

ISANA NZ Newsletter – February 1st 2018

Dear Members and Friends of ISANA NZ,

Happy New Year! I trust that many of you have eased into your work and are gearing up for a truly enjoyable and satisfying year ahead.

I have some good news to share about our proposal to the Ministry of Education under the International Student Wellbeing Strategy. Just before Christmas last year, we were informed that we had been successful, and in mid-January, the Ministry of Education provided ISANA with the contract and details.

The ISANA NZ executive have affirmed the signing of the contract which has now been done. The terms of the contract involve us enhancing the current professional development programme, with a greater offering of workshops, along with some follow through by way of communities of learning, mentoring and even communities of practice evolving.

In addition, we are to provide community engagement training programmes for local communities and education providers wishing to enhance the local community experience for international students. We will also be providing a resource hub for education providers and communities wishing to engage in programmes of community engagement. The community engagement training and resourcing will be provided within, and alongside, our main professional development programme.

Our professional development programmes are to be complemented by an offering of webinars in areas of interest and ongoing needs. One exciting development is that we will be working with Wintec to provide mental health first aid training.

The content and focus of our professional development is very much informed by research and evidence-based practice. As such, we will be updating the earlier ISANA NZ work on the annotated bibliography of research into international student experience in New Zealand.

http://www.isananz.org.nz/uploads/2/9/5/8/29580531/chandraleenheer-nz_international_education_lit_review.pdf.

Overall, it's an exciting time for ISANA NZ in 2018 but it will require work. We are looking to ISANA members in their own areas of expertise to provide ideas, support and leadership for the community engagement initiatives that may result. We are also looking for someone to manage the project so suggestions of suitable people who may be available to function as a project coordinator are welcome. The project coordinator will be a paid contract. We are currently refining the role and will be sending out advertising for the position and ideally will be able to make an appointment fairly soon, however in the meantime we welcome expressions of interest from persons our members may be able to recommend.

For more details on this project or to explore being involved in some way, please do either email us at isananz@gmail.com or call me (Terry) at 0276033562.

There will be more news in the coming weeks such as website updates, changes to our membership fees and benefits, and the schedule of professional development programmes.

I wish you the very best for this year and I look forward to your participation in ISANA events this year.

My very best regards

Terry McGrath
Acting President, ISANA NZ