,168
Total Non-Current Assets		751,931	752,953
Total Assets		1,668,210	1,740,072
Liabilities			
		2019	2018
		\$	\$
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	3	95,252	81,238
Employee costs payable	3	26,165	23,917
Other current liabilities	3	26,550	28,926
Total Current Liabilities		147,967	134,081
Total Liabilities		147,967	134,081
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		1,520,243	1,605,991

**Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated –
National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019**

Statement of Financial Position, as at 30 June 2019

Accumulated Funds	Note	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	5	232,119	315,773
Reserves	5	1,288,124	1,290,218
Total Accumulated Funds		1,520,243	1,605,991

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Statement of Cash Flows, for the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash was received from:		
Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts	37,995	67,576
Subscriptions from members	1,174	835
Receipts from providing goods or services	389,840	331,994
Legacies and Bequests	14,610	642,500
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts	14,966	17,866
Conference/Forum	7,756	17,068
Net GST	239	1,542
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to suppliers and employees	(504,592)	(406,671)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(38,012)	672,710
Cash flows from Investing and Financing Activities		
Cash was received from:		
Capital contributed from owners or members	-	-

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Statement of Cash Flows continued

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Receipts from the sale of investments	-	-
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	(5,072)	(3,252)
Payments to purchase investments	(3,932)	(8,028)
Net Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities	(9,004)	(11,280)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash	(47,016)	661,430
Opening Cash	759,203	97,773
Closing Cash	712,187	759,203
This is represented by:		
Bank Accounts and Petty cash	712,187	759,203



Jonathan Godfrey
National President



Martine Abel-Williamson
Vice President

Dated: 25 September 2019

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated - National Office has elected to apply Tier 3 PBE SFR-A (NFP) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Not-For-Profit) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses of equal to or less than \$2,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

Measurement Base

The measurement base adopted is historical cost with the exception of some investments which are carried at lower of cost or market value.

Presentation Currency

These financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars (NZD) rounded to the nearest dollar.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated is registered for GST. All amounts are recorded exclusive of GST, except for Debtors and Creditors which are stated inclusive of GST.

Income Tax

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated - National Office is a registered charity and is wholly exempt from New Zealand income tax having fully complied with all statutory conditions for these exemptions.

**Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated –
National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019****Statement of Accounting Policies continued****Bank Accounts and Cash**

Bank accounts and cash in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise all bank balances, on call cash funds and petty cash balances.

Debtors and other Receivables

Debtors and other receivables are measured at their cost less any impairment losses.

Creditors and other Payables

Creditors and other payables are stated at cost.

Investments

Equity and bond investments are held at the lower of cost or at fair market value at balance date. For these “available for sale” investments, which are not held for trading, impairment losses are recognised as an expense in the statement of financial performance. An assessment of the impaired losses is made by the portfolio manager at balance date. Interest income is recognised in the statement of financial performance using the effective interest rate method.

Dividend income is recognised in the statement of financial performance when the right to receive income is established. For public traded securities this is the ex-dividend date.

Property, Plant and Equipment

All property, plant and equipment is measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impaired losses. Costs include expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset.

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Statement of Accounting Policies continued

Depreciation

Depreciation is charged on a diminishing value (DV) basis over the useful life of the asset. Depreciation is charged at rates calculated to allocate the cost or valuation of the asset less any estimated residual value over its remaining useful life:

- Fit-Out 20% DV
- Motor Vehicles 20% DV
- Office equipment 30 - 50% DV
- Recording equipment 30% DV
- Furniture and fittings 20% DV

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and are adjusted if there is a change in the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset.

Tier 2 PBE Accounting Standards Applied (if any)

There have not been any Tier 2 PBE Accounting standards adopted in the preparation of these accounts.

Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the entity and revenue can be reliably measured. Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received. The following specific recognition criteria must be met before revenue is recognised:

-

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Revenue continued

- **Donations:** Donation income is recognised as revenue when received and all associated obligations have been met.
- **Interest income:** Interest income is recognised as it accrues, using the effective interest method.
- **Legacies:** Legacy funds received for specific future investment purposes or to meet specific future costs, are recognised as income in the reported surplus or deficit and then **transferred from Accumulated Funds** to a "restricted" Reserve to be used to fund specific future costs of the entity, or to be used in accordance with the terms of the bequest.
- **Revenue received in advance:** Grant revenue is recognised as revenue when it becomes receivable by virtue of a contractual agreement being signed and an invoice raised. The Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated - National Office has a liability to repay the grant if the requirements of the grant are not fulfilled. A liability is recognised to the extent that such conditions are unfulfilled at the end of the accounting period.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies during the financial year.

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Notes to the Performance Report

Note 1: Analysis of Revenue

Revenue Item	Analysis	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Donations,	Lotteries Commission	25,000	30,000
Fundraising and	Donations	12,996	12,079
other similar	Total	37,996	42,079
revenue			
Revenue Item	Analysis	\$	\$
Fees,	Membership Fees	1,174	834
subscriptions and	Total	1,174	834
other revenue			
from members			
Revenue Item	Analysis	\$	\$
Revenue from	Blind Foundation of NZ	326,000	323,000
providing goods or	service contract		
services	Calendars and Badge sales	7,129	9,186
	Disabled People's	28,361	32,353
	Organisation/ Govt		
	Other	8,976	3,107
	Total	370,466	367,646
Revenue Item	Analysis	\$	\$
Interest, dividends	Interest	8,054	7,673
and other	Dividends	4,043	3,550
investment	Gain/(Loss) on sale of	2,869	6,643
revenue	investments		
	Total	14,966	17,866

**Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated –
National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019**

Notes to the Performance Report

Note 1: Analysis of Revenue Continued

Revenue Item	Analysis	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Conference /	AGM and Conference	7,756	13,544
Forum	Guide Dog Forum	-	2,268
Registrations	Total	7,756	15,812

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Notes to the Performance Report

Note 2: Analysis of Expenses

Expense Item	Analysis	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Expenses related to public fundraising	Fundraising	4,747	1,931
	Total	4,747	1,931
Volunteer and employee related costs	Staff Wages	171,073	140,231
	Other	182	635
	Total	171,255	140,866
Costs related to providing goods or services	Advocacy	6,780	6,233
	Conference	67,496	65,083
	Board Expenses	47,407	37,887
	Seminars	-	18,800
	Projects	67,077	1,792
	Calendars	6,746	6,191
	Governance/Constitutional Review	12,764	1,660
	Administration Expenses	51,965	49,428
	Office Expenses	47,503	52,084
	Total	307,738	239,158

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Notes to the Performance Report

Note 2: Analysis of Expenses

Expense Item		2019	2018
		\$	\$
Other	Audit Fees	13,985	12,500
expenses	Accounting Fees	9,000	9,450
	Election Expenses	-	3,029
	Depreciation	6,319	8,471
	Impairment costs	707	3,508
	Legal Expenses	6,802	-
	Portfolio Management Fees	9,009	8,691
	Insurance	1,434	1,309
	Member-for-Life expenses	1,720	1,840
	Total	48,976	48,798

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Notes to the Performance Report

Note 3: Analysis of Assets and Liabilities

Asset Item	Analysis	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Bank accounts and cash	Cheque account balances	153,009	50,622
	On call account balance	558,852	707,810
	Imprest Account	46	491
	Petty Cash	280	280
	Total	712,187	759,203

Asset Item	Analysis	\$	\$
Debtors and prepayments	Accounts receivable	200,607	225,619
	Prepayments	485	2,285
	Total	201,092	227,904

Asset Item	Analysis	\$	\$
Inventory	Badges	-	12
	Total	-	12

Asset Item	Analysis	\$	\$
Investments	ANZ Managed investment Portfolio (At Cost)	737,100	733,168
	Total	737,100	733,168

At balance date, the ANZ Managed Portfolio investment was valued at \$958,218 (2018: \$897,273).

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Notes to the Performance Report

Note 3: Analysis of Assets and Liabilities

		2019	2018
Liability Item	Analysis	\$	\$
Creditors and accrued expenses	Trade and other payables	36,907	18,988
	Accrued expenses	37,144	35,688
	GST Payable	21,201	26,562
	Total	95,252	81,238

		\$	\$
Employee costs payable	Holiday pay accrual	20,776	17,642
	Wages accruals	5,389	6,275
	Total	26,165	23,917

		\$	\$
Other	Lotteries Grant - funds in advance	25,000	25,000
	Other	1,550	3,926
	Total	26,550	28,926

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Notes to the Performance Report

Note 4: Property, Plant and Equipment

2019

Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/ Disposals	Current Year Depreciation & Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Buildings & Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture and fixtures	2,691	2,422	(478)	(1,139)	3,496
Office equipment	1,992	2,650	(229)	(948)	3,465
Motor Vehicles	9,136	-	-	(1,827)	7,309
Computer Software	5,966	-	-	(2,405)	3,561
Total	19,785	5,072	(707)	(6,319)	17,831

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Notes to the Performance Report

Note 4: Property, Plant and Equipment

2018

Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/ Disposals	Current Year Depreciation & Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Buildings & Improvements	184	-	(184)	-	-
Furniture and fixtures	2,289	1,110	(197)	(511)	2,691
Office equipment	3,886	-	(32)	(1,862)	1,992
Motor Vehicles	11,420	-	-	(2,284)	9,136
Computer Software	7,225	5,650	(3,095)	(3,814)	5,966
Total	25,004	6,760	(3,508)	(8,471)	19,785

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Notes to the Performance Report

Note 5: Accumulated Funds

2019

Description	Accumulated Surpluses or Deficits	Reserves	Total
Opening Balance	315,773	1,290,218	1,605,991
Surplus/(Deficit)	(85,748)	-	(85,748)
Funds from Branch	-	-	-
Transfer to Reserves	(10,081)	10,081	-
Transfer from Reserves	12,175	(12,175)	-
Closing Balance	232,119	1,288,124	1,520,243

2018

Description	Accumulated Surpluses or Deficits	Reserves	Total
Opening Balance	120,359	829,648	950,007
Surplus/(Deficit)	655,984	-	655,984
Funds from Branch	-	-	-
Transfer to Reserves	(477,837)	477,837	-
Transfer from Reserves	17,267	(17,267)	-
Closing Balance	315,773	1,290,218	1,605,991

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Notes to the Performance Report

Note 5: Accumulated Funds Continued

Breakdown of Reserves	2019	2018
Name	\$	\$
General Fund	598,653	411,987
Alternate Format Fund	-	125,763
Member-for-Life Fund	26,744	27,420
International Fund	-	18,058
Conference Fund	-	47,229
Leadership Fund	177,671	174,705
Branch Funds Brought to Account	13,556	13,556
Special Purpose Bequest	417,500	417,500
Special Purpose Grant	54,000	54,000
Total	1,288,124	1,290,218

The Board passed a resolution on 2 September 2018 that the funds held in the Alternate, International and Conference Funds be transferred to the General Fund.

