

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 11 January 2016

CONTENT

[Seminars/training](#)

[Upcoming events](#)

[Notices](#)

[Newsletters](#)

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Trading as
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Please visit our Facebook page [here](#) and 'like' us. You can follow us on Twitter [here](#).

December Networker Magazine – topic 'Education Choices: Mainstream and Special Schools'

Our Networker magazine is available in print and electronic versions – contact us on 636-0351 or email admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz to order a copy of this FREE resource. This edition explores important issues related to choosing an education environment for a child with a disability and contains a wealth of information on mainstream, special schools, home-schooling, correspondence school, etc. This will be especially useful to parents of younger children with a disability approaching school age. [Click here](#) to view a pdf version.

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

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.

Altogether Autism Conference 19-20 July 2017 in Auckland – Save this Date!

Information will follow in due course.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Manawanui in Charge – “My Life, my Way” – 8 March 10am - 2pm Ponsonby

This event focusses on the possibilities in the lives of disabled people including extended family, natural networks, teachers and community members. For information [click here](#). This event will be held at Saint Columba Centre, 40 Vermont Street, Auckland.

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

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

Myers Park Medley - accessible event!! Sunday 28 February 2016, 12noon – 5pm.

A free, family-friendly event bringing entertainment, art, fun and music to this much loved inner-city park. This brand new annual event is all about community coming together to celebrate what makes Myers Park unique and the culture that surrounds it so much fun. Some of the local artists featured are: Surrey Boudit, Coco Davis and Life Underwater, along with Music in Parks' artists Delaney Davidson and Tami Neilson.

Show your Ability – Disability Equipment Expo 23rd February 2016

On display are all kinds of equipment for younger and older disabled people and older persons care equipment. For more detailed information please [click here](#).

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 12pm - 1pm at Circability Centre.

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

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

Disability Support Guide available from Disability Connect in English, Simplified Chinese, Korean and Arabic

Our popular (and free!) Disability Support Guide is currently available in English and Chinese and by the end of January we will have a Korean and Arabic version too! To order copies contact Disability Connect on phone 636-0351 or email admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz.

Ministry of Health Review “how the physiotherapy practice can become more patient and whanau centred”

Martine Abel at has been selected consumer representative to collect stories/vignettes on great and not so great Physiotherapy treatment, if patients feel they've been listened to, whether proper information sharing and a discussion around options for treatment occurred etc. This may enable better understanding of the skills and competencies which promote successful Patient and Whanau centred Care, and areas where current practice could be enhanced. Please email Martine Abel Martine.Abel@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

FASD Action Plan - Consultation will be open until the 26th of February 2016

To help inform the FASD Action Plan the Government has just released the FASD discussion document 'Taking Action on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)'. This document outlines the evidence and key issues around FASD and proposes key principles, high level outcomes and action areas for a more effective response. The Ministry of Health wants to test these with stakeholders to help drive the direction of the Action Plan and prioritise actions. Questions are provided to help guide submissions but open and frank feedback is encouraged. For further information and a copy of "Taking Action on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder" Discussion document [click here](#) or contact Rose Hawkins, Regional Disability Advisor, Child Youth and Family on 09 913 1239

GEDDES software – new version of “Storymaker”

Story writing and reading software that promotes language development for those with learning challenges. Have a look [here](#).

Results of the Ministry of Health’s NZ Health Strategy survey

The Ministry of Health is updating the New Zealand Health Strategy. The results of this Survey which ended in December can be viewed here:

https://futuredirection.health.govt.nz/?utm_source=health.govt.nz&utm_medium=promo-home&utm_content=were&utm_campaign=healthstrategy

Updated Disability Action Plan 2014-2018: Update 2015

“Cross-government priorities to improve disabled people’s ability to participate and contribute to New Zealand”.

The plan focuses on action to achieve four shared results: Increase employment and economic opportunities, transform the disability support system, ensure personal safety and promote access in the community. [Click here](#) to view document.

Job Café – meeting the needs of employers and job seekers

Jobcafé is an employment website that encourages diversity and inclusiveness in employment. It's free for people to register as a job seeker. In 2016 the Ministry of Social Development will be posting job vacancies on Jobcafé. Explore [here](#).

Spectrum Care Day Respite Care announcement:

Spectrum care have decided to open their Aspirations day centre for **day respite in weekends** charging for this via Individualised Funding. Contact: Angela Mackay Angela.Mackay@spectrumcare.org.nz ph: 09 634-3790

"Creative Lives Project NZ" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1660356754178749/?fref=ts>

This is a public group on Facebook for families looking at living options for their disabled family member. They are currently trying to find people who would share their success stories.

