

Foster Care Networker

(An Independent Social Services Newsletter)
Issue 14 September 2004

Hello and Welcome

This month I have invited John Rabarts to write the editorial for this issue of the Foster Care Networker. John has been very supportive of the Networker, and I appreciate him writing this editorial for me. Thanks again John.

THE WORTH OF A CAREGIVER.

It's 3.30 a.m. I'm asleep, but my name called loudly for the third time brings me around. Calling me is an elderly stroke victim in the next room. He has got himself sitting up on the side of his bed. He needs his walking frame brought within reach, and some help to stand up into it.

That's why I'm there. He's off to the loo. Where he will need his nighttime pad loosened so he can go. Sit him down, help him up. Replace pad. Wash our hands and back to bed. We're getting better at this. That was only 20 minutes. I'll get a bit more sleep before we go through it all again at 5.00 a.m. then the 6.30 repeat is time to get going for the day. Walking frame to the breakfast table, I'm cooking the rolled oats, sorting the medication and diet supplements. Breakfast, over it's a walking frame shuffle to the easy chair with its own inbuilt mechanism that raises and lowers. I do the dishes and we're ready for the day. It's 7.30 a.m.

Why so early? He spent most of his working life living on the outskirts of a big city, rising early to travel to work, arriving home late. How do you change the habits of a lifetime for someone who can remember his twenties as clear as a bell, but has no recollection of most of what happened yesterday.

The personal carer arrives to shower him and I get the one-hour in the day that is my own. He comes back to a coffee, sweetened with half a teaspoon of Manuka honey. He wants to talk about the old days, with what little ability to speak that the strokes have left him. He did a stint with the Occupation forces after the war.

The stroke hasn't effected the part of his brain that he used to learn the local language. I can hear clearly every word he speaks in that. Which would be great, - except that I don't speak Japanese. Another long day as I talk about whatever and get responses in "stroke". Here and there I catch the intent of the words he struggles out.

The cloudy day is interspersed with - trips to the bathroom, cups of coffee, wash and dry last night's sheets, a half hour getting into the wheelchair and taking a trip up the drive to clear the box. He can still read without glasses, - the junk mail keeps him in touch with what is happening in town. Diabetes tests to be done and recorded. Get lunch. A mixture of medication every few hours popped out of the pharmacist's personalised blister packs. 'Golden Girls on TV, cook dinner, Coronation St, more medication with supper then the loo, on with a pad and bed. That too has a machine in it that raises one end to meet him coming down. The eye drops, the Asthma puff, and the eyelids close on the day.

It's 10.30 p.m. I slip into bed. If I'm lucky I might get a couple of hours rest before the half past midnight toilet call. As I slip away to sleep from the 2.00 a.m. trip to the loo I wonder how I would have coped doing this for my own father, - wishing that I had been given the chance. My Dad's strokes took him away from us in less than the 24 hours I've just gone through.

I also marvel at the strength and resolve of my friend's wife, away for seven days holiday while I fill her place doing Respite Care. I'm conscious that she has lived this life for the last seven years, and may well do seven years more and she does it all unpaid.

On the other hand I do get money for this - some would say I'm really well reimbursed for my care role. It works out at around a third of the hourly rate paid to a youngster just out of school who checks up your groceries on the till at the Supermarket. But it is probably three times the reward I have had from any "real" job I have had in my life.

John Rabarts.

Stoke, NELSON.

A South Island Challenge:

Over this past month I have had some queries, about the need for more South Island Caregiver information to be included into the Foster Care Networker. I am a North Island caregiver, and I live in Auckland, so this makes it very easy for me to find out what is happening close to my home.

I would therefore like to put out the challenge to South Island Caregivers, Agencies and Organisations with an interest in the care of our NZ children, to send me through any information about what is coming up in your part of the country. I can either advertise events in this newsletter, or by way of the website – www.hrs.org.nz/fostercare. Any regular newsletters can also be added to the website, with each issue just overwriting the last. It is much easier to add information to the website if I receive it in email form, but I am happy to also receive any hard copy newsletters.

Remember that this newsletter is not sent out on behalf of any Association, Agency or Organisation, and that I do not necessarily agree with all that has been included. The focus of the Foster Care Networker is that it is an information network, and although I make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information included, I do not guarantee the information's correctness, nor accept any legal responsibility.

If you would like to submit any material for future issues of the Foster Care Networker newsletter, or for the website, then please send any information to:

Allysa Carberry
Carberrys@xtra.co.nz
www.hrs.org.nz/fostercare

Donations

Any finance that has been required for this Foster Care Networker newsletter, and for the website, has been funded from my families' income. This has included subscriptions for some newsletters that I receive on a regular basis, plus attendance at any conferences that I may attend. One such Conference was the annual 'Lexis Nexis Child and Youth Law Conference'. I was the only foster parent present, amongst many of those in high positions from Child Youth and Family, Counsel for Child, Lawyers, and others who may play a very vital part in caring for 'children in care' in New Zealand.

I enjoy collating and writing the Foster Care Networker, as well as attending as many courses, meetings, conferences as possible, and then passing on the information, as I believe in the fact that Caregivers need to be as informed as possible. To be informed is to be prepared.

I have now opened a bank account under the name of the 'Foster Care Networker'. If anyone would like to make a donation to help support this Network, it would be greatly appreciated.

Details of the bank account is as follows: **Wespac – 03 0355 0549924 00**

CYF/NZFFCF Joint Training

These courses are FREE for any caregiver that is caring for a child that is NOT their own on a full time basis. Help with transport and childcare costs are also available. To book in for any of these courses please contact Maxine Carroll, Training Administrator, on (04) 9132168, or free phone 0508 326 459, or email maxine at maxine.carroll008@cyf.govt.nz.

