

**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 14 August 2017

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

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Please note that going forward due to increasing costs, it is necessary for us to charge professionals \$50 including GST each per seminar. There is no charge for parents.

Disability Connect news

My Voice Matters – 2017 General Election

Disability Connect is part of a group of organisations supporting the My Voice Matters campaign in the lead up to 23 September General Election - because the voices of disabled people and families matter! A survey was recently completed capturing the concerns of parents raising a child with a disability – [click here](#) to view the summary report. The survey results have been sent to MP's to address these and other concerns at a public forum on 4th September at Sudima Hotel, Auckland Airport. We will also devise a report featuring MP's responses and the various political parties disability policies – this document will be available at the Disability Connect Transition Expo 8th August.

The Present and Future Disability Sector (and some of the Past too)

Forum for parents of an individual with a disability - Monday 28th August 6pm till 8pm at Onehunga Community House, 83 Selwyn Street, Onehunga. This is a follow up forum to the June 'What happens when we're no longer here to care for our loved one with a

disability' forum. Prior attendance is not necessary though – all welcome. At this August forum we will hear presentations by Ministry of Health representatives on the current disability services which families may be eligible for, how to access them, Individualised Funding, and information on the development of the New Model for supporting people with a disability (ie: Enabling Good Lives). Please register by phoning Disability Connect on 636-0351 or email admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz Light supper available from 5.30pm.

'What happens when we're no longer here to care for our loved one with a disability'

Click [here](#) to view the video footage of the entire forum or click on the blue title above to access the video. On Wednesday 28th June Disability Connect delivered a parents forum focussing on the issue 'What happens when we're no longer here'. This was very well attended with 97 parents and 10 staff from Disability Connect, Ministry of Health and Taikura

Trust. We gathered a lot of feedback about the issues that concern parents as well as useful information from Ministry of Health about the Disability System Transformation currently underway. We welcome any further feedback or questions to admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

Support groups – Disability Connect

Disability Connect offers culturally appropriate support (including three support groups) to families with children of special needs as part of the CALD service (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Disability Information and Advisory Service):

Chinese Families Autism Support Group

Runs every third Tuesday of the month. Dates for rest of year: 9th September, 17th October, 21st November, 5th December. 9.30am-1pm. Please contact Sanny Chan at Disability Connect for more information on our meetings. To see flier in [English](#) or [Chinese](#) click here Contact Sanny 09 526 1298 (DDI) or 09 636 0351 or sanny@disabilityconnect.org.nz

Culturally Diverse Support Group (Otahuhu)

This support group runs monthly at Mt Richmond School, 30 Albion Road, Otahuhu, 5.30-8pm. Dates for rest of year - 24th August, 28th September, 26th October, 23rd November, 14th December All families with special needs are welcome to join this group – we welcome everyone from any culture and any disability. It is a great opportunity for parents to share their experience and network with each other. Please contact Asoka at Disability Connect for more information or bookings – phone 09 636 0351 or 027 457 8571 or email asoka@disabilityconnect.org.nz

Indian Families Social Group – Otahuhu

This is held at Otahuhu Town Hall Community House on one Monday night per month. September 4th, 6-8pm. Indian families are very welcome to this meeting. It will follow a relaxed 'conversational' environment. Everyone is free to talk amongst themselves, make new friends, connect for support or just ask any questions you may be interested in. Please email admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz or asoka@disabilityconnect.org.nz or phone 09 636 0351 or text/phone 027 457 8571 to book.

Disability Connect has a Social Worker

This [social worker role](#) is 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. Referral forms are available on our website.

Pushpay Donation for Disability Connect

Disability Connect is a not for profit organisation and as such we continually fundraise to provide free ongoing, quality disability information and advisory services to people with a disability and their families. We now have a donation mechanism set up on our website. If you wish to donate to us please click this link to do so using your credit card

https://pushpay.com/pay/DisabilityConnect/oCYgk_8DUzVodWH-5uiHzQ or you can donate using credit card via mobile phone by texting Disconn to 818 - if you are asked to state an area code either use your own (if you know it) or use 1061 which is the Disability Connect area code. All donations are very gratefully received. Disability Connect provides information, advice and proactive support by: Face to Face meetings with disabled people and/or families to help them navigate the system, Phone/email consultations, Print Publications (Networker magazine, Four Go Flattening, Disability Support Guide), Seminars (covering topics such as Individualised Funding, Living Options, Transition out of School, Planning for Adulthood, Education Legal Issues and Work and Income Supports), Social Work service, Culturally Diverse Disability Information and Advice, Fortnightly E bulletin, Website and Social Media, Thank you for considering donating to Disability Connect. We enjoy serving the Auckland community with relevant, up to date and accurate disability information and advice. When you send 'DisConn' to 818 you will receive a one-time reply containing a link to give to Disability Connect (1msg/request). Please be aware that Msg & Data rates may apply. For full Terms & Conditions please visit <https://pushpay.com/terms>. For the Privacy Policy please visit <https://pushpay.com/privacy>. For help reply HELP or STOP to cancel.

