

disability connect.

helping families

Vision

That people with disabilities and their families are able to lead the lives they want

Core Value

To respect and support choice

Mission

To lead change and influence change for people with disabilities and their families.

e-bulletin – week beginning 23 November 2015

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Christmas is nearly here!

Just letting you know that Disability Connect will close for Christmas and New Year from 4pm Tuesday 22nd December and reopen 9am Tuesday 5th January 2016.

Good news stories

We would love to collect feedback and good news stories from our membership about how we have helped you at some point over the last few years. All feedback welcome, please email to admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz or ring Gabi on 636-0351.

SEMINARS/TRAINING

Indian families with children of special needs support group meeting - 26 November 2015, 5pm till 8pm Mt Richmond School, 30 Albion Road, Otahuhu – topic Respite Opportunities

It is the time of the year when summer holiday is approaching. Families are starting to think about respite support or holiday programmes for their children with disabilities during the holiday period. This seminar by Disability Connect will feature respite care and holiday programmes and funding. Have a look at the flyer [here](#).

Chinese Families Autism Support Group Christmas Party – Tuesday 1st December 9.30am till 1pm at Te Tuhi, 13 Reeves Road, Pakuranga

Disability Connect is delighted to offer another Chinese Families Autism Support Group Christmas Party on Tuesday 1st December at the usual venue Te Tuhi centre in Pakuranga. Chinese families raising a child with autism are welcome to come along and meet Santa and enjoy lunch. This support group is a celebration for members of this group. Bookings essential – phone Sanny on 526-1298 or email sanny@disabilityconnect.org.nz Please look at our flyer in [English](#) and [Chinese](#)

Epilepsy NZ - Seizure Recognition & First Aid seminar 27 November 12.30-1.30pm at Hub West

[Click here](#) for information on this seminar 27 Corbans Road Henderson or ph 0800 EPILEPSY (374 537) or email auckland.nth@epilepsy.org.nz

CCS Disability Action - Leading Life Conversations Workshop 26 November 10am - 3pm 14 Erson Avenue, Royal Oak, Auckland

Find out how to capture your ideas about what is important to you and communicate with others about what you want and how they can support you. [Click here](#) for information and [here](#) the easy read flier.

FREE4U Computer courses – Unitec Henderson and Albany

Did you know about these free self-paced level one courses? Have a look at <http://www.unitec.ac.nz/career-and-study-options/computing-and-information-technology/free4u-computing> maybe you find something suitable. This is self-paced but a facilitator is on hand to help.

The Health and Disability Commissioner's office - consumer seminar, 4 December 10am-12pm

The seminars will focus on the Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights, and what they mean for disabled people in particular. The discussion will be around what HDC does, what to do if you are unhappy with a health and disability service, and what happens when you make a complaint. It will be held at: Shanti Niwas Senior Centre, 14 Spring St Onehunga. Hindi interpreters will be present. [Click here](#) to view flyer.

Children's Autism Foundation last workshops for this year

One workshop called "Dealing with Anxiety" will be held 30th November 10am – 12pm in Manurewa, and the second "Strategies for Behaviour" on 1st December 10am-12pm in Pukekohe. [Click here](#) for further details. Contact admin@autism.org.nz to book. Please note the change of time since the last publication.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Manukau Live Steamers – Waitangi Day FREE event 6 February 2016 from 11am

This is a fun filled day out for children with special needs and their families. [Click here](#) to view flyer.

Diabetes New Zealand (Auckland Branch) have launched their 'Diabetes Action Month'

There is a national road show by the Mobile Diabetes Awareness Service. This van will tour several towns and cities, including our home base of Auckland. See [here](#) for road show venues. See website for a range of Campaign initiatives: www.diabetes.org.nz. Or [click here](#) for details about the campaign, [here](#) for the "know you risk" poster or [booklet](#). There is also an [invite](#) and a [fact sheet](#) for you to look at.

StarJam - End of Year Concert! 28 November 7pm, Victory Convention Centre, Beaumont St

StarJam provides performance and music opportunities for young people with disabilities and the StarJam Auckland End of the Year Concert is the culmination of a year's worth of efforts from their young people. Everyone is invited! There will be singing, dancing, drumming and more. Tickets are just \$10 for adults, and \$5 for kids. To get yours, go to: <http://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2015/starjam-2015-end-of-year-concert/auckland/freemans-bay> For their flyer [click here](#).

