

Foster Care Networker

(An Independent Social Services Newsletter)
Issue 17 – Dec/Jan 2005

Hello and Welcome

My editorial this month is being left to Lawrence Adams, who has written the following:

Open Letter to Foster Children – By Lawrence P. Adams

Dear Fellow Children of Foster Care,

You may feel like your life is in turmoil. You may not be in a place you really consider your home, or you may be awaiting a final decision on a new place to call home. At times, you may feel like you are all alone in the world, and that no one else ever has or is now going through what you're facing. Your foster parents and caseworker have probably never been in foster care, so how could they possibly understand? Most of the time, your feelings are true! However, I can understand many of the things you are feeling...because I have been exactly where you are today. As many young say today, "Been there...done that...bought the T-shirt!"

I was a foster child from the day of my birth until I aged out of the system at age eighteen. There is very little you could share with me that I myself have not experienced. I have felt alone. I have felt depressed. I have felt that no one understood. I have felt no one really cared about me, and yes...I have even wondered if it was worth living. You are not as unique as you think you might be. In matter of fact there are many thousands who, besides me, have been exactly where you are.

I am here to tell you that you can overcome ALL of this. If I can...I know you can!

I do not know why you are in foster care. It might be the same as me...from birth. It might be because of troubles within your home that require you to be out of your home for a short or long term basis; it may even be because of something that you did wrong for others to feel you needed a temporary outside the home situation or finally it might be that you are awaiting a new family to become your Mom and Dad.

It does not matter why you are in foster care. What is important is how you come out of foster care!

I know many aspects of the foster care system makes you feel that you might be of no value; that you cannot be a success and many other negative attributes. This is absolutely not true! I felt many times while in foster care and being moved from one home to another, the same feelings many of you are having. But I have been able to overcome them and so can you!

YOU are of value! You can hold your head up proudly! You can be whatever you choose to be!

Yes, even those of you who may have done something wrong to get placed within the foster system...you can overcome this mistake; it can become something of the past. All of us have made a mistake in our lives...maybe even more than one, but we learned from our mistakes and moved forward. You can do this as well. You need to begin making those changes today.

Your foster parents do care about you and what happens to you, whether you are in your current home for a short term or a longer time. They would not be foster parents if they did care about children and want to help. No, they are not in foster care for the money they receive to assist in your care. In many situations your foster parents will spend far more than what they receive.

I will not say a foster parent will not do wrong. Yes, as in every situation in life there may be a bad one. This is true also with biological/adoptive parents as well. If one does neglect you or do you harm in any way then you must report it. Please make sure any allegation you make however is in fact true. Do not make allegations just because of how they may have felt it necessary to discipline you one day and you get angry at them and try to get back at them. Never, ever make a false allegation.

Honor, respect and obey your foster parents. They do in fact have your best interest at heart. Whether you are with them for a short time or longer time they will do the best they can for you.

I know most of you wish that you were not in foster care; that you could be home either with your Mom and Dad or an

adoptive family. That may or may not come someday. You must make the very best of your situation. I ended up staying in the system until I was eighteen. I never had a permanent Mom and Dad all the time I was growing up. Despite this, I hope I have become a person any Mom and Dad could have been proud of. That is my hope for each and every one of you as well.

I know you can do it! Study hard, work hard and know that you have self-worth, not only to yourself but also to others. You can reach for the highest of goals...don't let anyone convince you otherwise!

If I can...I know you can!

Sincerely...from One who cares,

A Former Foster Child

POSTSCRIPT:

Lawrence P. Adams, a former foster child, authored the poignant book of life through the eyes of a throw away child entitled: "Lost Son? A Bastard Child's Journey of Hope, Search, Discovery and Healing," released in 2004.

With a growing corps of loyal readers, he shares yet another inspirational and moving book, "A Voice from the Voiceless and Forgotten." It could bring about the beginning of change within the foster-care-system. The book will be released during the summer of 2005.

He has written numerous magazine articles and speaks to groups around the country about the need for child welfare reform. He also serves as an "Advocacy Ambassador" for International Advocates for Children. He may be reached @ larry@larrya.us or visit his web site @ <http://www.larrya.us>

I hope that you will all be touched as I was for reading the above. Please print of the letter and leave it for you foster children to read. Just maybe, it will plant the seed for one of them.

The Foster Care Networker is an information email newsletter that is sent out to many Caregivers, Agencies and Organisations that have shown an interest in the care of children. I do not necessarily agree with every article that has been submitted. The Foster Care Networker is not sent out on behalf of any Association or Agency. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, I do not guarantee it's correctness, nor accept any legal responsibility.

