

SUPPORTING PARENTS AND FAMILIES OF DISABLED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

THE TEAM AT PARENT & FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE



Pictured from left: Lisa Martin, Virginia Desai and Niharika Puri

PFRC BOARD

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Lisa Martin – Centre Director
Virginia Desai – Business Support
Niharika Puri – Information Advisor

OPENING HOURS

Weekdays from 9am – 4.30pm

Welcome to the April 2013 Networker which explores financial supports. The New Year brings with it some familiar challenges, as well as some exciting developments. We're pleased to announce the addition of Niharika Puri as Information Advisor to the PFRC team. Here is a message from Niharika:



Hi all,

My name is Niharika (pronounced "na-ha-rri-ka") and I am 25, with a Master of Arts in Psychology. I come to the role of Info Advisor with 5 years of work and academic experience in the Disability Sector. I am a firm believer in the rights of people with disabilities, and volunteer within the sector in my spare time. I'm very excited about my new role – and hope to make a difference in my own little way. Please feel free to contact me with your questions and comments. You can reach me on 636 0351 or email me on niharika@pfrc.org.nz. Thanks!

Parent & Family Resource Centre Inc. (PFRC)

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www.pfrc.org.nz

Find us on Facebook: [ParentandFamilyResourceCentre](https://www.facebook.com/ParentandFamilyResourceCentre) Twitter: [@pfrcnz](https://twitter.com/pfrcnz)

UPCOMING EVENTS – MID 2013

Chinese Families Autism Support Group – South Auckland:

Tuesday 16 April – 9.30am-1pm
Manukau SuperClinic
901 Great South Road,
Manurewa, Auckland

Trusts & Welfare Guardianship Seminars:

Planning for when we are no longer here and other disability legal issues.

North Auckland

Wednesday 29 May – 7-9pm
YES Disability Resource Centre, 3 William Laurie Place, Albany

East Auckland

Wednesday 5 June – 7-9pm
Eastgate Community Trust, 427 Pakuranga Road, Pakuranga

South Auckland

Wednesday 19 June – 7-9pm
Nathan Homestead, 70 Hill Road, Manurewa

West Auckland

Wednesday 26 June – 7-9pm
Integrated Neurological Rehabilitation Foundation, 2 Claude Brookes Drive (off Edmonton Road), Henderson

Transition Expo (the progression from school to community life):

Thursday 15 August –
9am-2.30pm
Fickling Convention Centre
546 Mt. Albert Road,
Three Kings, Auckland
(see advertisement on page 14)

Also, visit our stall and speak to our staff at the Big Event 5 & 6 April 2013 (see advertisement on page 15)

CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

Welcome everyone to this edition of the Networker. It will become very apparent by the time you have read these articles as to who your next new best friend should be. Write a note to yourself right now – “new best friend is Work and Income officer, must send Christmas card to them!”

We are proud to present to you a guide to how you can start to navigate your way through this critical support service. All joking aside, having a good relationship with Work and Income is vital. If you find the task daunting – do what we always tell parents to do – go with a friend, or an advocate, be prepared, take notes and ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask the same question again and again until you get your questions answered. Sometimes we don't like the answers, but at least with more information we can progress through the various parts of the system that should be there to help you and your family.

For me, understanding the impact of having Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) funding long term is a very important piece of information. I have taken a number of Section 10 Appeals against the Ministry of Education (MOE) trying to support parents to get an ORS classification for resourcing their child at school. Too many times I hear schools say, yes this child has high needs but we'll just soldier on and somehow absorb their needs within our existing budgets. That is a short term view in my opinion because there is so much more at stake. ORS funding unlocks so many other pathways for your young person. Issues related to ORS funding will be further explored in the PFRC Transition Seminar, which is an important new addition to our upcoming annual Transition Expo.



The current edition of the Networker might be a hard read as there is so much information to absorb. It is like anything that is a bit intimidating - take it in small bites and have a think about what it means to you. At the risk of sounding preachy, if you really want to get the most resources to support your young person and your family, this is the one Networker that you must keep. Good luck and remember PFRC is here to support you and your family – it's what we do.

