

Hearing Voices Network Aotearoa New Zealand Chairman report

Chairman's Report on behalf of Executive Committee

July 21st 2012

Author: Arana Pearson, delivered by Claire Moore.

The Hearing Voices Network Aotearoa New Zealand is into its fifth year as a charitable community organisation and we survive on the voluntary contributions of all involved without any recurrent funding. We are essentially a peer support network. Given the financial position, we can say with confidence the growth of the network is true community building that goes deep and is slow but sure. A big thanks to Richard for being a competent treasurer and keeping track of things using Excel spreadsheets.

The committee has agreed on five strategic goals over the past two years. These goals are:

1. Expanding resources
2. Growing the network
3. Public Awareness and Education
4. Networking
5. Effective administrative systems that support the Hearing Voices Network

Our meetings were not as regular last year and our renewed commitment is to meet every two months plus an annual planning meeting to set goals for the network. Part of the difficulty in meeting is the geographic spread of the committee without resources to travel. We have explored using Skype to meet and I have been able to chair our meetings from Wellington with the remainder of the committee all being in Auckland. We met with Peter Bullimore who is the chair of the UK hearing voices network based in Sheffield, England. Peter attended one of our committee meetings in Auckland. Peter also delivered some training and members of our network were sponsored to attend his training on voices and paranoia.

We held a nation-wide survey this year in order for us to be more resourced and informed about our planning for growth. The survey is also helpful with funding applications. This was an on-line survey supplemented by some group/verbal input. Copies of the results of this survey are available today. Much thanks to Tracey Canon, Adrienne and Claire Moore for assistance with the survey and funding application. We have put an application into the Frozen Funds Trust and will find out next month whether we have been successful with that funding request.

We had new groups initiated in the past year. One group started in the mental health service in Porirua supported by the psychologist there. Another started in Hastings. And the Wellington group regularly presents at the local acute inpatient mental health service. Mika supported the Hamilton group which moved to Centre 401 peer support venue. In addition to these new initiatives, regular meetings were run throughout the

year at the Mason Clinic, Grey Lynn, West Auckland, Glenfield, Mangare, Greenlane, Hamilton, Palmerston North, and Wellington.

A big acknowledgement to Adrienne our secretary. Adrienne keeping up the website, putting out newsletters, being a mail and telephone contact and for offering your home as a place for the committee to meet. Adrienne is also to be acknowledged for the internet promotion by e-mailing an MP3 recording for world hearing voices day on 14th September. This was a creative piece that went widely all over and was the most effective use of media of any hearing voices committee in the world.

There were some farewells and 'hello's to our committee this year. We farewell Vanessa Beavan who has moved to Sydney to live. Vanessa was a founding member and our co-chair and she made a significant contribution to the vision of supporting a hearing voices peer support network in New Zealand. We wish Vanessa well and will keep in touch. We also farewell Robyn Aldrich from the committee through the year, and invited John Read onto the board. Welcome John and thank you for your kind support over the years, and to your more formal contribution through agreeing to be on our committee and for your contribution today at our AGM.

Over all, we have achieved a growing network with much good will from the wider community. What is required in the next year is an executive that develops stronger written plans and secures enough funding to execute those plans. Our survey has identified a need to train and resource group facilitators and to support the office functions of maintaining and growing our membership. A committee that appreciates the distinction between governance and operations is important and the growing of groups needs community leadership all over New Zealand. The South Island is an area to grow new groups in the coming year. These are some of the areas we look forward to in the coming year ahead.

(A big thank you to Claire Moore for agreeing to present my report to the AGM. And also for your commitment to the committee throughout the year).

