

**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 18 December 2017

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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

Disability Connect staff and board wish everyone a wonderful Christmas. We are closing our offices from 3pm, 22nd December and re-opening 8th January from 9am



Remember to click on the links to access more information about each heading below. The headings ([blue underlined](#)) are links.

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 SEMINARS AND INFORMATION



[Link to All 2018 Seminars](#)

Education Legal

Central Auckland, Wednesday 14th March 12-2pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose
Central Auckland, Thursday 17th May 12-2pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose

Individualised Funding including Respite

Central Auckland, Thursday 1st March 7-9pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose.
North Auckland, Thursday 5th April 7-9pm, Yes
Disability Resource Centre, 3 William Laurie Place,
Albany
West Auckland, Thursday 10th May 7-9pm, MPHS Hub
West, 27 Corban Avenue, Henderson
South Auckland, Thursday 7th June 7-9pm, Mt
Richmond Special School, 30 Albion Road, Otahuhu,
Central Auckland, Tuesday 26th June 12-2pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose,

Living Options

Central Auckland, Tuesday 6th March 12-2pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose
North Auckland, Tuesday 20th March 7-9pm, Yes
Disability Resource Centre, 3 William Laurie Place,
Albany
West Auckland, Thursday 12th April 7-9pm, Arohanui
Special School, 82 Tirimoana Road, Te Atatu South
South Auckland, Tuesday 22nd May 7-9pm, Mt
Richmond Special School, 30 Albion Road, Otahuhu
Central Auckland, Monday 11th June 7-9pm, Disability
Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose

Planning for Adulthood

West Auckland, Tuesday 13th March 6.30-9.30pm,
MPHS Hub West, 27 Corban Avenue, Henderson
South Auckland, Wednesday 16th May 6.30-9.30pm Mt
Richmond Special School, 30 Albion Road, Otahuhu
North Auckland, Wednesday 13th June 6.30-9.30pm,
Yes Disability Resource Centre, 3 William Laurie Place,
Albany
Central Auckland, Tuesday 3rd July 12-3pm, Disability
Connect premises, 3b Olive Road, Penrose

Sexuality

Central Auckland, Tuesday 27th March, 7-8.30pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose, Tuesday
Central Auckland - Wednesday 28th March 1-2.30pm,
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose,

Transition

Central Auckland, Tuesday 10th April 12-2pm,
Disability Connect premises, 3b Olive Road, Penrose.

Work and Income

West Auckland Wednesday 28th February 7-9pm
Arohanui Special School, 82 Tirimoana Road, Te Atatu
South

South Auckland, Wednesday 28th March 7-9pm
Mt Richmond Special School, 30 Albion Road, Otahuhu
Central Auckland, Thursday 31st May 12-2pm
Disability Connect, 3b Olive Road, Penrose
North Auckland, Wednesday 27th June 7-9pm
Yes Disability Resource Centre, 3 William Laurie Place,
Albany

Chinese Families Autism Support Group

Runs every third Tuesday of the month. 2018 dates
are 27th February, 20th March, 17th April, 15th May,
19th June, 24th July, 21st August, 18th September, 16th
October, 20th November, 4th December. 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

Parents' Support Group (Otahuhu)

This support group runs monthly at Mt Richmond
School, 30 Albion Road, Otahuhu, 5.30-8pm. 2018
Dates are 22nd February, 22nd March, 19th April, 24th
May, 21st June, 19th July, 23rd August, 20th
September, 25th October, 22nd November, 13th
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 on one Monday
night per month, 6-8pm. 2018 dates are 5th March, 9th
April, 7th May, 11th June, 2nd July, 6th August, 3rd
September, 8th October, 5th November, 3rd December.
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.
If you would like to book to one of these seminars
please let us know admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz
Disability Connect news

DISABILITY CONNECT NEWS

Collaboration amongst Disability Providers and Families

Our vision is to create connections, awareness and
understanding amongst the disability community of
South Auckland. This particular meeting is for South
Auckland families and will be delivered in other areas
of Auckland in 2018. The disability sector includes
organisations and professionals with experience and
expertise that can help families. The point of this
meeting is to inform you about the sector and various
supports available. Families are central to the
community - good relationships with professionals and
opportunity to connect with each other are key to
knowing where, what and how we can gain support
for our loved one with a disability, and all work better
together. You are invited to attend a collaborative
workshop on Thursday 16th November 2017
(10.30am-2.30pm) at MIT Otara. To view the flier
click [here](#).