If you have information that you would like to be seen in a future issues of the Foster Care Networker, then please email it through to myself at carberrys@xtra.co.nz. There is also a Caregivers website available at www.hrs.org.nz/fostercare.

Yours in Fostering
Allysa Carberry

Upcoming Conferences

Crisis Conference 2005 – Crisis Assessment and Treatment:

EVOLVING TRENDS, RECOVERY, ADVANCED PRACTICE, INTEGRATION, INNOVATION, INTERFACE WITH POLICE

Monday & Tuesday 18th & 19th April 2005

Venue: Kingsgate Hotel & Conference Centre

100 Garnett Avenue, Hamilton

New Zealand

Crisis Assessment & Treatment Conference 2005 Contact: Derek Roberts RobertsD@waikatodhb.govt.nz

New Zealand Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services National Conference – Foundations:

The NZ National Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Conference is being held in Dunedin on:

Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd of September 2005.

A Pasifika Child and Family Mental Health Symposium and Fono will precede the conference on:

Wednesday 21st September 2005.

Followed by a workshop on Attachment. Professor Charles Zeanah will present this on:

Saturday 24th September 2005.

For further details, please write to: CAMHS Conference, Youth Specialty Service, 8 Moray Place, Dunedin, or email childconference@healthotago.co.nz, or phone mobile 027 223 6386.

Early Intervention Psychosis National Training Forum:

Perspectives of Psychosis – (Spiritual, Cultural and Vocational).

To be held at: The Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna, Auckland

March 16th to 18th 2005

For more information contact Shea.Coffman@WaitemataDHB.govt.nz.

Aotearoa Mental Health and Addiction Workforce Development Conference:

Auckland, 8 & 9 March 2005

"May the Workforce be with you"

Ü ana te mauri

Ü ana te ringa häpai

The 4 key mental health workforce development programmes funded by the Ministry of Health (The Mental Health Workforce Development in Aotearoa, National Addiction Treatment Workforce Development Programme, Te Rau Matatini & the Werry Centre) are holding a conference to showcase workforce development on 8 & 9 March 2005.

The conference will focus around five themes:

1. Research and Evaluation
2. Training and Development
3. Organisational Development
4. Recruitment and Retention
5. Infrastructure

For more information visit www.mhwd.govt.nz or email wdconference@hrc.govt.nz Applications for full & partial bursaries to attend the conference close **Friday 28 January 2005**. **Early Bird Registration** and applications for the **Innovation Awards** close **Friday 28 January 2005**.

NZ Special Education Association Conference - Future Directions: Mental Health Well-being in Schools:

Registration of Interest - **Christchurch 11-13 July 2005**

The three-day conference includes presenters Dr Mary Atkinson from the UK, Dr Catherine Wiltshire and Dr. Chris Hardwick from Australia, Professor Garry Hornby and other notable presenters.

The Conference focus is on quality information from identifying to actively planning for the well being of students.

Please register your interest and send your address to alton@conferenceteam.co.nz. For further information see www.nzsea.org.nz

Working Together 2005 – (Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd March 2005)

This conference is for people working in and with licensed premises. It is designed to reduce alcohol-related harm at a community level by providing an opportunity for all the agencies involved in the monitoring and enforcement of the Sale of Liquor Act, Host Responsibility and district planning to share innovative ideas and programmes.

Police, District Licensing Inspectors, health promoters, safer community projects, injury prevention specialists and the alcohol industry itself are urged to attend.

Registration for the conference closes on Friday 4th February 2005. To book or for further information please write to:

Working Together 2005, Alcohol Advisory council of NZ, P.O. Box 5023, Wellington, or phone (04) 9170060, or email Anne Jarosch at a.jarosch@alac.org.nz.

Public Health Association Conference 2005 - (6 Wednesday July - 8 Friday July 2005)

This conference will provide an opportunity to share valuable information and to explore current initiatives and new

research evidence about working together to improve New Zealanders health and wellbeing.

The five strands of the conference will cover:

- ?? Reducing inequalities in health
- ?? Sustainable development
- ?? Public health law and public policy
- ?? Place-based public health initiatives
- ?? Research and evaluation methods

To submit an abstract e-mail tricia@cwl.nz or submit via www.pha.org.nz

For further information contact Tricia McKendry, Phone 09-479 8616, Fax 09-479 4341 or tricia@cwl.nz

Primary Focus 2 - Moving in the right direction:

A national conference – 10th – 12th March 2005, Wellington Convention Centre, Wellington

The conference will be a chance for learning and sharing information about experiences, ideas, evidence and practical advice. There will be discussion around what can be learned from the last two years of development to help Primary Health Organisations successfully move forward in the future.