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated – National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Notes to the Performance Report

Note 6: Commitments and Contingencies

Commitment	Explanation and Timing	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Commitments to lease or rent assets	National Office lease for a further three and half years	83,994	107,434
	Photo-copier lease for a further 35 months (2018: 47 months)	8,221	11,040

Note 7: Related Party Transactions

Description of Related Party Relationship	Description of the Transaction (whether in cash or amount in kind)	2019	2018	2019	2018
		Value of Transactions	Value of Transactions	Amount Outstanding	Amount Outstanding
Branches	Large Format Calendar sales	1,065	1,742	1,508	1,831
Branches	Printing and postage charges	622	741	704	852

**Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated –
National Office Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019****Notes to the Performance Report****Note 8: Events after the Balance Date****Events After the Balance Date:**

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report. (Last Year Nil)

Summarised financial information – National Office

Revenue and expense for the year ended 30 June 2018

Table:

Revenue	2019	2018
Donations, fundraising etc.	37,996	42,079
Subscriptions from members	1,174	834
Grants (Lotteries, COGS, Blind Foundation)	370,466	367,646
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	14,966	17,866
Conference Registrations	7,756	15,812
Legacies and Bequests	14,610	642,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estate MD Gay \$5,301 (final disbursement) • Estate P Arthur \$9,309 (final disbursement/funds for a specific purpose in accordance with the bequest) 		
Other revenue	0	0
Total operating revenue	446,968	1,086,737
Expense	blank	blank
Fundraising related expenses	4,747	1,931
Employee and volunteer related costs	171,255	140,866
Operating costs (national office)	307,738	239,158
Other expenses	48,976	48,218
Total operating expenses	532,716	430,773
Operating surplus	(85,748)	655,964

End table.

Note to Revenue and Expense: factors contributing to the deficit are one-off projects funded from reserves, such as the Member Engagement

Project, the Board's Governance Review, and the proposed new Constitution.

Assets and liabilities at 30 June 2018

Table:

	2019	2018
Current Assets		
Bank accounts and cash	712,187	759,203
Debtors and prepayments	201,092	227,904
Inventory / stock	-	12
Total current assets	913,279	987,119
Non-current assets	Blank	Blank
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	17,831	19,785
Investments	737,100	733,168
Total non-current assets	751,931	752,953
Total assets	1,668,210	1,740,072
Total current liabilities	147,967	134,081
Total liabilities	147,967	134,081
Net assets	1,520,243	1,605,991

End table.

Accumulated Funds

Table:

	2019	2018
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated surpluses (or deficits)	232,119	315,773
Reserves	1,288,124	1290,218
Total Accumulated Funds	1,520,243	1,605,991

End Table.

Note: the accumulated reserves includes the bequest from 2018 (\$417,500), which must be used for a specific purpose.

Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ)

From Wendy Chiang, Blind Citizens NZ Representative to the BLENNZ Board of Trustees

In the past 12 months since my last report to Conference, activities at the BLENNZ Board level have been mostly business as usual.

Acknowledgement to the BLENNZ Senior Management Team for their dedication and competence. Following are some highlights that may be of interest to Blind Citizen members:

- The main celebration at the end of 2018 was the presentation of the Blundell Award to BLENNZ students David Boyd and Leilu Harrison-Talbot. Sally Winstone and Richard Blundell visited the Homai Campus to present the awards, which was established by their parents, the late Sir Denis and Lady June Blundell.
- The Board identified three areas of strategic focus at its 2018 Strategic Day, namely transition, wellbeing, and succession. Plans are in place to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the transitional needs of BLENNZ youths to ensure processes and programmes are in place to enable rangitahi to step successfully into their life beyond school. The focus on wellbeing is also timely in light of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy launched on 29 August this year.
- Joint feedback from the Sensory Schools was submitted to the Tomorrow's Schools Independent Taskforce in response "Our Schooling Futures: Stronger together", the Taskforce's initial report released for consultation in December 2018. The feedback related to Key Issues (1) Governance and (4) Disability and Learning Support. Ongoing collaboration and engagement is being maintained with the Deaf Education Centres on shared concerns and solutions.

- The Board continues to work with the Ministry of Education to find a more satisfactory long-term solution to the property requirements of the Visual Resource Centres around the country. Completion of the Wellington Visual Resource Centre premises saw improved working conditions for the regional staff.
- There has been a change in almost half of the BLENNZ Board of Trustees personnel since the triennial School Board of Trustee elections, which took place in May/June this year. Three new elected trustees came on board, including two Visual Resource Centre parent trustees and the staff trustee. Mitch Harris, Homai Campus parent trustee, was appointed to the position of Board Chair. Recent resignation of Catherine Rae from her position at the Blind Foundation also meant that BLENNZ now awaits notification of the new Blind Foundation appointed trustee.
- The Board welcomed the return of Jane Thistlethwaite to take up the role of Senior Manager School Services at BLENNZ, a position that has been vacant since 2017. Jane brings with her a rich range of experiences in practice, academia and governance both in NZ and overseas. Previously a board member of Homai Campus School during the establishment of BLENNZ, she also draws from her lived experience of vision impairment.
- Development of the BLENNZ Early Learning Service (BELS) continues to progress with the engagement of Resource Teachers Vision from across the network. The HECC will become part of the newly developing BELS with a more national focus.
- Dialogue also continued to occur regarding the Licence state of the HECC through 2019. After due consideration and consultation with key HECC staff, the HECCET Board decided in its August meeting that the Homai Early Childhood Centre will no longer be licensed from the 31 December 2019, pending assurance that all requirements of the Trust Deed and License are met.

Ministry of Health Disability Services Consumer Consortium

From Mary Schnackenberg, Blind Citizens NZ Representative

This Consumer Consortium holds two three-day meetings each year usually in April and November. I represented Blind Citizens NZ at the November 2018 meeting. Carolyn Weston represented Blind Citizens NZ at the April 2019 meeting as I had house guests visiting from the United States.

The November 2018 meeting received some 14 presentations and generated 40 pages of Minutes. The April 2019 meeting Minutes shows a similar range. We are encouraged to share Minutes which, in my opinion, are to a high standard. So please let me know if you want to receive them.

The Director-General of the Ministry of Health who was appointed in 2018 restructured the Ministry. A new Disability Directorate within the Ministry came into effect from 1 October 2018. Disability Support Services has been elevated up the political tree and its director reports to the Director-General himself. The new Deputy Director-General Disability, Adri Isbister, attended the April meeting. She is travelling around the country in September 2019 to meet disabled people and our whānau to discuss disability support services.

In September 2018, the Government announced plans to change health service Funded Family Care, including the intention to repeal Part 4A of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000. Anyone close to the Independent Monitoring Mechanism work will be aware of these long-overdue positive developments. While changes are indeed for the better, as usual there aren't enough resources to adequately support the families of severely disabled people.

Last November we were told about a new programme for families to support respite care of their disabled members. More decision-making power and more flexible funding was to go to the families which was welcomed by Consumer Consortium participants who are affected. But funding for the programme has been delayed.

Last November the Health Quality and Safety Commission presented their five-year strategy about Advance Care Planning. Writing an advance care plan allows us the opportunity to consider and talk about what health care we would want if we were no longer able to make decisions for ourselves.

Efforts continue to increase the participation of women with learning disabilities in the several screening programmes. Last November's presentation focused on research about breast and cervical cancer screening. The situation for this group remains dire in my view. Thinking particularly about blind and low vision women there are changes coming for cervical screening which we should learn about.

An update is regularly provided on Systems Transformation and, in particular, the programme launched in Mid Central in October 2018. The Disability Directorate is using a "try, learn and adjust approach", and systematically gathering feedback and information from disabled people, whānau, providers, workforce, government agencies and staff. At this stage Total Mobility is not included in systems transformation as is the case with the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Australia. A review will be undertaken on total mobility in New Zealand which is complicated as it is funded partially by the New Zealand Transport Agency and partially by local authorities. Government's focus is to make universal transport more accessible for everybody.

The April meeting received a presentation from the Health and Disability System Review team that is enquiring into the system and services. The goal of the review was to achieve equity of outcomes and contribute to wellness for all, particularly Māori and Pasifika peoples.

An initial report will have been released by the time we are reading this at Conference and the final report of the review team is due to government in March 2020.

We received a presentation from the Ministry of Health about its efforts to provide equity across all groups. The Ministry's vision for the future is to have a system that delivers the same high-quality health outcomes for all people, enabling everyone to reach their full potential, no matter where they live, what they have or who they are. The working definition for equity is that in Aotearoa New Zealand, people have differences in health that are not only avoidable but unfair and unjust. Equity recognises that different people with different levels of advantage may require different approaches and resources to get equitable outcomes.

Updates have been given on the progress with the refreshed Whāia Te Ao Mārama: The Māori Disability Action Plan 2018-2022. The speaker presented essential skills for working with Māori people with disabilities.

Updates have been provided about Pasifika disability services. As with Māori, developing culturally appropriate equitable services with suitable language options is a key.

Last November we discussed providing medication labels in other languages? There has been discussion relating to pharmacy and how prescriptions are made, and the issue of certain populations not accessing those prescriptions or using them incorrectly. I've been involved in several forums over the past four years where this issue has been raised. Some pharmacists have come up with creative solutions for blind and vision-impaired people who don't have access to smartphones. The rest of us have to solve these issues for ourselves, hopefully before there's some sort of crisis. As several of us pointed out, a profound inequity across the health system in New Zealand is an enormous lack of accessible information.

The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust (BANZAT)

From Leyna Coleman, Blind Citizens NZ Representative

This is my first report as Blind Citizens NZ's representative to BANZAT. I thank Paula Waby for her work on BANZAT and for her encouragement.

Last Conference Paula reported about two Braille competitions held by BANZAT in conjunction with BLENNZ. Primary school students were asked to name and make a collage picture of the New Zealand Braille Kiwi mascot. There were entries from several schools, all showing creativity. The winning name chosen for the Kiwi was "Pokey", suggested by a young Braille reader. Secondary school students were asked to compose a short jingle incorporating some or all of the themes Braille, literacy, kiwi and conservation. Renee Patete won this competition and her jingle was professionally recorded. The jingle, as well as photos from the competition, are on the BANZAT website, <http://www.banzat.org.nz/archives/344>

BANZAT has been working with the Blind Foundation to produce the Accessible Signage guidelines. This has been a huge project and I would like to thank everyone involved. The guidelines are now on the Blind Foundation's website.

15 out of 21 candidates passed the Trans-Tasman Certificate in UEB in October 2018. Since the certificate was launched in 2008, 137 candidates from New Zealand and 74 from Australia have passed and gained this qualification. A lot of work goes into running this exam and I would like to thank my fellow trustees for all of their dedication.

There has been some discussion around the Braille pocket calendar for 2019. New dates have been suggested by members, particularly Braille and blindness-related dates. Accessible Formats Service will keep this in mind when producing next year's calendar.

I have enjoyed my time on BANZAT so far. I am very passionate about Braille and its promotion. Thank you to Blind Citizens NZ and BANZAT for supporting and encouraging me.