On a more personal note, many of you know that we (the Brown family) have been working with other families to establish our son Travers and three mates in their own flat. We have also been working with a writer and the Ministry of Health to publish a book for other parents to use. It is by no means the complete answer to all the issues you might face if you choose this option over others available to you, but we hope that parents and families will gain some insights as to why we did what we did, how we worked our way through the system and some of the challenges we've encountered along the way. PFRC will stock the books when we get them hot off the press.

Kind regards
Colleen Brown, Chairperson
Parent & Family Resource Centre Inc.

CENTRE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It is with pleasure that the Parent & Family Resource Centre brings you this April edition of the Networker magazine. This edition addresses the various financial supports which may be available to individuals with a disability, or families raising a child with a disability, via Work and Income.

Financial pressures can be an intense and very real issue for families dealing with disability. Unfortunately it is quite common for families of a disabled child to be dealing with broken marriages, sole parenthood and limited capacity to work (or working below ability) due to a disabled child's needs. Under these circumstances financial relief in the form of Work and Income supports is an important and valued contribution to the family budget. This edition explains the various supports available (dependent on eligibility criteria) which specifically relate to disability and those supports available regardless of disability (also dependent on eligibility).

When raising a child with a disability, different supports are appropriate at different points and in this edition the Chairperson's report refers to some Work and Income supports available to a young person in an 'Individualised Funding' (IF) supported living arrangement. Such supported and family governed living arrangements (an alternative to Residential Care) will be further examined in the IF Flating booklet due for release mid 2013. Keep an eye out for our official launch date and contact PFRC for further details or to request a copy of this booklet.

An exciting development of the Parent & Family Resource Centre is our new Disability Support Guide Booklet. This will be free to families on request and will be included in our various seminar resource packs. We have been refining this resource to bring you the most relevant information regarding support from the Ministries of Health, Education and Social Development as well as the Departments of Work and Income, ACC and Child Youth and Family – also included is information on "Your Rights" under various codes of Human Rights and Disability Rights. Please contact us for a copy of this booklet available end of April 2013.

The second half of 2012 was a busy period for the Parent & Family Resource Centre. We delivered the popular Trusts & Welfare Guardianship seminars which were well attended. These workshops detailing legal issues around profound intellectual disability have become a staple PFRC seminar and another round is scheduled for mid 2013 (see Upcoming Events schedule on front page).



PFRC and Imagine Better collaborated to deliver Choice & Control workshops in November/December 2012. These workshops explored the philosophical background to the Ministry of Health's New Model for supporting disabled people. These workshops were very popular and more are planned for 2013. Issues discussed included the philosophical basis for the New Model, what is Policy, how did the New Model come about, Ministry of Education Transition Guidelines, future planning – as well as information about some important projects within the New Model. As the New Model is developed and finalised, PFRC will deliver workshops with updates on this important and far-reaching work.

The annual Transition Expo which PFRC hosts (with support from the Ministry of Social Development) will be held on 15 August 2013 at Fickling Convention Centre in Three Kings (see advertisement on page 14). This centrally located fully accessible venue is ideal for our free Expo, with plenty of parking available. This year we are introducing a Transition Seminar as part of the Expo. Presented in a seated room, parents or individuals can hear a presentation that encompasses the major life changes and supports available at this important life phase. Topics covered will include how to engage with your NASC (Taikura Trust in Auckland) to secure appropriate supports, possible living arrangements, vocational programmes, employment, microenterprise

CENTRE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

and the use of Enhanced Individualised Funding, as well as other aspects of the MOH New Model for supporting disabled people. This free event is a must for individuals and parents of a young person with a disability aged 14-21yrs. We look forward to seeing you there!

PFRC is also embarking – along with several other organisations – on establishing a Chinese Families Autism Support Group in South Auckland. All Asian families are invited to this workshop and most presentations will be in Mandarin. We hope that by meeting a demonstrated need in establishing this support group, Asian families raising a child with Autism in Auckland will be better supported. Check our website for more details.

We hope you enjoy this April edition of the Networker magazine and as always, we are responsive to the needs of our membership. Please feel free to contact us if you would like a particular seminar, forum or survey, or topic that is of particular interest to you. We have recently branched out into Facebook and Twitter as another mode of encouraging contact with our valued membership. Please note our QR code on the back page of this Networker. We look forward to serving the needs of our membership throughout 2013 and as always, we look forward to hearing from you regarding Disability Information and Advisory queries.