DISABILITY CONNECT SEMINARS AND INFORMATION



2017 Seminars by Disability Connect

[For a link to all upcoming seminars in PDF form click here](#)

Education Legal Issues

North Auckland -Wednesday 6th September 7-9pm
Yes Disability Resource Centre, 3 William Laurie Place, Albany

Central Auckland - Thursday 28th September 12-2pm
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose

South Auckland -Tuesday 14th November 7-9pm
Clover Park Community House, 16 Israel Ave, Clover Park

Living Options

East Auckland - Wednesday 30th October 7-9pm
Highland Park Community House, 47 Aviemore Drive, Highland Park

West Auckland - Thursday 14th September 7-9pm
Hub West, 27 Corban Avenue, Henderson

South Auckland - Thursday 19th October 7-9pm
Otahuhu Town Hall, 10-16 High Street, Otahuhu

North Auckland - Tuesday 24th October 7-9pm

Yes Disability Resource Centre, 3 William Laurie Place,
Albany
Central Auckland
Wednesday 1st November 12-2pm
Disability Connect premises, 3b Olive Road, Penrose

Planning for Adulthood – The Legal Framework around Disability and Disability Rights

Central Auckland - Thursday 7th September 12-3pm
Disability Connect premises, 3b Olive Road, Penrose
North Auckland - Wednesday 27th September 6.30-9.30pm. Yes Disability Resource Centre, 3 William Laurie Place, Albany
South Auckland - Thursday 26th October 6.30-9.30pm
Clover Park Community House, 16 Israel Ave, Clover Park

Sexuality Education for people with intellectual disabilities workshop, (Fully booked but we're taking a waitlist for follow up seminars)

Annette Milligan is a sexual health nurse and educator who has developed a series of resources to support parents and educators teach people with intellectual disabilities about all those intimate things that can be so hard to deal with. Topics – Relationships, dating, asking permission, safety in relationships, hygiene, how to ask for help. Parents, teachers, caregivers, teacher aides or anyone interested in the development of people with learning disabilities. We are fully booked for July and August seminars. We endeavour to offer more of these later in the year so please register you list so we can put you on the waitlist for this - admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz or 09 636 0351.

Transition

Central Auckland - Thursday 31st August 12-2pm
Disability Connect premises, 3b Olive Road, Penrose
North Auckland - Wednesday 20th September 7-9pm
Yes Disability Resource Centre, 3 William Laurie Place, Albany
West Auckland – Tuesday 17th October, Oaklynn Special, School, 20 Mayville Ave, New Lynn
South Auckland - Tuesday 31st October 7-9pm
Otahuhu Town Hall, 10-16 High Street, Otahuhu

Work and Income

Central Auckland - Wednesday 25th October 12-2pm
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose
West Auckland - Tuesday 7th November 7-9pm
Hub West, 27 Corban Avenue, Henderson

LINKS TO VALUABLE INFORMATION PAGES

[Activities – Preschool](#)

[Activities – School Age](#)

[Activities – Age 18 +](#)

[Activities - All age activities](#)

[Conferences / Events outside of Auckland](#)

[Counsellors](#)

[Disability / Mental Health Related Events](#)

[Disability Sector Project Information and research](#)

[Discounted Activities across Auckland](#)

[Employment Opportunities and Positions](#)

[General Health Related](#)

[Other organisations information](#)

[Support Groups](#)

Please click on the above section links to see more information and providers

Please look on our [Useful Links](#) section of our website for more services / organisations

SEMINARS/TRAINING/ CONFERENCES

ACE Programme – General Elections 2017

Auckland Deaf Society, 164 Balmoral Road, Balmoral. Saturday 19th August, 2-4.30pm. Do you know how to enrol to vote? Are you enrolled and are your details up to date? All are welcome to learn more about the electoral process with a presenter from the Electoral Commission. There will be an NZSL interpreter and refreshments provided for all who RSVP and come along. For more information contact Tom O'Neill by email: tom.oneill@deaf.org.nz or text: 021 540 448

ASIST Suicide Prevention Course

We will be coming to South Auckland with these workshops, in the next couple of weeks. Please check out www.1degreeworkshops.co.nz/a-ok for city stops and dates. Our workshops are highly recommended for communities, first responders and professional helpers and most importantly for people who CARE and want to build suicide SAFER workplaces, schools and communities. We bring workshops that are evidence-based, highly-evaluated, internationally and nationally recognised, safe and proven to help. Check out the link www.livingworks.net Below I have given some brief information on these workshops (ASIST First Aid Suicide Training) Your response would really help start this process of building a suicide SAFER community.

Children's Autism Term 3 Workshops

Dealing with Transition and Change – 23rd August, Wednesday 7-9pm, St Columbus Church, Botany
Dealing with Anxiety, 31st August Tuesday, 7-9pm, Manutewhau Community Hub
Dealing with Change and Transitioning, 19th September, Tuesday, 7-9pm, North Shore
Children's Autism Facilitators – Arletta van den Bosch – Family and Child Counsellor, Gera Verheul – Service Manager, Christine Farquharson – Occupational Therapist, Joline Zwart – Family Consultant and Lisa Martin – Disability Connect. For information and registration contact enquiry@autism.org.nz or 09 415 7406.