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

This was a forum for parents of an individual with a disability held on evening of Monday 28th August at Onehunga Community House. 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. At this August forum we heard 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). Representatives from Taikura Trust, Ministry of Social Development (including Work and Income) and Housing NZ were present to address questions. This forum was filmed and is now available on the homepage of our website

www.disabilityconnect.org.nz If you have any questions arising from this forum and the topics discussed please forward them directly to Lisa Martin, CEO Disability Connect at lisa@disabilityconnect.org.nz

'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 the first such parents forum and was the pre-cursor to the above mentioned Present and Future Disability Sector forum mentioned above. This original June forum 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):

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/oCYqk_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 Flating, 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 Support Guide

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

LINKS TO VALUABLE INFORMATION PAGES

[Activities – Preschool](#)

[Activities – School Age](#)

[Activities – Age 18 +](#)

[Activities - All age activities](#)

[Community Venues](#)

[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

UPCOMING SEMINARS / TRAININGS / CONFERENCES EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ACC Paralympics New Zealand Open Days

You, your whānau, family and carers are warmly invited to the ACC Paralympics New Zealand Open Day – a day for people of all abilities. An Open Day is a way you can find out about Para sport opportunities in your area, get amongst the action and meet a Paralympian. You'll also have a chance to chat with Para athletes and coaches and find out how you can get involved. A variety of Para sports will be included at each event such as Wheelchair Basketball, Para cycling, Boccia, Para athletics, and there'll be lots more to see and do. ACC and Paralympics New Zealand want to support and encourage New Zealanders with disabilities, their families and support people to get involved in Para sport. The Open Days are free to attend, whether you're a coach, volunteer, spectator, play for fun, or aim to become a Paralympic superstar! To find out more about the Open Days and what's involved [visit our event page on Facebook.](#)
[2nd December – Auckland](#)
[25th March – Tauranga](#)
Early April – Dunedin

Champion your needs

If you would like to learn more about how to be a champion for your own children, then this course is for you. It will teach you how to plan for, raise issues at and negotiate during meetings. The course covers active listening and questioning skills, negotiating, planning, and challenging assumptions. If you are interested there is also the option to learn more about our volunteer opportunities. You will be offered the chance to become a Support Parent, where you can be the listening ear and share your experience and knowledge to families new to the world of disability. Auckland (Overnight) 6-8th April. to register https://parenttoparentnz.formstack.com/forms/champion_rego_copy

Disability Gymnastics Howick

Classes have now started Mondays 10.45-11.30am for children aged 2+. The object of this class would be to provide those children with physical and intellectual disabilities an opportunity to learn gymnastic skills in a fun and safe environment. Children would also improve their strength, co-ordination and motor skills. Parent participation would be required for this class, however numbers would be limited to 10 children to optimise what the class could offer. If this is something you or someone you know would be interested in joining, 09 576 8400 Debbie or email enquiries@howickgym.co.nz

Hands on Autism Workshop Takapuna

Children's Autism Foundation in Takapuna, a full day workshop for all who are living or working with a young person on the Autism Spectrum. This workshop will provide practical tools and strategies that you can easily implement in the home, school and wider community. Topics include – Guide to Autism, Strategies for Behaviour, Sensory Issues, Dealing with Anxiety. Saturday 24th February 2018, 9am-4pm Takapuna Primary School, 23 Auburn St, Takapuna. Free for families and carers (kindly supported by Disability Connect and Te Pou) \$175 +