Kind regards,
Lisa Martin
Centre Director, Parent & Family Resource Centre Inc.



OVERVIEW

It is no secret that caring for your child or young person with a disability, or having a disability yourself, is not always an easy path to tread. Many families and individuals faced with disability experience a range of difficulties, especially in regard to financial pressures and accessing much needed support. Financial woes are often a result of the rising cost of disability. Many parents give up work to provide their children with the best intended care and support; whereas many individuals with disabilities struggle to find appropriate open

employment in our current economy. As a result, many individuals and families are unable to meet their needs, which may lead to physical deprivation (i.e. not being able to meet living costs such as the cost of food, power, water, rent etc) as well as putting additional pressure on familial, parental, and personal relationships.

For some families, Work and Income, which falls under the umbrella of Ministry of Social Development, may be an appropriate avenue of accessing some financial assistance. Please note

that the eligibility criteria to access these supports are complex and that the information presented is intended as a guide only. The information in this article is sourced, accurate, and up-to-date from the appropriate websites. However, it is always advisable to check in regard to your personal circumstances and eligibility with your local Work and Income branch Case Manager. As well, any change in circumstances likely to affect your eligibility must be notified to the funder (e.g. Work and Income).

WORK AND INCOME BENEFITS



What financial assistance may be available to individuals with disabilities? On scanning through the A to Z list of benefits available on the Work and Income website, a few options appeared relevant to individuals with disabilities, or for those who care for someone with a disability.

These include:

- Domestic Purposes Benefit – Care of sick or infirm
- Invalid's Benefit
- Sickness Benefit
- Child Disability Allowance
- Disability Allowance

Please note that in order to be eligible to receive financial assistance from Work and Income, you must:

- Be at least 16 years of age (unless otherwise specified)
- Be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- Have lived in New Zealand for at least two years at any one time since becoming a New Zealand citizen or resident (unless of refugee status)
- Normally live in New Zealand and intend to stay here.

Another important note: the information provided in this magazine and on the Work and Income website serves as a guide only. As individual circumstances may vary, it is best to consult with your nearest Work and Income office.

DOMESTIC PURPOSES BENEFIT – CARE OF THE SICK OR INFIRM

To be eligible for this benefit, you must be *the primary carer* for someone at home, who:

- Is not your spouse or partner
- And, the person being cared for would otherwise require full-time care at a hospital, rest home, residential disability care, extended care services for severely disabled children and young people, or care of a similar kind
- If you are a parent who is required to provide full-time care and attention at home for your high needs dependent child, you may be eligible for this benefit.

The payment is made on a weekly basis, and is adjusted according to your income (so how much you receive will vary depending on your income, as well as your partner/spouse's income if applicable).

Please note that in July 2013 the Domestic Purposes Benefit – Care of the Sick and Infirm will be renamed to the "Supported Living Payment".

Domestic Purposes Benefit – Care of the Sick or Infirm, Maximum current rates, as at 1 April, 2012. These are weekly rates, and the net rates are after tax at "M"

CATEGORY	NET	GROSS
Single, 16 to 17 years	\$207.32	\$231.64
Single, 18+ years	\$256.19	\$287.69
Sole parent	\$336.55	\$385.10
Half married, civil union or de facto rate	\$213.49	\$238.54

Table copied from the Work and Income website, www.workandincome.govt.nz, 6/3/2013

For more information, visit the Work and Income website on www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/domestic-purposes-benefit-care-of-sick-or-infirm.html

WORK AND INCOME BENEFITS



INVALID'S BENEFIT

You are eligible for this benefit if you:

- Are unable to work on a permanent basis (i.e. for at least 2 years);
- Cannot work because of a severe and lasting condition due to sickness, injury, or disability (i.e. cannot work regularly for at least 15 hours per week in open employment); or
- Are totally blind.

You will need to provide verification from a GP or specialist, stating how your condition affects your ability to work.

You may not qualify if:

- You and your partner's income is over the cut-off point;
- You intentionally caused your own injury.

Weekly payments are adjusted according to individual circumstances.