Courses available for October are as follows:

Course	To Be Held	When
Safe Caring	Auckland South	1 & 2 October
Induction Training	Wanganui	2 & 3 October
Induction Training	Waitakere	1 & 2 October
Induction Training	Masterton	4 & 5 October
Family Dynamics	Christchurch	7 & 8 October
Family Dynamics	Gisborne	8 & 9 October
Safe Caring	Whakatane	11 & 12 October
Older Child	Wellington	12 & 13 October

Safe Caring	Blenheim	12 & 19 & 20 October
Safe Caring	Palmerston North	14 & 15 October
Legal Issues	Ashburton	14 & 15 October
Non Violent Crisis Intervention	Wanganui	15 & 16 October
Non Violent Crisis Intervention	Whangarei	16 & 17 October
Older Child	Tauranga	16 & 17 October
Induction Training	Westport	16 & 30 October
Induction Training	Hamilton	19 & 20 October
Older Child	Alexandra	19 & 20 October
Non Violent Crisis Intervention	Hamilton	26 & 27 October
Induction Training	South Canterbury	27 & 28 October
Legal issues	Tokoroa	28 & 29 October
Induction Training	Hutt SDU	29 & 30 October
Induction Training	Invercargill	30 & 31 October

Foster Care Awareness Week

Foster Care Week is held annually to acknowledge Foster and Kinship/Whanau Carers in the community who provide vital support and care in family group homes, or in their own homes for Children and Youth at risk.

Foster Care Week is your opportunity to promote the wonderful things Caregivers do in your own area. Over the past years, Councils have arranged Civic Receptions in their areas to 'Thank' their local fosterparents.

This year's 'Foster Care Week' is from the **31st October to the 7th November 2004**. If you know of any civic receptions for caregivers or of any other celebrations that will be happening during Foster Care Awareness Week, please let me know, and I will advertise them on the website, or in the next issue of the Networker.

CYF Call Centre Hours

The hours of operation for the, Child Youth and Family Call Centre is from 8am Monday until 6.30am Saturday, and this service is staffed by Child Youth and Family Social Workers.

Over the weekends - from 6.30am Saturday to 8am Monday, the Department still provides a service, but the calls are taken by a private 'call centre telephonists', who takes messages and will phone or page the social workers on duty. Please remember that the Call Centre service is for emergencies only.

It is the Departments, intention to have their own call centre operating 24/7 in the future when staffing levels allow.

Political Information

Family Court proceedings opened up:

Family Court proceedings are to be opened up to the public and the media under the close control of judges, to ensure confidence in the court is maintained.

Cabinet has approved suggestions by the Law Commission to provide for accredited news media to attend family court proceedings. The wide-ranging changes are designed to improve transparency in the court without compromising family proceedings. Judges will retain the discretion to exclude people from hearings and may also direct draft news reports be submitted to the court to check journalists have complied with directions given by the court. Breaches of reporting restrictions could leave individuals liable to up to three months imprisonment or \$2000 fines and organisations up to \$10,000 in fines. New legislation in the Family Court Matters Bill will implement these changes.

Public forum on P & other drugs:

The national roll out of public forums on P, alcohol and other drugs as promised by Associate Health Minister Jim Anderton in June begins next week in Manukau City.

Feedback on the pilot forum held in Tauranga in June was that it was useful for communities, community workers and for local and central government politicians. It is a valuable opportunity to share ideas and information in the campaign to develop strategies to defeat drugs in your communities.

The Progressive leader will chair a public meeting in Manukau on Thursday, September 30, followed by a meeting in Waitakere City on October 14. Public meetings will follow in coming months in different locations around the country, the details of which will be released as finalized.

The public meetings will aim to inform the public on what is being done to secure our borders, and how the police are working to enforce the law in the drugs and alcohol area, and what prevention strategies can be used in communities particularly focusing on the Community Action Youth and Drugs programmes, the public health approaches and treatment availability.

The forums will be scheduled, for the most part, in locations where there is a Community Action on Youth Alcohol & Drug programme in place.

The forum in Manukau is to be held on Thursday 30 September, 7.30pm in the Manukau Room, Manukau City Council, 31 - 33 Wiri Station Road, Manukau.

MYD Permanent Head Announced:

Peter Hughes, Chief Executive of the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has announced the appointment of Dr Alison Taylor as head of the Ministry of Youth Development.

Dr Taylor has an extensive background in the health sector and is presently Chief Executive of the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand - a position she has held for the past six years. In this capacity Dr Taylor leads a team of 38 staff throughout New Zealand providing public health services, advocacy and policy advice on issues relating to mental health promotion and prevention.

Key attributes that Dr Taylor will bring to this role are a strong vision for youth, the capacity to influence change through relationships with stakeholders in the youth sector, intellectual rigour and practical hands-on experience in delivering services.

Dr Taylor will commence in the role of General Manager, Ministry of Youth Development on 6 December 2004.

Scholarships target early childhood teachers:

A new \$41.4 million new scholarship scheme that will give assistance to people from low income backgrounds to train to be early childhood education teachers has been announced.

The package that has been announced includes the extension of a number of initiatives currently available in the primary and secondary sectors to the early childhood education sector. The package includes:

- relocation grants for qualified early childhood teachers who move from specific areas of New Zealand or from overseas to areas where there is a high demand for more teachers;
- grants for qualified early childhood teachers not currently teaching who return to teaching in early childhood education;
- more study grants for qualified primary teachers to undertake early childhood teacher education. These grants will also be available for those already studying towards a primary teaching qualification who want to swap to an early childhood teaching qualification;
- funding to increase the number of incentive grants available to early childhood services to help them support staff in training, particularly in Auckland.

Applications for the 2005 scholarships will open in November. Information about the scholarships will be available through the TeachNZ website, www.teachNZ.govt.nz

Human Rights in New Zealand Report:

The first ever-comprehensive report on the state of human rights in New Zealand has concluded that children and young people are the most at risk from human rights abuses. While New Zealand meets most international human rights standards, there are some critical areas where we are failing. Some of the most pressing human rights issues in New Zealand are those relating to the **poverty and abuse** experienced by a large number of **children and young people**.

The most pressing issues to emerge from the report are:

- Nearly one out of three children and young people live in poverty, which restricts their access to medical care and education opportunities.
- NZ has the fifth worst child death by maltreatment rate of 27 OECD countries and significant numbers of children and young people are abused or neglected.
- Maori, Pacific and new migrant children, disabled children and children and young people with mental health problems have difficulty accessing health, education and support services, and have poorer life outcomes as a result.
- Children and young people want increased respect for diverse groups within NZ, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against them and others.
- Children and young people want increased involvement and participation in the decisions that affect their lives.
- Young people want enhanced protection in the work place.

A copy of the full 16-page report may be downloaded from 'The Jobs Letter' website at www.jobslatter.org.nz.

Child abuse and neglect cases down

Child, Youth and Family statistics show that the number of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect has dropped since 1999, in spite of an increase in notifications.