Workbridge Council

From Paula Waby, Blind Citizens NZ Representative

I attended two Workbridge Council meetings this year but had to stand down when I obtained full-time employment.

The new Chief Executive, Jonathan Mosen, started his role with Workbridge in June 2019. Most of you will either know or have heard of Jonathan as he is a blind person who has been involved with our organization at various times. He was quick to meet with Council and hear our ideas.

We were told that Workbridge is needing to work more closely with employers and attract new clients. People are not being referred by WINZ. There is funding for Workbridge now for the next five years but it is a very different model.

From 1 April this year people already in employment can once again enrol with Workbridge to look at changing careers or seeking a new job. It is estimated that on average Workbridge were having to turn away 3 people per office per week when they were not permitted to work with those already in employment.

Workbridge is having to justify carefully why people need support. An example given was that a person with well managed epilepsy may no longer qualify for assistance. The Council felt like this was going back to judging people using the medical model.

There are 20% of Workbridge users who don't have access or are unable to use a computer. The push to do things online is being developed to support existing services and not to replace them.

Workbridge has eight policies with the newest at the time I stood down being the 100% Accessible Policy. They have also produced a style guide.

Having been asked to find out why our communities were not going to Workbridge and asking on the Blind Discuss list, I covered the following topics in my feedback to the Council:

- People like the way things now work with everything handled through the CPU.
- ACC gets priority.
- Some forms are still not fully accessible.
- Some in the blind community feel we are seen as too hard and Workbridge just pick low hanging fruit.
- We are only permitted to register with one job seeking agency at a time and feel this is unfair.
- Currently employed people are unable to use more than one agency.

In response we were informed that Workbridge no longer has the ACC contract and has not done so for a number of years. 65 percent of successful job seekers registered with Workbridge have medium to high support needs so they are not just the low hanging fruit.

These are just some of the highlights I have taken from my reports for the time I was your representative this year.

World Blind Union Report

From Paula Waby, Blind Citizens NZ Representative

We have a small WBU Committee and have met irregularly throughout the year. At the last meeting, we agreed to measure our outcomes against the Ulaanbaatar Statement that came out of the 2018 Midterm Assembly held in Mongolia. This will give us some guidance moving forward.

There have been some changes in the World Blind Forum where Judy Small is now the Blind Foundation representative replacing Thomas Bryan. Fraser Alexander, Blind Foundation Board Representative, has also joined the group along with the new Blind Foundation Chief Executive John Mulka. Blind Citizens NZ continues to be represented by myself as the WBU representative, Jonathan Godfrey National President, and Rose Wilkinson, Chief Executive.

The next big event is the General Assembly held in Madrid, Spain in June 2020. Plans are under way to ensure we have New Zealand representation and we will be providing a report in conjunction with the Blind Foundation to be presented by myself and Judy Small at the Assembly.

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Attachment “C”

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Inc

National Office and Branches

Performance Report

For the year ended

30 June 2019

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Notes to reader

1. A summary of financial information for these accounts can be located immediately following the Audit Report.
2. Page numbering applies solely to the audited accounts, and not page-numbers in this agenda.
3. The verified audited accounts include, from pages 3 to 30 inclusive, on the top right corner of each page the “Moore Markhams” audit certification stamp.
4. The audit report letter has the auditor’s logo affixed on the top right of each page i.e. this states Moore Markhams Audit and Assurance.

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated (Blind Citizens NZ)

Entity Information for the Year ended 30 June 2019

Incorporated Society: Registration Number 223080
Charity: Registration Number CC41040

Entity Information

Purpose

Founded in 1945, Blind Citizens NZ is New Zealand's leading blindness consumer organisation and one of the country's largest organisations of disabled consumers. Often referred to as a Disabled People's Organisation, Blind Citizens NZ works to heighten awareness of the rights of blind and vision impaired people, and to remove the barriers that impact upon their ability to live in an accessible, equitable and inclusive society.

Entity Structure

Governance: Blind Citizens NZ's constitution identifies the composition of the Board whose role is to ensure effective governance of the organisation. There are nine positions - National President, World Blind Union Representative, and seven Members-at-Large. The term of office for all positions is two years. In odd-numbered years an election for the National President and four member-at-large positions occurs. The remaining positions are elected in even-numbered years. Financial voting members (blind and vision-impaired people themselves) vote upon all elected positions.

Operational: There is one full-time staff member (Executive Officer) one part-time position (Administrative Support) with contracted financial, and project-specific support.

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated Entity Information for the Year ended 30 June 2019

Branches and Networks: We have eight geographical branches around the country, four networks, and a Headquarters Branch for members who do not reside within the boundaries of a geographical branch or network. The development of additional networks is ongoing. Branches and networks support the organisation with various activities and meetings held throughout the year.

Representative Positions

National representative positions are publicised for expressions of interest amongst our members. Well-documented procedures guide the Board in its decision-making and appointments. Representatives are required to consult about agenda items for their consideration, to submit and speak to topics on behalf of Blind Citizens NZ, submit written reports to the Board following meetings, and annually to the Annual General Meeting and Conference of Blind Citizens NZ.

Blind Citizens NZ is represented nationally on:

- Bankers Association Focus Group.
- Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ).
- Ministry of Health Disability Services Consumer Consortium.
- The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust (BANZAT).
- Workbridge Council.

Blind Citizens NZ has local representation on:

- Auckland Transport Public Transport Accessibility Group

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated Entity Information for the Year ended 30 June 2019

Main Source of Funding

Blind Citizens NZ relies predominantly on the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind (Blind Foundation) to fund (from the charity dollar), our core service/business, which is advocacy. We also receive a grant from the Lotteries Commission (operational). Additionally, Blind Citizens NZ receives revenue from donations, membership subscriptions, and interest from investments.

Reliance on Volunteers and Donated Services

Blind Citizens NZ relies heavily on branches, networks, members and supporters to volunteer their time to assist us progress our work. Board Members are volunteers – they do not receive any financial recompense for their time. Volunteers contribute to our activity outputs such as providing content for Focus (national publication), newsletters, social media, presentations, and representative appointments.

Contact Details

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BlindCitizensNZ/>

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated Statement of Service Performance for the year ended 30 June 2019

Statement of Service Performance

Description of Outcomes

Through our activities as a disabled people's organisation, and New Zealand's leading blindness consumer organisation, we strive to improve the lives of blind and vision impaired New Zealanders by contributing to raising awareness of our rights, and influencing the removal of barriers that impact on our ability to live in an accessible, equitable and inclusive society.

Description and Qualification (to the extent practicable) of Blind Citizens NZ's Outputs

Advocacy (personal and systemic)

Blind Citizens NZ works in areas that are blindness specific and where barriers and challenges are faced, such as but not limited to:

- Audio Description
- Education
- Accessible Public Transport
- Marrakesh Treaty
- Access to information and the environment

Submissions and Select Committee Appearances 2019 2018

Number of national submissions	8	4
Number of Select Committee appearances	3	1

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated Statement of Service Performance for the year ended 30 June 2019

Blind Citizens NZ National and Branch (Community) Meetings

	2019	2018
Number of meetings members have participated in	28	28
Number of attendees at meetings	440	436

Activities / Events

National Annual Conference - input from members on issues topical to the blind community to inform Blind Citizens NZ's work.	1	1
Number of members and guests who attended	70-90	75-95

Information, Publications and Awareness

Number of issues of Focus national magazine produced	4	4
Number of Focus recipients per issue (distributed in braille, CD, large print, and electronic formats)	1,483	1,015
Number of Website hits.	4,804	19,838
Number of Facebook likes and reactions	21,902	17,155
Number of calls made by members to glean and / or share information on the Feedback Line (national and branches)	32,274	26,591
Number of hours in total, members have engaged on the Feedback Line (national and branches).	924	869

**Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated
Statement of Service Performance for the year ended 30 June 2019**

Information, Publications and Awareness continued

Number of International White Cane Day resources (posters, 2 types of pamphlet, banners, feet-shaped posters)	5	5
Number of resources refreshed and/or created (brochures / briefs)	0	3
Number of Branch Newsletters produced	22	22
Number of recipients of Branch Newsletters	2,210	2,202

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated

Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30 June 2019

Statement of Financial Performance

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue			
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	1	48,665	72,866
Subscriptions from members	1	5,182	6,129
Revenue from providing goods or services	1	372,842	377,208
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1	31,285	33,882
Legacies and Bequests		14,610	642,500
Conference Fees	1	7,756	13,544
Total Revenue		480,340	1,146,129
Expenses			
Expenses related to public fundraising	2	4,747	1,931
Volunteer and employee related costs	2	174,471	143,533
Costs related to providing goods or services	2	338,297	291,485
Grants and donations made	2	150	750
Other expenses	2	54,703	56,213
Total Expenses		572,368	493,912
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		(92,028)	652,217

This statement should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Performance Report

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated
Statement of Financial Position for the year ended 30 June 2019

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	Note	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Bank accounts and cash	3	789,989	843,104
Debtors and prepayments	3	200,465	230,999
Inventory	3	335	399
Total Current Assets		990,789	1,074,502
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	37,435	44,513
Investments	3	1,274,999	1,264,838
Total Non-Current Assets		1,312,434	1,309,351
Total Assets		2,303,223	2,383,853

This statement should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Performance Report

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated
Statement of Financial Position for the year ended 30 June 2019

Liabilities	Note	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	3	93,021	81,494
Employee costs payable	3	26,165	23,917
Other current liabilities	3	26,550	28,926
Total Current Liabilities		145,736	134,337
Total Liabilities		145,736	134,337
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		2,157,487	2,249,516
Accumulated Funds	Note	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	5	869,363	959,299
Reserves	5	1,288,124	1,290,217
Total Accumulated Funds		2,157,487	2,249,516



Jonathan Godfrey
National President

Dated: 25 September 2019



Martine Abel-Williamson
Vice President

This statement should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Performance Report

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2019

Statement of Cash Flows

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Cash was received from:		
Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts	48,665	97,866
Subscriptions from members	5,182	6,129
Receipts from providing goods or services	400,212	333,990
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts	31,285	33,422
Legacies and Bequests	14,610	642,500
Conference Fees	7,756	13,544
Net GST	387	1,721
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to suppliers and employees	(545,829)	(456,229)
Donations or grants paid	(150)	(750)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(37,882)	672,193
Cash flows from Investing and Financing Activities		
Cash was received from:		
Receipts from the sale of investments	-	-

This statement should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Performance Report

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2019

Cash was applied to:

Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	(5,072)	(6,761)
Payments to purchase investments	(10,161)	(10,110)
Net Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities	(15,233)	(16,871)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash	(53,115)	655,322
Opening Cash	843,104	187,782
Closing Cash	789,989	843,104

	2019	2018
This is represented by:	\$	\$
Bank Accounts, Savings Accounts and Petty cash	789,989	843,104

This statement should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Performance Report

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated Statement of Accounting Policies for the year ended 30 June 2019

Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated's Board has elected to apply Tier 3 PBE SFR-A (NFP) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Not-For-Profit) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses of equal to or less than \$2,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

Measurement Base

The measurement base adopted is historical cost with the exception of some investments, which are carried at lower of cost or market value.