GST per ticket per professional, lunch included please register online at www.autism.org.nz or 09 415 7406

Incredible Years Henderson 2018 Course

It is a proven parenting programme that gives New Zealand families the confidence to succeed. It's for parents of children aged 3-8 years and involves weekly sessions for 14 weeks. Over the weeks, parents develop strategies to build positive relationships with their children and manage unwanted behaviours like aggressiveness, tantrums, swearing, yelling, hitting, answering back and refusing to do as asked. These behaviours cause enormous family stress and parents can feel alone and helpless. But positive and harmonious family life is possible. Topics include -how to play / spend time together, praising and rewarding children, communicating positively, dealing with disobedience, ignoring, time-out and other appropriate consequences, helping children to problem-solve. Wednesdays starting 7th March, 9.30am-12pm, Family Works, 3 Montel Ave, Henderson. Book 09 835 1288 or admin.waitakere@fwn.org.nz

Manukau Live Steamers

Waitangi Day, Tuesday 6 February 2018, Centre Park, Robertson Road, Mangere. Free train rides and lunch for kids with special needs. Manukau Live Steamers invite you to come along and ride the FREE trains on Waitangi Day from 11.00am. Bring along the family and have a FREE Mad Butcher Sausage Sizzle for lunch. Caregivers ride free. If you need access to the park for your wheelchairs, please phone Lynne on 021 959 106. Bring your hats, your water bottles and ground blankets.

Para Athletics Training

All ability levels, all age groups, all physical and visual impairments. All inclusive. Training dates 17th Dec – North Harbour Bays, 21st Jan – Owairaka, 4th March – North Harbour Bays, 25th March – Owairaka. All sessions run between 10am-12pm, with different times for different age groups. Training for track and field events. Owairaka – Lovelock Track, 744 Sandringham Road Ext, Mt Roskill. North Harbour Bays, AUT Millenium, 17 Antares Pl, Rosedale. For more info go to www.auckland.co.nz/athletics or contact lizzie@parafedauckland.co.nz

Parafed Auckland Junior Programme

For 5 years+, make friends, have fun, keep fit and healthy. 20th Jan, 10th Feb, 10th March, 7th April. Whanau welcome, first 2 sessions free. Catering for visually impaired participants, and a range of physical impairments. To register and find out more info go to www.parafedauckland.co.nz/junior or email emma@parafedauckland.co.nz

Pasifika Strength and Conditioning Programme

For those with physical and visual impairments and their whanau. Want to improve health and get in shape? Interested in meeting new people? Like to have fun? After an activity the whole family can do? Wed 4.30-6.30pm, drop in session, Auckland Spinal unit, Otara. For more info www.parafedauckland.co.nz/strength or james@parafedauckland.co.nz

PHAB Hangout Days

Are you over 16, get bored in the holidays then come and join us for PHAB Hangout days. The Building" is an amazing, fully accessible, PHAB youth space in

central Takapuna that has the best of equipment for you to use: Playstation 3, Singstar, 42 Inch screen TV, Video camera, pool table, table tennis, basketball, foosball table, liberty swing plus heaps of other games and outdoor equipment. PHD days will run 4 days each week, the numbers will be limited. Bookings are essential due to ever increasing demand. The programme will be supported by the awesome PHAB staff and is available to PHAB members and friends. It will run from 8.30am-4.30pm, Monday 18th – Thursday 21st December, There is no second week of PHD. The cost is 1 carer support day or \$87.40 per day. Please call office on 488 7490 or email chewy@phab.org.nz

Phab January Holidays

Tuesday 23rd – 26th January and Tuesday 30th January – 2nd February. 8.30am-4.30pm, The Building" is an amazing, fully accessible, PHAB youth space in central Takapuna that has the best of equipment for you to use: PlayStation 3, Singstar, 42 Inch screen TV, Video camera, pool table, table tennis, basketball, foosball table, liberty swing plus heaps of other games and outdoor equipment. Cost is one carer support day \$87.40. Please book chewy@phab.org.nz 09 488 7490. Phab building, 8 Auburn St, Takapuna