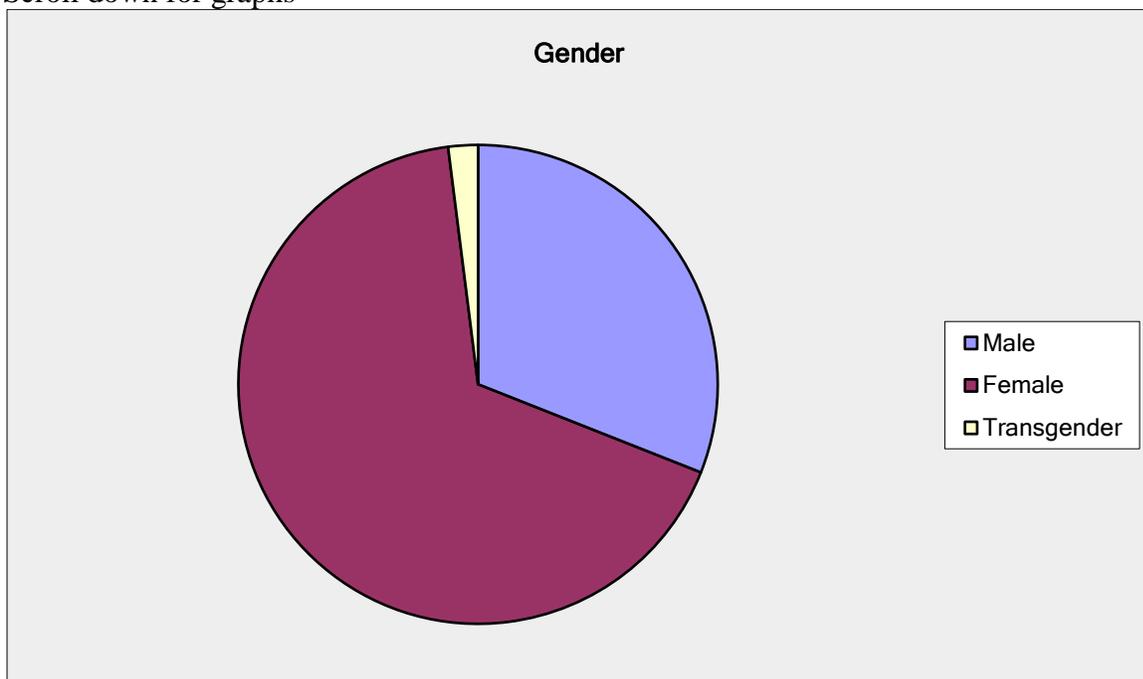
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arana Pearson', with a large, stylized initial 'A' and a decorative flourish at the end.

Arana Pearson

Hearing voices network national survey: draft summary report to AGM

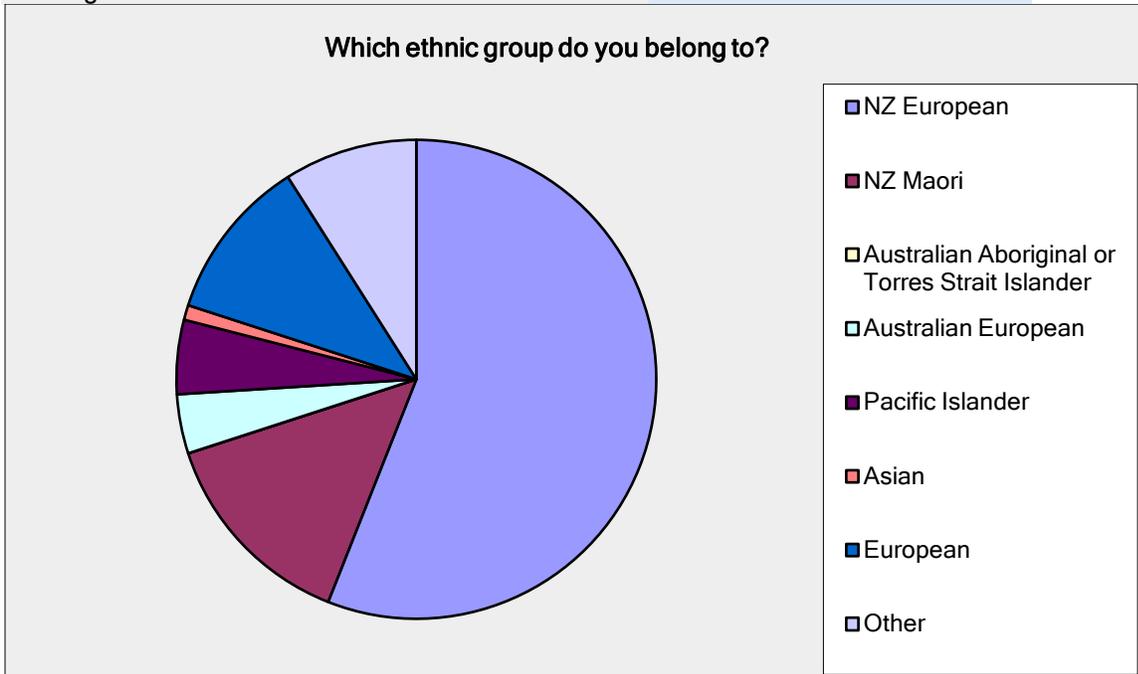
The hearing voices network committee has agreed to an on-line national survey of voice hearers and their supporters. This is a summary draft report; a full report will be prepared for the incoming committee. This survey will guide the committee on how best to grow our network and will also give us good information for possible funding applications. 107 people have completed the online survey and there is also an additional 15 verbal inputs from a voices group in a long stay psychiatric inpatient ward. We are currently summarizing the survey, and preliminary data includes the following, about two thirds of the respondents were female, one third male and 2% transgender. The survey has a good ethnic representation similar to the national population spread with 56% New Zealand European, and 14 % New Zealand Maori. Our network has a lot of friends with nearly half the respondents being mental health clinicians keen to help, and nearly a quarter were voice hearers and 12% family members. The important statistic is that just over half the respondents said there was a hearing voices support group in their community. And this is important as the focus of the committee after the AGM is for there to be a voices peer support group in every community throughout New Zealand. And we will begin that mission by looking to initiating groups in the 50% of areas identified in our national survey.