Presentation Currency

These financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars (NZD) rounded to the nearest dollar.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated is registered for GST. All amounts are recorded exclusive of GST, except for Debtors and Creditors, which are stated inclusive of GST.

Income Tax

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated National Office is a registered charity and is wholly exempt from New Zealand income tax having fully complied with all statutory conditions for these exemptions.

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated Statement of Accounting Policies for the year ended 30 June 2019

Bank Accounts and Cash

Bank accounts and cash in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise all bank balances, on call cash funds and petty cash balances.

Debtors and other Receivables

Debtors and other receivables are measured at their cost less any impairment losses.

Creditors and other Payables

Creditors and other payables are stated at cost.

Investments

Equity and bond investments are held at the lower of cost or at fair market value at balance date. For these “available for sale” investments, which are not held for trading, impairment losses are recognised as an expense in the statement of financial performance. An assessment of the impaired losses is made by the portfolio manager at balance date. Interest income is recognised in the statement of financial performance using the effective interest rate method.

Dividend income is recognised in the statement of financial performance when the right to receive income is established. For public traded securities this is the ex-dividend date.

Property, Plant and Equipment

All property, plant and equipment is measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impaired losses. Costs include expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset.

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated Statement of Accounting Policies for the year ended 30 June 2019

Depreciation

Depreciation is charged on a diminishing value (DV) basis over the useful life of the asset. Depreciation is charged at rates calculated to allocate the cost or valuation of the asset less any estimated residual value over its remaining useful life:

- **Fit-Out 20% DV**
- **Motor Vehicles 20% DV**
- **Office equipment 30 - 50% DV**
- **Recording equipment 30% DV**
- **Furniture and fittings 20% DV**

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and are adjusted if there is a change in the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset.

Tier 2 PBE Accounting Standards Applied (if any)

There have not been any Tier 2 PBE Accounting standards adopted in the preparation of these accounts.

Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the entity and revenue can be reliably measured.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received. The following specific recognition criteria must be met before revenue is recognised:

- **Donations:** Donation income is recognised as revenue when received and all associated obligations have been met.

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated Statement of Accounting Policies for the year ended 30 June 2019

Revenue continued

- **Legacies:** Legacy funds received for specific future investment purposes or to meet specific future costs, are recognised as income in the reported surplus or deficit and then **transferred from Accumulated Funds** to a "restricted" Reserve to be used to fund specific future costs of the entity, or to be used in accordance with the terms of the bequest.
- **Interest income:** Interest income is recognised as it accrues, using the effective interest method.
- **Revenue received in advance:** Grant revenue is recognised as revenue when it becomes receivable by virtue of a contractual agreement being signed and an invoice raised. The Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated National Office has a liability to repay the grant if the requirements of the grant are not fulfilled. A liability is recognised to the extent that such conditions are unfulfilled at the end of the accounting period.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies during the financial year.

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated

Notes to the Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Notes to the Performance Report

Note 1: Analysis of Revenue

Revenue Item	Analysis	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Donations,	COGS	6,095	7,966
Fundraising and	Grants	26,000	49,085
other similar	Donations	16,570	15,815
	Total	48,665	72,866

Revenue Item	Analysis	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Fees and	Membership Fees	3,519	3,846
subscriptions from	Membership for Life	1,663	2,283
members.	Total	5,182	6,129

Revenue Item	Analysis	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Revenue from	Blind Foundation of NZ	326,000	323,000
providing goods or,	service contract		
Services	Calendars and Badge sales	5,985	8,455
	Disabled People's	28,362	32,353
	Organisation / Government		
	Other	12,495	13,400
	Total	372,842	377,208

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated
Notes to the Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Note 1: Analysis of Revenue Continued

Revenue Item	Analysis	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Interest, dividends, and other investment revenue	Interest	24,373	25,900
	Dividends	4,043	3,550
	Gain/(Loss) on Investments	2,869	4,432
	Total	31,285	33,882

Revenue Item	Analysis	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Conference Fees	Annual conference fees	7,756	13,544
	Total	7,756	13,544

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated

Notes to the Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Note 2: Analysis of Expenses

Expense Item	Analysis	\$	\$
Expenses related, to public f/raising	Fundraising	4,747	1,931
	Total	4,747	1,931

Expense Item	Analysis	2019 \$	2018 \$
Volunteer and employee related Costs	Staff Wages	171,073	140,231
	Other	3,398	3,302
	Total	174,471	143,533

Expense Item	Analysis	2019 \$	2018 \$
Costs related to providing goods or Services	Advocacy	6,780	6,233
	Conference	73,937	73,914
	Board Expenses	47,024	37,887
	DPO/Government	20,368	19,190
	Focus	14,076	9,498
	Feedback Line	1,294	1,349
	Seminars	-	18,800
	Rent	23,938	23,974
	Calendars	6,529	6,178
	Governance /Constitutional Review	12,764	1,660
	Administration Expenses	4,502	2,782
	Alternate Format Expense	2,016	11,912

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated

Notes to the Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Note 2: Analysis of Expenses continued

Expense Item	Analysis	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Costs related to providing Costs	Operational Expenses	3,762	3,762
	Printing and Stationary	5,646	6,666
	Telephone	5,131	6,463
	Travel	4,028	7,474
	Office Expenses	4,228	4,716
	Project Expenses	68,763	19,625
	White Cane Day Expenses	77	-
	WBU Expenses	13,279	5,536
	Other Expenses	20,155	23,866
	Total		338,297
Expense Item	Analysis	\$	\$
Grants and donations made	Other	150	750
	Total	150	750

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated
Notes to the Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Note 2: Analysis of Expenses continued

Expense Item	Analysis	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Other expenses	Audit Fees	13,985	12,500
	Accounting Fees	9,000	9,450
	Legal Fees	6,802	-
	Election Expenses	-	3,029
	Depreciation costs	9,037	11,007
	Loss on disposal of assets	707	3,508
	Impairment of assets	2,405	3,814
	Portfolio Management Fees	9,009	8,691
	Insurance	1,738	2,374
	Member-for-Life expenses	2,020	1,840
	Total	54,703	56,213

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated

Notes to the Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Note 3: Analysis of Assets and Liabilities

Asset Item	Analysis	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Bank account and cash	Cheque account balances	205,202	99,659
	Savings account balance	584,145	742,583
	Interest Account and Petty Cash	642	862
	Total	789,989	843,104

Asset Item		\$	\$
Debtors and prepayments	Accounts receivable	197,553	224,376
	Prepayments	485	2,285
	Interest Receivable	2,427	4,338
	Total	200,465	230,999

Asset Item		2019	2018
		\$	\$
Inventory	Badges and Calendars	335	399
	Total	335	399

Asset Item		2019	2018
		\$	\$
Investments	ANZ Managed investment Portfolio	737,100	733,168
	Term Deposits	537,899	531,670
	Total	1,274,999	1,264,838

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated

Notes to the Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Note 3: Analysis of Assets and Liabilities continued

Liability Item		2019	2018
		\$	\$
Creditors and accrued expenses	Trade and other payables	34,729	18,988
	Accrued expenses	37,144	35,944
	GST Payable	21,148	26,562
	Total	93,021	81,494

Liability Item		2019	2018
		\$	\$
Employee costs Payable	Holiday pay accrual	20,776	20,938
	Wages accruals	5,389	2,979
	Total	26,165	23,917

Liability Item		2019	2018
		\$	\$
Funds received in advance	Lotteries Commission - funds in advance	25,000	25,000
	Other	1,500	3,926
	Total	26,500	28,926

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated
Notes to the Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Note 4: Property, Plant and Equipment

2019

Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/ Disposals	Current Year Depreciation & Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings & Improvements	928	-	-	(335)	593
Furniture and fixtures	2,692	2,422	(479)	(1,139)	3,496
Office equipment	4,168	2,650	(229)	(1,415)	5,174
Recording Equipment	307	-	-	(58)	249
Motor Vehicles	30,452	-	-	(6,090)	24,362
Computer Software	5,966	-	-	(2,405)	3,561
Total	44,513	5,072	(708)	(11,442)	37,435

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated
Notes to the Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Note 4: Property, Plant and Equipment Continued

2018

Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/ Disposals	Current Year Depreciation & Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings & Improvements	1,448	-	(184)	(336)	928
Furniture and fixtures	2,290	1,110	(197)	(511)	2,692
Office equipment	6,676	-	(32)	(2,476)	4,168
Recording Equipment	378	-	-	(71)	307
Motor Vehicles	38,064	-	-	(7,612)	30,452
Computer Software	7,225	5,650	(3,095)	(3,814)	5,966
Total	56,081	6,760	(3,508)	(14,820)	44,513

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated

Notes to the Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Note 5: Accumulated Funds

2019

Description	Accumulated Surpluses or Deficits	Reserves	Total
Opening Balance	959,299	1,290,217	2,249,516
Surplus/(Deficit)	(92,028)	-	(92,028)
Funds from Branch	-	-	-
Transfer to Reserves	(10,082)	10,082	-
Transfer from Reserves	12,175	(12,175)	-
Closing Balance	869,364	1,288,124	2,157,488

2018

Description	Accumulated Surpluses or Deficits	Reserves	Total
Opening Balance	767,651	829,648	1,597,299
Surplus/(Deficit)	652,217	-	652,217
Funds from Branch	-	-	-
Transfer to Reserves	(477,836)	477,836	-
Transfer from Reserves	17,267	(17,267)	-
Closing Balance	959,299	1,290,217	2,249,516

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated

Notes to the Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019

Note 5: Accumulated Funds continued

Breakdown of Reserves

Name	2019 \$	2018 \$
General Fund	598,653	411,987
Alternate Format Fund	-	125,763
Member for Life Fund	26,744	27,420
International Fund	-	18,058
Conference Fund	-	47,229
Leadership Fund	177,671	174,704
Branch Funds Brought to Account	13,556	13,556
Special Purpose Bequest	417,500	417,500
Special Purpose Grant	54,000	54,000
Total	1,288,124	1,290,217

Note 6: Commitments and Contingencies

Commitment	Explanation and Timing	2019 \$	2018 \$
Commitments to lease or rent assets	National Office lease for a further three and half years	83,994	107,132
	Photo-copier lease for a further 35 months (2018: 47 months)	8,221	11,040

**Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated
Notes to the Performance Report for the year ended 30 June 2019**

Note 7: Events after the Balance Date

There were no events that have occurred after balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report. (last Year: Nil)

Moore Markhams

Independent auditor's report

To the Members of Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying performance report of Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated on pages 3 to 29, which comprises the entity information, the statement of service performance, the statement of financial performance and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2019, the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, and the statement of accounting policies and notes to the performance report.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified

Opinion section of our report:

- a)** the reported outcomes and outputs, and quantification of the outputs to the extent practicable, in the statement of service performance are suitable;
- b)** the accompanying performance report presents fairly, in all material respects:
 - the entity information for the year then ended
 - the service performance for the year then ended, and
 - the financial position of Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated as at 30 June 2019, and its financial performance, and cash flows for the year then ended
 - in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Not-For-Profit) issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated's reported income includes cash revenue from donations of \$8,916. In common with similar organisations, control over such cash revenue prior to being recorded is limited and there are no practical audit procedures to determine the effect of this limited control.

