

Hello, and welcome to our final newsletter for 2022. It has been a busy year here at Be. Lab, with lots of fantastic wins in the world of accessibility.

This year we announced our inaugural **Be. Leadership in Governance programme**, designed to build a community of disabled and access leaders equipped with the skills for 21st century governance, and embed accessibility at a strategic level in the board agenda. Following the successful completion of our pilot in November, we are delighted to announce **a second intake of the programme beginning in March 2023**. [Applications are now open](#) and will close on Monday 16th January 2023.

Another highlight from 2022 is the placement of lots of fabulous diverse talent into successful **tertiary internships and paid work experience** roles. A large number of leading organisations are recognising the value of recruiting a diverse workforce, and in particular **the value of employing access talent**. [We share just one of the many wonderful stories](#) below.

We've also been delighted to see **an increasing number of businesses engaging with us for onsite assessments, design plan reviews, leadership and culture workshops and more**. There is an ever-increasing awareness of the need for improving accessibility, it has been truly exciting to see how much motivation there is within the business community to create change in this space. In this newsletter [we're sharing an example of one fabulous team of people](#) who are **truly committed to accessibility and exploring what's possible through a deeper engagement** with us.

It was a pleasure to welcome the new Minister of Disability Issues, Poto

Williams, and newly appointed Chief Executive of Whaikaha- Ministry of Disabled People, Paula Tesoreiro, to our Be. Office recently. We shared some of the great things we've been part of in 2022, and let them know that we're keen to **support the new ministry to achieve success in making Aotearoa New Zealand the most accessible nation in the world.**

We're excited to soon be welcoming in a new year, and in the new year we will also be **welcoming in a new accessibility framework and approach.** At the beginning of next year we'll be saying goodbye to our accreditation programme and announcing the details of a new way we want to work with businesses on their accessibility journey, which we're confident **will deliver better outcomes for businesses and access citizens.** We can't wait to tell you more about it in our February newsletter.

And finally, our most exciting announcement yet, **in early 2023 we will be calling for applications for a new Chief Executive,** and new members for our Board of Trustees, to bring their vision, energy and skills to join our fantastic team, to work towards our mission to make Aotearoa New Zealand the most accessible nation in the world.

We know it's imperative that we see **Disabled and Access leaders at all levels of leadership to enable true change,** and we're going to be seeking people with lived experience as well as experience in social change initiatives. We'll be announcing more in our February newsletter.

Thank you to each and every one of you for **joining us on our mission to make Aotearoa New Zealand the most accessible nation in the world!**

Wishing you all a relaxing holiday season, from all the Be. Lab Team

Watch in NZSL

[This newsletter is available in NZSL thanks to SEEFLOW](#)

Applications are now open for the Be. Leadership in Governance Programme 2023



Our long-held vision is for Aotearoa to become the most accessible nation in the world.

In 2022 we identified the opportunity to create real economic and social impact by **elevating the accessibility conversation to board level**. We announced the inaugural Be. Leadership in Governance Programme, designed to **build a community of disabled and access leaders**

equipped with the skills for 21st century governance, and embedding accessibility at a strategic level in the board agenda.

Following this successful pilot programme, we are excited to announce that we will be running another intake in 2023. **Applications are now open and close Monday 16th January 2023.**

[Find out more](#)

Our Latest News

Talent Story: Meet Kane

Access citizens are an untapped pool of talent that bring a unique set of skills to forward-thinking, 21st century workplaces such as **problem-solving, agility, persistence and innovation.**

In addition to this, research shows that **organisations which employ access citizens are more likely to achieve higher revenues and increased profit margins.**

Read how through our **Tertiary Internship Programme** we connected Kane with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, who placed him into an exciting graduate position, where he was able to showcase his skills and talent, setting him **on the path to future success** as a lawyer.

Be. Lab Talent Story Series



Kane
Kayem



[Read more](#)

**Auckland Botanic Gardens: Partnering with Be. Lab to make
accessibility business-as-usual**



This month we're celebrating Auckland Botanic Gardens, looking at some **exciting new projects**, and how they are exploring what's possible when **accessibility is genuinely embedded** into everything they do.

Auckland Botanic Gardens began their accessibility journey with Be. Lab 10 years ago. Since then, we've been blown away by how their understanding of, and commitment to accessibility has grown.

Our latest blog explores how their partnership with Be. Lab has inspired the team to **make accessibility business-as-usual**, creating an environment for accessibility to flourish.

[Learn more](#)

Our office will close next Friday 23rd December, and we'll be back on board on Monday the 9th of January 2023.

Please get in touch to find out more about the work we do, and how we can support your business's accessibility journey in 2023.

E-mail info@belab.co.nz or phone (09) 3098966.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Or check out our website for accessibility tips, case studies and blogs to inspire you on your accessibility journey.

[Visit Our Website](#)

