



The 2022/23 financial year presented a number of challenges. Funding continued to be tight, with high levels of demand for the limited funds available. Once again, Jonathan Bhana-Thomson spearheaded the process of applying for grants and he was assisted by our Office Administrator, Halina Skrzynska. The Committee gratefully acknowledges the efforts of Jonathan and Halina in lodging grant applications that, collectively, closed the gap in our budget and allowed us to complete the year with a modest operating profit.

Product sales have continued at the higher level achieved in the prior year, largely due to sales of the Freestyle Libre glucose monitoring devices. However, as the margin on those devices is tiny, these increased sales made a negligible contribution to profitability. Nevertheless, we continue to offer those devices as a service to our members. It is worth noting that Pharmac appears to be reviewing its earlier assessment that it wouldn't fund continuous glucose monitoring devices (CGM). An tender was issued by Pharmac in July 2023 that included a request for supply of CGMs for people with type-1 diabetes. However, the tender noted that "*The funding of CGMs through this RFP will depend on the bids received and the amount of available funding from Pharmac's fixed budget.*"

The vision for the Society is that Diabetes Wellington be recognised as the premier provider of complementary support services to people with diabetes in the Wellington region.

We report the following outcomes under a number of the strategic plan objectives:

### 1. Provide quality information and services

We use a variety of communication channels, including:

- Our quarterly printed newsletter **Diabetes News**, delivered to all of our members.
- **Monthly updates**, sent by email to those members for whom we hold email addresses.
- Our **Facebook page**, used for alerting members and others to upcoming events, changes in stock (e.g. stock shortages and/or replenishments) and other *ad hoc* announcements.
- The **website** ([diabeteswellington.org.nz](http://diabeteswellington.org.nz)) provides information about the Society, how to join/renew, offers an online shop and information about diabetes and the associated risks.

This year the newsletter has been financially supported by One Foundation Trust, with mailing costs contributed to by the T G Macarthy Trust.

We also undertake advertising that is either educational, aimed at attracting members, or alerting people to what is on offer. In that we are supported by Google, which offers a generous free advertising budget to not-for-profits that meet its criteria. We also provide a series of pamphlets full of information on various aspects of living with diabetes and how to better manage the condition and minimise, or delay the onset of, the complications.

### 2. Represent members' interests within Wellington and the health sector

The lack of a field officer has meant that the outreach activities she used to undertake have not occurred in the past financial year (e.g. talks with organisation such as retirement villages and service clubs). Given the difficulties in finding a replacement field officer, the Committee has undertaken a thorough review of the existing strategic plan with the aim of identifying the core services that DWI should be providing and how best to deliver those. That has identified a

continued need to deliver those field officer services and we intend to move forward on that as soon as we are able. In the meantime, enquiries for field officer-type support have been serviced on a volunteer basis.

We have carried out several **Education** initiatives over the year which included a presentation by Tutangi Amataiti at last year's AGM on current thinking about nutrition for those with diabetes and a stall at the Petone Fair which was used as an opportunity to provide information to interested members of the public.

**The Information Centre** is open between 10 am and 4 pm weekdays at Anvil House for support and information. The centre also has a wide range of diabetes-related products for sale. Funding for the various operating and/or capital costs of the Centre was supported by the Lion Foundation, Wellington City Council, COGS Wellington, Brian Whiteacre Trust, and the Lottery Grants Board. The T G Macarthy Trust assisted with the Centre's telecommunications costs.

### **3. Be financially sustainable**

#### **Membership**

The Society has experienced a drop-off in membership over the past couple of years, in part due to the membership being skewed to people of advance years and in part due to an increase in those not responding to renewal requests. This is curious given that product sales have grown (ignoring the increased turnover due to sales of CGM devices). Many of the online customers aren't members of the Society and that indicates we may need to adopt the approach utilised by Diabetes Christchurch which is to increase prices across the board and offer discounts for members (i.e. member pricing would effectively remain the same, but those who are free riding on the low prices of our products would pay more).

#### **Other fund raising events**

We took the opportunity to manage the carparking at the Harbourside Sunday Market on a couple of Sundays in October. Wellington City offers charities and sports clubs the opportunity to manage the carpark adjacent to the market as a fundraiser. While a portion of the funds collected goes to the Council, the majority comes to Diabetes Wellington. We offer our gratitude to the volunteers who took shifts throughout the respective days, and to Wellington City for the opportunity.

#### **Obtaining grant funding**

Each year there is a significant gap between the forecast revenue in our budget (e.g. sales, member subscriptions and any other known income) and the forecast expenses in the budget. In common with many other charities and incorporate societies, that requires us to secure grant funding to bridge the gap. While that was done successfully in the past year, we acknowledge that the burden has fallen heavily upon Jonathan and we need to lighten his load considerably in the future.

#### **Acknowledgements**

The Society gratefully acknowledges the assistance and support received during the year from so many quarters, in particular:

- the Committee members who volunteer their time to run our organisation;
- the volunteers who assist at the Centre and at fairs and fundraising events;

- our Newsletter editor, Jonathan Bhana-Thomson, who has been a stalwart in this role for many years;
- our Office Administrator, Halina, who has been the face of Diabetes Wellington for the past year and provided great support and assistance to members; and, of course
- our members, who are DWI's *raison d'être*.

As a charity, Diabetes Wellington depends on donations and grant funding for its continued existence. We are very grateful for the donations made by members that have helped provide services. We are also deeply grateful to the numerous organisations that have provided grants to fund projects, products and equipment, and have been our financial backbone.

## Our Valued Funders



Brian Whiteacre  
Trust

Betty Campbell  
Accommodation  
Assistance