



## Parents of Vision Impaired (NZ) Inc.

Providing a community to support parents of children with vision impairments

**Welcome to December!**

**Hope you are all winding down and getting ready for the holidays.**

This email provides an update on Disability Support Services Taskforce engagement, some advice on preparing for a funding review, the upcoming Kōrero for Change webinar, and a short list of our recent submissions and advocacy work.



## Disability Support Services

### **DSS Taskforce consultation.**

Our Executive Officer had a productive meeting with Disability Support Services (DSS) Taskforce members in November and is set to join another session in December. PVI continues to advocate for flexible funding solutions for families; we understand that what works for one may not work for another, even with similar eye conditions—each child's vision, interests, and needs are unique!

PVI also recognizes that investing in families is a strategic move that will save the government money in the long run; the cost of burnout is high for everyone

involved. Disability support is crucial in helping families achieve everyday life goals for our children, whether they are blind, deafblind, have low vision, are vision impaired and/or have additional disabilities. The DSS Taskforce is listening, which is a promising beginning. Their findings and recommendations are expected early next year and will contribute to a Cabinet Paper for the Minister of Disability Issues.

If you want to read PVI's written response, you can download it below:

[PVI's response to DSS survey on Recommendations 5 and 6 \(pdf\)](#)

---

### **Funding reviews: Suggestions and Solidarity**

As the pressure from Ministerial mandates mounts on NASCs, IF Hosts, and EGL sites to adhere to stringent budget constraints, many of us will likely face a reassessment of our disability supports and financial allocations, with a focus on reducing funding. Being prepared is key. Below, we offer some strategies for navigating this review process:

- Carefully evaluate which funding supports can be minimized, and which are absolutely vital and indispensable for daily living.
- Visualize the family member you care for on their most challenging day without any assistance. What essentials do they require to navigate daily life? What specific tasks do they need help with? Provide as much detail as possible.
- Be open about the challenges you face, the stress and anxiety, and what aids you in managing these demands.
- Aim for a balance between appearing too self-sufficient and too overwhelmed.
- Choose a review time that suits you, allowing for a thorough discussion. Avoid cramming it into an already busy schedule if possible.

- If you can, give yourself an hour either side of the review to prepare and debrief. These reviews can be taxing and disheartening.
- Remember to be gentle with yourself. Being forced to detail all of what we deal with, in a deficit-oriented way, just to access barely sufficient funding, is incredibly tough on our wellbeing. Planning some sort of small reward or treat activity afterwards to lift your spirits. or having someone to debrief with, even over the phone, can work wonders for restoring your sense of self.

Best of luck and take care as we navigate these challenging times.

---



### **PVI Advocacy - Submissions**

As well as the DSS Survey and Review, PVI has contributed into the following areas:

- Auckland City Council playground and reserve renewals
- Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind (RNZFB) Board Policies
- Responding to Abuse in Care Legislation Amendment Bill.
- Waikato Wellbeing Project

- Treaty Principles Bill
- Oranga Tamariki (Responding to Serious Youth Offending) Amendment Bill

As always, our submissions take a whole of life approach with the understanding that disabled children and whānau should have a say about outcomes that affect them. We are especially focussed on families having dignity, self-determination, and ordinary life outcomes.

In our submissions we draw on the NZ Bill of Rights Act (BORA), Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the [New Zealand Disability Strategy](#), [Enabling Good Lives Principles](#), and the United Nations documents that New Zealand is a signatory to (Convention on the [Rights of the Child](#); Convention on the [Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#); Declaration on the [Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)).

---



**PVI has always been a strong supporter of Access Matters Aotearoa, and we are very excited about their upcoming webinar on emergency preparedness:**



**SPEAKER**

**Dr Michelle Villeneuve**

Associate Professor, Deputy Director at The University of Sydney's Impact Centre for Disability Research and Policy

### **Kōrero for Change: Emergency Preparedness**

The next *kōrero* in the series will focus on the challenges facing Aotearoa New Zealand's emergency preparedness systems, which struggle to ensure equitable access and resilience for all, especially vulnerable communities. The absence of inclusive planning, accessible communication during crises, and appropriate evacuation resources leaves many, including people with disabilities, inadequately supported in emergencies. [Read more](#)

**Date:** Wednesday, 11 December 2024

**Time:** 1pm to 4pm

**Where:** via Zoom

**Registration:** [via Zoom](#)

**Attending:** Anyone who wants to improve access and inclusion for all of Aotearoa New Zealand's population.

**Programme:** [Word Doc](#), PDF, [Large Print](#), Easy Read, NZSL, [Audio](#), [Braille](#)

**Contact:** Kimberly Graham via [kimberly@accessmatters.org.nz](mailto:kimberly@accessmatters.org.nz)

---

### **RNZFB Policies for Consultation**

The RNZFB Board is reviewing their mandatory policies outlined in section 3 of the Board Policy Manual and are required to consult with members on proposed changes. The Governance Committee will review feedback and make recommendations. The policies reviewed so far are:

3.1 Children.

3.2 Tangata Whenua.

3.4 Volunteers.

3.6 Consultation with Users of Services.

3.7 Community Participation.

3.11 Conflicts of interest.

If you wish to receive a copy of the policy and provide feedback, you can email [boardsecretary@blindlowvision.org.nz](mailto:boardsecretary@blindlowvision.org.nz). Parents might like to provide feedback on the [policy regarding children](#) regarding the need for Blind Low Vision to work alongside parents and whānau. The [tāngata whenua policy](#) could also be refreshed to more appropriately reflect the articles of Te Tiriti, rights and protections afforded under Declaration on the [Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), the need for robust consultation processes, and a clear commitment to tamariki Māori (absent from both policies).

---



## Responding to Cyberbullying

At our 2024 PVI Parent Conference, Rachael Wiltshire from Auckland Disability Law spoke about cyberbullying; what it is, what the law says, and how to respond.

[Read more](#)

## Hāpai Access Card

The Hāpai Access Card has been operating since 2020 in Aotearoa New Zealand. It has seen over two hundred thousand of disabled people get better accessibility through participating businesses. [Read more](#)



## eVision

Remember our November eVision is still available to read!

[Read on our website here](#)

[Click here to download as single pages](#)

[Click here to download as a double page spread](#)



Parents of Vision Impaired NZ, PO Box 5629, Frankton, Hamilton, New Zealand  
3204, New Zealand

[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)

[Send free email today](#)

HubSpot