Quality Employment Services

An opportunity for providers in the supported employment area to reflect on their services and how they might improve the quality of service delivery for people with a learning disability or mental illness. Auckland – 5th September, Sudima Auckland Airport

Youth Rights in Aotearoa

For anyone working with youth or providing youth advocacy, this session will provide you with up to date information on the legal information you need to know. We will begin with an interactive introduction to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Discrimination, and Legal Ages. Then explore youth and Employment Law and the Youth Justice System. Youth Law provides legal advice, information and educational resources including the following topics: relationships, health and wellbeing, police and courts, bullying and violence, welfare and benefits, and human rights. 29th August, 12-2pm, Channel View Lounge, Mary Thomas Centre, 3 Gibbons Rd, Takapuna, register info@ancad.org.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND COURSES

A-OK NZ Tour

ASIST is for everyone 16 years old and older - regardless of prior experience - who wants to be able to provide suicide first aid. Shown by major studies to significantly reduce suicidality, the ASIST model teaches effective intervention skills while helping to build suicide prevention networks in the community. Developed in 1983 and regularly updated to reflect improvements in knowledge and practice, ASIST is the world's leading suicide intervention workshop. During the two-day interactive session, participants learn to intervene and help prevent the immediate risk of suicide. Over 1,000,000 people have taken the workshop, and studies have proven that the ASIST method helps reduce suicidal feelings for those at risk. Learning Goals and Objectives: Understand the ways that personal and societal attitudes affect views on suicide and interventions, Provide guidance and suicide first aid to a person at risk in ways that meet their individual safety needs, Identify the key elements of an effective suicide safety plan and the actions required to implement it, Appreciate the value of improving and integrating suicide prevention resources in the community at large, Recognize other important aspects of suicide prevention including life-promotion and self-care South Auckland 24-25th August, book online [here](#)

Auckland Chinese Medical Association 2017 Free Health Talks.

ACMA free health talks are catering for the Auckland Chinese community. The talks will be presented in Chinese by a number of well-known medical professionals to help you uncover your health concerns and disease prevention. Plus a free health check after the seminar. Treasure your kidney and Chronic Kidney Disease prevention and treatment. Saturday 19th August, 2-4pm, Greenlane Christian Centre, 17 Marewa Ave, Greenlane. Contact talk@acma.org.nz or www.acma.org.nz To view flier in Chinese click [here](#)

Community Development Workshops

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board have created this opportunity for local individuals, groups and organisations that are aspiring to grow their capability! Rākau Tautoko will be coordinating eight workshops starting early August and continuing through to the end of November. The workshops are on Tuesday morning from 10am to 12pm and will cover: Social Enterprise, Business Planning, Volunteering, Financial Literacy, Community Led Development, Writing funding applications, Health and Safety Legislation, Network Development. We have some amazing speakers coming and have made sure that the workshops will be based in both Maungakiekie and Tāmaki. The Tāmaki ones will be in Te Oro, with Tara Moala and I will be at the Maungakiekie workshops. If you're interested, please register via email on this same email jo@rakautautoko.com and I will be able to email you an outline of each workshop and all of the dates. Look forward to seeing you there, and if you know of any inspirational people/ groups that could grow with this opportunity, please pass this email onto them! Deaf Wellbeing Society is going to these workshops and the

council have provided NZSL interpreters for us. The workshops are for organisations, could be sports or community groups that would like help with Budgets, volunteers, health and safety, business planning, filling out application forms etc etc

Dayspring Art Class

Our Creative Art Classes are suitable for all levels. Each participant will receive a starter pack that includes a Visual Art Diary and a range of pencils. All paints and canvas paper will be provided. Working together in a group provides the opportunity to learn and be inspired by others. Our facilitators will guide you through your journey, showing you basic skills and techniques and helping you find your own style. Facilitators Leao Tildsley and Jo Marshall. Term 3: Monday 24 July - Monday 25 September, 10am-1.30pm, Dayspring Trust, 2 Seabrook Avenue, New Lynn. Cost: \$80 creche available for 0-5's for \$1 per session while you attend art. Please phone Karen 09 827 6321 to register for more [information](#). Please note fees to be paid at time of booking. Fees are not refunded if you withdraw within 48 hours before commencement. All courses need a minimum number of enrolments. If the course does not have the required numbers, we regret that we will need to cancel. You will be contacted 2-3 days prior to scheduled start date and we will refund your money.