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.

Halberg Disability Sports Foundation

They have donated a beach wheelchair for hire in and around Tutukaka coast. For more information [click here](#). In fact they are offering beach wheelchairs in many other places now <http://www.halberg.co.nz/news/beach-wheelchairs-available-around-the-country/>

Health Click – health education specialists

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

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

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.

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>

Dance Therapy NZ - For children on the Autism Spectrum & related disorders including ADHD, Anxiety, PDD and Developmental Delays.

STARS Dance Movement Therapy Groups - Programme activities include dance, movement, music, play and body awareness with a focus on developing social skills and emotional literacy. Starts 16th February in Onehunga, Mt Albert, Northcote and Pakuranga.

Arts 4 Us Specialty Art Therapy Group - Programme activities include art making with the aim to support social skills, emotional literacy, friendship skills and sensory integration. Starts 15th February in Orakei Community Centre. Contact Dance Therapy NZ info@dancetherapy.co.nz, 096363029 or check out www.dancetherapy.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

Emmanuel Support Family Camp 19-21 February 2016

Emmanuel Support (a ministry of Elevate Christian Disability Trust) will be holding its first family camp in February next year to give families a weekend away of fun, relaxation and encouragement. Please [click here](#) for flyer and [here](#) for registration form.

Janet McVeagh Programmes and Events:

January Holiday Programme: [Click here](#) for information, [here](#) for enrolment form and [here](#) for the parental agreement form to be filled out.

Kokako Outdoor Camp - boot camp: [Click here](#) for information, [here](#) for Kokako Risk management form and [here](#) for parental agreement.

Term 1 2016 camps and programmes: [Click here](#) for information.

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

[Click here](#) for information about the programmes from 18-22 January 2016. Please note limited spaces available so be quick to send in your application forms and deposit to avoid disappointment. For those who are not present clients with them they need to book in for a 20 minute assessment/consult/developmental screening test beforehand so they can further understand your child's needs. Please fill in the [case history form](#) and email or mail to them along with the [application form](#). Please click on links for a variety of information: [Social Skills Program](#), [School readiness program](#), [Anxiety Program](#) and [Grafton Map](#).

Contact details: Mob 0274695884, ph (09) 300 6324, PO Box 302612, North Harbour, 0751, www.childsplayot.co.nz

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.

Discovery for Teens

The Discovery Foundation exists to give young people the skills, tools and strategies that enable them to get the best out of life and to deal effectively with life's challenges. The Discovery programmes are designed to promote self-esteem and to encourage children and teenagers to reach their full potential. The programmes have a ratio of 1:4 which enables them able to accommodate children who have learning and or physical difficulties. For more info go to www.discoveryforteens.org.nz or have a look at their brochure [here](#).

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](#).

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 <http://www.glowkids.org.nz/>. They are now offering sensory Kindy sessions, [click here](#) to view flyer.

Caregiver needed

A support carer is wanted to look after a 3 1/2 years old autistic boy at home in Epsom while the parents have some respite. The carer must be experienced in handling a child with autism. Call 022 068 8022.

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/>

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.

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

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

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 09 523 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.

Auckland Down Syndrome Association

All information and their current news can be found at <http://www.adsa.org.nz/How+we+help> 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>

Counselling Services: Please [click here](#) for information

Scoop articles this fortnight:

["New Year honours 2015"](#)

["Honouring services to disability community"](#)

Other articles of interest:

["Auckland plans to provide access to arts and culture"](#)

Websites of interest

- <https://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

[Children's Autism](#) – December 2015

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

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

[Dotty Wobble – January 2016](#)

[Enable NZ Newsletter – Kia Maro](#) – Issue 4 November 2015

[Expressions](#) – Summer 2015

[Health Quality & Safety Commission E-update](#) – December 2015 [Open for better care newsletter](#) – Christmas 2015

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

[Ministry of Health NGO newsletter](#) – November 2015 [NGO Chairs 2015 Update](#) [NGO Council NZHS submission](#)

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

[National Health IT Board](#) – December 2015

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

[Numicon](#) – Christmas 2015

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

[Recreate Newsletter](#) – Term 4 2015

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

[Special Olympics Fanletter](#) – December 2015

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

[Waitemata DHB CALD Child Health and Disability Newsletter](#) – December 2015



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

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