

Tuesday 11th May

Executive Board statement on Best Interest.

Deaf Aotearoa is an organisation that belongs to the members that makes up or represent the Deaf community.

Organisation goal from the constitution is to act in best interest of the Deaf community by using the voices of its members.

Executive Board is an elected Board by the members to provide governance oversight of entire Deaf Aotearoa organisation, including Deaf Aotearoa Holding Limited. This means Executive Board will have full access to financial information which is needed for full governance oversight of the organisation.

Therefore, it is a legal responsibility for the Executive Board to act in best interest of the organisation, so then organisation can serve the Deaf community. Board members are provided with options how to manage this if any conflict of interest arises. The greater the conflict interest is, the greater the risk is needed to be managed.

Deaf Aotearoa as an entire organisation holds the DPO status, not individual members of the Board. The individual Board members *collectively* provide guidance, strategic direction and knowledge in addition to Deaf Aotearoa's organisation collective knowledge, resources and advocacy to provide organisational DPO advice to the Government.

Being a DPO does not give mandate to an individual board member's personal interest or business to be above the organisation, because the collectively community benefits provided by the organisation is above individual's business, even though the latter is part of the community.

The Executive Board and Deaf Aotearoa organisational best interests have been defined clearly in the following documents attached;

Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand Inc Constitution (Object 3.2 and Purposes 3.3)

Election Brief final

DANZ Board nomination form and Information final

Thank you,

The Executive Board