Disability and Housing Hui

Saturday 26 August 10am – 3pm, Auckland Deaf Society Rooms, 164 Balmoral Road, Mt Eden. Please join disabled people, disability and community organisations, housing researchers and activists to talk about your experiences, concerns and solutions around housing and disability – and how we can work together as a community. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Please register for catering purposes: gen@dpa.org.nz or 04 801 9100. The venue is wheelchair accessible and NZSL interpreters will be present. We will try to accommodate your access need – please let us know. Parts of the Hui will be live streamed on Facebook: www.facebook.com/dpa.nz.7/

Fun Day Out for our Special Kids

3rd September, 11am-3pm, North Shore Events Centre, Free. Specialist Informational Stalls, Food stalls, fun for all the family. In [English](#) and [Chinese](#)

Interact 2017

Corban Estate, Henderson. 25-27th October. Contact Paula, interactfest@gmail.com or ph 09 849 5595 or check out our website www.interacting.org.nz. Have you produced art work? Dance, music, Kapa Haka or performance pieces? Wearable art for the parades? You don't have to prepare something new, it may be something you have already performed but would love to share it with all the people who come to InterACT. It takes 2 mins to fill out this link and it's the first step to being part of this exciting event. <https://tinyurl.com/interactfest>

It's All About Me

Free 1 Day Programme for girls attending Intermediate and High Schools - Self defense, Positive body image, Social media safety, Healthy

Relationships. 9th October (Intermediate Girls), 10th October (High School Girls), 9am-4pm, Takapuna Community Hub, Mary Thomas Centre, 3 Gibbons Rd, Takapuna. For more information ring 09 444 4618 or www.nzwomenscentre.co.nz

Making Rights Real Webinar

Two webinars for supporters of people with intellectual disabilities in paid and unpaid roles. PPR & R Act, Financial and Medical Decisions. These webinars focus on the human rights of people with an intellectual disability. There are limited numbers of places for each webinar. To register click on the following [link](#). 30th November, 12.30-2.30pm. We hope you will welcome the opportunity to take part in this exciting learning opportunity. For further information please contact us at community.advocacy@ihc.org.nz.

Mental Health First Aid – Asian Community

A 2 day workshop 9am-4pm, and lunch will be provided both days. Learn skills to support a person with a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis. Learn a five step action plan to support a person until the crisis settles or professional support is received. The workshop is open to any adult 18 years and over that lives within the Counties Manukau DHB, Howick, Level 1, Fencible House, 18 Fencible Drive, Howick. 3rd and 10th September. Register [here](#) or 0800 338 356 Also will be happening in Manukau 17th and 24th September and Papakura 29th October and 5th November.

North Shore Teens Art Group

An open studio art group for teenagers of all abilities aged 12 years plus. Particular provision is made for teens with autism and special needs. The arts therapist and facilitators work to progress art making abilities, and to extend group-held, collective themes of interest on which to base subject matter for creative projects. A safe environment is provided for teens to form supportive relationships with one another and to share and explore their creative ideas. These sessions run on a weekly basis during term time and are ongoing. Cost \$250 for 10 weeks. Fees include all materials and a 45 min individual art therapy pre-assessment. Fees can be paid with carer support. Phab Takapuna Club Rooms, 8 Auburn St, Takapuna. Ph 09 845 5361 or email info@mapurastudios.org.nz

Peerzone Workshops

PeerZone is a series of three hour face-to-face workshops facilitated by and for people with experience of mental distress and/or addiction, where people explore recovery and whole of life wellbeing. They are free for people who participate in them. We have developed twenty fun and interactive workshops under five themes. After groups have completed the three workshops in the 'Understanding Ourselves' series they can pick and choose any or all of the optional workshops in the other series. Available in North Shore – To be confirmed location and date, West Auckland – Walsh Trust, 8 Hickory Ave, Henderson, 6th September, 11.30am-2.30pm, contact Amy 09 837 5240 or Lisa – 027 655 2788. Also Pasifika Peerzone – for more info contact Kristina

0800 825 282. Course are free. For more information click [here](#) or contact Hayley 09 630 5909

PHAB Deaf Club Interest

Phab are Auckland's leading disability social and recreational organisation. We are currently looking at setting up a PHAB For Deaf club for young people with disabilities aged 16 - 30 to meet up regularly for social events and activities in Auckland. Days, times and location to be confirmed once interest has been registered. To register your interest in a PHAB For Deaf social club please email Miranda on: office@phab.org.nz.

From Isolation to Empowerment" Free Self Defense Workshop

Learn some simple and effective moves in a fun and relaxed environment. Suitable for women aged 18+. Register your interest now, Saturday 26th Aug, 9am-4pm, Takapuna Community Hub, Mary Thomas Centre, 3 Gibbons Rd, Takapuna

South Auckland Green Prescription (Auckland and Counties Manukau)

Green Prescription is a referral based health and wellness programme for adults 18 years and over who would like support and motivation to get active and improve their lifestyle. Available in Auckland ADHB [click here](#) Glen Innes, Panmure, Mt Albert, Mt Roskill, Onehunga, Otahuhu, Avondale and Counties Manukau DHB [click here](#) - Clendon, Pukekohe, Pakuranga, Mangere, Otara, Papakura. For contact details for all these For clients who are not able to speak in English or have limited English proficiency and residing in the Auckland and Counties Manukau districts, a free translator for the initial consultation will be arranged. Fact sheets are available in [English](#), [Chinese](#) (Traditional), [Hindi](#), [Korean](#) and [Punjabi](#) languages. For more information: Contact: 0800 ACTIVE or 0800 228 483

