



Disability Connect Newsletter

9 September 2024



Our Transition Expo was a huge success thanks to all the amazing stall holders who were present and available to have discussions and share information with the disabled people, families, whanau and community who attended.

We have had an overwhelming positive response from the 1200+ attendees about conversations in education, micro enterprises and employment; opportunities to try new things like gaming and Cherie's fabulous Transition Seminar. Thank you for coming and joining us at our expo!

A big thank you also to all the volunteers that helped make the day possible.

We would love to hear any feedback you have on the event so we can make our 2025 Transition Expo even better!

Email your feedback to admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz
or call [09 636 0351](tel:096360351)

- [Zoom Parents Support Group](#) - Every Monday 7-8pm
Open to anyone seeking advice or support for parenting, upcoming Needs Assessments, starting or leaving school and anything in-between. Robyn would love to meet and chat about anything that is important to you.
- [Parent Support Group](#) - Wednesday 11 September 2024, 6-8pm.
Guest: Alesha Mehta
Topic: Bollywood Dance - Interactive dance session. Learn cool dance moves and have fun.
Location: **Please Note Change of Venue** Onehunga Community Centre, Mountjoy Room
Registration is essential. Click [here](#) for flyer.
- [Chinese Support Group](#) - Tuesday 17 September 2024, 10am-12pm
Guest Facilitator: Rowena Bird
Topic: Caring for your children's teeth
Location: Senior Citizens Room, Fickling Convention Centre (546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings)
Click [here](#) for English flyer and [here](#) for Chinese language flyer.

For more Disability Support Groups click [here](#)

Disability Connect Seminars and Workshops

- [Education Legal Issues](#) - Wednesday 16 October, 11:30am-2pm via Zoom. Come along and learn about enrolment rights, decision processes around special education, processes around an ORS funding decline, requests to parents for teacher aide funding contributions, requests to parents for funding for student support at extra-curricular camps and activities, stand-downs, use of restraint, and much more.
For more information click [here](#).
To register, email: admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz
- [Planning for Adulthood](#) - Thursday 21 November 2024, 11am-2pm via Zoom. Click [here](#) for more information.
To register, email admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

Please note some seminars do have a fee. Please let us know if this is a barrier to being able to attend. Clicking on the link will take you to the information.

Changes to Whaikaha and the Disability Support System

The Minister for Disability Issues Hon Louise Upston commissioned an Independent Review of the Disability Support System to strengthen its long-term sustainability. Following the review, a number of recommendations were made which have been accepted by Government.

Please click [here](#) for an information fact sheet issued by the Ministry of Social Development and [here](#) for a fact sheet published by Whaikaha.

Awhi Ngā Mātua are collecting feedback on the changes. Click [here](#) for more information.

Community Open Day

Power in the Park 2024

Join us Thursday 12 September at Eden Park
The day is a fun community open day where everyone is welcome!
Food and drink available at no cost (as long as you've registered!) Free entry for all.

- Meet with trusted support groups and services
- All accessible and undercover
- Wheelchair Techno available for a pit stop all day
- Tours of Eden Park, including Perennial Comfort Zones and Access Health's Sensory Room
- Engage with clinical sessions and product experts
- Wheelchair rugby, handicycling and big-screen gaming available
- Hear from some influential and innovative people
- Win tickets to Coloplast at Eden Park in November*

*Terms and conditions apply, and can be found on the Perennial Power in the Park website page

Special thanks to our partners and sponsors

Power in the Park

Thursday, 12 September - Eden Park

Power in the Park is happening this week!

A free and fun community open day where everyone is welcome! The event is accessible, inclusive, and they want every visitor to leave feeling safe, connected, and enthusiastic about

opportunities. Through sessions and experiences, people (disabled and able-bodied) can engage with various aspects of mobility and disabilities to increase their knowledge and confidence in products and services that are available to users, families and community members. Catering for varying levels of interest and needs from new users to clinical therapists, from those in wheelchairs, to those with vision impairment. You can attend for an hour, or two, or stay the whole day.

Register now and attend to receive free food vouchers on arrival as well as going in the draw to win some incredible event tickets! [Click here for more info and registrations.](#)



Free tickets to The Great Kiwi Circus

We have limited tickets for The Great Kiwi Circus 2024.

Each family will only get tickets to one event.

Available sessions / venue

- 4 October at 2pm / Birkenhead College - BGT Theatre, 140 Birkdale Road, Birkenhead
- 5 October at 2pm / Due Drop Events Centre, 770 Great South Road, Manukau

Please click [here](#) for more details and how to register.



Wheelchair Netball Pilot Session

Auckland Netball Centre will be holding a Wheelchair Netball Pilot Session. This session will be an opportunity for teenagers and young adults to try the game, and to assist with the development of a future Wheelchair Netball programme at Auckland Netball Centre.

Date: Thursday, 19 September

Time: 5-6pm

Location: Auckland Netball Centre, St Johns

The session is aimed at teenagers and young adults who are wheelchair users, but there will also be some wheelchairs available for friends and family to join in the session.

Click [here](#) for more details or [register](#) online.



Four Go Flattening

The team at Attitude are excited to announce their brand new series "Four Go Flattening". The show follows the classic rite of passage of four young men (with intellectual disabilities) who are moving out of home to live independently...no parents, no rules.