Safari Multicultural Playgroups – Henderson, Lynfield, Papatoetoe and now Panmure

Henderson Baptist Church, 321 Great North Rd, Henderson, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday.
Safari Lynfield, Lynfield YMCA, 16 Griffen Park Rd, Lynfield, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
Safari Papatoetoe PACT building, 311 Great South Rd, Papatoetoe, Wednesday & Thursday,
Safari Panmure Panmure Community Centre, 7-13 Pilkington Road, Panmure Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

All are 9.30am - 12.30pm Please contact Shoma if you are interested to know about Safari Playgroup 09 625 2440 or email safari@arms-mrc.org.nz

Sculpture in the Gardens

11th November – 25th February, Auckland Botanical Gardens, 102 Hill Road, Manurewa. Sculpture in the Gardens is a free public event held for three months at the Auckland Botanic Gardens. The exhibition's main feature is a 2km sculpture trail through the gardens. The event also features indoor galleries, guided walks, entertainment and workshops. This exhibition will be the sixth, and will celebrate 10 years of Sculpture in the Gardens.

Show your Ability 2018

ASB Showgrounds, Tuesday 27th February, 9am-7.30pm

SibsupportNZ - Sibshops

The SibSupportNZ programme has been specifically designed to meet the needs of the brothers and sisters of people with disabilities. The programme gives children the chance to form their own support networks by making friends with children who are in similar situations as well as having a fun time away from the day-to-day stresses of family life. Common issues faced by children with brothers and sisters with a disability or health impairment include, isolation, resentment, embarrassment, guilt, feelings of neglect, a pressure to achieve and worries about the future. SibSupportNZ programmes are run by siblings, for siblings. Auckland (Sibcamp), 23-25th February

To register

https://parenttoparentnz.formstack.com/forms/sibshop_info_and_rego

Success in Schools Course – Down Syndrome

5 & 6 March 2018, Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre in Mt Wellington. Facilitated by Kirsten McDonald, the Success in Schools course is for SENCO's, teachers, teacher aides, specialist staff, occupational therapists and parent educators. These are two full day courses, starting at 8.30am and finishing at approximately 3.30pm. Keep an eye on your mailbox for a separate email with further details on the course content. A booking form will soon be available on the [ADSA website](#).

Wise Clubs – Massey and Mt Roskill

WISE HUB, Henderson Baptist Church, 319 Great North Road Henderson (near the bus stop). Every Monday Morning, 10am to 12.30pm.
WISE HUB Mt Roskill, Wesley Community Centre, 740 Sandringham Road Ext. Mt Roskill, Main floor, "Tarapunga Room" Every Friday Morning 10am to 12.30pm.

Women's Wheelchair Basketball Training Sessions

Monthly Sundays, Spinal Unit Gym, 3.30-5.30pm, 21st Jan, 25th Feb, 25th Mar. Leading up to the Kelly Griffin Challenge 14/15th April. Suitable for experienced and beginner players, 12-112 years old. Chairs provided. For more info www.parafedauckland.co.nz/wwcbb or lizzie@parafedauckland.co.nz

Young Adult Groups running in Counties area

Did you know that IDEA Services have a Young Adults group running in the Papakura and Pukekohe areas? These groups have been created to enable young adults to build on their life skills through a variety of activities including sports, recreation, and volunteer work. For more information please contact Community Liaison Coordinator Iris Philip on 09 529 8714, 022 010 8243 or email iris.philip@idea.org.nz. To gain an understanding of what the groups do, especially the Pukekohe group please visit their Facebook page (Youth Activities Pukekohe).

Youthtown Holiday Sport Skills and Games

Years 0-8, (5-13yo welcome) Pakuranga Rugby Club Sessions from 10am-2pm, alternatively you could purchase full days of fun at OSCAR sites Panmure, Pakuranga and Rosehill. Email sport@youthtown.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.

