

REPORT TO THE A.G.M. 2006

PUBLIC ISSUES

"The Public Issues Team" has continued in a low key way. It is strong mainly as a place holder should there be a sudden need for this group.

This could happen in two ways. One is that there is some Public Issue that really grabs & invites full discussion in NZAP. Another is that one of the members or a new member becomes ready, willing and able to do the spirit of this work justice.

If here at the AGM you are thinking - "there is so much this committee could do"! Please come and join us.

What we have been doing has been worth while. We have occasionally had letters from members or others in the health profession, seeking a response from NZAP. Mostly these came to us from Paul as President. We discuss and draft a report which can then be used by Paul in his response.

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There is an area where we have been pro-active and made a good transition.

I would like to thank Kirsty Robertson who has for many years now collated and distributed an email Public Issues Bulletin. She gave notice a while back that she would resign that position after this Conference.

Thanks Kirsty for your excellent dedicated work!

We now have a new email address for the Public Issues Bulletin. It will be distributed by email like before - but they will all be on the web as well. We can also store relevant documents and photos on the site. This is part of the OnlineGroup site that also hosts several committees and the Council online discussions.

The 120 or so people who were on Kirsty's mailing list have been added to the new format. There is an invitation for everyone to do so, and they are available here now, and at the registration desk.

I will collate that Bulletin briefly, however there will be a position vacant coming up soon.

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There is another aspect of the Public Issues group that I'd like to mention. We have 6 people on the committee, plus Elaine O'Keefe,

Eileen Birch
Kirsty Robertson
Rhona Carson

Siobhan Collins
Susan Hawthorne
Walter Logeman

We have a discussion group and occasionally we have some reflective times. What is NZAP's role in Public Issues? How "Public" do we want to be? What often comes up is that simply doing our psychotherapy job well is the most potent social development thing we do.

This year, unless something more immediate stirs us I'd like us to deepen that discussion about the political and progressive nature & potential of psychotherapy. If this appeals make yourself known to us and we may be able to invite you onto the committee.

We have another task this year. Council has suggested all committees clarify their purpose and protocol in a Memorandum of Understanding endorsed by the Council. We will be working on that.

Walter Logeman