Airing from Monday, 9 September at 7:30pm for the next five weeks.



Dance 4 Us Youth - Pilot

Dance 4 Us Youth Southeast is a new weekly dance therapy group. It is a drop-in (donation based) dance therapy group for youth aged 13-24 and is

led by a qualified dance therapist and teacher. The group focuses on movement, social and communication goals while offering an enjoyable and social environment.

It will run weekly until 23 September for Term 3 and commence again in Term 4.

Term 4 dates: 14 October to 16 December

Day and time: Monday, 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Location: Te Tuhi Arts Centre, 13 Reeves Rd, Pakuranga, Auckland

For more information and other programmes available, email: clients@dancetherapy.co.nz

Click [here](#) for more activities available across Auckland.



Stroke Art Therapy by Māpura Studios

re-stART 2024

For people living with stroke-affect, join us for a special 12- week intensive art therapy programme

re-stART Stroke Art Therapy :

This is a journey of self-reflection and in-depth examination of the experience of having stroke-affect.

Art forms are introduced as tools by which participants can explore emotionally and psychologically, providing insight, healing, and resolution - assisting rehabilitation, and renewing motivation and purpose in life.

The group environment provides a sense of connection and community for those who may be isolated in their experience; a place to constructively and safely share & be heard. The process is dynamic and life-enhancing.

re-stART 2024

Stroke Art Therapy

Tuesdays 10.00am - 12.30pm

Proposed dates 17 September – 3 December 2024

Auckland Irish Club, Fowlds Park, Morningside

\$100

For enquiries and enrolments, contact Ursula Valeli

ursula@mapurastudios.org.nz

[09 845 5361](tel:098455361)

Community Courses, Seminars and Workshops

THE DISABILITY JOURNEY INTO ADULTHOOD
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW & HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

What do people do with their days?
Living options & thinking about the future

AN INFORMATIVE ZOOM CONVERSATION ABOUT LEAVING SCHOOL
24TH SEPTEMBER 10AM-12PM

WINZ, Transport, Guardianship
What kind of funding exists after school?
Transition services & how they work

via Zoom
Meeting ID: 859 8286 0658
Passcode: 000919
RSVP: robyn@realworldliving.co.nz

The Disability Journey into Adulthood

Tuesday 24 September 10am - 12pm

Real World Living are hosting a zoom conversation about leaving school, what you need to know and how to make it happen.

Location: via Zoom

RSVP: robyn@realworldliving.co.nz

Meeting ID: [859 8286 0658](https://realworldliving.co.nz/join/85982860658)

Passcode: 000919

Empowered: Free online wellbeing programme - Anxiety NZ

Empowered is a free, self-paced, online course from Anxiety NZ to support your mental wellbeing.



- You will receive practical, easy to implement ideas to support your own and others' mental health.
- You'll build new skills and come away with your own personalised well-being plan to support your wellbeing goals now, and into the future.

These tools are for everyone. Your whānau. Your friends. Your workmates, and our community.

When people see you taking care of your mental wellbeing, they may be inspired to do so as well. When you're thriving, you can help others thrive too!

Click [here](#) for more information.

Seeking Interviewees for Research on Intellectual / Learning Disabilities in New Zealand

IHC is seeking intellectually/learning disabled people and their families to interview about them about their living situations and employment. They are looking for people in Wellington and surrounds, Auckland, Whanganui and Featherston. See [here](#) for more details.

Email shara.turner@ihc.org.nz for further information or to be shortlisted.

Your voice matters!

Public consultation for the review of the End of Life Choice Act

(2019) Click [here](#) to See terms of reference and submission opportunity .

Make your voices heard by signing both of the petitions below:

[Carers NZ Petition](#) - Recognise and protect New Zealand's family, whānau and āiga carers

[Petition: Re-evaluate the Recent Changes to Whaikaha Purchasing Guidelines for Individualised Funding](#)

To have your say, you can also write to your local MP or email us at admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

Great information on our website!

- [Newsletters from other disability organisations](#)
 - [Useful links page](#)
 - [Disability Support Guides - English, Chinese, Korean and Arabic](#)
 - [View all news and updates on our information pages on our website.](#)
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Thermomix® to Support Disability and Carers - Zoom Information Session - 26 September at 8pm



THERMOMIX® TO SUPPORT DISABILITY AND CARERS

I am looking forward to showing you the amazing Thermomix®! Find out what it is, what it can do and how easy it is to use. Most importantly, how it can help you in your daily life, whether you are caring for somebody with special needs or you are facing your own health or mobility challenges. Learn about the functions and modes that can save you time, money and energy in the kitchen. See how easy it is to plan meals and even order your groceries from one place.

Book here for Zoom Thursday 26 September at 8pm:

<https://tinyurl.com/mtypp3zs>

disability
connect.

We are available Monday-Friday 9am-4.30pm

admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

Phone [09 636 0351](tel:096360351)

We are here to help you with the best information, advice and support for living the best life possible.

Disability Connect can now receive online donations via credit card. We

appreciate any donation from you!

[Donate now](#)



Disability Connect

3b Olive Road, Penrose, Auckland
New Zealand

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