

New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association (Inc.)
Te Kāhui Kaiwhakatikatika Reo Kōrero o Aotearoa

Affiliated to the International Association of Logopaedics and Phoniatrics

6th November 2008

New Zealand Dietetic Association
PO Box 5065
Wellington 6145

To the President and Executive Director

Re: Implementation of Standardised Diet Terminology

As you are aware, the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists' Association (NZSTA) recently agreed to adopt the standardised diet terminology implemented by Speech Pathology Australia and the Australian Dietetics Association. At the October 2008 meeting of our Health Leaders Forum, it was proposed that a combined approach to implementation of the new standards with the NZDA may be the most productive way forward.

In my recent discussions with Jan Milne, it appeared that the NZDA may wish to join NZSTA in this venture. Therefore, on behalf of the NZSTA I would like to formally invite the NZDA to participate in a joint working party that aims to: (1) develop a resource and training package for the diet terminology implementation and (2) disseminate resources to the members of NZSTA and NZDA for implementation in their district health boards/regions. In our opinion, a joint approach from the two Associations would be the best way of ensuring the successful implementation of the diet terminology across New Zealand.

Molly Kallesen, NZSTA member and Team Leader Speech-Language Therapy Capital and Coast DHB, has agreed to be involved in this working party. It is my understanding that Molly has discussed this with Maria Ross, Team Leader Nutrition & Food Services Waitakere Hospital, and both are keen to start the process of implementation of the diet standards. Clearly, the framework for this working party and any financial resourcing associated with it will need to be discussed by NZSTA and the NZDA; however, I hope that you will join with us in working towards the successful implementation of these standards.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this proposed working party.

Yours sincerely



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