Special to God training seminar - Meeting the Needs of Special Kids

Saturday 19th August. In this seminar we will be giving practical advice on working with special needs children. And answering your questions about your kids in your situation. We will look at - What is ADHD, ASD, ODD..? How do we practically minister to these special kids, Tips and strategies, Q and A session. For further details follow this link to the [2017 Special to God Information](#) and send in your registration forms ASAP by following this link to the [2017 Special to God registration](#) These can be completed and emailed back. We look forward to receiving your completed registration forms. If you have any questions or require more information please e-mail info@cbm.org.nz or phone us on 09 630 5271

Waitemata & Auckland District Health Board's Disability Strategy Implementation Plan 2016-2026

We are developing a joint plan for the Implementation of the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026. We would really like input from the disability sector and disability community. Please follow this link to our on-line survey -

<https://se.buzzchannelgroup.com/?u=7dc3026c5d6f47768026f675375ba835> We are also holding two community meetings for people who prefer to communicate their thoughts and ideas face-to-face or would like to add more to their survey responses. Dates - Wednesday 30th August, 10-12.30pm Western Springs Community Hall, 956 Great North Rd, Western Springs and Friday 1st September, 10am-12.30pm, Kelston Community Centre, Corner Awaroa Rd and Great North Rd, Glendene, Tea and coffee will be available from 9.45am, Please RSVP to Samantha Dalwood, Disability Advisor, Waitemata DHB, email: samantha.dalwood@waitematadhb.govt.nz Ph 09 442 3289 or Text 021 221 7810. The venues are accessible and there is plenty of parking. If you require any special assistance, please let Samantha know. The draft plan Link to the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026 - <https://www.odi.govt.nz/nz-disability-strategy/about-the-strategy/new-zealand-disability-strategy-2016-2026/read-the-new-disability-strategy/> For the Waitemata and Auckland DHB's Disability Strategy Implementation Plan 2016-2026, click [here](#)

Week of Events – Fathers Day

August-September 2017. Monday 28th August, 6-8.30pm, Resolve the story of Chris Crean. Family Start Manukau 11 Dalgety Dr, Manukau. Bring the family – free pizza, soft drinks and an inspirational movie. Tuesday 29th August 10am-12pm, Engaging with Dads Lecture – engaging dads early, turning tricky fathers into involved dads. Faculty of Education, Epsom Campus, 74 Epsom Ave, Epsom. Wednesday 30th August 6-9pm, Fathers Mauri Ora Circle – dads support group, dads helping and supporting dads – all welcome, we'll provide cookies, tea and coffee, Onehunga Community Centre, 83-87 Church St, Onehunga. Thursday 31st August 1-4pm, Mini Dads expo – resources, stories, strategies for dads and agencies who work with families, Friendship House, 20 Putney Way, Manukau. Saturday 2nd September, Let's go fishing! Dads, children all welcome. Free bait, rods, lines and prizes! Orakei Wharf, Tamaki Drive near Kelly Tarltons. Free sausage sizzle and soft drink for the kids! Sunday 3rd September, 11am-4pm. Ambury Farm, Family BBQ, free music, food, bouncy castle and fun games for all the family. To RSVP phone 09 525 1690 / 021 892 980 or info@fatherandchild.org.nz.

NOTICES

Access4all

ACCESS4ALL is a New Zealand-wide Accommodation and Activity Guide specifically designed for anyone, young or old, who has mild to major mobility difficulties. It is mainly visual so travellers and their support team can see and decide for themselves whether accommodation and/or activities in a particular destination might suit – because they are the experts. We do have some knowledge of this field as we have a few mobility impairments ourselves. Contact Richard 09 479 7702.

Access Matters

You can sign this open letter as a supporter of Auckland Disability Law (ADL) if you have experienced

or know about the barriers Disabled People and Deaf People encounter doing every day activities just like everyone else. If we all have the right tools, then everyone can participate. You already know that access matters to all of us! The Access Matters Campaign aims to build the support of people like you to create the political will to introduce accessibility legislation in the next parliamentary term. We need more voices telling our leaders that Access Matters. Please sign this open letter to the leaders of the New Zealand Political Parties urging them to show leadership this election by committing to Access for All. Sign the open letter [here](#). For the easy read version click [here](#). For the large font version click [here](#). To print copies of Access Matters Open letter print version click [here](#).

AT HOP accessible concession process

Auckland Transport are reviewing the AT HOP accessible concession process and would like to hear your feedback, about any issues/problems you have experienced or anyone you know in terms of getting the card. Anna Haggerty is the lead. Can you please contact Anna email Anna.Haggerty@at.govt.nz. Anna will contact you about the next steps.