Assistive Technology Survey - participate and spread the work please

An action point in the New Zealand Disability Action Plan involves the collection of information in relation

to assistive technologies for disabled people. Assistive technologies takes the widest view possible i.e. products and related services that help people take part in everyday activities. They can be specifically designed for people with cognitive, physical and/or sensory impairments, or everyday technology that has been modified. Examples range from hearing aids, to smartphone apps that assist with communication, to power wheelchairs. The research, being conducted on behalf of the Disabled People's Organisations, ACC, and other government agencies, examines how assistive technology makes a difference to the lives of disabled people; which technologies are being used, and what disabled people think of current government funding. People can participate by completing the survey on-line, over the phone or by postal hard copy which includes an Easy Read version. Please circulate the information through your networks. Most importantly, we encourage you to participate and to provide your feedback by taking part in the survey. Go to <https://www.acc.co.nz/about-us/news-media/latest-news/disability-survey>. If you would prefer to do the survey over the phone or by postal hard copy (including an Easy Read version) please contact: Andrew Whitsed on 0800 825 5867 or email at andrew@umr.co.nz. The results of the study will contribute to strengthening and updating the Disability Action Plan 2014-2018

<https://www.odi.govt.nz/nz-disability-strategy/disability-action-plan/>

Auckland Emergency Management

Auckland Emergency Management coordinates a group of different agencies, who all work together before, during, and after an emergency to help our communities. These include emergency services like – fire, police, ambulance, non-government organisations like (Salvation Army and Red Cross) and providers of essential services including water, power, and telecommunications. In order to protect people, property, and essential services all of these agencies need to work together, in a well-co-ordinated way. We also work with communities to help them to develop their ability to help each other to get through emergencies with their own support networks and resources. Information to share with your community: Make a plan with your family to get through an emergency

<https://www.happens.nz/make-a-plan/> Sign up to Auckland Emergency Management's txt or email alerts to give you warnings about emergencies. [Subscribe to SMS and email alerts](#). There's also lots more information on hazards and how to be prepared on our website: <http://www.aucklandcivildefence.org.nz/> Download the Red Cross Hazard App on to your phone to identify hazards, reduce risks and stay informed. Learn about it here:

<https://www.redcross.org.nz/what-we-do/in-new-zealand/disaster-management/hazard-app/> For people who have physical, medical, sensory or cognitive disabilities, emergencies such as fires, floods and acts of terrorism present a real challenge. The same challenge also applies to the elderly and other special needs populations.

<http://www.aucklandcivildefence.org.nz/get-ready/people-with-disabilities/> Tsunami evacuation maps <http://www.aucklandcivildefence.org.nz/community/tsunami-evacuation-maps/>

How to get help? Neighbours, friends, work colleagues and those around us will often be the first to help. It is how we are work together that will make the

biggest difference, If life is at risk, dial 111. For disruption like landslides or flooding, contact Auckland Council 09 301 0101, For power outages contact your power company

Chinese Resources are [here](#)

Chair Lifts Available

My elderly sister has recently transitioned to a Retirement village and I have a set of chair lifts that have been removed from her previous home. We purchased these new at the end of 2013 and have had them serviced regularly by Cremer Lifts so they are in perfect working order. My sister no longer needs the chair lifts but there may be people you work with who could benefit from them. There are two sets of chairs; one from ground level to a landing and then a second set to lift floor. Please feel free to contact me if you feel there would be any interest. Ann Craig Ann.Craig@mvcot.govt.nz

Diabetes Survey to Identify Support Needs for young people with type 1 diabetes

The Ministry's diabetes team has commissioned some work to identify the support needs for young people with type 1 diabetes as they transition to self-management. One component of this work is an online survey, which can be completed by any one of the following: people aged 14-24 years with type 1 diabetes, a parent or caregiver of someone aged 14-30 years who has type 1 diabetes, a friend or other family member/whanau of someone aged 14-30 years who has type 1 diabetes. The survey will be available until the second week of January 2018. We would love to hear from as many young people and their caregivers or whanau as possible. Where appropriate, please could we ask that you share this link with your relevant networks