Please note that from July 2013 the "Invalid's Benefit" will be renamed to the "Supported Living Payment".

*Invalid's Benefit Maximum Current Rates, as at 1 April, 2012.
These are weekly rates, and the net rates are after tax code "M".*

CATEGORY	NET	GROSS
Single, 16 to 17 years	\$207.32	\$231.64
Single, 18+ years	\$256.19	\$287.69
Married, civil union or de facto couple (with or without children)	Total: \$426.98 Each: \$213.49	Total: \$477.08 Each: \$238.54
Sole parent	\$336.55	\$385.10
Hospital rate	\$42.38	\$47.35

Table copied from the Work and Income website, www.workandincome.govt.nz, 20/2/2013

Visit Work and Income's website on www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/invalids-benefit.html for more information.

WORK AND INCOME BENEFITS



SICKNESS BENEFIT

You may qualify for this benefit, if you:

- Due to illness, injury, disability, or pregnancy have had to reduce your working hours or stop working altogether. The nature of the disability/illness is less severe and permanent than that mentioned in the Invalid's benefit; and
- Are aged 18 years or over.

Eligibility requirements:

- You must provide a work capacity medical certificate or another medical certificate that proves that you cannot work more than 15 hours a week;
- If you are deemed capable of working part-time (15 hours per week), you will need to find a part-time job;
- If applicable, the benefit is adjusted against your partner/spouse's income; and
- The benefit is reviewed after 12 months to assess your capacity to return to work.

*Sickness Benefit Maximum Current Rates, as at 1 April, 2012.
These are weekly rates, and the net rates are after tax at "M".*

IF YOU ARE...	WEEKLY PAYMENTS (AFTER TAX)
Single aged under 20 years at home	\$136.64
Single aged under 20 years away from home	\$170.80
Single aged 20 to 24 years	\$170.80
Single aged 25 years and over	\$204.96
Married, civil union or de facto couple with or without children each	\$170.80
Sole parent	\$293.58

Table copied from the Work and Income website, www.workandincome.govt.nz, 20/2/2013.

*Work and Income provide more detailed information on their website here
www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/sickness-benefit.html*

WORK AND INCOME BENEFITS



CHILD DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

This allowance is a fortnightly payment given to the main carer of a child with a serious disability under the age of 18 years, if “the child has been assessed as needing constant care and attention for at least 12 months because of a serious disability” (as per the definition provided on the Work and Income website).

- It is not income tested (i.e. the carer or the carer’s partner’s/spouse’s income or assets are not considered)

- It is paid at a standard, weekly, non-taxable rate of \$45.34. Payments are made fortnightly
- It is paid because of the extra care that may be required by a child who has a physical, sensory, psychiatric or intellectual disability
- Once the child turns 16, they may be eligible to receive an Invalid’s benefit.

For more information, visit www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/child-disability-allowance.html

DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

You are eligible for this allowance, if:

- You have a disability that is likely to last for at least a period of 6 months
- You have regular and on-going costs directly related to your disability that may not be covered by other agencies
- You are already receiving an income-tested benefit, and you and your spouse/partner’s income is under the threshold

You may receive both Child Disability Allowance and Disability Allowance if your child has a disability as these benefits cover different types of costs. For a list of the different types of costs covered by the Disability Allowance, visit www.workandincome.govt.nz/community/forms-and-brochures/disability-allowance-allowable-costs.html. Costs covered may vary on individual circumstances.

The maximum Disability Allowance rate is \$60.17, at a weekly, non-taxable rate. Payments are made fortnightly.

Disability Allowance income limits at 1 April, 2012.

CATEGORY	GROSS WEEKLY CUT-OUT POINT
Single, 16 to 17 years	\$506.01
Single, 18 years or over	\$585.67
Married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship with or without children	\$866.91
Sole parent with 1 child	\$705.72
Sole parent with 2 or more children	\$743.53

Table copied from the Work and Income website, www.workandincome.govt.nz, 8/3/2013.

Visit www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/disability-allowance.html for more detailed information.

