

## Appendix D – Diabetes New Zealand Inc.

[www.diabetes.org.nz](http://www.diabetes.org.nz)

Diabetes New Zealand Inc. is an Incorporated Society established in February 1962. The objective of the organisation is to act as a national focal point for members and other interested parties affected by diabetes in New Zealand by:

- Encouraging local support
- Acting as an advocate
- Raising the level of awareness of diabetes, especially concerning life styles that reduce its incidence of complications
- Educating people and informing people about diabetes, its treatment and prevention
- Empowering people with diabetes to choose healthy lifestyles
- Supporting and advocating for research into the treatment, prevention and cure of diabetes

DNZ is a non-government non-profit organisation. DNZ is governed by an elected Council and National Executive and employs one fulltime Chief Executive and two part-time staff. The National office is based in Wellington.

DNZ has approximately 12,000 members\*, the majority of which belong to one of the 35 diabetes societies throughout New Zealand. A nominal amount of between \$20.00 and \$35.00 is charged annually for membership to a local society. Approximately 2000 members choose to belong directly to NZ for an annual fee of \$26.00. Corporations or companies may also join.

DNZ is funded by members' capitation fees, direct members fees, donations, grants and bequests and operates a diabetes product distribution and mail order service offering a wide range of diabetes-related products for the benefit of people with diabetes. Prices are discounted for members but the scheme is open to everyone.

In 1994 DNZ established the Diabetes Supply Scheme (DSS) which now employs six people and is based in Oamaru. The DSS provides blood glucose meters, finger pricking devices and blood glucose testing strips free-of-charge to people with diabetes who have a Community Services or High User Card. Others who are not entitled to card benefits have to pay a nominal amount for the blood glucose strips. The DSS has a turnover of approximately \$5million and is the major trading activity of DNZ.

The Diabetes Supply Scheme distributes a very wide range of excellent and regularly updated educational leaflets and books and operates an 0800 number (0800-342238) for information. The website [www.diabetes.org.nz](http://www.diabetes.org.nz) provides information on the diabetes and products available through the Diabetes Supply Scheme in New Zealand.

Diabetes New Zealand is a contributing member of the Western Pacific Region of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) a membership organisation for all diabetes consumer groups throughout the world. It is thus a direct member of the IDF which now represents 120 countries and works closely with the chronic diseases division of WHO in Geneva.

'Diabetes Breakthrough' is a professionally presented, quarterly magazine which is distributed to over 15,000 people-these include members and health professionals.

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\* It is calculated that far more people than this "pass through" the diabetes societies as many newly diagnosed people may only remain members for 5-10 years.

