

BOARD CHAIR DONNA JUJNOVICH'S REPORT TO THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HEART KIDS NZ INCORPORATED

Tēnā koutou katoa

Purpose mixed with passion

I am a strong believer in purpose. Our purpose, *Heart Kids NZ is the compass to help our members and their families and whānau navigate their heart journey throughout life*, runs deep within our people, and I want to start by acknowledging their work. As I look around our organisation, I am impressed. I see a team of volunteers and staff who have a desire to see Heart Kids NZ make a positive difference and are proud of their part that they play in our progress.

Our two-year recovery from Covid has become three years. The recovery has not been easy, but the groundwork has been laid for the next stage of our journey. The Board appreciates the effort and change for what we needed to achieve. Without our team's passion and commitment, we could not have reset our organisation and invested in a future which will create a more resilient Heart Kids NZ.

The 2022 year saw changes to the Board as we farewelled Board Members; Jennifer Scott, Mike Green, Rebecca Horgan, Kelly Douglas, Lisa Oakley & Craig McDowell. I would like to acknowledge and thank you all for your dedication and service to Heart Kids. To fill the Board's vacant positions, it was my pleasure to welcome Neven Harland, Katie McCrae, Arna Craig & Rachel Lovelock.

Plans

The building blocks to create a truly successful Heart Kids NZ have been put in place over the past 12 months. For example, we are:

- Delivering our Strategic Plan 2021 to 2025.
- Progressing with the constitution review mandated by the new Incorporated Societies Act (passed into law on 5 April 2022);
- Investing in new database software to manage our member details. We have completed selection & begun user testing of this software; and
- Establishing an Ambassador programme to promote Heart Kids NZ.

These significant pieces of work set us up for an exciting future for a stronger Heart Kids NZ.

As Heart Kids NZ's Chair, I believe a key role of the Board is to ensure our strategy remains fit for purpose. Our operating environment is challenging and intensified by lasting Covid-19 effects, extreme weather events, difficult economic environment, and talent scarcity. With this as our backdrop, we need to keep our eyes forward and support Ruth and her team to encourage new and different ways of thinking.

Upweighting the strategy function within Heart Kids NZ will help us explore and test new ideas that could shape our organisation going forward. We must also harness the passion of our people and use it to further build a culture focused on performance.

Partnerships

The strength of community and partnerships stands out for me and, on behalf of the Board, I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, donors, patrons, ambassadors, partners, volunteers, health professionals, branches and staff for their support and contributions throughout the year.

He moana pukepuke e ekengia e te waka. *A choppy sea can be navigated by a waka.* Individuals, whānau and communities, together we can ensure our vision & purpose are achieved no matter what the external conditions are.

I am excited and energised by what comes next for Heart Kids NZ. Thank you for your ongoing support for our journey together.

Donna Jujnovich

Chairman – Heart Kids New Zealand Inc.