WORK AND INCOME BENEFITS

In addition to these benefits and allowances, families may be able to access other forms of assistance that are not specific to disability. These include:

CHILDCARE SUBSIDY

You are eligible for this subsidy if you are the predominant carer for a dependent child. The child must be under the age of 5 (or under 6 years if you get the Child Disability Allowance for them) and the child must also be attending an early childhood programme for at least 3 hours a week. The subsidy is usually paid for up to 9 hours of childcare a week, but may vary according to your circumstances. Contact Work and Income or visit their website on www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/childcare-subsidy.html for more details on the Childcare Subsidy.

WORKING FOR FAMILIES TAX CREDITS

These tax credits are for families who have dependent children 18 years old and under. The entitlement is income tested and depends on how many children are in the family. Whilst not specific to disability, any family with children under the age of 18 may be eligible.

For more information, contact your local Work and Income office or visit the Working for Families website on www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz

ACCOMMODATION SUPPLEMENT

This is a weekly payment designed to assist people if they are paying board, rent or the cost of owning their own home.

You are eligible if you:

- Have accommodation costs
- Are not paying rent for a Housing New Zealand property.

The amount of financial assistance you may receive is dependent on your income as well as your spouse/partner's income. It may also be affected by any money or assets you or your partner has.



For more information regarding the accommodation supplement, visit www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/accommodation-supplement.html or speak to your local Work and Income office.

ASSISTANCE FOR HARDSHIP

This is to assist with the cost of any essential items (such as groceries) that you may not be able to afford due to current financial hardship. In order to access this supplement, you do not currently need to be on the benefit. For more information regarding your eligibility, contact your local Work and Income office, or visit the website on www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/how-we-can-help-you/dont-have-enough-income.html.

COMMUNITY SERVICES CARD

This card may help with some health care costs, and may reduce the cost of some health services and prescriptions, such as:

- Prescription fees
- Cost of after-hours doctor visits
- Visiting a doctor who may not be your regular doctor
- Optometrist services for children under 16 years
- Emergency dental care provided by hospitals and approved dentists
- Travel and accommodation for specialist treatment at a public hospital outside your area.

To be eligible for this card, your income must be under a certain threshold. You may use the card for your dependent children under 18 years of age. The card will need to be renewed or may be automatically renewed according to your individual circumstances. For more information regarding your individual circumstances, contact your local Work and Income office.

Work and Income also provides support for people caring for family or friends who are older or have ill health, a disability or a mental health, alcohol or other drug issue. A practical guide "A guide for Carers", written in partnership with Carers New Zealand, is available. To read more about "A Guide for Carers" www.msd.govt.nz/what-we-can-do/community/carers.

ASSISTANCE WITH TRANSPORT

Assistance with transport is also available for families and people with disabilities. This assistance is offered by a host of local, not-for-profit organisations, as well as the Ministry of Education (MOE). The following information was primarily gathered from the “A Guide for Carers” publication, as well as the MOE website.

NATIONAL TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE (NTA) FOR HEALTH SERVICES

This is financial assistance for people who incur travel costs for regular or long distance trips to health specialist appointments or disability services.

The criteria around this support are complex and it is best to consult with your local hospital, your specialist or a travel coordinator, or visit the NTA website on www.moh.govt.nz/travelassistance

TOTAL MOBILITY SCHEME

This scheme is to assist people with disabilities (who are unable to access public transport) to access transport by way of a subsidised taxi service. You are issued with taxi vouchers or a mobility card that entitles you to a 50% discount on regular taxi fares, up to a maximum of \$50 full fare. The scheme is partly funded by the New Zealand Transport Agency and Regional Councils, and is available nationally throughout the country. In Auckland, this service is accessible via MAXX Auckland Regional Transport. Phone the MAXX contact centre on 09 366 6400 for more information, or e-mail maxxenquiry@maxx.co.nz.

An assessment is conducted to determine whether you are eligible for this scheme. You may be eligible for this scheme, if you:

- Are unable to get to the place where the transport departs;
- Cannot get on to the transport independently;
- Are unable to ride the transport securely;
- Cannot descend from the transport safely; and
- Are unable to get to the destination independently.