Bloom

Bloom is a social enterprise for youth and individuals with learning disabilities. We offer meaningful activities based on horticulture for our vulnerable people, a connection to our greater community through markets and projects. We aim to provide life skills, social interactions and a sense of well being for all participants. We are based at the Tui Glen nurseries alongside Te Whangai Trust. We are open for students and plant sales on Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm. Feel free to contact us for more information. Jessica griffin 021 932 499 or bloompukekohe@gmail.com.

Brainwave Review

An insight into adolescence. Adolescence is often portrayed as a time of difficult and challenging behaviours. Yet it's possible to view adolescence in a much more positive light. Recent research may help adults understand and appreciate the remarkable changes that are taking place. To read the review click [here](#).

Care Matters

Care Matters is a ground-breaking carer learning and wellbeing resource service, designed in New Zealand by carers specifically for carers in the disability community. Phone 0508 236 236

Child Development Service (North), Waitemata DHB Child Health (North) and Home Care for Kids (North)

Have relocating offices from 3 William Laurie Place Albany to 3 Shea Terrace, Takapuna. Phone number is same Child Development Service 09 447 0100 and Home Care for Kids 09 442 7158. Fax number is 09 447 0129.

Community Liaison Coordinator – IHC – Counties Manukau

I am the new Community Liaison Coordinator at IHC and its service arm IDEA Services in Counties. At IHC,

supporting people with intellectual disabilities and their families/Whānau is what we are passionate about and we are pleased to be offering this free service to the community. I am here to help you with navigating and accessing agencies, services, and supports. If you need information and assistance, I will guide you through the process of diagnosis to linking into Ministries for additional support. The other important function of the community liaison is advocacy. It is about ensuring people's rights are being respected and that they have support when navigating agencies. Please do not hesitate to phone, email, or visit our friendly office if you would like support for yourself or a loved one. Iris Philip Community Liaison Coordinator IHC IDEA Services Counties Mob: 022 010 8243 Ph 09 529 8714. Iris.philip@idea.org.nz

Disability Support Guide

We have now have the pdf document of our very popular resource in [English](#), [Chinese](#), [Korean](#) and [Arabic](#) for you to download.

Elections – How to vote

Election Day is Saturday 23 September and voting begins on 11 September. The Electoral Commission wants every eligible New Zealander to enrol and vote. Let's work together to make that happen. Hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders aren't ready to vote: perhaps they don't know they are eligible to vote; perhaps they forget to enrol and vote; or perhaps they don't think their vote will make a difference. Help your community enrol & vote. We've created a handy guide with links to content that you can use and share in a variety of ways – on social media, on your website, in newsletters or direct communications, or as display materials at your office, workplace or community centre. [Help Spread the Word- Resources for Communities to Share](#) (PDF, 1.8MB) You can also find out more – and order resources – [via our website](#) Together, we can make sure all of us get to have our say in this year's general election.

Halberg Junior Disability Games are coming!

A national three day sports tournament open for 8-21 year olds with a physical or vision impairment. Friday 6-8th October, Kings College Auckland. Participate in ambulant football, athletics, blind cricket, Boccia, cycling, equestrian, goalball, powerchair football, rowing, swimming, triathlon, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair tennis. For registration visit www.juniordisabilitygames.org.nz

Junior Athletics and Swimming Development Programme

11 weeks alternating athletics and swimming, weekends, venues across Auckland. 8-21 year olds with visual and physical impairments. Expert coaches with guest appearances from Paralympic athletes and a fun, friendly environment. We are hoping to develop life-long participation amongst our youth generation. \$107 programme fee which includes 10 coaching sessions, JDG entry, Wheel black game tickets, payment plan or lump sum accepted with online registration. To find out more go to www.parafedauckland.co.nz/jdpg. Frequently asked questions [here](#).

[Making things easier for MSD Clients](#)

We've been working to make it easier for our clients to see us when they apply for a benefit. In most of our service centres we're now running a 'new business window' for clients coming in for their application appointment. We're letting clients know they can come in when it suits them over a window of time, e.g. between 9am-11am on a particular day. This makes it easier for people to work around other commitments such as getting children to school and means they don't have to worry if they can't make a specific appointment time. Save time and reduce hassle by signing up to [MyMSD](#). We're adding more and more services to [MyMSD](#) so clients can get things done for themselves, quickly, easily, and at a time that suits them. MyMSD has become a really popular way for our clients to keep on top of things without having to come into a service centre or call us. Since we launched MyMSD we've had over 130,000 address or accommodation cost changes made by clients online, and 62% of clients now tell us their wages each week in MyMSD. Doing these things online saves clients from having to call or visit us. Soon clients will be able to do even more in MyMSD. From 25 September clients will be able to use MyMSD to: Apply for help from us, read and sign their obligations when applying for assistance, view and work through their application steps, like reading and agreeing to obligations, booking appointments, etc, reapply for Temporary Additional Support. MyMSD already makes it easy for clients to: tell us what they earned, apply for help with food, school uniform, school stationery and emergency dental costs, tell us about a change in phone number, address or accommodation costs, tell us about a relationship change, check their next appointment, book, change and cancel some appointments, view their payment details, view debt details, view, save, print or email most of their letters check their payment card transactions - in near real time. New services are regularly added to MyMSD so you can do more online in future. No data? No problem. If you're on the Spark, Vodafone, 2degrees or Skinny mobile networks you can use our website and online services at little or no cost from your mobile phone or digital device.