This meeting is open to all – whether from New Zealand or overseas – and will be of particular interest to:

- ?? PHOs
- ?? Health care practitioners
- ?? Provider organisations
- ?? Community groups and individuals
- ?? Other health industry personnel
- ?? District health boards

Registration:

Registration is now open - - discount for early registration: Early bird fee NZ\$350.00 - on or before 31 January 2005. Standard fee NZ\$425.00 - on or after 1 February 2005

Contacts:

For **programme content** please contact: Elizabeth Powell, Senior Advisor, Primary Health Team, Ministry of Health
Phone 04 470 0632, Email elizabeth_powell@moh.govt.nz

For **registration and administrative queries** please contact: Absolutely Organised Ltd, Conference Organisers, Phone 04 587 0182, Email organiser@conferences.co.nz

Tough Teens, Angry Young Adults - Taking Charge of Difficult and Aggressive Youth: With Jerome Price - Michigan Family Institute

- 9 March 2005 Wellington
- 11 March 2005 Havelock North
- 14 March 2005 Hamilton
- 15 March 2005 Auckland

When youth are out of control, understanding and negotiation often make the problem worse. Families, teachers, social workers, and counselors often become helpless and hopeless, searching for strategies that will put them back in control.

In this workshop, you will learn how to:

- Accurately assess levels of aggression and conflict
- Reverse the cycle of mutual intimidation
- Help teens and young adults relinquish control and enjoy their youth
- Utilise effective strategies when working with high-risk youth

The workshop is designed for professionals working with challenging and aggressive youth or their families, including Counselors educator's psychologists Social Workers, Youth Justice Workers RTLBs Mental health workers, Family Therapists and Psychiatrists.

For information about registration, please contact:

Solutions un-Limited 18 Paetawa Road, Peka Peka, Kapiti Coast, Phone (04) 293 3434 Fax (04) 293 3435 Email
solun@xtra.co.nz

Workshop fees (includes teas and lunch):

\$160 inclusive of GST or \$130 inclusive of GST per person for groups of 5 or more. Early bird registration fees: prior to 9/2/05 - \$130 inclusive of GST or \$110 inclusive of GST per person for groups of 5 or more

Strengths Based Gathering 2005:

March 30 - April 1, Auckland, New Zealand, (Centra Auckland Airport Hotel) - "Te Puawaitanga - Growing Our Practice"

Strands:

- Preparing the ground
- Growing good practice
- Maintaining the growth
- Sharing stories of the journey

Practitioners, supervisors, managers, boards and policy makers from many different disciplines are exploring and applying the strength perspective in their work. "From Strength to Strength" will provide an opportunity to reflect on these explorations, to acknowledge the successes and challenges of working from the strength perspective, celebrate and share stories of the journey.

The Earlybird registration rate of \$275 applies up to and including 11th February. Registration forms are downloadable from the website - www.fromstrength2strength.org.nz

For further information or to register please contact – The Conference Coordinator, Barbara Burt, P.O. Box 136, Maungatapere 0240, or phone (09) 4347867, fax (09) 4347869, mobile (027) 4739794, or email barbara.burt@xtra.co.nz.

Lets Get Connected Forum - NZAAHD:

A Chance to find out what's going on in the Greater Auckland Youth Community.

Come along and:

- Hear guest speakers on 'Youth and Transition'
- Enjoy a kapahaka item from Hoani Waititi Marae
- Discover Youth Horizon's new premises
- Have the opportunity to share upcoming events/projects/information for 2005
- Network over a cuppa and lunch.

Date: Wednesday February 16th 2005

Time: 9.30 to 1pm

Address: Youth Horizons, 42 Vestey Drive, Mt Wellington.

RSVP to Sarah on phone (09) 3007013, or email sarah@mentalhealth.org.nz

Carer's Summit 2005: Caring for the Carers - Celebrating the Work of Families and Whanau:

17 - 18 March 2005, Wellington

Organised by Carers New Zealand
Soundings Theatre, Te Papa, Wellington

For further information contact Sara Rogers

Email: sarah@carers.net.nz or phone (09) 406 0412 (Northland number), or go to their website at www.carers.net.nz.

NZFFCF Annual Conference 2005 – “It takes a village to raise a child”:

Date: Friday 22nd April & Saturday 23rd April 2005

Time: Powhiri - 9am – Friday 22nd April
Poroporoake- 4pm – Saturday 23rd April

Venue: Brentwood Hotel, 16-20 Kemp Street, Kilbirnie, WELLINGTON

Conference Registration Packs will be sent out in January 2005.

