

ISANA NZ Newsletter – 9th March 2018

Dear Members and Friends of ISANA NZ,

2018 has really got underway and everyone I talk to seems to be busy with the new crop of international students, or alternatively, hiding from some of the old crop or welcoming them back. However, despite the issues of overwork that seem to be so common at this time of year, I hear the refrain that these are a lovely bunch of new students. It's great to be starting off with such a positive vibe and it reminds me this is why we do the jobs we do – it's the people we serve and the satisfaction we gain from serving and supporting them. So go well into 2018.

Now for some ISANA news. The details of our International Student Wellbeing Strategy (ISWS) project are starting to become clearer and will affect our programme for this year. The following notes are to help your planning. These are just overview notes as many details will be put in place once the project coordinator takes up the role.

- 1) Professional Development Days
- 2) Mental Health First Aid Training
- 3) ISANA NZ Symposium
- 4) Membership Fees Changes
- 5) ISANA NZ's Charitable Trust
- 6) Community Engagement Initiatives
- 7) NZQA Code: Review and Update of Guidelines

1) Professional Development Days

These are planned for the following dates and locations, subject to confirmation:

- June 2018: Hamilton and Auckland
- Early August or late July 2018: Dunedin and Bay of Plenty
- September 2018: Auckland and Hawkes Bay
- October 2018 (latter half): Palmerston North and Christchurch
- November 2018: Wellington and Nelson

Indicative cost for PD Days is set at \$80 for ISANA members and \$150 for non-members (costs are exclusive of GST).

2) Mental Health First Aid Training

In addition ISANA NZ and Wintec are providing opportunities for mental health first aid training through five regionally based 2-day training events. These will be co-located with PD training in Auckland, Hamilton, Dunedin, Wellington and Christchurch. Each two-day training will be open to up to 15 persons who have roles with in providers that regularly put them in a place where mental health first aid would be a very helpful skill to have. The Ministry of Education's ISWS initiatives are funding all places in these training programmes.

Any costs associated with attending the two day programme such as accommodation and travel should be funded by your provider. Registration information for these programmes will be available once dates and venues are finalised. All places are available on a first come first served basis. A news bulletin will be sent out when the registration portal is live and available for use.

3) ISANA NZ Symposium

Other events are on the horizon, including a symposium that would showcase research and practise associated with international student wellbeing. The symposium will contribute to our knowledge base and understanding as to how we can ensure the international student wellbeing strategy grows legs and moves forward for the benefit of our international students.

4) Membership Fees Changes

ISANA NZ has had to register for GST to meet government requirements. We will now be charging GST on membership fees. In addition, membership fees will also be raised for the first time in over 10 years, but rounded off once GST is added. The revised fee structure is set at:

Individual Fees (GST inclusive):

Type	Duration	Fee
Tertiary sector membership	One year	\$150
	Two years	\$270
School sector membership	One year	\$100
	Two years	\$180
Student membership	One year	\$70

Institutional membership (GST inclusive):

An institutional membership provides a further discount for multiple members and allows the institution to change designated membership when staff change roles or leave and are replaced. In addition, the institution may nominate someone in addition to their members as the institution's ISANA liaison person.

Type	No. of members	Fee
Tertiary institution	Up to 5 members	\$650
	Up to 10 members	\$1,200
School	Up to 5 members	\$280
	Up to 10 members	\$520
Other Institutions*	Up to 5 members	\$650
	Up to 10 members	\$1,200

*Other institutions are defined as businesses or other organisations associated with international education who desire multiple staff memberships. Individual memberships are also open to members of such organisations at the individual membership rate.

These fees will be charged as per the above from 1 April 2018. Membership renewals before that date will be at the 2017 rates.

5) ISANA NZ's Charitable Trust

A few years ago ISANA NZ set up a charitable trust to be used to process funds in support of our charitable objects. This trust is able to receive donations and provide tax deductible receipts. More information about it will be provided in future. Suffice to say that consideration is given to support charitable needs of international students and staff working in the sector where their education provider is unable to provide support or there is insufficient support, and this includes attending training events. Part of our project with the ISWS will be assisted by our charitable trust and any funds in surplus from the project will become part of the support funding for the trust. Grants in support of initiatives stemming from our ISWS project will be made from this trust. The next item will give you an understanding of some of the initiatives for which grants can be provided.

6) Community Engagement Initiatives

Under the ISWS project, ISANA NZ has received a grant to provide training to help implement initiatives that would assist international students to engage more widely within New Zealand communities. ISANA NZ will be providing training for communities, as well as staff and students of education providers who wish to develop community engagement initiatives that lead to greater inclusion within our communities.

For those who receive this training, there is the possibility of receiving a grant in support of a promising initiative they wish to undertake. This is open to any proposed initiative that is well crafted and initiated by an ISANA NZ member with relevant experience and training or by persons who have received the training from the ISWS community engagement training project being led by ISANA NZ.

There will be more specific information about this forthcoming. In the meantime, if you wish to make enquiries for more details to help your thinking and planning, please do so in the first instance to isananz@gmail.com by providing contact information (including a phone number) and one of the team associated with the project will get back to you. Feel free to frame any questions you have in the enquiry.

Community engagement initiatives that can qualify for grants may be small or large initiatives but must be able to address the elements of welcome and inclusion within the wider community. There may be an initiative that has a group of international students on your campus reaching out to the local community and/or domestic students, or even vice versa. Funding available for such programmes will depend on the proposed initiative

indicating good prospects of success in terms of engagement and inclusion, as well as showing those involved have received training for intercultural engagement or have already recognised capacity in that regard.

7) NZQA Code: Review and Update of Guidelines

ISANA NZ has been invited to provide persons as part of further reference working groups to review the Code. There are 4 areas being looked at and the following persons will represent us in the workshops on the 15th and 16th March, and thereafter, liaise with the respective working groups work by email.

Group 1 – Outcomes 1 and 2 (marketing and promotion; managing and monitoring agents);
Anne Henwood (Email: ahenwood@pakuranga.school.nz)

Group 2 – Outcomes 3 and 4 (offers, enrolment, and contracts; immigration matters);
Sylvia Hooker (Email: S.D.Hooker@massey.ac.nz)

Group 3 – Outcomes 5, 6, and 7 (orientation; safety and well-being; student support, advice, and services);
Chris Beard (Email: chris.beard@vuw.ac.nz)
Lesley McDonald (Email: L.F.McDonald@massey.ac.nz)

Group 4 – Outcomes 8, 9, and 10 (managing withdrawal and closure; dealing with grievances; compliance with International Student Contract Dispute Resolution Scheme).
Terry McGrath (Email: terry@ism.org.nz)

If you have thoughts in regard to any area of the present code guidelines, for example, suggested improvements or questions that need addressing, please correspond directly with the ISANA representative in the reference group that is related to your feedback.

Finally, if you haven't had a chance to, please have a look at the [updated page](#) on our Executive Committee, including brief introductions of some of our exec members. We have recently confirmed our portfolio and roles, and we look forward to serving your needs. My own role has been updated to President rather than Acting President. The executive asked I continue in that role until the next AGM (to be held later this year), and I am able and happy to do so. If you have thoughts or advice for the executive on this, please do send that to isananz@gmail.com. We welcome further area and sector representatives on the executive. If you are in a position to help, please do volunteer your services.

Regards,

Terry

President, ISANA NZ