In these respects, we have not obtained all the information and explanations that we have required. Consequently, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments to the amounts were necessary to the statement of financial performance and statement of financial position.

We conducted our audit of the statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, statement of accounting policies and notes to the performance report in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISAs (NZ)), and the audit of the entity information and statement of service performance in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) ISAE (NZ) 3000 (Revised). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the performance report' section of our report.

We are independent of Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 (Revised) 'Code of ethics for assurance practitioners' issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other than our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated.

The Board's responsibilities for the performance report

The Board are responsible for:

- a)** Identifying outcomes and outputs, and quantifying the outputs to the extent practicable, that are relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable, to report in the statement of service performance
- b)** the preparation and fair presentation of the performance report on behalf of Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated which comprises:
 - the entity information
 - the statement of service performance; and
 - the statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, statement of accounting policies and notes to the performance report in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Not-For-Profit) issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board, and
- c)** for such internal control as the Board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the performance report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the performance report, the Board are responsible on behalf of Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated's for assessing Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intend to liquidate Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and ISAE (NZ) 3000 (Revised) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of the performance report.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and ISAE (NZ) 3000 (Revised), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Board and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated's ability to continue as a going concern.

If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the performance report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance report, including the disclosures, and whether the performance report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Perform procedures to obtain evidence about and evaluate whether the reported outcomes and outputs, and quantification of the outputs to the extent practicable, are relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

This report is made solely to the members/ trustees of Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated. Our audit has been undertaken so that we might state to the members/ trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members/ trustees, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Moore Markhams Wellington Audit | Qualified Auditors, Wellington, New Zealand

25 September 2019

Summarised Financial Information

Consolidation of National Office and Branches

Revenue and expense for the year ended 30 June 2019

Table:

Revenue	2019	2018
Donations, fundraising etc.	48,665	72,866
Subscriptions from members	5,182	6,129
Grants (Lotteries, COGS, Blind Foundation)	372,842	377,208
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	31,285	33,882
Legacies & Bequests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estate MD Gay \$5,301 (final disbursement) • Estate P Arthur \$9,309 (final disbursement/funds for a specific purpose in accordance with the bequest) 	14,610	642,500
Conference Registrations	7,756	13,544
Total operating revenue	480,340	1,146,129
Expense	blank	blank
Fundraising related expenses	4,747	1,931
Employee and volunteer related costs	174,471	143,533
Operating costs (national/branches/networks)	338,297	291,485
Grants and donations made	150	750
Other expenses	54,703	56,213
Total operating expenses	572,368	493,912
Operating surplus	(92,028)	652,217

End table.

Note to Revenue and Expense: factors contributing to the deficit are one-off projects carried out by the Board and National Office, and funded from reserves, such as the Member Engagement Project, the Board's Governance Review, and the proposed new Constitution.

Assets and liabilities at 30 June 2018

Table:

	2019	2018
Current Assets		
Bank accounts and cash	789,989	843,104
Debtors and prepayments	200,465	230,999
Inventory / stock	335	399
Total current assets	990,789	1,074,502
Non-Current Assets	Blank	Blank
Property, plant and equipment	37,435	44,513
Investments	1,274,999	1,264,838
Total non-current assets	1,312,434	1,309,351
Total Assets	2,303,223	2,383,853

End table.

Table:

Liabilities	2019	2018
Current Liabilities	Blank	Blank
Creditors and accrued expenses	93,021	81,494
Employee costs payable	26,165	23,917
Other current liabilities	26,550	28,926
Total current liabilities	145,736	134,337
Total Assets less Total Liabilities	2,157,487	2,249,516

End Table.

Accumulated Funds

Table:

Accumulated Funds	2019	2018
Accumulated surpluses (or deficits)	869,363	959,299
Reserves	1,288,124	1,290,217
Total Accumulated Funds	2,157,487	2,249,516

End Table.

Funds held by Branches

Auckland: \$80,577

Hastings: \$6,018

Nelson: 12,715

Rotorua: \$17,390

Southland: \$16,527

South Canterbury: \$219,136

Whanganui: \$188,649

Wellington: \$32,479

Funds held on behalf of Disestablished Branches

Canterbury: \$22,959

Gisborne: \$2,634

Mid-Central: \$14,256

Otago: \$12,472

Taranaki: 11,226

Attachment “D”

Remits to 2019 Annual General Meeting and Conference

Auckland Branch

1. Observers attending annual meetings of the RNZFB

Whereas, the RNZFB is a public charity registered as a tier 1 charity under the Charities Act 2005 and raises money in the name of the blind;

Noting that the preamble to the RNZFB rules are to be interpreted consistent with the principle of self-determination;

That many Members and clients are supported in their daily lives by spouses, family, supporters, friends and volunteers;

That the trust, confidence and goodwill of donors, beneficiaries and society are critical to the reputation of the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind, and that access to information and open disclosure is crucial to that trust;

Recognising that there is no explicit constitutional provision restricting the public's attendance at annual meetings of the RNZFB, or for them to get permission from the Board to attend these meetings;

Understanding that rule 9.15 permits meetings of members to regulate proceedings;

Deprecating that the Executive Officer of Blind Citizens New Zealand was excluded from the 2018 Annual Meeting of the RNZFB;

Deploring the Board's interim decision to only allow observers to attend annual meetings on pre-approval by the Blind Foundation's Board;

Conference resolve to:

- a) Immediately call on the Board to welcome members of the public to observe annual meetings of the RNZFB as a matter of public accountability and transparency, and for them to participate if invited by the majority of Members attending the meeting to do so;
- b) As necessary, draft a "Member Proposal" under rule 9.3 to affect the outcome of the above.

2. Recording how Directors vote on strategic matters effecting the electorate

Whereas, Members of the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind are the constitutional and moral owners of the Foundation and that there are annual elections for some Directors. And further noting:

That, the RNZFB is a not-for-profit charitable agency representing a variety of stakeholders;

That, access to information available to voters is at the heart of democratic decision-making and electoral choice;

That, in order to make informed decisions on the performance of Directors, voting Members are entitled to know how Directors vote on strategic matters, and that decisions have been researched and debated from all sides;

That, minutes of Board meetings continue to represent the views of individual Directors on strategic issues, so enabling voters to assess performance;

That, given the increasing complexity of RNZFB affairs, and that decisions are taken In Committee and by third parties, Board resolutions be explicit and votes be declared;

That, noting the Board's current position on recording votes is: "...to be at the Director's choice";

Therefore, Blind Citizens New Zealand resolve

That, in the spirit of accountability, transparency and open governance consistent with the charity ethic;

To call on the Board to briefly minute explanations and rationale for strategic decisions;

To call on individual Board members to make it clear how they vote on strategic issues as a matter of responsibility, accountability and transparency;

That, when voting for Directors, the electorate be reminded to consider carefully their voting choices for Board members based on assessed performance.

Southland Branch

3. That Blind Citizens NZ advocate to the Blind Foundation, asking them to carry out research, identifying the technology needs of members and once the data has been obtained and analysed, the Blind Foundation increase funding, human and other resources into their ACATS service, improving the technology skills of clients ensuring we all are competent in participating in modern life, no matter of each client's age, training or employment status.

Explanation: We are all becoming more and more reliant on technology in our everyday lives. This includes access to both personal and public information, filling in forms, entertainment, corresponding with family and friends, participating in both paid and voluntary work, education and training and social media. We acknowledge the need for clients who are in education, training, job seeking or employment to obtain Accessible Communications and Technology Services (ACATS) as soon as possible.

Therefore, it is now critical that everyone (no matter if we are in paid, unpaid work or participating in life choices), are competent using technology so we can live independently which the Blind Foundation states as its vision for all clients. Although in the past, Blind Citizens NZ has advocated to the Blind Foundation for improved ACATS and we acknowledge, there are pockets within New Zealand where improvement has occurred but further improvement of this service is necessary if blind citizens throughout the country can use technology as at the level of our sighted peers.

Research into the needs of current and future clients shall identify unmet need now and hopefully into the next five or ten years. This will enable the Blind Foundation to identify the amount of resources required to service clients. We acknowledge that clients in employment and seeking employment do require prompt service but it is important that other clients are not being disadvantaged as well. Some Blind Foundation clients may wish to do voluntary work but cannot due to not having the level of technology skills to participate in voluntary work. This form of work can be rewarding and may even assist someone in obtaining paid employment.

The Blind Foundation claims that they will recruit and train ACATS volunteers to support clients who are struggling to learn technology skills. Whilst this scheme may be available in some places, clients in other regions have not heard of any ACATS volunteers working in their area as yet.

We believe that technology is a major need and we want to see the Blind Foundation provide services within ACATS which will enable all clients who need to learn technology skills to gain them.

Member Initiated – Jonathan Godfrey

Evidence is available to support that a minimum of five financial Blind Citizens NZ Ordinary Members support this Remit.

4. That Blind Citizens NZ calls upon NZ on Air to ensure that all television or film productions funded by NZ on Air must include sufficient budget for the creation of audio description and captioning and make sure that provision of these accessibility features becomes a condition of every successful grant application.

Explanation: NZ on Air funds production of many films and television shows using taxpayer money. A small proportion of this content is shown on TVNZ which means there is a chance that it will have audio description when it goes to air.

The purpose of this remit is to demand that audio description becomes a mandatory element of any NZ taxpayer funded television or film production instead of the current system that often means NZ content is not audio described.

As an example of what can happen under the current system: According to www.wikipedia.org, NZ on Air funded four series of a show called “The Brokenwood Mysteries” which was aired on Prime. The production house for audio description did not create any audio description for the show, but did create the captions. The grant for each of four series was in excess of \$4m; the cost of the audio description for each series would have been less than \$10,000 (cost estimate is an upper bound provided by Able on 28/6/19).

This show has been sold on DVD and aired in quite a few countries around the world. Audio description has been created for the show to meet the demands of one of these markets, but here in NZ, we haven't benefitted from having audio description for a show that we paid to have made.

While some people might think audio description is expensive, it is now time we really understood that the relative cost of its production is small and expect it is made for all content.

See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Brokenwood_Mysteries for much more detail about the show and where and when it was aired as well as the actors and other show trivia.