Child, Youth and Family is working hard to educate the wider community about child abuse and neglect, and to encourage people to let the department know when they have concerns. The increase in notifications shows that this approach is working, and New Zealanders are taking more responsibility for protecting children and young people.

Many calls to the department do not result in a finding of child abuse or neglect after further investigation. In fact, the number of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect dropped from 9227 to 9083 in the four years to the end of June 2003. Last year, withdrawn cases were not included in the figures, and for the year ending June 2004, the number of substantiated cases was 8992.

Child, Youth and Family have made it a top priority to immediately investigate cases of a critical or very urgent nature. Planned changes to the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act will improve the response to notifications where children and young people are not at immediate risk of harm. This includes giving non-governmental organisations and other approved bodies a role in identifying the care and protection or support needs, (if any) of the child or young person, and the services they may need.

Career Services:

The government is investing more than \$13 million in 2004/2005 for Career Services.

This funding supports the following initiatives:

- Pathfinder is a new online career guidance and planning tool that allows users to create their own individualized profiles - that can be saved, reviewed and changed over time. Potentially suitable career options are generated, with detailed information on options available, along with a planning exercise to enable the user to explore their next steps.
- KiwiCareers website (www.kiwicareers.govt.nz) is New Zealand's primary window to career information, giving a comprehensive source of impartial, up-to-date career and labour market information.
- CareerCentres in 16 locations around the country provide face-to-face help, through a variety of services, to individuals, schools and groups. Experienced career consultants can help people develop a career plan, write a CV and prepare for interviews. Phone 0800 109 901 to find the CareerCentre nearest to you.
- CareerPoint is a 0800 contact centre where trained advisors provide free information on careers, courses, training options and job profiles. Phone 0800 222 733, Email: careerpoint@careers.govt.nz, Fax: (04) 801 2731. CareerPoint is open Mon-Fri 9am-9pm, Sat 10am-2pm.

Successful transitions - Career Services provide specific services for schools to help students make successful transitions from school to tertiary study or work. These include:

- Advice and support for schools' career education programmes, including professional development help;
- Customised career workshops for those with particular needs;
- Resources for teachers and students;
- Training of career educators.
- The Designing Careers pilot aimed at year 10 students and those at risk of not making a successful transition from school into further work or training.

Family Safety Teams:

A pilot programme aimed at reducing domestic violence, will see 'Family Safety Teams' established in the Wairarapa/Hutt Valley, Auckland/Hamilton, Christchurch, and Counties Manukau

The Wairarapa/Hutt Valley and Auckland/Hamilton teams will begin operating next February, with the other teams being rolled out in the 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 financial years.

Frequently, agencies that are working with one family member are not aware of information held by another agency in relation to the same family that may be of direct relevance. For example, child protection agencies often assess risk to a particular child without knowing that there has been a history of family violence and considerable prior Police involvement with the child's family.

'Family Safety Teams' are a pilot programme aimed at providing a multi-disciplinary response to family violence.

They are a joint initiative between the Police, Ministry of Justice and Department of Child, Youth and Family. It will involve police, and advocates for adult and child victims working together to ensure that the full range of needs for a family experiencing family violence are addressed. In each case, a team will decide how to best address the problem, protect the victims, and reduce the chance of repeat incidents.

The teams will also ensure that greater use is made of existing services that can help at-risk families, such as protection orders, counseling and help from Work and Income. The teams will continue to make referrals where appropriate to the police and Child, Youth and Family, and to work closely with child abuse and sexual abuse teams.

The key outcomes for Family safety Teams will be to:

- Put in place a system where agencies coordinate, communicate and collaborate more effectively;
- Provide families experiencing violence with more comprehensive and integrated interventions;
- Develop national best practice.

Health Ministry warning over baby formula:

The Health Ministry and the New Zealand Food Safety Authority are warning parents and hospitals to be extremely careful how they store baby formula, following the death of a premature baby. The infant's death has been linked to enterobacter sakazaki, bacteria found in the environment and - at very low levels - in baby formula. The bug was found in the baby's blood and other tests that were taken on the baby, and the exact same bug was found in the same batch of powdered formula.

The bacteria could be present on purchase, or could be introduced on preparation, however safe methods of preparation and careful storage of the formula would reduce risk of illness. In the past 20 years, approximately 50 infants fewer than two months old have died following infection. Most were premature, or under 2.5kg, and almost all were in neonatal intensive care units. Units have been advised that premature babies who were not being breast-fed should now be given ready-made liquid formula instead of powdered milk formula. Ready-made formula is sterilised in the bottle, which means premature babies have far less risk of infection.

Although it was previously recommended formula be stored in the fridge for a maximum 24 hours after preparation, the ministry is now recommending, as a precaution, that formula should be prepared immediately before serving. This is not an illness, which affects healthy full-term babies. If parents want to really make sure nothing grows in the formula they've made up, (they have to make sure) that they don't leave it sitting in the fridge for over 24 hours and the shorter the better.

If infant formula is the only option, it should be used as soon as possible or dairy-based formula should be used. The authority will be talking to manufacturers about putting warning labels on formula.

‘Making a Submission’:

To help disabled people participate in the Parliamentary process of legislation, IHC Advocacy, the Office for Disability Issues and the Office of the Clerk of the House have produced an easy to read and pictorial translation of ‘Making a Submission to a Parliamentary Select Committee’.

For a copy please go to www.odi.govt.nz/publications/publications.html.

New Service for Families and Communities:

Supporting families to be strong and resilient is one of the key objectives of the new Family and Community Services.

Established on 1st July 2004, as a service group within the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), the group will lead co-ordinate and align services that have supporting families as their main goal.

An online Family and Community Services national Directory has been developed. This lists a range of family related services, programmes and resources available in New Zealand by location and type. The database is available on the new Family and Community Services website – www.familyservices.govt.nz.

Conferences

Social Policy Conference:

The second Social Policy, Research and Evaluation Conference is being held on the 25th/26th November 2004, at the Wellington Convention Centre.

This conference focuses on social research on New Zealand’s priority social issues. A major theme will be ‘What Works?’ to improve social outcomes for New Zealanders.

The conference will have a mix of plenary sessions focusing on issues for social policy research and it’s uptake by government agencies, and parallel sessions on key social policy, research and evaluation issues.

The annual research poster competition will also be held as part of the conference for postgraduate social research students.

For further information access www.msd.govt.nz/social-policy-conference.

New Frontiers in Restorative Justice - Advancing Theory and Practice:

To be held from the 2nd to 3rd December 2004, at the Centre for Justice and Peace Development, Massey University, Auckland.

