



Muscular Dystrophy
New Zealand

Information about National Council Nominees 2018

Brent Walker nominated for Councillor at large

Hi everyone,

I am a 24-year-old guy living in Hamilton and I have Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) type 2. I moved out of home about 3 years ago and live in my own place and manage all my supports and funding myself through the recent development of Enabling Good Lives (EGL). I have put my uni studies on hold and have instead focused on working in the disability sector and living life. I have had the chance to contribute to the system transformation and EGL development working with Ministry of Health and EGL team members



I have spent a year on the National Council of MDANZ, after being appointed to fill a casual vacancy in April 2017. I am now re-standing for a two year term as a Councillor at large. Being on the governance group, I have enjoyed sharing my unique perspective, meeting new people and learning about how this organisation runs.

I have also become involved in the first SMA Member Reference Group and like offering my help wherever I can. An important issue for our community at the moment is advocating for medicines access for new treatments and I'm glad to be part of that conversation.

In my spare time I enjoy getting out and about, going to concerts and having fun.

Thanks for your consideration.



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Scott Laurenson - nominated for Councillor at large



I am a 27 year old small business owner who was born, and still live in the sunny far north in Kaitaia. For the past decade I've operated Laurenson Technology, my business in Computer Electronics, from my home town.

I have an undiagnosed form of Muscular Dystrophy Congenital Myopathy, and have an in-depth wealth of experience in Muscular Dystrophy and a keen interest in charity organisations.

My late sister also had the same condition as I and sadly died aged 11 from Pneumonia in 1987. I too had Pneumonia at the same age, and spent eight weeks in intensive care at Starship children's hospital during that time. Thankfully I got the right treatment and survived.

My vision for the coming decade, is for MDANZ and our members as a group to achieve a closer step of discovery for treatments, to proactively pursue positive relationships with pharmaceutical organisations, and to find ways to work with government to ensure more to benefit our members.

In my spare time I love reading, researching and keeping up to date with anything in science.

I look forward to serving you our members as Councillor on National Council.



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Scott Boyle - nominated for Rangatahi Representative

Hello, my name is Scott Boyle. I'm a 23 year old man from Christchurch whom has been eager to become more involved within the MDA and disability community for a few years now, though unfortunately have never really known where to start. At the moment I am an aspiring novelist and am currently writing the first book of a rather lengthy trilogy, with several other projects in the works. I have a great love for history and storytelling. Whether it be a novel, video game, film, or television show, if it has a good story then I'll dive right on into it.



As I live with Spinal Muscular Atrophy I know full well the day to day challenges and worries that people suffering from neuromuscular disorders endure.

I have always viewed these struggles as a means of us gaining perspective on the world, on other people, and help to determine what it is exactly that matters to us. We are uniquely capable of solving problems and looking at things in ways that most people would not fathom, and that is partly a product of our 'disadvantages'.

It's these beliefs that make me want to step up to the plate and help the community in any way that I can. Though I am young I have several ideas that I am hoping will one day be implemented by the MDA to further help our people even more and aid in the goal of raising awareness. Having a position on the committee would enable me to pitch these ideas, voice my opinion as a younger member of the association, and aid other members in the launching of other projects.