Attachment “E”

National Councillors and Network Representative Reports

Auckland Branch, from Carolyn Peat

This past year has provided our branch with many highlights. We started off with the first presentation of funding from the Helen Mutimer Memorial fund to Kathryn Stevenson at our 2018 annual general meeting. Kathryn received funding to enable her to have trombone lessons and we hear that she is progressing well and recently participated at a public performance. The 2019 recipient was the Four Father’s a band of blind musicians from South Auckland who want to record 7 original songs and launch them at a later event.

Another highlight was the streaming of the 2018 National Conference into Auckland. This was a project that involved our branch, National Office and the Board of Blind Citizens. It also involved a large number of volunteers who assisted through the project and throughout conference with important services like microphone running and catering. We thank everyone involved as this enabled some people to attend their first ever conference.

Public transport is a continuing project for our branch. We have made progress on announcements at train stations, testing of on-board announcements on a couple of bus routes and accessing information on our Hop Cards. You can now get text messages and emails regarding your transactions the day after you take the trip. However the problem of being able to flag down and get on the right bus remains unresolved. We are not at the point of going back to the Human Rights Commission however our patience is being tested. Auckland Transport has decided not to renew our Total Mobility Cards. They have realised that most users have permanent disabilities and rely on the service. However we are not clear on how this will impact usage of our cards outside the Auckland region.

We also wrote to Auckland Council to protest about e-scooters on our footpaths and we published the response in our latest newsletter. One major thing the Council has done is to restrict the speed limits in some high pedestrian areas like Parnell and Newmarket.

Last year we reported that there was a problem with Labtests the organisation you visit for any medical laboratory tests. The system required you to scan a card through a machine and get a number to be called when it was your turn. This was a very visual process and not at all accessible for our community. After a number of meetings and discussions we have reached a compromise. Upon arrival at Labtests approach the counter and wait for a staff member to come to the counter to assist you. We are assured that the wait should be no longer than five minutes.

There have been a number of stories around the proposed future of Awhina House. What we do know is that the plan is to replace Awhina House with a new building that will be only one third of the space we currently have. Our committee initiated a meeting of all the Auckland Blind Consumer Groups to discuss the new facilities with Blind Foundation Management. This will be an important focus for us moving forward.

Speakers at our general meetings covered topics that included emergency preparedness, Blind Foundation Library Services and services from our Community Pharmacy. At our recent annual general meeting Martine Abel-Williamson gave a very interesting presentation on her travels as a blind Woman and her work with the World Blind Union.

Our branch supports the paper by Aine Kelly-Costello about environment and climate change that is on this conference agenda. The paper contains helpful information with links to further reading that we can use as individuals or as an organisation in our advocacy. The history of disaster and emergency management teaches us that disabled people are at the bottom of the heap. we need to claim our rightful place in society whatever may happen in the future.

We continue to have a number of audio described events ranging from musicals, plays, ballet and opera. Our Christmas party is also a very popular event. Our feedback line continues with each member of the committee providing their own unique way of providing news and information to our members. We certainly appreciate the Community Organisation Grants Schemes in our area because they help fund the travel for our members to meetings and our feedback line.

Auckland Branch is fortunate that we have been able to attract younger members to our committee and to take up roles of responsibility. It will be an exciting and challenging year ahead for us.

Wellington Branch, from Carl Halliburton

Greetings members

Wellington Branch has been moving along steadily since the last conference. We have trialled holding our meetings in other areas of the region, for that reason earlier in the year we held a general meeting at the Blind Foundation offices in on the Kapiti Coast which was attended by several members from the area.

Transport

We have continued to a subsidised a taxi van from the Hutt valley to take members to our general meetings, who otherwise would not likely have attended.

Public Transport Audit

Our biggest project at the moment is planning an audit of public transport in the Wellington region. This audit will involve a totally blind and low vision member with a sighted driver checking whether all aspects for public transport meet our needs. We will commence with trains initially checking platforms for signage and accessibility etc; then taking the train and checking how our journey compares to our criteria.

This project is in partnership with Rose Wilkinson and with the support of the Regional Council.

If anyone wishes to find out more please speak to either me or Ina Smart. We can achieve a great deal more if we give local government exact information on what the problems we face are.

Along with the audit we also keep an eye on what is happening with public transport as the failures in the network are fixed, there has been progress in audio announcements on the buses with a test bus currently in operation this will greatly improve our bus journeys.

Members have continued to attend audio described performances at Circa Theatre and others, It is important that members attend these events so as that they continue to be provided.

We sadly had to farewell Ann Bain who has stepped down from the committee after many years of service as an ordinary member, Chair and National Councillor, but will still be around and attending meetings and other events. Our previous Chair Bev McCulloch also moved out of the region up to New Plymouth and I understand the Taranaki Network is pleased to have a very capable and enthusiastic addition to their ranks.

Committee

Chair: Ina Smart

Secretary: Janet Palmer

Treasurer: Owen Palamountain

National Councillor: Carl Halliburton

Ordinary Members

Alan Jones

Shaun Johnson

Whanganui Branch, from Kerri Gorman

On behalf of ABC Whanganui we would like to inform the other branches that we are still having two socials each month which provides entertainment and afternoon tea as well as transport provided for members that have little way of getting to our socials.

Election of Officers

The following people were elected for the new year commencing from 15 August 2019.

Patron: Joan Harris

Chair: David Couling

Vice Chair: To be determined by the incoming committee.

Secretary: John hanna

Treasurer: Bryn Davies

National Councillor: David Couling

Committee: The following members of the Committee were elected:

Rosemary Morgan, Joe Twomey, Jill Winsor, Roger Tuffield, Erica Balsey

Due to their absences, it was agreed that the following members be considered for co-option by the committee at their meeting on the 21 August 2019. Kerri Gorman, Russell Lowry, Michelle Jardine.

Due to recent matters in conjunction with OSH we have implemented a review of safety procedures and the procedures are stated at the commencement at each social by our chairman, David Couling. In addition to this, our safety procedures, we have purchased a new wheel chair to accommodate members with additional disabilities. Chief warden and assistant wardens have been appointed to assist in the event of any evacuation to assist people out to a safe area. In addition to this procedure we record the names of everyone who enters the building to maximize everyone's safety.

For the mid-year gathering, the ABC committee organized lunch for the members and partners at the local Grand Hotel which was a fine occasion.

We acknowledge that the indoor bowlers recently conducted a garage sale at the Blind Centre in Whanganui to raise funds for their up coming national tournament on Labour Weekend.

The indoor bowlers feature as an integral part of Association of Blind Citizens Whanganui and we wish them well for the forthcoming tournament. On behalf of committee members we appreciate the articles in the River City Press to promote the ABC and ABC indoor Bowlers by Marion Hainsworth.

Like most branches our numbers are diminishing although we have been enlightened by the recent additional recruitment of several new members.

All the best

Nelson Branch, from Chrissy Fern

Nelson Branch continues to be politically active and socially engaged, with an enthusiastic and organised committee that is supported by appointed non-members taking on the roles of Secretary and Treasurer.

Over the 2018 – 2019 year Nelson Branch has held eight General Meetings, attended by up to 30 members each time. Firstly we tackle the formal meeting business. Then we host informative speakers on various topics such as Civil Defence Emergency Management and Fire Safety (most relevant because of the forest fires in the Nelson Tasman region this past summer); or entertainment which has included a fun quiz, musicians and singers from The Savage Club, and narration by a short-story writer. To conclude the meeting we always provide afternoon tea and door prizes. We acknowledge the support from individual volunteers and Nelson Soroptimists and Lionesses, in coordinating and providing transport and assisting with catering for our General Meetings.

Each year in September the Vintage Car Club host our meeting at their clubrooms, transporting us in their cherished vehicles. At our General Meeting in October, we welcomed Jonathan Godfrey, National President of Blind Citizens NZ, who gave members an interesting insight into the input and influence that our organisation has on a national political level.

Nelson Branch has arranged audio-described guided tours to exhibitions at the Suter Art Gallery, the Nelson Provincial Museum, and Natureland Wildlife Trust Zoo. The Branch also organised and subsidised a bus trip in November to have lunch at a cafe near Motueka, followed by a viewing of our Treasurer's splendid rose and vegetable gardens. In June a two-course Mid-Winter Mid-Week Lunch at a local restaurant was much enjoyed by members, their families, volunteers and supporters. We have continued to collaborate with the Blind Foundation to run an Accessible Art Group and a Coffee and Chat Group where members can get together monthly for socialisation.

In November the Blind Foundation Annual General Meeting was held in Nelson with eight of our Branch members attending. It was great to have the opportunity to share our concerns and viewpoints with the Board and Staff of the Blind Foundation and receive an immediate response.

Our advocacy work has been ongoing throughout this year with committee members having input into issues of concern to our members by attending quarterly: Access for All Forums run by Tasman District and Nelson City Councils, monthly Community and Whanau Network Meetings run by Volunteer Nelson, the annual Tasman District Positive Ageing Expo, the Nelson City for All Ages Project Launch, and a Community Funders Roadshow. All these events are very worthwhile to enhance our profile locally and network with those who are in a position to take action on our behalf. We value the ongoing collaboration with DeafBlind Association NZ in creating greater community awareness of our aspiration to live in an accessible, equitable and inclusive society.

Nelson Branch would like to thank Tasman District Council for granting us \$1000 funding in the 2018 – 2019 year. This enabled us to continue recording information about our Branch meetings and activities on the Telephone Information Service (TIS), and to subsidise registration and travel for our Chairperson to attend the Blind Citizens NZ 2018 Annual General Meeting and Conference.

In my second year as National Councillor for Nelson Branch, I have endeavoured to ensure that our members are kept up-to-date with the advocacy matters that Blind Citizens NZ is progressing and achieving on a national level.

Otago Network, from Raeleen Smith

Otago network members have participated in a variety of activities. Gillian Adams, Health and Disability Advocate, presented at the Annual Meeting in August; Paula Waby shared her experiences from the World Blind Union meeting in Mongolia at an October meeting; Megan Turnbull presented her soap and scented candle products at a meeting in March. Jonathan Godfrey, National president was the guest speaker at our May meeting. Four local members participated at the National Annual Meeting and Conference held in Wellington in October. Towards the end of November a group enjoyed a pre Christmas meal at the Concord Inn.

Individual members contributed to local disability organisations including Disabled Persons Assembly, Pedestrian Action Group, Access for All and Visually Impaired Charitable Trust Aotearoa. Links were maintained with the Donald Beasley Institute and the Dunedin Eye Department and the Southern District Health Board. Blind Citizens NZ was represented as one of the 50 community groups at a Civic Candle Lighting event in memory of the 50 lives lost in Christchurch. A submission was sent to the Constitution review and links were maintained with National Office. Three newsletters were distributed. Thanks go to National Office for the distribution of the newsletters and to the Blind Foundation for the use of their facilities for our meetings

Southland Branch, from Victor West

Hi everyone and welcome to my report 2018 – 2019.

Undoubtedly the highlight for the branch was the visit by the National President Jonathon Godfrey and Chief Executive Rose Wilkinson for our Annual General Meeting in March. It was an opportunity for the National President to meet with our members to chat.

