# Video transcript - Interview with Annelyze Steyn, NZ Society of Diversional & Recreational Therapy - HWNZ Dialogue

The society received an invitation, and I was asked to represent the New Zealand Society for Diversional and Recreational Therapists.

Partly because I live in Wellington, and but also as the secretary, having an insight and overview of what our society stands for.

Are there any things that you've heard this morning, or throughout the day, that have given you some more things to think about? I think, definitely, it is wonderful to sit in a room with so many leaders in our health system, and I've also been exposed to ideas and opinions and experience from Māori health and also from Allied Health, in rural areas and we don't always focus on the smaller minority groups.

So it was really refreshing to hear that they've got a voice as much as any of the others: GPs, and specialists in their areas, but also for New Zealanders to across the board receive help and for us to always look at how we can advocate for them to receive the best healthcare as all New Zealanders should.

I would like to achieve introducing the diversional therapists and the work we do in New Zealand, and although we are currently mostly working in aged care, we would, by introducing ourselves and what we do and further work in mental Health, and in not only mental health, but also in prisons and other other sorry the sound threw me off a little bit.

So as and here we can just oh we could just yeah.

Oh, we can just pick up on that here.

Question was what would you like to achieve today? As diversional therapists, we are mostly known to work in aged care.

And I would like to achieve today introducing diversional therapy to the wider health system and to advocate for us to be working not only in aged care, or mostly in aged care, but also in public hospitals, in mental health, in Department of Corrections and bringing our expertise and do that.

I would also like to advocate for education for a higher level of Education.

At the moment we mostly have career force level four and there’s nothing in New Zealand to further our education as diversional therapists and the work that we do here.

And these 200 registered qualified diversional therapists in New Zealand, but about a thousand with a qualification that's not registered.

So reaching out to those who have already done the qualification might impact the society.

So it sounds like low numbers, but the impact we make is definitely significant.

Do you think you've been making good connections? Yes, yes definitely and the conversations we are currently having and splitting into groups and prioritizing the ideas and moving forward.

Sitting next to the Director of the pharmaceutical society is just awesome because we both have a voice here today, on equal leavel.

What is one outcome that you'd like to see from just the conversations that are taking place today? No Matter where we are in New Zealand, no matter where we originally come from, to have equal opportunities in health care.

And it’s so important that we reach those in our Māori communities, it’s so important to reach those in rural communities, and we know that most resources will be found in bigger cities, but it's so important to have that.

I think also with opening borders and having immigrants come into New Zealand with qualification and with their own expertise it’s so important that we Assist, help, provide an opportunity for them to learn about the New Zealand culture so that when they are connecting with our people of Aotearoa that they understand where they come from and who they really are.