

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 22 February 2016

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Parent & Family
Resource Centre
Trading as
Disability Connect
www.disabilityconnect.org.nz
Phone: 09 636 0351
PO Box 13385, Onehunga
3B Olive Road,
Penrose

In order to keep informed about important issues, seminars and changes to any seminars it is important that you LIKE us on Facebook !

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

Disability Connect news

New Disability 'Colleague' Social Worker role at Disability Connect

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new [social worker role](#) to provide advocacy, support and practical help to families and individuals with a disability. Click on the link to find out more about this service which is free to families. We welcome new referrals either directly from families or from professionals.

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.

NEW NEW NEW Living Options seminar

Information on four options for living arrangements for a person with a disability, funding options, supports and much more. Exploring Residential Care, Supported Living, Choice in Community Living and Family Governed models. This seminar is ideal for families of a young adult with a disability who is approaching the age or 'readiness' to leave home.

Good news stories - Please

Feedback and good news stories about how we have helped you at some point over the last few years. Ph Gabi 636-0351 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 now available in English, Chinese Korean and Arabic! 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 seminars coming up

"[Individualised Funding including respite](#)" runs on 15 March 7-9pm at Disability Connect premises.

"[Planning for Adulthood](#)" (new and expanded version of our Trust and Welfare seminar) also at Disability Connect premises is scheduled for 24 February 6.30-9.30pm.

"[Education Legal Issues](#)" 1 March 7-9pm at WestWave Henderson.

Our very first "[Living Options](#)" seminar is planned for 2 March 12.30-2.30pm at Disability Connect premises.

The "[Work and Income Supports](#)" seminar is scheduled for 3 March 7-9pm at Mt Richmond School in Otahuhu.

There are also other dates for these seminars, click on the links for more info.

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

Information will follow in due course.

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>

Child Matters: new Child Protection courses

Go to their website for information:

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

Parent to Parent - Support Parents Training 5-6 March 2016.

Parent to Parent connects parents with a trained volunteer Support Parent who has a child or family member with the same or similar disability, health impairment or are experiencing a similar issue. People interested in this free workshop please contact Janette/Elaine auckland@parent2parent.org.nz

Children's Autism Foundation – Workshops Term 1

A variety of interesting and useful workshops for parents. Have a look [here](#). They are also putting on another "[Hands ON](#)" workshop and are advising us that they will only charge \$20 for a family or student instead of the \$30 originally advertised.

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.

Citizens Advice Bureau - Education and School in New Zealand-25 February 10am-12pm

This free workshop by the Ministry of Education is for newcomers to New Zealand and aims to explain the education system. It will run at the Browns Bay Community Centre, 2 Glen Road, Browns Bay. For more information please [click here](#)

Portal is offering some workshops

Including one on Stigma and discrimination. [Click here](#) for information.

NOTICES



Immigration policy in relation to disability

Ezekiel Robson is seeking families or individuals who have encountered NZ Immigration policy disadvantaging individuals with a disability. [Click here](#) for more information. If you would like to help with advocacy to promote greater inclusion, and have a personal experience to share on how the immigration system treats disabled people and their families, please email your contact details to Ezekiel Robson ezekiel@salubrious.org.nz

Achieve 2B - Chapter Lead Coordinator Whangarei wanted

Achieve 2B is an inspiring intercultural program for young people with disabilities, facilitating national and international exchanges. They are planning to launch the development of Chapters especially in Auckland and Whangarei. These are geographically located, volunteer operated community hubs that provide connection, support and education to incoming and outgoing students, parents and other interested community agencies. Initially 10 volunteer hours, by 6 months maybe 4 hours per week. For information and job description please contact contact Julia Hartshorne on 0800 223 822 or email info@achieve2b.org.nz

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

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.

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. Phone 09 523 0071 or email joan.goddard@englishlanguage.org.nz

St Lukes -Early Childhood Centre

Did you know they also take disabled children for an hour or two while you do your shopping (no nappy change)? It's not specified on their website <https://www.westfield.co.nz/stlukes/services/all-services/st-lukes-shoppers-creche/657> but just ask about it.

Manukau Support Group – PACT 311 Great South Road, Papatoetoe

Meet others who are raising children with a variety of disabilities. Please bring a small plate to share if you are able to. There is a play area for kids. 8 March, 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 5 July, 9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November 9.30am –12pm

SMILEDIAL coffee morning 24 February 10.30am

Columbus Coffee Smales Farm 74 Taharoto Rd Takapuna, free parking available. Special \$50 Countdown Voucher Giveaway - be there to be in the draw.

Agape Care has a vacancies for a residential client in one of their houses in West-Auckland

Agape offers 24hr residential support as well as a vocational programme. Please call Elena Melamed, Agape Care 09 837 8597 or visit their website: <http://www.agapecare.org.nz/>

Auckland Disability Law - Save the Date!
Supported Decision Making – a National
Conversation Hui 20 & 21 April 2016

Housing Summit invitation 16 April 10am

This meeting, organised by State Housing Action Network, Child Poverty Action Group and Unite Union, will discuss the housing crisis for low and middle income families.

ASD Support Services - survey

David West, MA (Psych) Candidate, Massey University is looking to hear from caregivers of young children or young people (0-16) with ASD, to research how individualized services are for them. Participants are able to take part through an online questionnaire.

Click on link above or go to:

https://jfe.qualtrics.com/form/SV_1HXHrsMfkNrOBOB

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:

["Teacher aides among worst-off occupations"](#)

["Once A Pipe Dream, Disability Community Nearing Completion"](#)

["800+ Families on IHC's Waitlists for Funded Autism Support"](#)

["2016 Arthritis New Zealand Awards, celebrating 50 years"](#)

["More Evidence Disabled Children Get a Bad Deal in School"](#)

["Measles alert after flight arrival in Auckland"](#)

["Study: Wandering A 'Pervasive Problem' For Kids With Disabilities"](#)

["Autism Behavior Problems May Be Linked To Poor Sleep"](#)

["Law change win for Care Workers"](#)

["Mahe, the autism assistant dog, never leaves his master's side, even in hospital"](#)

NEWSLETTERS

[Carers NZ](#) – latest newsletter

[CCS Disability Action Information Service newsletter](#) – February 2016

[Children's Autism](#) – February 2016

[Dance Therapy NZ](#) – January 2016

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

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

[Dotty Wobble](#) – February 2016

[e-cald news](#) – February 2016

[Enable NZ Newsletter – Kia Maro](#) – February 2016

[Expressions](#) – Summer 2015

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

[Independent Living Service Newsletter](#) – February 2016

[Mapura Studios](#) – Term 1 2016

[Ministry of Health NGO newsletter](#) – February 2016

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

[News from the land of Be](#) – January 2016

[Numicon](#) – Term 1 2016

[Recreate Newsletter](#) – Term 4 2015

[Special Olympics Fanletter](#) – February 2016

[Tani Newsletter](#) – Autumn 2016

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



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

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