The Disability, Spirituality and Faith Network Aotearoa New Zealand has initiated planning a Disability Spirituality Conference in 2020

At this stage a conference planning group is forming with people from a range of backgrounds and organisations we are keen to engage with other interested stakeholders. This conference welcomes all faiths and those with no particular faith to explore the landscape of spirituality and disability. The conference landscape of spirituality and disability. The conference will focus on such themes as: Spirituality of people with disabilities, opportunities for the disability community to explore their own spirituality. This is critical as there is little opportunity in the disability community where spirituality can be freely explored. How can religious institutions hear and receive the experience and insights of people with disabilities? Ensuring faith communities are made accessible, so that people with disabilities can access and be nurtured in a community of their choice. The conference is inclusive of ALL faiths and the planning group welcomes contact from interested stakeholders. Please contact Reverend Vicki Terrell at vterrell@actrix.co.nz for further information.

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.

Emergency Mobile Alert

The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MCDEM) is leading the implementation of a new nationwide emergency alert channel.

Emergency Mobile Alerts are due to be available by the end of 2017. What are Emergency Mobile Alerts? Emergency Mobile Alerts are messages about emergencies sent by authorised emergency agencies to [mobile phones enabled to receive Emergency Mobile Alerts](#). They can be targeted to areas affected by serious hazards. If your phone is on, capable and inside the targeted area, you should get the alerts. You don't have to download an app or subscribe to a service, just [ensure your phone is capable](#) and updated. Emergency Mobile Alert does not replace other emergency alerts. If you feel your life is in danger, don't wait for an official warning. Take immediate action.

Enabling participation for disabled young people

What facilitates full citizenship and participation for young people with vision, hearing and mobility impairments in Aotearoa/New Zealand? This question is the basis of our current mixed-methods Health Research Council-funded research with young people aged 12-25 years. What do young people experience as enabling accessibility and participation? What do they experience as barriers? Where are the margins for change, for expanding 'possibility'? Like all citizens, disabled young people have major contributions to make to their communities, yet they can face substantial barriers to access and inclusion. The built environment and social attitudes can undermine mobility and participation. In collaboration with the disability sector this study is working with young people living in Auckland aged 12-25 years with mobility, hearing and vision impairments to understand their everyday life experiences. The study combines interviews with questionnaires about everyday interests and activities, and getting around. We accept the New Zealand Disability Strategy definition of disability as "the process which happens when one group of people create barriers by designing a world ... taking no account of the impairments of others". We want to hear your views, and we will use the research findings to educate local government and the wider community, and to support disability sector activism. If you are interested in being involved and would like some more information, please contact us Penelope Carroll, Shore and Whariki Research, Massey University, p.a.carroll@massey.ac.nz 027 431 6867 or 09 366 6136 or Octavia Calder-Dawe, Shore and Whariki Research, Massey University, 09 366 6136, 027 351 5385 o.calder-dawe@massey.ac.nz

Engaging Priority Families

The Engaging Priority Families programme is funded by MOE with the better public service goal to support all 3-5 year olds to access a quality ECE and start Primary School with a solid foundation. Our EPF team promote the value of education by walking alongside parents/caregivers in preparing their child for the 'big school'. We believe that we can achieve this through working in collaboration with community services and Primary Schools while keeping each child at the centre of our educational vision in the hope to minimise future school absent issues. We work alongside families to identify the barriers to accessing education, how to address them and move forward. In order to reach more children and their families we need the support of the community to identify children who might benefit from registering with the EPF programme. Our team covers the following areas in Auckland: Puketapapa, Manurewa-Papakura, Otara-Papatoetoe, Manukau. There are other EPF providers covering Maungakiekie, Whau and Henderson-Massey

and I will gladly share their contact details if there are families living in those areas who might benefit from the EPF programme. Please feel free to contact me if you require further information. Petro Schoombie, PetroS@atwc.org.nz 09 276 3729 x 9403

InterACT Festival Video

Click here to see an overall video of the successful event.