MOBILITY PARKING PERMIT SCHEME

A mobility card (which is usually placed in the window of your car) allows you to gain access to parking nearer to your destination (such as the hospital, shopping malls, supermarkets etc). This scheme is open to individuals of all ages, who:

- Rely on mobility aids (such as crutches, wheel chair, walkers)
- Are unable to walk unaided 200m (e.g. safety issues)
- Are unable to walk or they rely on a wheel chair to get around

It is important to note that the permit holder must be the person using the vehicle.

For more information or to apply, consult your doctor or visit the CCS Disability website on www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz

If you have a child or young person with a disability, there is some transport assistance that is available from the MOE. The following is a short summary of what you may be eligible for. For more information, visit the MOE website on www.minedu.govt.nz/

SCHOOL TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE

As required by the law, it is parents' or caregivers' responsibility to ensure that their child is transported to and from school. However, some students may face difficulties getting to school due to distance or inability to safely access public transport. In such cases, the MOE offers School Transport Assistance to enable these children to get to their nearest appropriate school. The assistance may be in the form of a school bus, taxi service, or an allowance paid to the parents to assist with transport costs. The funding is available for students up until the age of 21. For more information regarding eligibility, visit the MOE website on: www.minedu.govt.nz/~media/MinEdu/Files/EducationSectors/PrimarySecondary/SchoolOpsTransport/Factsheets/Factsheet1October2012.pdf

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

Some families who may normally be eligible for the School Transport Assistance prefer to transport their child to school themselves. Under such circumstances, those families may be eligible for the Conveyance Allowance. The Conveyance allowance is paid quarterly in arrears by the number of kilometres travelled by the parent or caregiver after the first 2.4km travelled. In order to apply for this allowance parents/caregivers need to fill out an application form. The form is available from the school or on the MOE website on www.minedu.govt.nz/schooltransport

For more information on the Conveyance Allowance, go to www.minedu.govt.nz/NZEducation/EducationPolicies/Schools/SchoolOperations/SchoolTransport/SchoolTransportFactsheets.aspx

CHART OF BENEFITS

INCOME SUPPORT FOR CARERS	INCOME SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES	ASSISTANCE WITH TRANSPORT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Purposes Benefit – Care of Sick or Infirm • Child Disability Allowance • Disability Allowance • Childcare Subsidy • Working for Families Tax Credits • Accommodation Supplement • Assistance for Hardship • Community Services Card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invalid’s Benefit • Sickness Benefit • Disability Allowance • Assistance for Hardship • Accommodation Supplement • Community Services Card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Travel Assistance • Total Mobility Scheme • Mobility Parking Permit Scheme • Conveyance Allowance • School Transport Assistance



DID YOU KNOW?

- **Work and Income have Health and Disability Teams** that provide advice and recommendations on disability factors associated with benefit applications and the appropriateness of services. They also develop and maintain relationships with health and disability practitioners. The case manager can contact the team to help ensure that you are receiving the correct entitlement.
- **You can request to see the same case manager** regarding any benefit-related queries and appointments. However, you may have to wait longer than if you see the first available case manager.
- **Very High Needs Students receiving Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) funding** may continue to use the individualised funding to access vocational day programmes after they have finished school. For more information, consult Vocational Service Providers. Alternatively, it is possible that under the Ministry of Health's New Model (see the July 2012 Networker or Ministry of Health website: www.health.govt.nz), individuals may use their Individualised Funding (IF) grant to contribute to the cost of the vocational programme. In order to access this funding, an up-to-date needs assessment by the local Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC) agency may be required. The Parent and Family Resource Centre is following the New Model as it develops, keep an eye on our website www.pfrc.org.nz or contact us on 09 636 0351 for more details.
- **For students who have moderate to high needs**, there are also vocational day services that they can attend and they are able to access tertiary based community and life skills programmes at MIT and UNITEC. For more information, visit the UNITEC website www.unitec.ac.nz/social-health-sciences/en/social--health-sciences_home.cfm. Special Needs courses can be found under the Community and Health Services heading.
- **Currently before the Houses is the Social Security (Benefit Categories and Work Focus) Amendment Bill** that includes simplified benefit categories, a greater work focus, new expectations for partners of beneficiaries, and work preparation activities. Three new benefit types will replace the seven current benefit categories. The new categories included in this Bill are: Jobseeker Support for those actively seeking and available for work, Sole Parent Support for sole parents with children under 14 years, and Supported Living Payment for people significantly restricted by sickness, injury or disability. To read more about the Welfare Reform, go to www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/welfare-reform/july-2013/index.html
- **Earlier this year, the Ministry of Social Development (MSD)** conducted a survey to determine the type of resources and assistance that may help people with disabilities or long-lasting health conditions, who are able to work, to get (back) into the work place. The survey is now closed, and results are being interpreted. To read more about the survey and its implications, visit the MSD website www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/welfare-reform/july-2013/ill-health-disability-feedback.html
- **Families may wish to manage assets for their family member with a disability** by way of forming a Family Trust. Information regarding creating such trusts, as well as other relevant legal and financial disability issues (such as the Protection of Personal and Property Rights (PPPR) Act) is covered in the Trusts and Welfare Guardianship seminars run by the Parent and Family Resource Centre. These seminars are very popular and run regularly throughout the year. Refer to the Upcoming Events section on the front page for more details.

HELPFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

Work and Income

www.workandincome.govt.nz

A Guide for Carers Publication

www.msd.govt.nz/documents/what-we-can-do/community/carers/carers-brochure-english.pdf

Help for Kinship Carers

www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/forms-and-brochures/help-for-kinship-carers/index.html

Community Services Card

www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/community-services-card.html

Allowable Costs for Disability Allowance

www.workandincome.govt.nz/community/forms-and-brochures/disability-allowance-allowable-costs.html

Child Disability Allowance

www.workandincome.govt.nz/community/health-and-disability-practitioners/cda-guide-for-medical-practitioners

Invalid's Benefit

www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/forms-and-brochures/invalids-benefit-guide.html

Information for Carers – Domestic Purposes Benefit for Care of Sick or Infirm

www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/forms-and-brochures/are-you-a-carer.html

Enabling Good Lives

www.newzealanders.org/articles/enabling_good_lives

Working for Families

www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz

National Transport Assistance

www.moh.govt.nz/travelassistance

CCS Disability Action

www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz

Ministry of Education

www.minedu.govt.nz

School Transport Assistance & Conveyance Allowance

www.minedu.govt.nz/schooltransport

Unitec Website- Special Needs Courses

www.unitec.ac.nz/social-health-sciences/en/social--health-sciences_home.cfm

Ministry of Health

www.health.govt.nz

IRD

www.ird.govt.nz

Carers New Zealand

www.carers.net.nz/help_and_advice



TRANSITION EXPO 2013

THE PROGRESSION FROM SCHOOL TO COMMUNITY LIFE

Hosted by Parent & Family Resource Centre (PFRC)
& Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

WHEN: Thursday 15 August 2013

**WHERE: Fickling Convention Centre,
546 Mt. Albert Road, Three Kings, Auckland**

TIME: 9am – 2.30pm



The Transition Expo features most of Auckland's Transition and Vocational Programme Providers as well as an array of leisure, recreation, sports and information providers. Transition providers are contracted by the MSD to facilitate a smooth progression from school to community life for a young person with a disability who is ORS (Ongoing Resourcing Scheme) funded. In their final years at school transition coordinators help the student with a disability, their family and education professionals from the school to decide upon an appropriate community placement for post-school life. This is an important decision for any young person and requires planning and knowledge.

This Expo will feature a Transition Seminar in a separate presentation room at 9.30am and midday (1.5hr seminar will run twice) – issues covered will include:

- Engaging with Taikura Trust at this important transition phase
- The process for ORS funding and access to vocational programmes upon leaving school
- Post school options including High Needs and Very High Needs Vocational Programmes, employment possibilities, micro-enterprise
- Information about future planning for your loved one with a disability

- Use of supports such as Individualised Funding and Carer Support Subsidy
- Options for living arrangements – IF and Flating, Choice in Community Living, Residential Care, etc
- Work and Income supports for which you may be eligible

This Expo is suitable for all students aged between 14-21 years who are ORS funded, parents, family members, caregivers, education experts, careers advisors, school transition coordinators, teachers and all those involved in the care of a young adult with a disability.

