



Tena koutou katoa te whānau o Deaf Action,

He hono tangata e kore e motu; ka pa he taura waka e motu. Unlike a canoe rope, a human bond cannot be severed.

Welcome to our 6th AGM

Ko Kim tōku ingoa,

This week is the end of Te Wiki o te Reo Māori. It's good to see Te Reo Māori grow in the NZSL community. Te Reo Māori must be accessible to all as Deaf want to learn. It's everyone's responsibility to make this happen.

I would like to thank and acknowledge each member and our committee for continuing to raise issues to make NZ a better place to live for all Deaf people.

I would like to thank the committee for their guidance on matters pertaining to issues Deaf face daily.

This year, NZ Deaf community and Deaf Action NZ have been actively challenged by a whole new Covid19 era of barriers we need to find solutions for.

We have:

- Successfully advocated the NZS 4512 & 4514 on Fire Alarms to be updated to include Visual Alerting Devices.
- Delivered NZSL classes in Whangarei in partnership with a NZSL teaching organisation.
- Delivered a series of Livestreams with DeafRadio covering General Elections and Covid19 issues.
- Delivered a Petition to fully fund NZSL access to Public Holidays to Parliament in partnership with Tū Tāngata Turi.
- Continued to advocate for NZSL access to TV News, Elections, Civil Defence and Airline Cabin Safety Videos.

- Launched a video series of the Kiwi in NZSL.
- Delivered a series of funded projects for Whangarei District Council, Auckland Council and Ministry of Health.

Deaf Action committee has been having internal discussions on reforming the way our committee is structured and governed.

Deaf Action is a growing organisation. We need to change the way we operate to adapt to today's climate, legally, socially, financially etc.

It is necessary to be in a healthy position to campaign better with a stronger backing from the community. Deaf Action is seeking to create an active partnership with Māori Turi to bring in a positive change to the NZ Deaf community. e.g Supporting the advocacy for more Trilingual interpreters, fully funded NZSL trilingual tutors.

Some of the advocacy work will require us to petition to Parliament to make changes happen. The community as whole must challenge the government on every aspect of our accessibility - Health, Employment, Education, Family, Politics etc. The more petitions we do, the more action we can create to rightfully have full access to all spheres of our lives.

NZSL must be well funded with a better infrastructure to manage our language for future generations.

The current funding and infrastructure isn't fit for purpose as Deaf are constantly frustrated with funding agencies to access all spheres of society. We need a radical change.

I would like to give a special thanks to Lynette Southey-Ray for her work as Treasurer for Deaf Action. I also would like to give special thanks to Ian Ray for his work on the committee. Thank you so much for your work and we wish you both well.

I would like to thank Connecting Interpreting, Wordsworth Interpreting, Eye Films, DeafRadio for your support in making Deaf Action advocacy successful.

Ngā mihi

Kim Robinson MNZM
Chairperson
Deaf Action NZ

19th September 2021