For further information please email, newfrontiers@massey.ac.nz, or go to their website at <http://justpeace.massey.ac.nz>.

The Aotearoa Mental Health and Addiction Workforce Development Conference Auckland:

The MHWDP is planning a conference to showcase workforce development in March 2005. The conference will focus around five themes:

- Research and evaluation
- Training and development
- Organisational development
- Recruitment and retention
- Infrastructure

To register your interest contact: Olympia D'souza phone (09) 300 6773, fax (09) 377 9988 or email wdconference@hrc.govt.nz

National Child Training Day:

The 3rd National Child Training Day will be held on the 2nd December 2004 in Wellington. The training day is free to DHB, CAMHS and NGO Clinicians. Karen Isherwood will be chairing the day, and The Werry Centre staff will support her.

For further information please ph (09) 3737599, fax (09) 3677128, or check out the website at www.werrycentre.org.nz.

Making Sense of Psychosis:

The Psychology Department of the University of Auckland and the New Zealand Branch of the International Society for the Psychological Treatment of Schizophrenia (ISPS) are hosting:

The 2nd Annual "MAKING SENSE OF PSYCHOSIS" Conference
October 18 & 19, 2004 (9am – 5.30pm – sign in from 8.30)
University Conference Centre, 22 Symonds Street, Auckland

Registration forms available on: www.psych.auckland.ac.nz or www.isps.org

Guillain Barre Syndrome Conference:

The Guillain Barre Syndrome Support Group is holding a conference at Anzac Weekend 2005. This conference is to be held at the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington. Dr Gareth Parry a Neurologist from the USA will be speaking.

For more information please contact Jenny Murray, email jenny.gbs.nz@clear.nz.nz, or Tony Pearson, email tonypearson@xtra.co.nz, or write to Jenny Murray at 27 Grenville Street, New Plymouth.

Te Whakatere, Navigating the Arts in the Pacific:

The Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Arts Educators bi-annual conference Te Whakatere, Navigating the Arts in the Pacific is a three-day conference to be held 19th - 21st April 2005. To launch the conference there will be a research forum held on Monday 18th April 2005 Venue: College of Education, Massey University, Palmerston North.

The conference aims to navigate our histories, stories and pathways by:

- Participating and interacting with artists, Researching / Sharing ideas and practices / Investigating art and artworks in social and cultural settings / Broadening understanding and involvement in the arts.

We encourage participants from the following areas:

- Art Educators from Early Childhood, Primary / Intermediate / Secondary and Tertiary Institutions / Practising Artists / Gallery and Museum Representatives / Community and Rehabilitation Organisations.

If you are interested in presenting a paper or workshop at this conference please contact the Conference Manager, Phone: (06) 350 5117, Email: <mailto:conferences@massey.ac.nz>conferences@massey.ac.nz (with Te Whakatere 2005 in the subject line), or website

<http://conferences.massey.ac.nz/tewhakatere2005/>><http://conferences.massey.ac.nz/tewhakatere2005/>

Plunket Conference:

A Conference for primary health care providers with an interest in Well Child Health.

Primary Healthcare Nursing:
Connecting Communities
5 & 6 November 2004
Rotorua Convention Centre
1170 Fenton Street
Rotorua

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 18 OCTOBER 2004 REGISTER NOW!

Fee (includes: lunches, morning/afternoon teas) \$300.00 full 2 day attendance, \$155.00 1 day attendance Dinner Friday evening 5th November \$55.00 per person extra (limited numbers)

For more information please contact Anne Jeffries, RNZPS Conference 2004, P.O. Box 5474, Wellington.

Workshops/Seminars

Peer Support and Mental Health Recovery Workshops 2004:

The New Zealand Bipolar Network presents a series of training days on Peer Support with international speakers Shery Mead and Mary Ellen Copeland, authors of the WRAP and Peer Support Manual: Personal, Group and Program Development and The Depression Workbook: A Guide to Living with Depression and Manic Depression, and many other mental health resources.

Using WRAP and Peer Support

Facilitator: Mary Ellen Copeland

Dunedin: Monday 22 November, 9-4 pm, Venue: Dunningham Suite, Public Library, Moray place/Octagon

Christchurch: Wednesday 24 November, 9-4 pm, Venue: Knox Centre

Wellington: Saturday November 27, 9-4 pm, Venue: Convention Centre

Palmerston North: Monday 29 November, 9-4 pm, Venue: Science Centre

Using WRAP and Mental Health Recovery to Transform Your Mental Health System

Facilitator: Mary Ellen Copeland

Christchurch: Thursday 25 November, 9-4pm, Knox Centre

Palmerston North: Tuesday 30 November, 9-4pm, Education Centre

Mental Health Recovery Facilitator Training Course (4 day event)

Facilitator: Mary Ellen Copeland

Wanganui: Thursday to Sunday December 2-5, 9-4pm, Quaker Acres

Local Coordinators

Otago Bipolar Network, PO Box 5021, Dunedin, 03 477 2598, otagomd@es.co.nz

Bipolar Support Canterbury, PO Box 25068, Christchurch, 03 366 5815, bipolarsupport@xtra.co.nz

Wanganui Bipolar Network, PO Box 7210, Mid Avenue, Wanganui, 06 343 8779, frank@balance.org.nz

Wellington Bipolar Network, PO Box 27545, Marion Square, Wellington, 04 494 0424, (please leave a message for Leo), wellington@balance.org.nz

Pathways to Wellbeing, PO Box 5010, Palmerston North, 06 354 6216, teresa.keedwell@midcentral.co.nz

Send your registration form and remittance (made out to New Zealand Bipolar Network) directly to the local coordinating group for each workshop. Costs and subsidies vary by location so check details of these with your local coordinator. Registration forms can be downloaded at www.balance.org.nz or requested from the national office.

For general enquiries please contact: New Zealand Bipolar Network, PO Box 13266, Christchurch, Ph: 03 366 3631 or email: bipolar@balance.org.nz or website: www.balance.org.nz

Upcoming Working Well Seminars:

Working Well, the workplace and mental health arm of the Mental Health Foundation, is hosting several seminars throughout the country that help employers look after the mental health and wellbeing of their staff. Seminars are in Wellington on 30 September, Christchurch on 7 October, Whangarei on 14 October, Auckland on 4 November, and Hamilton on 11 November. For more information, please contact leanne@mentalhealth.org.nz.