Transition Providers, Vocational Service Providers and 'leisure/recreation' providers will each have a stall providing information, pamphlets, booklets, DVD's and promotional material. Representatives from each organisation will be available for advice as well as Work and Income, Ministry of Education and Taikura Trust. Although this Expo is aimed at ORS funded students, all students with a disability and those involved in the disability sector would benefit from information available on the day. A coffee van will be available at the door for purchase of coffee, and there are several cafe's nearby for food and drinks.

Please contact PFRC for further information on (09) 636-0351 or pfradmin@pfrc.org.nz

**Free entry, plenty of parking, fully accessible venue,
information pack given to each family**

FREE ADMISSION
WITH ACCESSIBLE, FREE PARKING!

THE BIG EVENT EXPO & MARKET PLACE
ACCESSIBILITY FOR A BETTER LIFE
5-6 April 2013 | ASB SHOWGROUNDS | GREENLANE

NZ's biggest accessibility expo!

The Big Event Expo & Marketplace is a fun and free event that celebrates accessibility, with more than 130 stands showcasing daily living products and services, education workshops with guest speakers, a dedicated youth area, the latest accessible technology, innovation, sport and entertainment. This will be a great event for all!

Register TODAY, visit www.thebigevent.org.nz

Daily Living (Home icon)
Accessibility (Hand icon)
Entertainment & Sport (Person running icon)

Technology & Innovation (Smartphone icon)
Youth Area (Person jumping icon)
Education & Employment (Handshake icon)

CONTACT: (09) 836 2083 OR INFO@ADPN.ORG.NZ

FRIDAY 5 APRIL 10AM - 4PM | SATURDAY 6 APRIL 9.30AM - 4PM

**INNOVATION | TECHNOLOGY | EMPLOYMENT SERVICES | DAILY LIVING | ACCESSIBILITY
ART | YOUTH ACTIVITIES | PRODUCTS | SERVICES**

OPPORTUNITIES | DEMONSTRATIONS | SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS | SERVICES | NEW FRIENDS | FUN & EXCITEMENT

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

SPECIAL FEATURES IN 2013

YOUTH ZONE

- It will be active, fun, exciting and challenging
 - Open to young people of all ability levels
- Organised by The Cube, incorporating the Halberg
 - Trust and CP Society
- Bands, music, games, dancing, challenges
 - Sports

TECHNOLOGY

- The changing world—what is new? Adaptations, the latest gadgets

AGEING

- Addressing the needs and interests of our ageing population

ART

- An exhibition of art by people with disabilities, curated by Spark Studio
- Artworks will be for sale

INNOVATION

- A special section in which any individual with a good idea for making life easier can display and demonstrate their inventions

EMPLOYMENT

- Specialists in employment for people with disabilities will be represented

AND MUCH MORE!



A small vigorous community based resource centre for the families and whanau of disabled children and young people.



A BIG THANK YOU...

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Funders including:

- Te Pou
- Auckland Council
- The Lion Foundation
- COGS Committees – Auckland, Manukau & Waitakere
- New Zealand Post
- Anonymous Trust
- DIAS Discretionary fund



VISION

Disabled people and their families are able to lead the lives they desire

CORE VALUE

Respecting and supporting choice

MISSION

To empower disabled people and their families through leading social change

We do this through:

- Information, advice and seminars
- Advocacy for and with disabled people and their families
- Influencing national policy and decision-making
- Incubating innovative programmes for families

DIAS Provider

The Parent and Family Resource Centre (PFRC) is a Disability Information and Advisory Service, otherwise known as a DIAS Provider. We are contracted by the Ministry of Health to provide a service to families and whanau of disabled children and young people in the Auckland Region.

The Parent & Family Resource Centre Inc - CC21603 - is a registered charitable entity in terms of the Charities Act 2005. For more information about the Parent & Family Resource Centre Inc, visit the Charities Register at www.charities.govt.nz

PARENT AND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE INC. is a Disability Information and Advisory Service (DIAS) and is open weekdays 9 – 4.30pm, Cnr Spring & Princes Street. Onehunga. Post to PFRC, PO Box 13 385, Onehunga 1643, Auckland. For more information on PFRC visit www.pfrc.org.nz or phone (09) 636 0351.

Disclaimer: The views and suggestions in this newsletter are those of individual contributors and are not necessarily supported by Parent and Family Resource Centre Inc.