

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 25 January 2016

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[Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!](#)

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

We are changing the layout of our bulletin to foster easier reading of lots of information. This is work in progress and any constructive feedback will be appreciated.

Disability Connect news

New charge for professionals attending

Disability Connect seminars

Disability Connect is introducing a \$20 charge per professional to attend our seminars (no charge to family members or individuals with a disability). This can be paid by cash, cheque (made out to our full organisation name Parent and Family Resource Centre Inc.) or direct debit. We do not accept credit card or Eftpos payments. We are happy to send an invoice at the time of booking. Payment is required prior to attendance.

December Networker Magazine – topic

'Education Choices: Mainstream and Special Schools'

Our FREE Networker magazine is available in print and electronic versions. Contact us on 636-0351 or email admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz to order. 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. You will also be able to view our schedule for seminars for the next 6 months and book in.

Please check our upcoming seminars below!

Good news stories

We are collecting 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 ph Gabi on 636-0351 or email admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

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 636-0351 or email admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

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

SEMINARS/TRAINING/ CONFERENCES



Disability Connect running seminars in February – save the dates!

We are starting off the new year with our series of seminars. On the 16th February we are running our “[Education Legal Issues](#)” evening seminar at Disability Connect Premises. The very popular “[Work and Income Supports](#)” evening seminar will run out of Rosehill Special school on the 17th February. And on the 23rd and 24th February evening we are offering “[Individualised Funding including respite](#)” and “Trust and Welfare Guardianship” respectively, both at Disability Connect premises. We will advertise again in more detail in our next bulletin.

FREE4U Computer courses – Unitec Henderson and Albany

Did you know about these free self-paced level one courses? These courses come with a facilitator on hand. <http://www.unitec.ac.nz/career-and-study-options/computing-and-information-technology/free4u-computing>

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

Information will follow in due course.

Auckland Down Syndrome Association

ADSA are 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>

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>

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](#) and registration [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.

NOTICES



New!! FACS NZ

Foetal Anti-Convulsant Syndrome (FACS): a preventable condition caused by taking anti-epileptic drugs (AED) (commonly prescribed for epilepsy, mental health conditions, nerve pain management or migraines) during pregnancy. FACS is diagnosed by an informed specialist when the mother has taken AEDs during pregnancy and has a baby/child with a combination of dysmorphic (facial) features, physical malformations and/or neuro-developmental or cognitive impairments and there is no other reason for these difficulties/impairments.

FACS NZ is able to provide Support, Education, and Awareness, which leads to Prevention. Please feel free to contact them via their Website: www.facsnz.com, Email: denise@facsnz.com mob: 021 189 4483 Facebook: www.facebook.com/facsnz

National Carer Matching Service – NEW!

Carers NZ and its online partner, MyCare are operating this new National Carer Matching Service funded by the Ministry of Health. If you have a disability or support a disabled person under the age of 65 you may be eligible to use this free new service, developed for people with disabilities and their families to help them easily connect with relief carers in their areas. You can ask your NASC to refer you to the service, or self-refer by contacting Jude at Carers NZ (ph 0800 777 797 or email centre@carers.net.nz). Once you've been referred to the National Carer Matching Service by your NASC, or completed the registration process with help, you will be able to post jobs seeking relief carers in your area at the MyCare website, view profiles of available workers/relief carers and directly message them to make arrangements to meet and/or use their services. [Click here](#) for the information sheet about the service.

Ministry of Health NGO Health and Disability Network looking for presenters

They indicated on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/HealthDisabilityNGONZ/> that they intend to plan workshops on influencing policy and how to make submissions sometime this year. Contact them if you know of a good presenter or are one yourself. They have asked people to send them a private message on Facebook but you could also email them secretariatngo@gmail.com if you are interested.

Young Adult Research Participants wanted – University of Auckland

A study involving EEG for ASD adults and possibly young adults. They want to reach out to find participants as part of the preparation. This study aims to help improving diagnosis and treatment for ASD individuals. Participants and/or their caregivers are going to receive an informal telephonic report and a more formal written report if requested. Detailed reports fit for purpose such as to obtain benefit may also be obtained but will have a cost, though lower than the normal rate. Contact: Stephen Safford Wolfson 0211601914

GEDDES software – new version of “Storymaker”

Story writing and reading software that promotes language development for those with learning challenges. Have a look [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.

Halberg Disability Sports Foundation – beach wheelchairs

For information for the Tutukaka area [click here](#). Other places around the country go to <http://www.halberg.co.nz/news/beach-wheelchairs-available-around-the-country/>

Counties Manukau District Health Board - Warm Up Counties Manukau

This programme is to ensure that you and your family are better prepared for winter. To be 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.

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.

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.

Child Matters are offering new Child Protection courses

Go to their website for information:

<http://www.childmatters.org.nz/22/child-protection-training>

Counselling Services

Disability Sector Project Information and updates

Other organisations information

Playgroups, activities, after school and holiday programmes

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

Articles of interest:

[*"New trike helps Hamilton boy be strong"*](#)

[*"Portal Workshop News"*](#)

[*"Disabled and elderly to get access codes to drive up Mt Eden summit"*](#)

[*"NZOM for man left paraplegic in crash who dedicates life to helping others"*](#)

Scoop articles this fortnight:

[*"Insights into six disabled people who dance"*](#)

NEWSLETTERS

[Altogether Autism Journal](#) – Spring 2015

[Carers NZ](#) – latest newsletter

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

[Deaf Aotearoa Community Weekly](#) – January 2016

[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
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www.disabilityconnect.org.nz

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