THE WILSON HOME TRUST

Welcome to Term 1 2026 Newsletter

Hello everyone,

I hope that 2026 has started off well for you and your family, and that you have been able to take some time to spend enjoying the summer together.

As usual, The Trust has been very busy looking after the property, completing property projects, and most importantly supporting families with grants.

In 2025 we proudly provided close to 300 hundred grants which not only helped to relieve families of some of the financial challenges they face, but helped to make disabled children's lives easier.

The grants that we provide are across four categories – equipment / activity, young adult (17 – 22 years of age), counselling for any member of the family, and holiday grants. Our aim is to provide grants that meet the needs of our families so we always welcome feedback and suggestions.

A grant that I would like to make mention of is the Young Adult Grant, if you have a disabled young adult in your family, or if you are a disabled young adult we provide grants for a range of things to assist the transition into young adulthood. See below for more information or please contact us.

Over the latter part of 2025 we completed a storm water remediation project on the site in Takapuna after suffering a slip in February 2023, this will protect the cliff and prevent further water damage.

We are currently refurbishing the old prefabs which Wilson School will be occupying to provide satellite classrooms for children with special needs. It is so rewarding to bring life back into spaces that have stood empty for many years.

I'm sure that you will be aware of the funding changes that are currently happening, through to April this year, I have provided a brief overview of these changes - see below.

Until next time, stay safe,

Kind regards Gale

Disability Funding Changes

We are delighted to see the new funding changes coming into place from April 2026. The NZ Disability Support Services (DSS) will introduce more flexible, budget-based funding, removing restrictive purchasing rules for eligible users. Budgets will be based on 2023–2025 spending, ensuring no one receives less than previously, with a focus on consistent assessments and increased choice in support.
Key Changes to Public Funding (Effective April 2026)

- Flexible Funding Model: The rigid, old purchasing guidelines will be removed.
- Personal Budgets: Users will receive a defined, flexible budget to manage based on their previous spending, allowing greater choice in how supports are purchased.

- Consistency in Assessments: Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC) agencies will use a more consistent approach to assessments to ensure fairer funding allocation.
- Support for Carers: The needs of families, whānau, and carers will be formally considered in assessments.
- Pre-approval Limits: While flexibility increases, a small list of items (e.g., international travel, high-cost, one-off purchases) will still require pre-approval.
- Rollout Timeline: Changes begin mid-February 2026 for new users and April 2026 for existing users.

For more information about these changes visit the Disability Support Services website.

Young Adults Grants

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Attention

Grants for Young Adults
With physical disabilities

Did you know that the Wilson Home Trust provides grants to Young Adults that have physical disabilities?

As young adults start to identify goals and dreams for the future, the Wilson Home Trust aims to support their future aspirations. Up to $3,450 is available to young adults that qualify for Wilson Home Trust grant support.

Grants are available for physically disabled young adults from 17 years up to the age of 21 living in the top half of the North Island, check the Wilson Home Trust website to see if you qualify – www.wilsonhometrust.org.nz

The next grants funding round closes on
Thursday 12 March 2026

For more information email info@wilsonhometrust.org.nz or call 09 488 0126 or 0800 948 787

www.wilsonhometrust.org.nz

Getting out and about
Show Your Ability - Hamilton Expo

This year we will be at the Hamilton Show Your Ability Expo on Wednesday 4 March. We will be attending this expo with Rebecca from Parent to Parent so if you are in the area please pop in and say hello.

Grants

The next grant funding closing date for Equipment / Activity and Young Adults is on **Thursday 12 March 2026**.

Holiday and Counselling grants can be applied for anytime during the month.

For more information, please contact us on 09 488 0126 or email info@wilsonhometrust.org.nz

Follow our facebook page for quick updates on information that might be helpful for you https://www.facebook.com/wilsonhometrust1/

Gale, Chris & Steve

Parent to Parent
connect • inform • support

Working in partnership with Parent to Parent

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