Halberg Disability Sports Foundation

They support a number of events and programmes and sent through a lot of flyers for you to look at. There is [Auckland Powerchair Football club](#), [Papatoetoe United Adapted Football Programme](#), [Have a Go at Wheelchair Tennis and Boccia](#), [Out and About - Amazing Race](#), [Saint Kentigern Halberg Junior Disability Sports Day](#) and [Trikes NZ coming to NZ](#).

They have also donated a beach wheelchair for hire in and around Tutukaka coast. For more information [click here](#).

And Halberg Sports also have organised a "Flight Centre Foundation Halberg Watersports Day" at the Tutukaka coast on Saturday 21 November 2015. [Click here](#) to view flyer. They are also looking for volunteers for the event, [click here](#) if you want to know more.

Circability are advertising a range of events:

Cirque du Soleil QUIDAM: benefit events for Circability on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th Feb 2016 at 8pm.

Inclusion Planning Meetings: First Tuesday of every month 12.00pm - 1.00pm at Circability Centre

[Click here](#) for flyer and more links.

Janet McVeagh Programmes and Events:

December Holiday programmes: [Click here](#) for information, [here](#) for enrolment form and [here](#) for the parental agreement form to be filled out. And have a look at their **Christmas Party** invite [here](#).

Self-Expression Group: The dancing Soul – Saturdays 10.30-11.30am, St Heliers Community Centre

Dance and movement Therapy for kids with special needs. [Click here](#) to view flyer.

NOTICES

CAT LOUNGE on the North Shore

Brand new cafe that's just opened on Auckland's North Shore with the aim to brighten up your day, and bring smiles to those who need them most. They have 15 resident cats and kittens which visitors can come and cuddle, and play with. It is wheelchair accessible so go and check it out. [Click here](#) for flyer.

3rd December - United Nations 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities'

Citizen Advocacy Auckland is helping promote 3rd December United Nations 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities'. [Click here](#) to view their poster. Please consider: forwarding the poster to your network, displaying the poster or sharing your experiences as a Citizen Advocacy advocate with-in your network. Citizen Advocacy advocates are needed. Help us to find new potential advocates. Together, we can make a difference.

Web accessibility user testing panel – people wanted

The Blind Foundation is looking for wanting a broad range of disabled people who have moderate confidence or familiarity using computers, who are interested in testing website accessibility for NZ companies, on a casual, but paid basis. There's a possibility this may lead to future involvement in a panel of Deaf and disabled people who would review websites on a regular basis. The Blind Foundation has a few people already, i.e. blind and low vision is 'covered'.

In particular, they are looking for people whose physical access needs means that they might use assistive technology to access websites - perhaps someone who uses a wand, or similar.

They're also interested to find people with a print disability whose cognitive/learning impairment creates extra challenges for them accessing websites, but they would be capable of completing a transaction and travelling semi-independently.

'Print disability' means "a person who cannot effectively read print because of a visual, physical, perceptual, developmental, cognitive, or learning disability". Please use this link:

<http://www.dpa.org.nz/article/453/Callingforexpressionsofinterestforawebaccessibilityusertestingpanel.html>

CCS Disability Action – Great Potato Harvest – 12 December 10-11.30am, 14 Erson Ave, Royal Oak

Great potato harvest celebration at the Dig It Organic Garden in Royal Oak. Have a look at flyer [here](#).

Idea Services want you to know about ASD Services available in Auckland

[Click here](#) to have a look at the information.

Attainable Trust and the Attainable kitchen

Are offering Goodies from the Good Purpose Kitchen. Buy some Christmas Goodies and support people with disabilities. Go to <http://www.attainabletrust.org.nz/> for general info and

<http://kitchen.attainabletrust.org.nz/shop/christmas> to have a look at the goodies.

Have you heard of DottyWobble?

DottyWobble is passionate about providing a means of communication and learning to those who have not previously had this or who are struggling with their current supports. While products/services started off as a means of providing resources for autistic children they grew quickly into helping anyone with any learning or communication difficulties. Have a look at their website <http://dottywobble.com/> and their newsletter below.

Counties Manukau District Health Board - Warm Up Counties Manukau

This programme is to ensure that you and your family are better prepared for winter, so please consider whether or not you are eligible for the **free** retrofitting insulation programme. You must: live in the Counties Manukau, Papakura, or Franklin area, live in a private home built prior to 1st January 2000, must have a Community Services Card and priority will be given to families with children (*under 17*) or older adults (*over 65*) living in the household with health conditions. Please [click here](#) for information leaflet and [here](#) for application.