[Spirit of Gold Annual Mufti Day](#)

8th September, Together lets celebrate 6 months to go until the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games. You and your business/school are encouraged to wear gold and bring a donation to support Paralympics New Zealand. For more information visit. www.paralympics.org.nz

[Student currently looking for an accessible flat](#)

(2 bedrooms minimum) or to share a current house/flat close to central Auckland for study next year 2018 and beyond. Uses electric wheelchair and has own support team. Contact details to my email or phone in the first instance and I will pass on for the student to contact them directly. Please email Marian Galvin, Marian@realworldliving.co.nz 09 299 5304

[Takaro - Investing in Play and Playground Refurbishments Questionnaire](#)

Auckland Council is developing an investment plan addressing how it invests in play: Tākaro – Investing

in Play. The plan is a scheduled piece of work arising from the Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan 2013. The purpose of the plan is to clarify why, how and where the council should invest in play. Providing guidance on these questions will make it easier for the council to identify which types of investment will best meet the current and future needs of Auckland's diverse communities. The plan will cover all types of public outdoor play. This includes play which takes place in city parks, at the beach or in the bush, on streets and in civic spaces. It includes capital expenditure on physical play infrastructure, as well as operational expenditure on temporary play 'activations' such as pop-up playgrounds and facilitated play programmes. It excludes organised sport. We would like to notify you of upcoming opportunities to advise the council on how it invests in outdoor public play areas and play programmes. Here are the questions:

1. Where do you play the most? At home? On in street? At the park? What stops you from playing in public spaces?
2. How can the council provide play spaces that welcome and accommodate all?
3. What types of play opportunities would be more inviting to people with disabilities?
4. What kinds of ancillary facilities make a playground visit more enjoyable?

[Here is a link to the document](#)

[Touch Compass has FOUR films as finalists in the Focus on Ability Short Film Festival - Please vote!](#)

We are celebrating the fact that FOUR of our DanceBox films are finalists in the Focus on Ability Short Film Festival! [Mr & Mrs Jones](#), [Drumming is Like Thunder](#), [Flipped](#) and [Lady Wordsmith](#). We would love you to vote for your favourite one. All films are now up on the www.focusonability.com.au website and ready for voting. People can only vote once per category and you must verify your vote. After voting you will receive a verification email which you must click the verification link. This process ensures the integrity of the voting system. If you haven't received the verification email, please check your spam folders. Every day from now until when **voting ends August 7, 2017**, FOA will be giving away \$50 iTunes vouchers to random voters. FOA will email to let you know you have won and also post it on their facebook page where you have to comment to claim your prize. If you promote a film for voting on a social media page be sure to tag #focusonability All films are now also with the professional judging panel who will be making their selections. The NOVA Employment staff will also be checking out the films and seeing which films they think best showcase the focus on ability theme. Click on the movies to vote for them

[Transitional Housing - Social Housing Assessment Changes](#)

As of 03 July 2017, we started offering a phone appointment for all social housing assessments, as experience confirms this works well for the majority of our clients. It also means that if your organisation is acting as an agent on behalf of a client, they can complete the appointment with you, from your office or at an agreed meeting place. A client will be able to sign-off the obligation page of their Assessment Summary by either going into one of our local offices, or the Assessment Summary can be sent to a client

by post and returned to us using a postage-paid envelope that will be provided. If a client would like a face-to-face appointment at a local service centre, this can still be arranged when booking the assessment appointment. **Tenancy Reviews** - Since July 2014, the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has been conducting tenancy reviews to understand if people living in social housing still need it, and if they do, that the house continues to meet their needs. There have been some great outcomes for clients, including home ownership and greater independence into long-term sustainable accommodation in the private market. There's also [information for clients about tenancy reviews](#) on MSD's housing website. The information is available as a printable factsheet in Burmese, Chinese, English, Maori, New Zealand Sign Language, Samoan and Tongan and in a more accessible Easy Read format. **Transitional Housing** - MSD supports clients into a range of housing options. Transitional housing is one of those options, where clients are provided warm, secure short-term accommodation for around 12 weeks, along with tailored social support while they're there. We've enclosed a new factsheet for more information. **2015 Social Housing Valuation** - MSD has published the first social housing valuation, a first step towards a social investment approach for housing. It's based on 2015 figures, providing the benchmark for future valuations. MSD already takes a social investment approach with its welfare services. Extending that knowledge will help MSD focus effort on areas that make the biggest difference to our clients. You can read the report [here](#). **Social Housing Quarterly Report and Social Housing Register** - The latest Social Housing Quarterly Report (June 2017) and the figures for the Social Housing Register (June 2017) have just been published. The [Social Housing Quarterly Report \(June 2017\)](#) provides a full picture of the progress we're making to bring on additional supply and support people with their housing needs. The [Social Housing Register \(June 2017\)](#) is published at the same time as the quarterly report. It contains a breakdown of information for the Housing and Transfer Registers by region. **Social housing newsletter** - MSD now produces a monthly Social Housing update. You can subscribe to the newsletter [here](#). You can also read the previous newsletters at www.socialhousing.govt.nz.