A Committee member visited the new library where a staff member explained the alterations that had taken place and some of the new features.

For International White Cane Day three members made a presentation to Age Concern. They also visited two schools.

Carolyn Weston hosts The Blind Spot on Access Radio each fourth Tuesday in the month. This programme is generously sponsored by the South City Pharmacy.

I visit rest homes every second month with a volunteer driver Justin.

The CBD Project

Background: Invercargill has big plans for the Centre of the City involving knocking out a whole block to build a mall. This means disruption to the footpaths and to the location of Bus Terminals. We will keep an ear out for further developments.

Andrea Courtney was present at a new members' forum where she gave a short address about the Association and its work.

Our last Annual General Meeting was held at the Waikiwi Tavern where members enjoyed a meal. Our Chair Liz Anstice stood down from the Committee. Liz was thanked for all her work on the Committee.

I would like to thank all members for the work they have done. Also to acknowledge the support of the Waikiwi Lions Club, my volunteer driver Justin and my support person Kevin Fisher for getting me to conference.

South Canterbury Branch, from Donald Hunt

Greetings from South Canterbury.

This report covers the period between the Wellington and Auckland Conferences. During that time the Branch has held four General Meetings, plus the Branch Annual General Meeting and two Committee Meetings. Attendance at meetings has been good, (most times half the paid-up membership being present), considering the size of the Branch.

The highlights of the year were the Branch 40th Birthday/Christmas Party and the Fish and Chip luncheon held at the time of the Branch Annual General Meeting. It was a real pleasure to have Blind Citizens Board representative, Andréa Courtney accompanied by her daughter, at the Dinner celebrating the 40-year milestone. Yours truly, is the only surviving member of that very first meeting on 11 November 1978. All other gatherings were business meetings and they were held in November, March, May and August, at the Blind Centre Timaru. Members are welcome to be accompanied by an escort.

The South Canterbury region has two Blind Foundation districts within its boundary, Timaru and Waimate, both of which cater very well for their members in the way of social activities and outings. Following the recently held (17 August) Branch AGM there were no changes in the Branch Officers or Committee members.

Four separate Newsletters were circulated by National Office on behalf of the Branch, with the large print copies being mailed in an envelope.

Blind Citizens members and volunteers are given a large print calendar without charge.

The Branch's financial position is in a very healthy state and acknowledgement is made to the National Office for the help given to the Secretary/Treasurer Janice. The National Councillor took part in the "hook-up" by the National Councillors' conference telephone calls held during the year.

Guide Dog Handlers Special Interest Network, from Beverley Duncan

Welcome to the first report of the Guide Dog Handlers Special Interest Network. As the majority of the people present at conference know the network was formed in 2017 following the forum that was held in Invercargill of guide dog handlers. John Williams was elected as the coordinator. The email list was set up and phone calls to individuals on the list were made during the first year of the network's existence. However, in October 2018, shortly after the AGM and conference John stood down from coordinating the network for personal reasons and I was duly elected much to my surprise.

We communicate via the email list having had many and varied topics discussed. We have held 3 conference calls, one of which was especially convened to meet with the Guide Dog Service Manager and Operations Manager to have some questions discussed and answers sort. This call was fruitful for network members as many of our questions were answered. Whilst on the said call I was asked to write a short article about the network for the Korero Kuri. The article was published in the July magazine. The Blind Foundation Guide Dog Service is holding a workshop in October and the network has been invited to have several of its members attend.

Statement of purpose for the Guide Dog Handlers' Special Interest Network

The objectives of the group are to:

- disseminate information about Guide Dog services, and the use and care of Guide dogs from a handler's perspective.
- disseminate information on the rights of guide dog handlers.
- be available for consultation on issues relating to guide dogs and the guide dog service.
- reflect the needs, preferences and concerns of Guide Dog handlers.
- advise the Blind Citizens NZ Board on issues relevant to guide dogs.
- draft relevant submissions and other formal statements as may be needed from time to time for approval by the Blind Citizens NZ Board.
- encourage guide dog handlers to support and assist each other by sharing their knowledge and experience of guide dogs. guide dog handlers special interest network.

The membership is growing as we now have over 30 members on the email list. We are looking at different ways to communicate such as using social media, apps, newsletters, and Blind Citizens NZ's national feedback line on the Blind Foundation's telephone information service etc.

If having read this report and you are a current guide dog handler, or on the waiting list for your first guide dog or a replacement dog, or simply interested in guide dogs and the service and you would like to join the network please contact national office for information and to join the Guide Dog Handlers Special Interest Network.

Attachment “F”

Environment and Climate Change

Prepared by Áine Kelly-Costello on behalf of Auckland Branch, with input gratefully received from fellow branch members Latoa Halatau, Martine Abel-Williamson and Mary Schnackenberg

Recommendations

1. That this paper be received;
2. That the 2019 National Annual General Meeting and Conference adopts a position statement on the environment and climate change to form the basis of advocacy to the New Zealand Government and local authorities.

Introduction

Across the world, citizens, politicians, businesses and non-government organisations are increasingly recognising the urgency of the climate crisis that humanity finds itself facing. The five warmest years on record have taken place since 2010 (1). The rate of Antarctic ice melting has tripled since 2010 and the rate of sea-level rise is accelerating every year (1). These changes are largely a result of human activity releasing high levels of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere. (1)

This paper recommends that Blind Citizens NZ adopt a position statement with regard to the environment and climate change, so that when opportunities arise – and they inevitably will – the Chief Executive, Board members and others are able to champion the collective voice of members of Blind citizens NZ on these matters.

I recommend that the following be taken into consideration in developing a position statement, and I am submitting this paper to conference so that members have input into the process.

Context: Environmental and Climate Justice

Environmental and Climate justice provide a framework that connects social justice issues with how we respond to the need to protect our ecosystems, live sustainably and take climate action. It's a lens where we recognise indigenous wisdom and values as integral to the environmental kaupapa. It considers the fact that those who have contributed the least to climate change often bear the brunt of its harshest effects, and also that those working in polluting industries should be given just and equitable transition pathways into other employment. (2)

I suggest that we base a Blind citizens NZ position statement on an environmental and climate justice framework by including this kind of context.

Disaster Response Planning and Management

The frequency and intensity of many kinds of natural disasters is increasing due to climate change. In New Zealand, this particularly means more flooding and droughts. (3) And of course disaster preparedness work also must have a strong emphasis on earthquakes in many parts of the country. It is as such an imperative that this work remains an area of focus and interest to Blind Citizens NZ, particularly through its representation to the world Blind Union (see appendix 1) and Disabled People's Organisations Coalition.

Article 11 Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (4) affirms that the protection and safety of disabled people in natural disasters must be ensured by States Parties. The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) is piloting projects with a view to more fully implementing it.

This work is in partnership with key stakeholders in the Pacific who are mandated to develop response to climate change and disaster resilience plans with finance from development partners. The increasing frequency of cyclones impacting small island countries in recent years has identified a lack of awareness of basic disability needs and basic rights under Article 11. There have been stories from disabled people of inadequate engagement and lack of participation in planning and the post disaster assessment and evaluation processes.

Arising out of these experiences, the PDF has established a specialist team called Pacific Emergency Response Unit (PERU). PERU is to build both capability and capacity to be part of the humanitarian effort across some Pacific island countries who have DPOs established and are members of PDF. The goal is for an inclusive development into humanitarian and Disaster Risk Recovery (DRR) management in response to the unmet identified needs of disabled people impacted by climate related disasters using lessons learned in recent years by better disability inclusive processes at all stages.

PDF is a peak regional disability body with consultative status at the United Nations. PDF has a partnership arrangement with both the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). Blind Citizens NZ is an associate member of PDF. Under Article 32 International Cooperation (5), there is an opportunity for collaboration to share learnings, standards and best practice in Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Reduction under article 11. Blind Citizens NZ may consider reviewing its membership status with PDF as part of its development of a position to strengthen the regional mechanism.

At the national level, disabled people, including blind people, must be consulted on in disaster management strategy planning, including making sure there are strategies in place for all blind people to have access to up-to-date disaster warning systems and other civil defence information.

Even though these events may still feel rare, without ongoing vigilance and appropriate preparation, they are far more likely to cost lives and livelihoods.

Climate Change-related Displacement

With an increase in natural disasters, temperature extremes and sea-level rise, many coastal properties in Aotearoa will become increasingly uninsurable and risky to live in [3]. In a recent example, the Hohepa trust has felt obliged to decide to move its Hawke's Bay residential site, where 60 people with learning disabilities live, due to climate change risks from flooding. (6).

This is a topic that the Government, local councils and insurers are beginning to explore, and Blind citizens NZ will no doubt have an interest in ensuring that members can access all information and support available to the general population on this matter, as well as any blindness-specific support resulting from displacement. In the Pacific Islands, where a joint statement has very recently been released declaring a climate crisis (7), the inevitability of displacement will become a reality in the coming years and decades.

New Zealand's approach to taking in climate migrants should not discriminate against those who are disabled, and should ensure that disability-specific support they may need is available to them. (8) Blind Citizens NZ should keep this issue in mind in the event that the possibility of inputting on it, through the WBU or DPO Coalition, arises.

Transport Advocacy

The need for all countries including New Zealand to play their part in reaching the Paris agreement target of keeping warming below 1.5°C is one reason why we will see hybrid and electric transport options proliferate within the next decade.

We already know that these can pose serious safety concerns for blind people, when not fitted with appropriate sound alerting systems, and in particular when some of them are allowed to share the footpath with pedestrians. It is imperative that we continue to advocate on these fronts, while also recognising and supporting their introduction as an important way for New Zealand to reduce emissions, on the condition that they are only introduced and used in ways that keep everyone, including blind people, safe.

Waste Management

All households have a role to play in reducing the amount of waste we use that ends up in landfill. Waste collection might easily be a mysterious subject for many of us, involving many multi-coloured bins and locally variable collection systems, but it need not be if we have accessible information on it in our preferred format.

The Auckland Branch of Blind Citizens NZ have taken an early and laudable lead, in 2017 developing a guide called *Feeling Rubbish* (9), laying out in detail how to identify and sustainably manage our house-hold waste. Ideally, blind people across the country would all have access to a resource such as this.

Blind Citizens NZ may also be able to advocate through the DPO Coalition for the government's next New Zealand Waste strategy (10) to explicitly reference the need for such access to information.

Eco-friendly Consumer Choices

Blind people should have the same range of options available to us within the consumer market as sighted, and that includes within the domain of eco-friendly products and options. For example, we may be home-owners and want to fit solar panels to our home, and we may find that suppliers, installers and power companies have not yet figured out how to make this process optimally accessible for blind consumers.

Putting it all together

Protecting the environment, and recognising the need for urgent, just and sustainable climate action are issues inextricably linked with many other advocacy areas, as this paper has begun to outline. Having a position statement which recognises this, so that the organisation is easily able to refer to it in a variety of relevant contexts, will give Blind Citizens NZ scope to ramp up playing our collective part, however small, in protecting our ecosystems and planet.