Accounting Services (for Individualised Funding)

Vimlesh Nadan has an accounting qualifications and can provide accounting services to parents who use Individualised Funding to pay their support worker. He does payroll, PAYE and Kiwi-saver for his own daughter's support worker. Contact him on 0210574124 or email nadan2fj@yahoo.com for an appointment.

Support groups – Disability Connect

Disability Connect offers cultural special support groups to families with children of special needs as part of the CALD service (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Disability Information and Advisory Service) for different ethnic groups. We have a Chinese Families Autism Support Group that runs every third Tuesday of a month and an Indian Families with Children of Special Needs Support group which runs monthly. We welcome all families with special needs to join the relevant support group. It is a great opportunity for parents to share their experience and network with each other. Please contact Sanny at Disability Connect for more information or bookings, phone 09 526 1298 (DDI)/09 636 0351 or sanny@disabilityconnect.org.nz

GlowKids launching a Sensory Kindy

Have you heard about Glowkids? It is an Auckland based service providing assessment, advice, early childhood education and therapy for children. Have a look at their website www.glowkids.org.nz. They are now offering sensory Kindy sessions, [click here](#) to view flyer.

The Pure Food Co - Smooth Puree Meals

The Pure Food Co produces texture modified foods that are delicious, nutritious, affordable, and effortless to prepare. Designed specifically for those who experience eating difficulties, providing a top quality selection of proteins, vegetables, and carbohydrates that cater to a wide range of needs. Go to: <http://thepurefoodco.co.nz/>

Playgroup for pre-schoolers with ASD / Aspergers / ADHD - & Siblings

Every Wednesday during school term 12.30-2.30pm (BYO lunch). St Columba Presbyterian Church Pakuranga playgroup and crèche area. Cost \$2 per family. 480 Ti Rakau Drive next to the ice rink. Contact Talita De Lange 021 132 8697. Email: specialkids.families@gmail.com

Safari Multicultural Playgroup

Safari Multicultural Playgroup will launch a new location in Papatoetoe. They welcome families from all cultural backgrounds living locally, as well as former refugee families living outside of Papatoetoe. Please [click here](#) for information of this playgroup.

Child's Play O.T. Holiday Programme January 2016

[Click here](#) for information about the programme from 18 -22 January 2016.

Lifekidz after school and holiday programmes

Have a look at their website <http://lifekidz.org.nz/> you might like what you see. Or look [here](#).

Tours for people with disability

We have been sent information about tours in NZ and Australia for people with some (mild) form of disability. Have a look at these brochures and please note they are not suitable for people needing one-on-one care. [Vivid Sydney May 2016](#), [Major NZ Tours and Cruise](#), [Hawkes Bay and Scenic Safari Tours](#) and [NZ Tours](#).

Be.Leadership programme: 2016 Applications open

Be. Leadership is a one-of-a-kind programme in New Zealand, taking participants through a year of exploration of different perspectives, questioning, laughter, self-discovery and accessibility focused leadership. It is specifically crafted to suit the diversity of the access community. It advances a more accessible society and a dynamic community of leaders. To apply please visit: <http://www.beaccessible.org.nz/be-leadership>

MyCare – new service in the home care sector

MyCare is a new online space to connect Kiwis seeking or offering home-based services (paid or voluntary). It works closely with the national not for profit Carers New Zealand and other community organisations. Currently MyCare has opened its website for pre-registrations of those offering services, and people who are seeking help of various kinds. [Click here](#) to view flyer.

Health Click – health education specialists

Have quality resources for people with intellectual/learning disabilities aged 11+. [Click here](#) for details on their resources.

Therapy 4 Children Service

Quality Rehabilitation Services Ltd are a Paediatric Team of Occupational Therapists, Speech Language Therapists and Physiotherapists that provide services Auckland-wide. Go to www.qualityrehab.co.nz or contact 0800 557 556.

Affordable Counselling Service

Trisha Glover is in the final stages of completing her Diploma in Psychosynthesis Counselling and is offering counselling services for individual family members living with a person with a disability at a sliding scale rate of \$30 - \$50 per session. She holds clinics in Marua Road, Ellerslie. For more information, [click here](#). Please contact Trisha on 021 142 3851 or email her on tglover@ihug.co.nz for more information or to book a session.

Counselling Service – South

Kim Gregory is a counsellor who has had personal experience with disability. She has a son who is on the Autism Spectrum and has worked in the Disability Sector in various capacities over the past few years. [Click here](#) for more information about Kim, or contact her on 09 296 7587 or email her on ian.kimg@orcon.net.nz.