Like Minds National Provider Seminar:

Dates for the annual Like Minds National Provider Seminar have now been set for Thursday 2nd - Friday 3rd December 2004 at the Kingsgate Hotel in Hamilton. The agenda is currently being developed. As part of the seminar, the National Advisory Group to the project is hosting a day-long meeting for people with experience of mental illness who work on the Like Minds project on Wednesday 1st December.

For further information please email MindNet@mentalhealth.org.nz, or website www.mindnet.org.nz.

Sex Offenders in the Community - How to keep kids safe:

CPS is running this workshop in Hamilton on Tuesday 12 October 2004. This is an important workshop for anyone involved with a family or an agency that has had contact with sexual abuse.

Do you know ...

What is "stinking thinking"? / What are the ways an offender grooms a child? / Some Sexual Offenders have "gone through a course." How do you know when they are safe around children? / Sexual abusers who have been caught out will often say how sorry they are, and that it won't happen again. When should we believe them? / Family reunification - what are the implications for families of a sexual offender? / Is supervised access a good idea for an abused child and the offender? Can we truly "supervise"?

The workshop will cover:

How sex offenders operate / Characteristics of offenders / Recognising offender behaviour. /The cycle of offending. /Why prison does not 'fix' offenders. / Why traditional counselling does not work. / What treatment is effective .How offenders choose their victims / What you can do to protect children

The workshop will alert participants to the behaviour of sex offenders and the risk factors that accompany working with families where a sex offender is involved. It will provide some safety strategies for minimising the risks for children.

Who should attend:

Care and Protection Staff / Social Workers & Counsellors / Family Support Workers & Community Workers / Child and Family Service & Iwi Social Service staff / Refuge Staff / Supervised Access Staff / Others working with families where a sex offender is involved

The day will incorporate small and large group discussion, lecture and role-play. Participants are encouraged to share their ideas and experiences. Handouts will be available and a certificate of attendance will be given to all those completing the workshop. You can also find details about the workshop on our website at www.cpstraining.co.nz. The fee is \$121.50 per person, with a discount of 5% per person if 5 or more people from the same organisation attend. You are welcome to forward this message on to anyone that you think may also be interested in attending.

Please contact CPS if you would like further information or would like to register for the workshop: The Team at CPS Training, P O Box 679, Hamilton, Phone 07 838 3370 Fax 07 838 9950 Email dianne@cpstraining.co.nz www.cpstraining.co.nz. **CPS Training would be happy to discuss also running this workshop in your location.**

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Toolkits Workshops:

These workshops are part of a Ministry of Health project that is beginning to look at how to ensure that the best available mental health and addiction Evidence Based Practices (EBPs) are delivered within the sector in New Zealand. This is a unique opportunity to see five Resource Kits that were developed at the NH-Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Centre and to meet with Paul Gorman, a Director at the Centre.

The workshops are being held:

Wellington on Thursday 28th October at the Copthorne Hotel, in Auckland on Friday 29th October at the HRC Offices, and in Christchurch on 1 November at The Arts Centre. For more information please go to the website www.mhwd.govt.nz or email Gail Robinson at gail.robinson@waitematadhb.govt.nz (EBP Project Coordinator).

Kiwi Family Trust- a life changing experience:

The Kiwi Family Trust is a registered Charitable Trust, and has been established to provide valuable educational training programmes aimed specifically at the family unit. Their training programmes teach self-respect, poverty consciousness, positive "programming" for children, how to understand teenagers, and more.

The Trust is based in Christchurch and Rotorua, but they will travel to other areas at a time to suit providing there are sufficient numbers confirmed to do the course. The Kiwi Family Trust runs an introductory one-day course, available for those who want to 'taste' before committing to a four-day self-discovery course.

These courses are free to all teachers, caregivers, and people who have valid community service cards. All others outside of these criteria are most welcome for a confidential donation in keeping with their incomes.

The process that is used is different from other training programmes. The effects are permanent because they work from the inside out. They explore the reasons why people feel, think and act the way they do and then allow people to discover for themselves that they have innate power to change, learn and grow.

Lunch and refreshments are provided, and each person who completes the course receives a workbook and certificate.

The courses start at 8.30am and finish 4.00-5.00pm each day. The minimum age of any participant is 12 years, and 16 year olds and under are to be accompanied by an adult guardian. Registrations are essential.

This programme is for people who want to feel WHOLE, Useful, Genuine and Secure (HUGS). Overcome the limitations of your own conditioning and find the real, kind, caring and compassionate part of you.

For more information call them direct – freephone 0508 LIFE SKILLS (0508 543 375). Visit their website at www.kiwifamilytrust.org Change your life today.

Men's Creativity Gathering - Organised by ManAlive and Big Buddy:

November 18th – 21st, 2004 at the Prana Retreat Centre

A place for men to explore their creativity pushes their boundaries and finds their creative edge. There will be a wide variety of workshops and core events, including celebrations of our collective talents. The central theme will be celebrating our creativity as men and increase the awareness of our creative spirit both individually and collectively. They welcome all men to the gathering who wish to discover or expand their creative spirit, and open out their horizons. So be prepared to come, have fun and expand your creative potential in the exact way that suits you.

The Prana's Retreat Centre is approximately two hours from Auckland, situated in native bush and a pine forest and borders the amazing surf beach of Opoutere on the lower East Coast of the Coromandel. Their mission states...." where creativity meets awareness", and in this beautiful setting we are sure the creativity will flow. The Gathering will be a camp with tents situated in the pine forest. There are power points available for caravans and campervans and Prana may have some on site caravan accommodation at an extra cost.

This will be a great place for youth to explore their creativity, however they do not have a specific youth or boys programme. They believe the youth will be able to join the workshops however fathers will be responsible for the young boys.

The gathering is for 3 nights starting at 8.00 pm Thursday 18th November and will end approx 3.00 pm Sunday 21st. The cost is \$200 early bird special if paid by the 15th October or \$245 if paid after that. The fee for Youth/Boys is \$85. The fee includes creative food, your campsite and all workshop activities. To contact Man Alive (09) 8350509, email nfo@manalive.org.nz, and our website www.manalive.org.nz

Closing date for registrations is the 29th October. Send registration with payment to Man Alive, PO Box 21-963, Henderson. Please make cheques out to Man Alive

Health Advocates Trust Courses:

The following workshops are **FREE** and are directed at Consumers of health and disability services only. If you are employed by a health or disability service then these workshops would not be suitable for you.