Whats New in the CCS Library

All sorts of new and a variety of different books, resources, videos, autism specific, self-care, children's books free to access.

WFDYS Children Camp 2018 – Applications Open

Deaf Aotearoa is looking for two young deaf people aged 9 to 12 to represent Deaf Aotearoa and New Zealand at the WFDYS Children Camp in Buenos Aires, Argentina. We are also looking for a Leader aged 21 to 30 to accompany the young people and help facilitate at the camp. If you are interested in this amazing opportunity or would like to find out more, please see the application form [here](#).

Youth Enterprise - Opportunities for Young People- Funding open

In 2017/18, a total of \$190,000 is available under the Youth Enterprise Fund - Opportunity for Young People for individuals and/or groups of young people who

have a new and innovative enterprise project or idea and need support to progress it. This funding initiative is targeted at individuals and/or groups of youth (aged 12-24) who have a new and/or innovative enterprise project or idea, and need knowledge, skills, competencies or mentoring to help them execute their project or idea. The Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) will support initiatives which demonstrate - innovation and viability of enterprise project, potential for sustainability and growth, potential of social and/or environmental impact, value for money and learning impact. MYD is currently seeking expressions of interests from young people, which closes on 17 August 2017. More information can be found on our [website](#). Could you please share this through your networks or pass it on to any young people you know who would be eligible. If you have questions or would like more information please get in touch and contact Sarah Freer - sarah.freer005@msd.govt.nz

Articles of interest:

[*Scrapping decile systems will bring 'culture change' – Education Minister Nikki Kaye*](#)

[*Feel free: Little stories about big feelings for kids*](#)

[*Teen suffers from rare eating disorder that only lets him eat dry yellow food*](#)

[*50 uplifting childrens stories about kids with special needs*](#)

[*Aussie smart buds helping in classroom*](#)

[*Why speech therapy should or should not be done with your child*](#)

[*Get your applications in for the Kids Summer Camp – Blind Foundation*](#)

[*Step inside Australia's first Men's Shed dedicated to dads and grandfathers of children with autism*](#)

[*Disabilities advocate split over Geulph housing proposal*](#)

[*Feeling brave: Little stories about big feelings*](#)

[*Eight 60 second anxiety relief tools for kids*](#)

[*Integrated volleyball game brings disabled and able bodied people together*](#)

[*Microsoft Word gets 'Read Aloud' feature to help people with dyslexia*](#)

[*Netflix comedy drama focuses on the trials of raising an autistic son*](#)

[*Feeling rubbish helps sort rubbish by touch*](#)

[*Cystic Fibrosis – It's literally breath taking*](#)

[*People with Autism can read emotions, feel empathy*](#)

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](#)

NEWSLETTERS

[Altogether Autism](#) – Issue 2 2017

[Auckland Down Syndrome Association](#) – July 2017

[Be Accessible](#) – July 2017

[Bloom](#) – June 2017

[Brainwave](#) – July 2017

[Cald Newsletter](#) – August 2017

[Carers NZ](#) – July 2017

[Changing Minds](#) – August 2017 [Changing Minds](#) – 15 August 2017

[Children's Autism Foundation](#) – August 2017

[Communitycations](#) – 8 August 2017 [Communitycations](#) – 1 August 2017 [Communitycations](#) – 26 July 2017

[Dance Therapy](#) – July 2017

[Deaf Aotearoa August 5](#) [Deaf Aotearoa 31 July](#) [Deaf Aotearoa 14 August](#) [Talking Hands Magazine](#)

[eCald News](#) – August 2017

[Epilepsy NZ](#) – July 2017

[Every Kiwi Counts](#) – July 2017

[Health Link North](#) – August 2017

[Health Quality & Safety Commission E-update](#) – August 2017

[Improving Life Outcomes](#) – July 2017

[Independent Living Services](#) – August 2017

[Interacting](#) – June 2017

[Kia Maro Enable New Zealand](#) – June 2017

[Numicon](#) – July 2017

[NZDSN Newsletter](#) – June 2017

[On the Radar \(Rare Disease Advocacy and Research\)](#)

[Parent to Parent newsletter](#) – August 2017 [Magazine](#) – July 2017 Parent to Parent [info](#)

[Plunket](#) – July 2017

[Raeburn House Training Workshops](#) - July-Dec 2017

[Raukauri Newsletter](#) – Winter 2017

[Recreate NZ newsletter](#) – Term 3 2017

[Te Ata Newsletter](#) – Term 2 2017

[The Asian Network Newsletter \(TANI\)](#) – Winter 2017

[Whanau Marama](#) – August 2017

[Wise Newsletter](#) – 2 August 2017 [Wise Newsletter](#) – 9 August 2017

[Young Carers Newsletter](#) – August 2017



helping families

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

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