



Highlights

You may have noticed the name change above – a shorter version of Wellington Welfare Guardianship Trust or now just WGW for short!

WGW continued to receive a number of applications for welfare guardians across the Wellington, Kapiti, Hutt and Wairarapa regions in the past year.

We also welcomed new volunteers bringing us to 15 active guardians, although a few more in the Hutt Valley region would help fill the current requests we have at present.

Ngā mihi to the Lotteries Commission for its generous financial support enabling Welfare Guardians Wellington (WGW) to fund legal processes in the Family Court as well as to continue providing a koha to our volunteers.

We held social get-togethers of WGW volunteers and trustees in October and December and have more recently started a regular coffee get together for volunteers to share stories and allow us all to come together, share experiences and support each other. Following on from the recent volunteer meeting on 13th May we will contact the Chief Medical Officer to further explain the legal role of Welfare Guardians. Volunteers noted they had received accounts from the Public Trust for their subject person, it is acceptable for a welfare guardian to be provided with this information as it can assist in advocacy decisions relating to purchases for their subject person's well-being.

In November 2023 WGW hosted a national meeting for all Welfare Guardians Trusts via Zoom. There are similar trusts across New Zealand, in Otago, Canterbury, Waikato Whanganui and Southland.

The meeting discussed how we can work together and build on each other's strengths. Topics discussed included provision of pastoral care to volunteers, how to better connect volunteers with each other and taking opportunities to share and standardise policies and protocols (thereby reducing duplication of effort). This meeting underlined how important and valuable these occasions are.

Trustee Ben Gray was guest speaker at several public meetings U3A and Rotary Clubs, providing opportunities to promote the work of the Trust and encourage people to come on board as volunteers.

Trust Objectives



- 1. To assist all persons who lack capacity to make decisions relating to their personal care and welfare.**
- 2. To recruit and train suitable persons to apply for Welfare Guardian Appointments**
- 3. Provision of Education and Training to promote and mentor volunteers.**
- 4 To promote and educate the public on the role of Welfare Guardians**
- 5. All WWGT Activities are consistent with a charitable Trust**

WGW Trustees

Outgoing trustees

We would like to give our sincere thanks to Tom White of who is ending his time as trustee, for their valuable contributions and informed perspectives. Happily, Tom will continue his association with the trust as volunteer guardian.

New Trustees

We welcomed two new trustees, Helen Rodenburg and Vicky Noble, who became trustees in October 2023. Helen and Vicky both bring a wealth of relevant experience in the health care arena.

Helen is a retired GP who has also had several governance roles over the years. She is also on the Board of the Sutherland Self Help Trust and Wellington Citizens Advice Bureau. Being involved with Wellington Welfare Guardians is a great opportunity to support such a worthwhile cause.

Vicky is a registered nurse and has worked in senior roles at DHBs, NGOs, PHOs and with tertiary education providers. She has a strong interest in healthcare systems, whole-of-healthcare sector strategic planning and development, project management and policy development.



Review of adult decision-making legislation

The Law Commission is currently undertaking a review of adult decision-making legislation. The review is examining existing law and associated practice relating to adult decision-making capacity.

The Commission is considering whether New Zealand's law and practice strike the right balance between enabling people to make decisions about their own lives (with support as needed from family, care givers, professionals, and the community) and protecting people from harm. Interim documents are at www.lawcom.govt.nz/our-work/review-of-adult-decision-making-capacity-law/.

The existing legislation, which Welfare Guardians Trusts work to, is the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988. This law gives the authority to make decisions for a person lacking the capacity to do so to one person, either a Welfare Guardian or someone with an Enduring Power of Attorney.

The current situation of relying on volunteers to support people without the capacity to make decisions is clearly unworkable (although the efforts of our current volunteers are wonderful), partly

because there is a limit to how many volunteers are available and large parts of the country have none.

Trustee Ben Gray is on the expert advisory group for the Law Commission review. His role is to ensure that an informed perspective is provided, one that contributes to robust and comprehensive recommendations.

The second Issues Paper link is [NZLC-SIP52.pdf \(lawcom.govt.nz\)](#)

Plans for 2024

- Promoting the role of WGW volunteers
- We shall continue to seek volunteers across our four regions, where some subject persons (in the case of Hutt Valley, all subject persons) are waiting for volunteers to match them.
- We plan to continue proactively to speak at events and seek other opportunities to attract new volunteers and promote the work of the Trust.
- We plan to meet Caroline Cooper, the recently appointed Aged Care Commissioner, to update about the work of WGW, and underline the challenges current legislation poses to people without capacity (see above, Law Commission review).
- Further national meetings of all the Welfare Guardians Trusts
- Sub-committee of all trusts working together on a website upgrade
- Speaking engagements with Rotary and Kapiti U3A.
- Social events for WGW

Funding update

In 2023 the Trust successfully applied for a grant from the Lotteries Commission and has made a further application for a grant from the Commission for 2024. Otherwise, the Trust has no regular funding or grants, and depends on donations and the goodwill of our volunteers.

We again thank the wonderful volunteers we have in the Wellington, Kapiti and Wairarapa Regions who provide ongoing support and guardianship to those that need it. The trustees truly value your past and ongoing work and goodwill.

The trust has no funding and as such, it is truly the good will of our local people to help others in need. The trustees would like to acknowledge these people and their on-going work.



We would very much appreciate it if you could canvas your networks for persons who may have some availability to become a Welfare Guardian and assist a person in care.

We would like to thank Darrell Peebles, and the team from City Print Communications Ltd Wellington for their valuable and generous assistance in the preparation of a brochure to support the trustees when they are speaking with community and other interested groups about the work of WGW.



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For further information on the role of a volunteer welfare guardian, there is additional information on our website.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koe

Kind regards

Ben, Annette, Vicki, Helen, Vicky, Jill, and Megan

Trustees of the Wellington Welfare Guardianship Trust 2024

**Dr Ben Gray - Vicki Wilde - Annette Gray – Vicky Noble
Helen Rodenberg and Jill Stringer**



For further details on the Trust please refer to our website

<https://welfareguardians.nz/>

email wwgtrust@gmail.com

Please send this newsletter onto any person that would be potentially interested in WWGT services or as a potential volunteer.

Donations gratefully received.

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