Scroll down for graphs



HVN Aotearoa survey

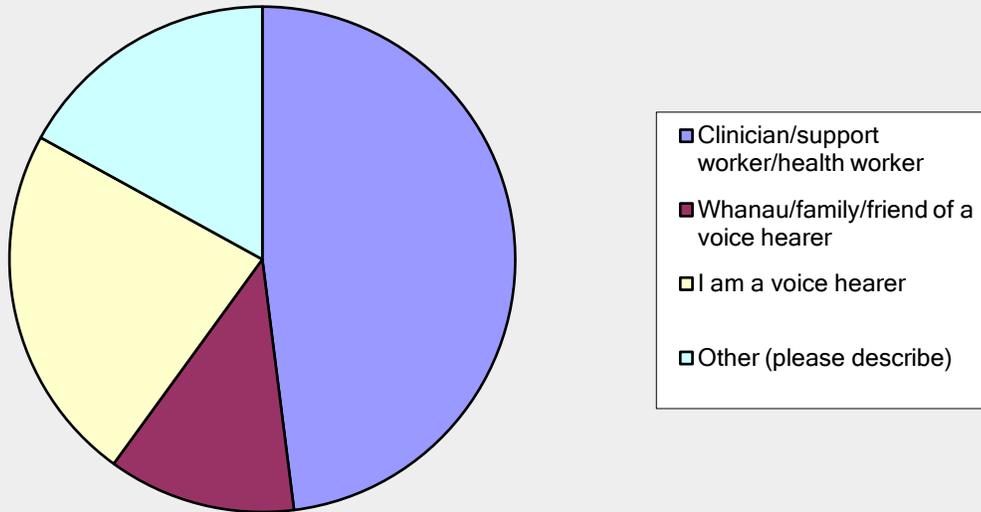
Gender	
Answer Options	Response Percent
Male	31.0%
Female	67.0%
Transgender	2.0%



HVN Aotearoa survey

Which ethnic group do you belong to?	
Answer Options	Response Percent
NZ European	56.0%
NZ Maori	14.0%
Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	0.0%
Australian European	4.0%
Pacific Islander	5.0%
Asian	1.0%
European	11.0%
Other	9.0%
<i>answered question</i>	

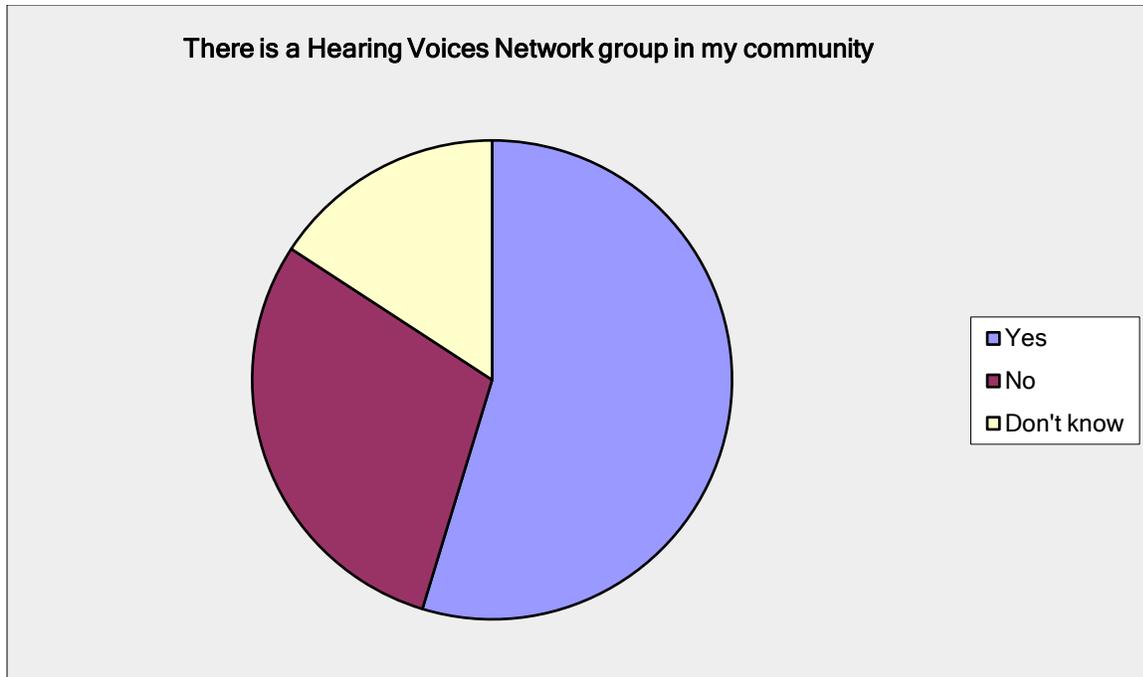
What best describes your interest in participating in HVN Aotearoa?