YOUR RIGHTS:

Right 1 – Right 9

This workshop looks at each of the rights and provides opportunity to gain an understanding of what they look like in the context of health and disability services and equips the consumer to exercise their rights.

Tues. Oct 5 th	10am-1pm
Tues. Nov 2 nd	10am-1pm
Tues. Dec 7 th	10am-1pm

Right 10: Making a Complaint

Every person receiving a health or disability service has the right to make a complaint. This workshop focuses on the provisions of the Code that assist a health or disability consumer to make a complaint.

Tues. Oct 12 th	10am-1pm
Tues. Nov 9 th	10am-1pm
Tues. Dec 14 th	10am-1pm

EMPOWERMENT ADVOCACY

This workshop aims to empower individuals in order that they may be able to resolve areas of conflict in their lives using a Strengths Based approach to advocacy.

Tues. Oct 19 th	10am-1pm
Tues. Nov 16 th	10am-1pm

Tues. Dec 21 10am-1pm

SELF ADVOCACY

This workshop is an introduction to Self-Advocacy. It provides opportunities to identify and utilise tools and resources needed to Self Advocate

Tues. Oct 26th 10am-1pm
Tues. Nov 23rd 10am-1pm
Tues. Dec 21st 1.30pm-4.30pm

Four ways to book: Return this form to Health Advocates Trust PO Box 112-206, Penrose. Fax (09) 525 4439 Phone (09) 525 4435, or E-mail: mngaha@hdc.org.nz to register your interests.

New Executive Leadership and Management Programme for Mental Health and Addictions:

The Mental Health Workforce Development Programme has selected Blueprint Centre for Learning to develop and deliver a new one-year innovative programme. The Executive Leadership and Management Programme is established to identify and support the future leaders of the sector. A key part of the programme comprises postgraduate management papers delivered by Waikato Management School.

There are 70 places available. The cost of the course has been subsidised by the Ministry of Health via the MHWD, with the balance to participants at \$2000. There are a number of full programme scholarships available. The International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL) will recognise one outstanding graduate of the programme with a fully funded place on the IIMHL professional development programme.

For more information visit www.blueprint.co.nz/executive. Applications close 8 October 2004, with the programme running from the end of October 2004 to October 2005.

Whose problem? Whose action? Whose solution? – An LBCTNZ promotion

Calling all of those who have our NZ children, Health, Welfare and Education as their Priority.

This is a 2-day action packed workshop

- Day 1: Value of Research Based Professional Development
- Day 2: Mentally active learners are better learners

Supporting Evidence of Brain-Based & Affective Learning Strategies. Strategies can be taught Metacognitive Strategies Learning strategies transfer to new tasks Social/Affective Strategies And heaps more; these are just a few. 'Impact Learning, With Fun', Presented by Cristal McGill Ph.D – Arizona State University – Adjunct Professor

Please join us for this very timely event-tick the box of your venue location

- Whangarei, 26th & 27th Oct, Flames International, 9.00am-4.00pm Contact – Jan Brown – (09) 4209010 fax (09) 4209187, email janbro@xtra.co.nz.
- Auckland, 29th & 30th Oct, Grand Chancellor, Auckland Airport. 9.00am-4.00pm Contact – Jan Brown – Ph (09) 4209178–fax (09) 4209187, email, janbro@xtra.co.nz
- Hamilton, 1st & 2nd Nov – Novotel Tainui, Alma St, 9.00am-4.00pm Contact – Jan Brown – Ph (09) 4209178–fax (09) 4209187, or email, janbro@xtra.co.nz
- Hastings, 5th & 6th Nov - Angus Inn, Railway Road, 9.00am-4.00pm. Contact Philippa Brunn – ph: (06) 3537039 – fax: (06) 3537031, wp.brunn@clear.net.nz <mailto:wp.brunn@clear.net.nz>
- Palmerston North, 8th & 9th Nov - Rydges Hotel, Fitzherbert St, 9.00am-4.00pm. Contact – Philippa Brunn – ph (06) 3537039 – fax 06 3537031, or email wp.brunn@clear.net.nz <mailto:wp.brunn@clear.net.nz>
- Wellington, 11th & 12th Nov - Angus Inn, Waterloo Rd, Lower Hutt, 9.00am-4.00pm. Contact – Moira Buchanan, ph (04) 5677284, fax 04 5678783. or email lbctnz@slingshot.co.nz <mailto:lbctnz@slingshot.co.nz>
- Nelson, 17th & 18th Nov - Rutherford Hotel, Trafalgar Square, 9.00am-4.00pm. Contact – Moira Buchanan , ph (04) 5677284, fax 04 5678783 , lbctnz@slingshot.co.nz <mailto:lbctnz@slingshot.co.nz>
- Christchurch, 22nd & 23rd Nov - Grand Chancellor, Cashel St, 9.00am-4.00pm. Contact – Moira Buchanan, ph (04)5677284, fax (04) 5678783 , lbctnz@slingshot.co.nz <mailto:lbctnz@slingshot.co.nz>
- Dunedin, 25th & 26th Nov - venue to be confirmed -only if we can get the quantity of participants. Contact – Moira Buchanan , ph (04) 5677284, fax (04) 5678783, lbctnz@slingshot.co.nz <<mailto:lbctnz@slingshot.co.nz>>

Cost: \$350.00 + GST, 10% for early bird if registered by the 15th Oct. Groups of 10 or more at any one venue \$350.00 + GST less 15% if registered before the 15th Oct. Parents please contact your district co-ordinator. Registrations close on the 18th Oct 04 (for catering no's), Handouts - Inclusive – morning tea-lunch-afternoon tea.

All Cheques for registration please make out to LBCTNZ, Russell Morgan (Treasurer), P O Box 136, Carterton.

Contenance Seminar:

- Christchurch – Venue to be confirmed = Friday 1st October 2004
- Auckland – Novotel Hotel, Greenlane = Wednesday 13th October 2004
- Wellington – The Links Café. Mirimar = Friday 5th November 2004

Time = 11.45am to 5pm. Cost = \$30 NZCA Members, or \$55 for non-members (includes NZCA subs for 2004/5)

For registrations please phone Jan (09) 2947738, email jan@contenance.org.nz, fax (09) 2947738, or phone Elaine on 080 021 5437 The children's session will be on at a time that parents will be able to attend.