Mind and Body Free Youth Resources Launched

Mind and Body and www.rethink.org.nz are delighted to announce the release of the new Like Minds, Like Mine youth resource Conversations for Change, which is available online now for free download! It aims to encourage young people to reach out for support and to include and support each other. The resource contains comprehensive facilitator's guides to five group activities which challenge stigma and discrimination and generate safe conversations about mental distress. Discussions encourage critical thinking about the impact and origin of different attitudes toward mental distress and encouraging empathy. Conversations for Change is part of the Like Minds, Like Mine Community Partnership Fund. The first two activities are compulsory and involve young people considering what mental illness "is" and then confronting the impact of some common negative attitudes toward mental health conditions. Each activity is about an hour in length and ideal to be used in classrooms, youth groups or other community settings. The three additional pick-n-mix activities encourage empathy and critical thinking in the areas of hearing voices, eating issues and holistic wellbeing.

NOFASD, calls on your urgent support

On 24 November 2017 Australian and New Zealand Ministers with responsibility for food regulation, known as the Forum on Food Regulation (the forum), will be considering alcohol pregnancy warning labels. We seek your support by writing to the Health and Food Ministers in your state or territory to ask them to immediately commence the process of mandating proper pregnancy warning labels on all alcohol products. There is a real prospect that Forum members are prepared to end the alcohol industry's failed and grossly inadequate voluntary consumer information scheme. We need your help to make this a reality.

<http://www.nofasd.org.au/announcements/alcohol-labelling>

Paraloan

Paraloan is a charitable organisation which provides financial assistance for people with physical disabilities. I have attached a flyer to refer your staff and clients to. The flyer provides a brief summary about paraloan and the type of loans we provide. Our website www.paraloan.org.nz provides the details of our service, criteria and the documentation required when applying for a loan.

Parenting Videos made in NZ for Disability Community

Videos are

Episode 1: [Mums on Diagnosis](#)

Episode 2: [Mums on Education](#)

Episode 3: [Mums on Friendship](#)

Episode 4: [Mums on Where to seek help](#)

Episode 5: [Mums on Future](#)

Phab Youth Workers required

The role is to support people with disabilities in fun social groups. Albany Group – 5.45pm – 8.15pm on Thursdays, Central Youth Group – 3.15pm – 5.45pm on Mondays and Teens Dyspraxia Group – 6.15pm – 8.45pm – fortnightly on Mondays. Experience is preferred but not necessary. Please contact Chewy on 09 488 7490 or email chewy@phab.org.nz to find out more.

Spirit of Adventure Voyage 2018

This special 5 Day voyage provides an opportunity for physically challenged young New Zealanders to take part in an adventure of a lifetime. Thirty young people from across the country, aged 16-20 years, come together to face challenges outside of their usual boundaries, gaining confidence and achieving tasks that previously might have looked impossible. The annual Inspiration voyage is sponsored by the combined Lions Clubs of New Zealand, led by the Karori Lions Club. We take thirty physically challenged young people to sea on this special 5 Day voyage. Inspiration voyage participants are partnered with a support person (usually one to three ratio). Support personnel are recruited from experienced Spirit volunteers who have participated in 10 Day voyages. They offer support and personal assistance to the participants as required. Our unique voyage focuses on the following life skills activities: building self-confidence - climbing the mast, swimming alongside, developing leadership skills - putting up the sails, communicating with new people - helping cook a meal, learning to be resilient - helping clean the ship, working in teams - rafting ashore, dealing with close confines - sleeping in cots, learning new skills - sailing the small boats. Participants must be aged between 16-20 years, meet the medical criteria of the voyage, agree to the terms and conditions of the voyage, 19th Feb-23rd February please register your interest.

