

Carers Survey

We decided to survey MDANZ members before meeting with the New Zealand Carers Alliance to discuss the Carers Strategy. Your feedback helped to shape our discussion point as the meeting.

MDANZ is a member of the NZ Carers Alliance, established in November 2004. The NZ Carers Alliance is a consortium of more than 40 national not for profits striving for better support and recognition for New Zealand's 420,000+ family/whānau carers.

But first a little more about the history! In 2004, there was a call for a Carers' Strategy, and in April 2008 the Alliance achieved this goal when the then-Labour government launched the first ever New Zealand Carers' Strategy and five year Action Plan. In March 2014 a new five year Action Plan was developed. The Carers Alliance are now in discussions the government with a view to developing a

third action plan when the current one finishes next year.

The results of the questionnaire showed that the key areas of focus for MDANZ members were Carer supports and payment for family carers. Both have been in the media recently. Writer, Dara McNaught wrote about how surprised she was to find out about the low rate of pay for carers who provided respite to [her friend's child](#). However, this article doesn't discuss the Government's plan to release funding as a flexible respite budget to provide further options to families. [Click here](#) for further information.

Advocate, Red Nicholson discusses the blurring of lines between 'natural support' and families/spouses providing necessary support which is often placed under the same banner. He felt as many

people do that family members are unfairly discriminated against as they can not be paid the same way other carers can. To read more [click here](#).

Another key issue raised in the survey was that many of you would like the Government to recognise all the hours of unpaid support each parent/spouse/family member provides. Carers NZ has created the She Cares campaign has been launched and will run for a year. It is designed to keep these issues in the spotlight and is advocating for better supports for carers. Also, to acknowledge each person's hard work and She Cares campaign is offering each of you a free info and pamper pack. [Click here](#) for more information.

We thank you for all your input and will keep you informed of any further developments.