HVN Aotearoa survey

What best describes your interest in participating in HVN Aotearoa?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Clinician/support worker/health worker	48.0%
Whanau/family/friend of a voice hearer	12.0%
I am a voice hearer	23.0%
Other (please describe)	17.0%
Other (please specify)	



HVN Aotearoa survey

There is a Hearing Voices Network group in my community	
Answer Options	Response Percent
Yes	54.7%
No	29.5%
Don't know	15.8%

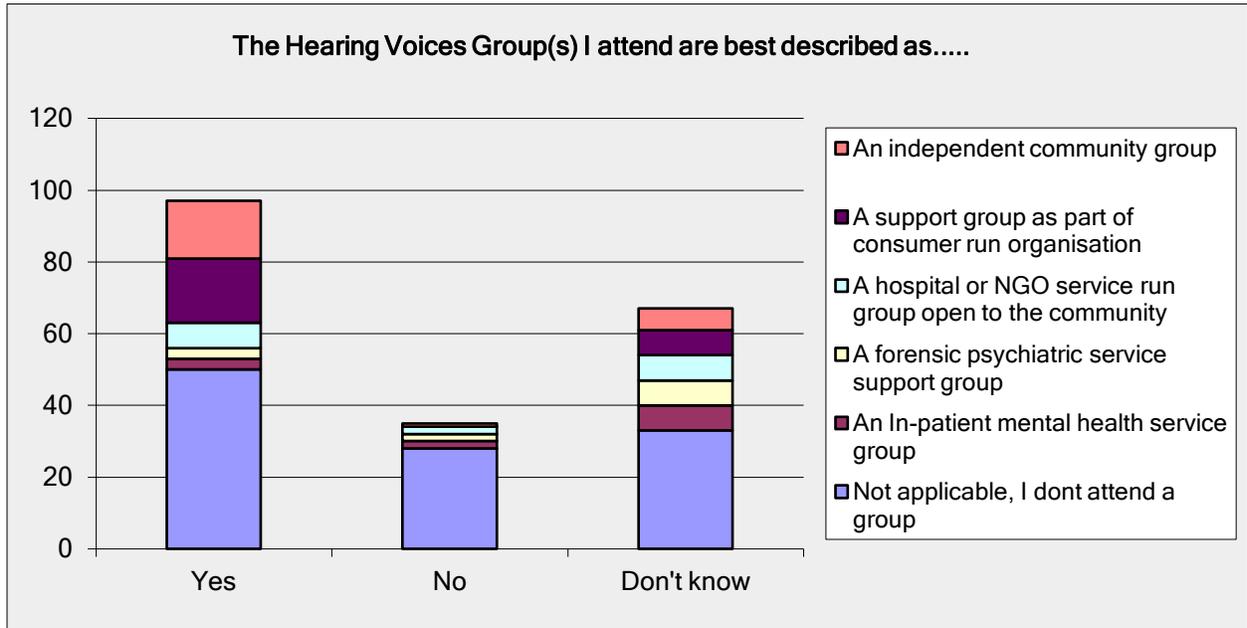
Geographical spread: People answering our survey came from all over New Zealand.