Other Information

Urge/Whakamanawa – Two Youth Members needed:

Urge/Whakamanawa are looking for two Youth members for the Urge advisory group. Urge/Whakamanawa was established to build a bridge between young people and youth services. Urge/Whakamanawa is a collaborative effort of a number of Government agencies, non-government organisations, young people and other contributors. Youthline provides the management and running of Urge/Whakamanawa under contract with the Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand.

Membership: Current organisational members of the Urge Advisory Group are as follows:

1. Young People
2. Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand.
3. Ministry of Youth Development
4. Ministry of Health
5. Ministry of Education
6. Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs
7. Te Puni Kokiri
8. Family Planning Association
9. Child, Youth and Family Services (not meetings)
10. New Zealand Association for Adolescent Health and Development

Objectives:

The Urge Advisory Group provides funding, expert advice and strategic direction, with final approval of strategic and business plans, and annual budget. Youthline provides the management and implementation of business planning. The group meets up four times a year in Wellington, for the participating young people, urge will pay for your flights to get to the meeting. This is a great way to be fully immersed in the site, be a strong voice for the urge youth membership while also gaining great experience.

If you are passionate about Urge/Whakamanawa and believe that this will be something you are interested in becoming a part of please make contact as soon as you are able. If you are interested please write a paragraph introducing yourself and answer the following questions. (a) What do you hope to achieve By becoming a member of the Urge Advisory Group? (b) What does it mean to you, to be a young person in Aotearoa? (c) If there were anything you would like to change in N.Z what would it be?

Contact: Ramon Narayan, Youthworker, Administrator urge/whakamanawa Youthline ddi: 09 361 4169 mobile: 021 231 0066, or email ramon.narayan@youthline.co.nz.

Back-Up Ball:

The tickets have been printed and it's all go! The coveted Back-Up Ball, on 16 October, Pukeora Estate, Waipukurau, Hawkes Bay - this year's event offers more than any ball in history could. Saturday afternoon, all sponsors, supporters and past/future participants have the opportunity to sample BU activities free of charge. Then hairdressers will be available to do your hair and make-up ready for the big night. Hair do costs \$45 long hair, \$25 Short hair, \$10 for make up (please bring your product).

Back-Up Ball, starts at 6.30pm, costs \$65 and includes dinner, auction, band and a great time! Then stay the night for \$25 per person, and wake to a beautiful \$10 BBQ breakfast. If you don't want to stay the night there are buses provided for \$15 per person to and from Napier & Hastings.

To purchase tickets contact Jane Denton at admin@backup.org.nz, www.backup.org.nz, mobile 021 50 30 95, or write to Back-Up New Zealand P.O. Box 8832 ,Havelock North .

New Website to Launch Fresh Look for the Mental Health Foundation:

On 18th October the Mental Health Foundation will officially unveil a new website www.mentalhealth.org.nz. Since the original website was launched in 1999 traffic to the Foundation's website has grown rapidly and the amount of information held on it has also increased to cover a wide range of mental health issues. The new website has been designed to be user-friendlier for professionals and the public.

Framework Trust Christmas in the Park:

The annual Framework Trust Christmas in the Park will be on Saturday 11th December at Nixon Park in Kingsland, Auckland. There are lots of free activities including rides and games for the kids, a sausage sizzle, and music and entertainment for everyone. This is a fun community event to support anti stigma and discrimination for people with experience of mental illness - for more information call 09 815 5121.

Mental Health Awareness Week 2004 - Move your Mood:

"The time has come to reinforce what we stand for--mind and body are inseparable: health is a complete state of well being - and there is no health without mental health"

(World Federation for Mental Health website www.wfmh.org/)

This year's Mental Health Awareness Week runs from 10th to 16th October and highlights the link between physical and mental health. It will also promote the benefits of physical activity on mental health and wellbeing. The theme is one that can be taken up by everyone - community groups, schools, mental health and health services, workplaces, sports centres - in fact anywhere.

Events during and around Mental Health Awareness Week 2004:

- Hikoi in the Park - Celebrating Difference - 10th Oct

The Framework Trust is hosting the Hikoi in the Park in Auckland Domain to coincide with World Mental Health Day on Sunday 10th October. The day begins at 10am with a Hikoi from the Auckland Hospital entrance through the Domain to the Auckland Museum site. There will be live entertainment, including music, sports and activities, and a range of stalls. For stall hire or more information, please contact catherine.ross@framework.org.nz.

- Move your Body, Move Your Mind - Christchurch Event - 13th Oct

This event is in Christchurch on Wednesday 13th October, and offers a variety of activities for people with experience of mental illness to 'have a go', from taiaha to ceilidh, yoga to egg and spoon races... the list goes on. Between 11am-2pm people have the opportunity to try as many activities as they like and go in the draw to win either a ghetto blaster or a sports pack. Other special extras will include spot prizes, entertaining music and yummy snacks. Any enquiries can be directed to amanda@mentalhealth.org.nz, 03 353 6983.

- Annual "Celebrating Difference" Art Exhibition Opening - 13th Oct

The Framework Trust presents the Annual Art Exhibition Opening for 2004 on 13th October, between 4pm and 7.30pm at the Auckland Central Library. This year's theme is "Celebrating Difference". The categories are painting, photography, sculpture, Maori art, Pacifica art and multi-media. To submit artwork, or for further information, please contact catherine.ross@framework.org.nz

- Frisbee Friday - 15th Oct

The Mental Health Foundation is coordinating a nationwide event to get people active and raise awareness active during Mental Health Awareness Week. On Friday 15th October, people throughout the country are encouraged to set aside 30 minutes to get active by throwing a Frisbee - all at the same time. More details will appear on the Mental Health Foundation's website, www.mentalhealth.org.nz.

Very important for mobile owners:

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: * # 0 6 # A 15 digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. Should your phone get! Stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the Sim card your phone will be totally useless.

You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody did this, there would be no point in stealing mobile phones.

Community Activities for the Safekids Campaign:

Many Communities will have child safety activities in their area for the Safekids Campaign. Check out the list of events and activities on the website and get involved! For more information email campaign@safekids.org.nz. Or check out the website at www.safekids.org.nz/index.php/ps_pagename/communityactivity.

A computer newsletter that you could find interesting:

You're encouraged to refer your friends and colleagues to this free newsletter. Because most e-mail programs don't correctly display a formatted message that's been forwarded, simply call people's attention to the permanent Web address of this issue: WindowsSecrets.com/040909.