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

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](#).

Youthline Mentoring

Are you 16 or 17 years old, live or study in Central Auckland, on the North Shore or Rodney. Have struggled to stay at school, have low NCEA results, are thinking of leave school or have left. What does mentoring @ youthline look like? Work one on one with someone who can help you: Stay in education, create a CV, find a job or course, get your drivers licence, learn new skills, build your confidence. Work out your goals and a plan to achieve them so you get to where you want to be. Contact 0800 2YOUTH, www.youthline.co.nz or youthservice@youthline.co.nz

or free text "Mentoring" to 234. For more information click [here](#)

Articles of interest:

[5 things to know about the kid who chews on everything](#)
[Mycare and WeVisit have joined forces to improve NZ Care and Support](#)
[From under the cushions to the poster boy for how to live with autism](#)
[New Zealand's first full disability friendly bathroom set for Hamilton](#)
[Salonica is groundbreaking show incorporating sign language](#)
[13 year old app maker wants to spread news about autism awareness](#)
[Coping with Christmas](#)
[Candy cane sensory peppermint shaving foam](#)
[Different and equal](#)
[Anything is possible](#)
[Kiwis schoolgirl creative hearing loss ideas win her a trip to Austria](#)
[Lack of primary level special education unit ends family's home ownership dream](#)
[Mums speak out on disability, advocacy and activism](#)
[Accessible properties keen to work with government](#)
[Athletes head home from National Summer Games](#)
[Award recognises Madelines effort to deal with hearing disability](#)
[More than 1300 special Olympians descend on wellington](#)
[Addressing poverty for New Zealanders is vital](#)
[A day in the life of Satellite classroom](#)
[Making dental practices more autism-friendly](#)
[Disabled tenants shut out of market](#)
[Parenting an intellectually disabled child: life forever on duty](#)
[Autistic Workers recognised for unique skill set](#)
[Salonica is a ground breaking play incorporating sign language](#)
[Kramer Hoeflich: We see the person before the disability](#)
[Living with a disfigurement is different not defining](#)
[Deaf patients at risk as hospital struggles with lack of interpreters](#)
[First disabled haka group striving for the national stage](#)
[The story of disability driving instructor Edin Dzebanic](#)
[A Christmas run for autistic children](#)
[Treatment for selective mutism said to unlock mute children's ears and brains](#)

[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 3 2017

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

[Be Accessible](#) – November 2017

[Blind Foundation Newsletter](#) – October 2017

[Brainwaves](#) – Summer 2017

[Carers NZ](#) – November 2017

[Children's Autism Foundation](#) – 15 November

[Communitycations](#) – 12 December 2017

[Communitycations](#) –28 November 2017

[Dance Therapy](#) – Summer 2017

[Deaf Aotearoa 18 December](#)

[Deaf Aotearoa 11 December](#)

[Talking Hands Magazine](#)

[eCald News](#) – December 2017

[Health Link North](#) – November 2017

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

[Improving Life Outcomes](#) – December 2017

[Independent Living Services](#) – October 2017

[Infolink Quarterly Newsletter](#) – December 2017

[Kia Maro](#) – November 2017

[Kiwi Families](#) – October 2017

[NZDSN Newsletter](#) – December 2017

[Parent Aid](#) – December 2017

[Parent to Parent newsletter](#) – November 2017

[Magazine](#) – September 2017

Parent to Parent [info](#)

[Raukatauri Newsletter](#) – Winter 2017

[Recreate NZ newsletter](#) – Term 4 2017

[Sands – Spring 2017](#)

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

[Vaka Tautua](#) – December 2017

[Whanau Marama](#) – October 2017

[Wise Newsletter](#) – 7 December 2017

[Wise Newsletter](#) – 13 December 2017

[Wise Newsletter](#) 22 November 2017



helping families

From the Disability Connect Team

Lisa, Virginia, Robyn, Sanny, Angela and Asoka

www.disabilityconnect.org.nz

Join us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#)

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