One person from Northland, 48 from Auckland, 7 Waikato, 2 Bay of Plenty, one each from the east coast and Taranaki, 2 each from Palmerston North and Wanganui, 22 in Wellington, 5 Nelson/Marlborough, 4 Canterbury, 3 Dunedin and one from Invercargil. 8 respondents did not live in New Zealand.

Membership fee: 20 people had paid our membership fee and 87 had not who filled out the survey.

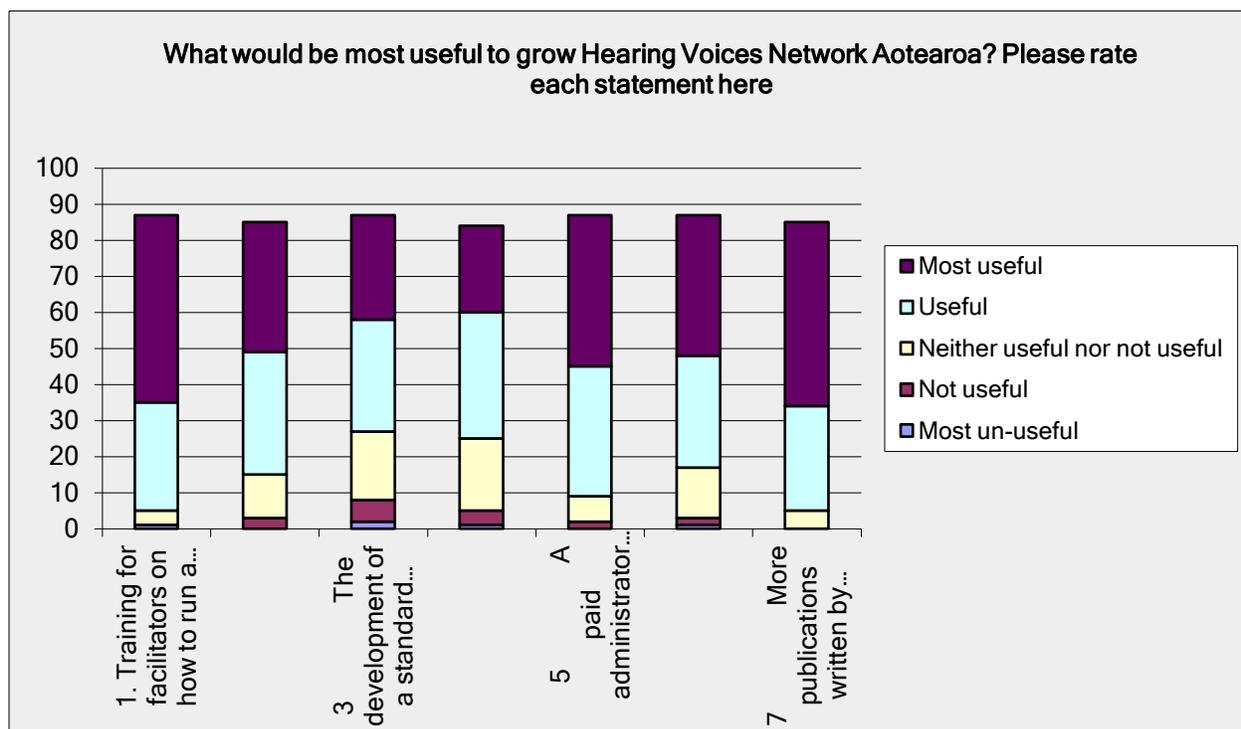
Where our groups currently meet.

We currently have a range of hearing voices groups in different settings. Most groups are part of a support group in a consumer run organization, and the next biggest space where groups exist are as independent community groups. There are also groups meeting within forensic psychiatric services, inpatient mental health service, and in a hospital or NGO service group run in the community.



Question 8 What would be most useful to grow Hearing Voices Network Aotearoa? Please rate each statement here

Most respondents wanted training for facilitators on how to run a group, and second most popular choice was for more New Zealand developed resources. Third place for growing our network was for a paid administrator.



Other (please specify)

funding to develop and link groups around NZ
 Maori
 Asian language- written info
 Demystification of voice hearing, taking it out of the mental illness spectrum and be a generally accepted aspect of being human
 maori as so many are voice hearers
 Perhaps you could be a subgroup of GROW or. Balance to offset costs and strengthen both organizations May e partner or affiliate rather than sub
 chinese samoan korean
 Marketing of community HVN groups to a range of people
 Regular voice hearer interviews on mental health radio
 Consumer led research about the nexus between Police and Hospitals in the interest of mental health consumers
 Samoan
 So far public educ. on HV is good but there should be more TV and Media education