Te Ora o Manukau - Manukau the Healthy City ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

To be held on: Friday 15 October 2004
8.30am - 10.30am
The Gallery
Manukau City Council
Wiri Station Road
Manukau

RSVP by Tuesday 12th October 2004 to: Carla Robinson Phone: 262 5293 Email: crobinso@manukau.govt.nz

Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG):

The CPAG has moved premises. Their new contact details are CPAG, Auckland City Mission, 140 Hobson Street, Auckland Central, or P.O. Box 56 150, Dominion Road, Auckland. Office hours are irregular, but the email is admin@cpag.org.nz, and there is a voicemail on the office phone, which is (09) 3792395. The website is updated regularly at www.cpag.org.nz.

If you are in the Wellington region, local CPAG contact details are: Beth Wood – beth@unicef.org.nz, phone (04) 4730879, and Mike Coleman – mike.coleman@barnardos.org.nz.

Youth Horizon:

Youth Horizon has moved premises. Their new contact details are:

Youth Horizons
42 Vesty Drive
Westfield

Phone: 573 0954
Fax: 573 0959

Standard-cost household service for childcare providers:

Inland Revenue has recently changed the tax rules for people who provide childcare at home.

They have produced a list of standard costs that childcare providers can use when claiming expenses. This should make it easier for people to work out their taxable childcare income and whether they need to file a tax return, rather than keep all their receipts to calculate their actual expenses. Using the standard rates is optional. People can still return their actual childcare-related expenses if they prefer.

People who provide childcare in their home, under the Education (Home-Based Care) Order 1992 is who this change applies to. This sets out guidelines for childcare facilities including, space, lighting and hygiene. Most of the people covered by the change are expected to work under the umbrella of a childcare agency.

Home-based childcare providers who don't comply with the Order must keep full records of their income and expenses for their tax returns.

Full details about the change are contained in Determination DET001: Standard-cost household service for childcare providers in Tax Information Bulletin Vol. 16, (May 2004), available at www.ird.govt.nz, or phone 0800 377 774.

Raffles, Housie, Games of Chance:

The Gambling Act has brought major changes to all forms of gambling; including that used for fundraising by community groups.

From July 1st 2004, most schools, churches, clubs, clubs and other community groups using raffles, housie and games of chance for fundraising no longer have to pay licensing and compliance fees.

The old Act set a maximum prize limit of \$500. Under the Gambling Act prizes can total up to \$5000 before a licence is needed. This means that 89% of community groups that had licences under the old law, now no longer need them, and will not have to pay fees to the Department of Internal Affairs. Community Groups who would still need a licence under the new Act might be able to reorganise their gambling activities so they would not need a licence.

The Department has published a series of fact sheets about the Act. Most of the gambling operated by community groups would be what the Act describes as Class 1 or Class 2 gambling.

For more information and copies of the fact sheets go to www.gaming.dia.govt.nz, email gaming.compliance@dia.govt.nz, or phone 0800 257 887.

Kidney Kids Christmas Cards:

Give your friends a Kidney Kids' Christmas Card, and you are giving to support the work of Kidney Kids of NZ. There is a choice of 3 packs with 10 cards per pack (5 of each design). These cards are professionally produced.

Cards are \$6 per pack or \$20 for 4 packs.

To find out more information about the cards or to place an order, please contact Kidney Kids in Auckland (09) 5344055, outside of Auckland on 0800 215 437, or email support@kidneykids.org.nz, or www.kidneykids.org.nz.

Websites:

Treaty of Waitangi

A new Treaty Website has been launched. This site has been launched to close the knowledge gap existing over the Treaty of Waitangi. The site is www.treatyofwaitangi.govt.nz.

Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers (ANZASW)

Through the website www.anzasw.org.nz, the Association aims to provide information to those who may have an interest in membership of ANZASW, as well as for those who seek information about Social Work in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Latest information from the Social Services Select Committee:

The committee met on 16 September to complete the hearing of evidence from submitters on the Charities Bill. The committee will meet next on 7 October to consider further the Charities Bill, the New Zealand Superannuation Amendment Bill, the Disabled Persons Employment Promotion (Repeal and Related Matters) Bill and the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Bill.

These updates can be found on www.clerk.parliament.govt.nz/Programme/Committees/PressReleases/ or www.charities.govt.nz. Contact Graham.Hill@parliament.govt.nz with any further queries about the Social Services Select Committee.

The Implementation of the Domestic Violence Act 1995:

A Report from the National Collective Independent Women's Refuge Inc (From SAFVPN newsletter)

The Domestic Violence Act is one of the most important tools we have available to prioritise protection, safety and societal intolerance of violence. When we fail in our efforts to provide these things, women and children are revictimised and abused, this time by a system's failure to respond quickly to their right to safety and understand their fears and concerns.

The consequence of time delays, lack of awareness, prohibitive costs and lack of action is that women and their children become less and less likely to seek legal and police protection, and so their lives are at greater risk.

Overseas research has shown that when the justice system is working well in response to victims, it is not only women and children's lives that is saved. Fewer men die too. New partners of battered women are at less risk of being assaulted or killed, and as battered women have a greater range of options, they do not think that killing their abuser is the only way to end the violence.

Women's Refuge wishes to promote a return to the intent of the Domestic Violence Act. The Act established new benchmarks for the analysis of domestic violence as a crime against society, not a 'relationship problem'. The Act rightly focussed on victim's safety, and set up initiatives to change the behaviour of violent offenders. "

If you would like a full copy of this report just email South Auckland Family Violence Protection Network (SAFVPN), on safvpn@clear.net.nz and they will forward one to you.

And to End

FOSTER PARENTS:

By: Brenda Bolduc

What is a foster parent, what kind of people
are we

I'll try to explain the best I can, and hope
you will all agree

We are all completely different, and yet all
the same

It has nothing to do with riches, wealth or
even fame

We have the ability to open our homes and our
hearts

Give these discarded children safe places and
hopefully new starts

It's not easy I will be the first to admit
There's the stealing, screaming, and we can't
forget the 2-hour crying fits

We are teachers of hygiene when they ask "what
is a toothbrush"?

That taking a shower is a necessity, a
definite must!

We've been sworn at, swung at, and regarded as
the enemy

We just sit back and take it, hoping their
eyes will open and they will someday see.
They can release their anger, express the love
they have hid.

That we give them a safe place to heal, feel
loved and be a regular kid.