

## MANZ Open Forum, New Plymouth, July 2014

The following feedback was gathered from people attending the MANZ Open Forum at the 2014 conference.

**Q1. Describe what you think the role of MANZ currently is and how the organisation could be more effective in the future to support Montessori in Aotearoa New Zealand?**

Current Role of MANZ	Future Role of MANZ
<p>Setting a standard through MJ2Ex Driving self review</p> <p>Support a sense of professionalism Draws teachers together Central communication hub Uniting individual Montessori centres PD opportunities Provides a conference</p> <p>Govt representation Interact internationally</p> <p>Publish magazines Educate parents</p> <p>Fund research</p>	<p>Quality control – who can use the name Montessori? Ongoing collaborative inquiry through MJ2Ex Accreditation proves and rating using MJ2Ex</p> <p>More linking of primary schools together Mentoring – local and regional</p> <p>Homegrown conferences once in a while NZ speakers at conference Countrywide PD opportunities ... webinars Accreditation system for number hours of PD Mentoring via regional consultant More regular PD - practical and regional More local content PD More Pasifika content Mystery Bus Tour in Wellington linked to a PD event Support for adolescent teachers</p> <p>More direct links with the MoE Better communication to members about MANZ work with govt agencies More voice for Montessori primary</p> <p>Educating the public Information leaflet for parents to understand what MANZ is. Generic brochures for Plunket, library, hospitals</p> <p>Scaffold people to engage in research Provide space for teacher research and articles to be published</p>

<p>Beginner lobbyist</p>	<p>Training</p> <p>Supporting Montessori education courses</p> <p>Recognition of Montessori quals by Govt</p> <p>AMI 6-12 training in NZ</p> <p>Advocacy for teachers – recognition of quals and salaries</p> <p>Advocating for the child</p> <p>Advocate for WINZ subsidy to six years of age</p> <p>MANZ representative in government as advocate for children’s rights</p> <p>Support the availability of Montessori education for all children</p> <p>More advocacy around children at risk</p> <p>Bi-cultural partner on MANZ Council</p> <p>Be nice to have a live voice – immediate phone access</p>
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Q2. *‘The MANZ strategic plan aims to be more than just a work plan for MANZ Council or staff’.*

**Describe what actions could be taken to encourage MANZ member centres and schools to all contribute to the national strategic direction for Montessori in NZ? What difference could this make, what would it look like and how would we know?**

**Summary**

Seek input through staff meetings at centres and schools as well as dedicated (limited) time at MANZ events to arrive at clear, concise, MANZ strategic direction.

In order to achieve a wider contribution to the strategic direction, members want a wider range of options to contribute.

People are confused about how to contribute

Eg.

webinars

min % participation requirement on decisions

involvement of school boards

make it a requirement to contribute

Survey Monkey

Small open forum at every MANZ event

Online forum for increased input

Facebook

Twitter

Cash incentive

Face to face

Send nicely presented strategic plan so it can be displayed in centre

Montessori Voices – take one part of the plan as a focus and members send in their stories – collated as an article

Celebrate successes at conference to inspire as a result of the MJ2Ex process

MANZ facilitate through sending a simple review cycle

Members once a term put MANZ Strategic Plan on their agenda

More alignment between MANZ Strategic Plan and individual centre plans.

Outline expectation of members to be part of MANZ

Members promoting Montessori collectively in local areas and joint parent evenings

More Montessori community – more action

Invite each school to take turns manning a public booth in a public area

Glass classroom opportunities

Demystifying who we are and what we do in our own community

**Q3. What could be done to enhance a collective and collaborative approach of all MANZ members to make a difference for children in Aotearoa New Zealand?**

Greater emphasis on NZ Montessori training –education within the context of Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Continue to develop the Montessori Journey to Excellence to provide a clear vision for community and to reach all centres and schools.

MANZ to get support from marketing experts to develop promotional materials (eg. Videos) to give to members to help them to promote Montessori in their own communities.

More parent education

Leadership growth

Have access to a shared site where members may contribute and post successes and self reviews, teaching as inquiry etc

Develop a national inquiry question

Montessori refresher courses (AMI) and ability to audit AMI courses

NZ based administrative, Council, assistants training

Regional meetups and paired with mentor or sister schools

Can we see something – an issue – put a process in place where we can raise a collective voice?

Align with certain charities – pool donations

Forum for MANZ members in regional groups

Informal cluster groups regionally, with parents

Sister schools

**Q4 Three draft strategic aims have been suggested by MANZ Council.**

**Describe what would be happening in five years in centres and schools and nationally if these strategic goals were achieved?**

All communities could offer quality Montessori environments with cultural basis which is open to all children and led by reflective practitioners committed to the true essence of Montessori.

More quality Montessori education at all levels

There would be an abundance of Montessori trained teachers.

Employment would be more available in Montessori centres and schools

More recognized NZ Montessori leaders

Greater use and competence in Te Reo and an appreciation of the Treaty of Waitangi as a living document

Public would have greater understanding and appreciation of what Montessori philosophy is about and it is seen as a career option for school leavers

Inquiry and self-review would be embedded in practice in all Montessori centres and schools

More sharing of inquiries, self review and data

Joyful learners and parents actively participating

Parent evenings standardized and co-ordinated, available in all locations

More Montessori centres and schools

All Montessori centres and schools would be MANZ members.

Montessori more affordable via partnership schools

Montessori more visible in the media

Montessori publications accessible more widely eg. libraries

**Are there other strategic aims that you consider MANZ should be focusing on?**

MANZ publicist to ensure there is a Montessori voice nationally spreading the principles of Montessori education as widely as possible