Edith's Garden Sanctuary

Edith's Garden is a quiet, peaceful oasis in the heart of Auckland's suburbia (at the base of Mt. Wellington). Families and individuals are welcome to visit and enjoy being outdoors in a safe environment. Elevated planter boxes are wheelchair accessible and are available for a small weekly donation. There is also the 'Hub' – an indoor area suited to craft work which can get messy. [Click here](#) for more info or contact Rosie Elder on 021 162 5124 or email edithsgarden@outlook.com or website www.edithsgarden.org.nz

English for Everyday Life/English for Work – Auckland Wide

[Click here](#) for more information on English classes for (new) migrants being run by English Language Partners New Zealand. Alternatively you may contact Estelle Swan on estelle.swan@englishlanguage.org.nz or via phone on 523 0071.

Parent to Parent matching database

Parent to Parent has a database matching families with similar conditions, sometimes they find it difficult to find matches. Contact ph 07 853 8491 or Toll Free 0508 236 236, email: matchingandinfo@parent2parent.org.nz. Also [click here](#) to view their Family Video Stories.

Auckland Down Syndrome Association

All information and their current news can be found at <http://www.adsa.org.nz/How+we+help>
[Click here](#) to view their Christmas invite. ADSA are also advertising for their Success in School course starting February 2016. [Click here](#) for information. ADSA is also asking for help for their Buddy Walk
<http://www.adsa.org.nz/BuddyWalk.html>

Scoop articles this fortnight:

["From wheelchair to walking in less than a year"](#)
["Early Childhood Council Statement"](#)
["Mentor or floor sweeper, Brett's their man"](#)
["Cody's pulling on a black jersey"](#)
["Youths with Disabilities showcase their talents"](#)
["Click for your Attitude champion"](#)
["Caring for the carers"](#)
["Cuts, underspending, delays in special education revealed"](#)
["Extra targeted support into employment"](#)
["UNICEF NZ acknowledges passing of UNICEF NZ Ambassador Jonah"](#)

Other articles of interest:

["Special needs students in poor communities missing out on exam help"](#)
["Dyslexic students pack out inquiry to send message to MPs"](#)
["Children with special learning needs 'suffering developmental delay'"](#)
["Young sportsman Bradley Jenkin mourned"](#)

Websites of interest

- www.offthepage.co.nz easy to read, high interest books for low level readers, suited to readers with any reading disability, struggling readers or adults learning to read. Also [click here](#) for their general info.
- <http://www.aucklandzoo.co.nz/sites/plan-your-visit/visitor-information/accessibility-info> Accessibility, disability and mobility information for Auckland Zoo visitors
- <http://www.education.govt.nz/news/consultation-workshops-to-support-the-education-act-update-1989/> Consultation workshops to support the Education Act Update 1989
- <http://www.abilityadventures.co.nz/> Ability Adventures – Exploration, adventure and discovery through travel
- <http://www.access4all.co.nz/> Accommodation & Activities for people with reduced mobility

NEWSLETTERS

[Altogether Autism Journal](#) – Spring 2015

[Carers NZ](#) – latest newsletter

[CCS disability action "what's new in the library"](#) – September 2015

[Children's Autism](#) – October 2015

[Deaf Aotearoa Community Weekly](#) – November 2015

[Disability Support Network newsletter](#) - November 2015

[Dotty Wobble](#) – November 2015

[Expressions](#) – Spring 2015

[Health Quality & Safety Commission E-update](#) – November 2015

[IHC Hot Issues Newsletter](#) – October 2015

[Independent Living Service Newsletter](#) – November 2015

[Ministry of Health NGO newsletter](#) – November 2015

[Muscular Dystrophy Northern newsletter](#) – November 2015

[News from the land of Be](#) – October 2015

[Numicon](#) – Spring 2015

[Open for better care E-update](#) – October 2015

[Parent to Parent enews](#) – November 2015

[Recreate Newsletter](#) – Term 4 2015

[Spark Centre/Mapura Studios](#) – Quarterly Newsletter September 2015

[Special Olympics Fanletter](#) – November 2015

[StarJam Spread Winter edition – e-chat](#)

[Tani Newsletter](#) – Spring 2015

[Vidoma Newsletter](#) - Spring 2015

[Wilson Home e-news](#) – 18 November 2015



From the Disability Connect Team
Lisa, Virginia, Sanny, Gabi, Robyn and Asoka
www.disabilityconnect.org.nz

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