Appendix 1: Thematic Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (TG-DRR)

Stakeholders with disabilities statement to the UN during the Sendai Global Platform on DRR

Notes

This group included World Blind Union representation from Martine Abel-Williamson.

Abbreviations

CRPD: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

DRR: Disaster Risk Reduction

ECOSOC: Economic and Social Council(United Nations)

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

TG-DRR: Thematic Group on Disaster Risk Reduction

UNDESA: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

This statement, presented by Martine in May 2019, is reprinted in the World Blind Union E-Bulletin July 2019.

Statement

Excellencies, civil society colleagues, friends.

Today I speak to you on behalf of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities, the focal point for UNDESA, ECOSOC and the GA for all UN Sustainable Development policies, and a member of the UN Major Groups and other Stakeholders coordination mechanism.

The Stakeholder Group comprises persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, as well as mainstream development and DRR organizations working on disability inclusion.

Since 2015, Member States, UN agencies and civil society have been vocal in their aspirations and commitments arising from the Sendai Framework (11). But commitment without action is hollow.

This week, we have spoken of how to achieve a sustainable and inclusive society for all.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, together with political commitments including the SDGs and the Dhaka Declaration on Disability and Disaster Risk Management tells us how we must and should do this.

The CRPD explicitly states that States are obliged to ensure that all women, men, boys and girls, older persons and indigenous persons with disabilities, living both in rural and urban areas are not left behind in humanitarian emergencies and disasters.

Yet we still remain among the most impacted in all crisis-affected communities, as a result of disasters, conflicts and as a consequence of climate change. We are two to four times more likely to die in a disaster. Women with disabilities are three times more likely to experience sexual violence than their peers without disabilities. Multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination also contribute to our marginalization.

And compounding all of this, we continue to be regarded solely as recipients of aid and beneficiaries of charity, not as actors for change. Our motto is: “Nothing about us, without us”, and the Sendai Framework reflects this as a critical component to achieve inclusive DRR. Yet national DRR strategies continue to exclude us. Target E - the number of national and local disaster strategies to be developed by 2020 – will only contribute to our marginalization if persons with disabilities remain excluded from the design, planning, implementation, assessment and monitoring of these strategies.

Our expertise is critical to your understanding of how to identify and remove the attitudinal, communicational, informational and physical barriers we face, and to inform our collective practice. Removing barriers for persons with disabilities establishes a society which is inclusive for everyone.

There are clear steps that can be taken now by Member States, UN agencies and all relevant stakeholders to achieve this, before, during and after disasters:

- Partner **with**, consult, empower and actively engage persons with disabilities and our representative organizations to ensure our full inclusion and meaningful participation.
- Collect, analyze and apply data, disaggregate by disability, as well as gender and age, using the Washington Group Short Set of Questions and the UNICEF Child Functioning Module.
 - Report on the situation of persons with disabilities using the Sendai monitoring mechanism, as well as the CRPD, treaty body and 2030 Agenda monitoring mechanisms and commitments contained in the Dhaka Declaration.
 - Collectively build our technical, financial and human resources to ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities, mainstream organizations, UN agencies, governments, donors, and other relevant stakeholders have the capacity and knowledge to develop and implement DRR strategies that are truly inclusive of persons with disabilities.
 - Utilize our knowledge and experience to enhance the second-generation resilient society with accessible technology and assistive devices.

The inclusive and sustainable world we want will only be built if we work together.

We welcome the efforts to mainstream disability across stakeholder groups and the UN system and urge you to work with us—we have the knowledge and expertise to inform inclusive and accessible approaches that will ensure equality for all persons with disabilities.

We, persons with disabilities are not inherently vulnerable. Society places us in vulnerable situations. Realizing DRR strategies inclusive of persons with disabilities requires a change—and we are ready to work with you to achieve this.

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Attachment “G”

Blind Citizens NZ’s Preparation for the Blind Foundation’s New Strategic Plan

The Board of Blind Citizens NZ is beginning to gather feedback from members to inform its direction and thinking in preparation for input to the Blind Foundation’s next Strategic Plan.

The Board is utilising Blind Citizens NZ’s “The RNZFB at a Glance” document, as a starting point, and it is included here. Adopted by Blind Citizens NZ’s 2010 Annual General Meeting and Conference, the RNZFB at a Glance document lists the most important statements that captured at the time, the essence of what members agreed it expected from the Blind Foundation. Even though the document has been in existence for several years, the Board believes many of the topics remain relevant. Additionally, as members/ insights and feedback are gathered, this provides an ideal opportunity to update “The RNZFB at a Glance” document.

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Inc

The RNZFB at a Glance

Blind People Speaking for Ourselves

Introduction

Founded in 1945, the Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Inc (Association) is New Zealand's leading blindness consumer organisation and one of the country's largest organisations of disabled consumers. The Association's aim is to heighten awareness of the rights of blind and vision impaired people and to remove the barriers that impact upon our ability to live in an accessible, equitable and inclusive society.

In the context of this document, the word "blind" encompasses all those who are blind, deafblind or have a vision impairment that significantly impacts on their ability to function normally in all walks of everyday life. The term "accessible formats" refers to the various means by which blind people access information other than through standard print, i.e. large print, Braille, audio and electronic devices, email and the telephone. The term "member" means a person who is a registered member of the Foundation.

Blind people accept that we live in a highly visual world. While we continue to work towards the world being as accessible as it can be for us and for people with other disabilities, we recognise that we still need access to specialised services that teach us the essential skills we need to function in the world around us. The Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind is the primary provider of the essential blindness-related services needed by blind people in New Zealand. As a modern disability service provider, the Foundation must not only respond to the needs and aspirations of blind people as its consumers but must also uphold the principle that it works in partnership with us to provide the services we need.

That partnership with consumers is maintained through consumer organisations such as this Association.

The following is a brief list of what the Association feels are the most important statements that capture the essence of what we expect from the Foundation. It is distilled from our various policy decisions made by our members that are reflected in our submissions to the Foundation over a number of years.

This document is not to be interpreted as a list of concerns. In fact we feel the Foundation does perform reasonably well in the majority of the identified areas. Rather, this document is intended as a check-list of the most fundamental areas in which we will be assessing the Foundation's performance.

Governance and Culture

The Foundation will maintain a governance culture that:

- emphasises dialogue with consumer organisations and members in general;
- upholds principles of openness, accountability and transparency of decision making;
- encourages a wide range of people to stand for election to the Board of Directors;
- ensures the electorate is fully able to access all the information people need to cast a fully informed vote;
- ensure that key decisions that impact on members are made in the spirit of a meaningful and productive partnership between the Foundation and consumer organisations.

Relationship with Members and Consumer Organisations

The Foundation will:

- have a culture throughout all levels of the organisation that ensures members are not patronised but are treated with dignity and respect;
- recognise the benefits of encouraging members to share information and support each other;

- provide information to members on the existence of consumer organisations and generally encourage and facilitate members to join;
- provide mechanisms that allow consumer organisations to attract and encourage members.

Services

The Foundation will provide:

- rehabilitation and support services that inspire and teach us to be fully independent and self-directing, ie, how to safely carry out common household tasks and move around in the home and out in the urban and wider environments;
- communications services that utilise the full range of available technology to enable us to learn communication skills such as braille and using adaptive technology, so we can access and manage information and have better access to the world of literature;
- a library and information service that recognises and responds to the information gaps we face, by:
 - ✓ first encouraging publishers to publish their works (books and magazines) in open-standard accessible formats so we can access them directly,
 - ✓ creating open-standard accessible format copies of other works as much as can be done within the resources available,
 - ✓ and making such works available to us in a timely and efficient manner;
- an equipment service that actively seeks a wide range of specialised blindness related and generally useful equipment from around the world, and which promotes and markets this equipment to blind people throughout the country in such a way that we are fully informed customers.

The Foundation will deliver these and other services in a timely and efficient manner to members wherever they live throughout the country.

Fundraising and Funding

The Association fundamentally believes that the essential services needed by blind people so we can become fully productive citizens of Society should be Government funded and not be dependent on charity. We accept however that the Foundation must fill any short-fall in Government funding by carrying out a major programme of public fundraising.

The Foundation will ensure in all its fundraising activities that it upholds the dignity of blind people and portrays us as productive citizens who are fully able to contribute to Society.

The Foundation recognises that its public image and fundraising activities benefit the blind community as a whole, and it will fund consumer organisations at a level that recognises the genuine benefits we bring to the blind community and the contribution we make to the wider public perception of the Foundation as a successful organisation.

Attachment “H”

Representative Appointments

Introduction

The Board has the delegated authority to make appointments to national representative positions. Where practicable, the Board makes those decisions at its Annual Planning Meeting. For informational purposes, the Board informs the Annual General Meeting and Conference of the appointments it has made.

The Board remains mindful that Conference is the supreme governing body of Blind Citizens NZ. It acknowledges that Conference may question and / or overturn any of its decisions. In the event Conference may not support a Board decision, it has the authority to oppose an appointment and make its own.

Appointments made in the past 12 months

The Board has made one appointment since the 2018 Annual General Meeting and Conference.

- 1. Ministry of Health Disability Directorate Consumer Consortium:** In August 2017, Mary Schnackenberg was appointed to this position for a two-year term. A representative may serve two successive two-year terms on this Consumer Consortium. The Board has reappointed Mary Schnackenberg for a further two-year term, which concludes after the second annual meeting in 2021.

Attachment “I”

Celebrating 75 Years – 2020 Annual General Meeting and Conference

Preparation for 2020

Blind Citizens NZ celebrates 75 years in 2020, and plans are well underway for this celebratory occasion. Venues in both Christchurch and Nelson are under consideration for the weekend of Friday 9 to 11 October inclusive. The Board will reach a decision about the most suitable venue during its November meeting.

Speakers, Topics, and Theme

The Board has publicised to members in Focus issues, its desire to receive ideas for speakers (and the topic they might talk to), and a theme. There have been some suggestions received, and there will be an opportunity at this year’s AGM and Conference, to share ideas and discuss this a little more. Attendees should come prepared with ideas to put forward when this discussion happens. Then, when it meets in November, the Board will consider all suggestions in conjunction with the programme for this celebratory occasion.

From its call for ideas, the Board welcomed Clive Lansink’s offer to put together a presentation of recordings of notable events relevant to Blind Citizens NZ history, going back to the 1950s. Attendees will hear a little more about this first project from Clive first hand, when discussion around 2020 topics and presenters, happens.

Documenting the past 25 years

Greg Newbold authored Quest for Equity, which is all about Blind Citizens NZ’s first 50 years (1945-1995). Already, he has begun reviewing records and documentation in readiness for writing about the next 25 years.

Broadly referred to as “A history of blindness advocacy in New Zealand”, 1995-2020”, Greg will have ideas for a title as his work progresses. He will be present for some of this year’s AGM and Conference to hear first-hand from attendees, and everyone will have an opportunity to hear from him too...