The NZFFCF Annual General Meeting will be held at: - Stella Maris, Fettes Crescent, Seatoun, Wellington from 1pm – Thursday 21st April

Any further enquiries, please contact Gaylene Lawrence, Executive Officer, NZFFCF, P O Box 8320, Havelock North, or phone (06) 8777-481.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Foster Care Conference 2005 – “Caring one day at a time, we don’t stand alone”, that was to be held in Christchurch from the 31st March to the 3rd April 2005, has now been cancelled due to funding from the NZFFCF having been withdrawn.

Janus Women's Convention 3rd – 6th June 2005 ~ Wellington, New Zealand:

The New Zealand Women's Convention: Learn from the Past, Look to the Future, is being held 30 years after the convention, which was held in Wellington in 1975, International Women's Year.

The purpose of the convention is to review and evaluate the progress made for and by women over the last 30 years in terms of demographics, and work and home life along with the growth in understanding of the imperatives of environmental sustainability, and peace. It will look at the situations of young women today and the different society that they are part of, and identify achievable policy objectives to accommodate the changing needs of women and men in today's world

The theme of the conference is - Titiro whakamuri, haere whakamua. Looking Back, Moving Forward

A large group of women discussing key issues for women in the present and for the future will:

- Stimulate informed debate
- Create options for the future
- Laugh, argue, remember, sing, plot
- Generate energy, indeed inspiration, for new ways forward
- The organisers invite women from all over New Zealand to come along to discuss and debate issues around work (in its broadest sense), the changing face of New Zealand, and sustainable futures

For further details or to book, write to: Learn from the Past, Look to the Future, C/o P.O.Box 12 27, Thorndon, Wellington, or email judy.whitcombe@xtra.co.nz, or mrhys@paradise.net.nz.

Sixth Child and Family Policy 2005 Conference:

Conference entitled Children and Young People as Citizens: participation, provision & protection.

To be held 7-9th July 2005, Dunedin.

For further information please contact Kate Marshall at the Children's Issues Centre, Assistant Research Fellow, email kate.marshall@otago.ac.nz.

4th Annual LexisNexis Child Law Conference:

Determining and balancing the views, welfare and best interests of the child.

When: 10th and 11th March 2005

Where: Sheraton Hotel, Auckland

Key updates on:

- The Care of Children Act 2004 in practice
- Dispute resolution options in the Family Court
- Judges interviewing children

- Psychological perspectives on interviewing children
- Judicial perspectives on balancing interests and views of children
- Advocating a child's views and best interest
- Parental alienation
- Separation and the impact on children
- Grandparent and kinship care
- Whanaungatanga and the cultural imperatives for Maori
- Care and Protection reforms
- Using the CYPF Act more effectively
- The rights and interests of children born through AHR.

This conference is a professional development event designed specifically for professionals such as family lawyers, counsel for child, judges, psychologists, social workers, counsellors, family therapists and academics working in this field.

Registered NGO's, community law centres and academics qualify for a discount on the conference fee. Please phone (09) 4869572 for more information.

For bookings or for more information please phone (09) 4869572; fax (09) 4861421, email seminars@lexisnexis.co.nz, or website www.lexisnexis.co.nz.

Unwrapping the Gift - Focus on Ability:

Bay of Plenty Branch of Autism New Zealand will be holding a conference in Rotorua over the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of July. This is an excellent opportunity to hear overseas speakers, meet others, discuss and share ideas.

Details of the conference programme are as follows:

Keynote Speakers: Louise Ulliana & Aaron Jackson (Australia)

Discussing effective educational and therapy programmes using the SERVAM acronym.

S. Sensory styles

E. Environmental Modification

R. Routines

V. Visual Techniques

A. Autism friendly language

M. Motivating activities.

Other speakers include: Lynn Beresford - Aspergers and Giftedness, Nick Wilkinson - Parent to Parent Sibling Support Co-ordinator, Alison Schroeder - Socially Speaking, Daphne Rickson - Music Therapy

For further information and to register for a conference pack please contact Lorraine at; Autism New Zealand, Bay of Plenty Branch, P O Box 841, Tauranga, Ph: 07 571 0003 or 0800 571 000, Fax: 07 571 0013, Email: autismtauranga@xtra.co.nz

Training and Workshops

CYF/NZFFCF Training Courses for Feb 2005:

Course	Held in	When
Caregiver Induction	Taupo	14th/15th Feb
Caregiver Induction	Whakatane	19th/20th Feb
Caregiver Induction	Mast/Dan	17th/18th Feb
Legal Issues	Palmerston North	19th/20th Feb
Caregiver Induction	Nap/Hast/CHB	21st/24th/28th Feb
Family Dynamics	Porirua	10th/11th Feb
Family Dynamics	LowerHutt	17th/18th Feb
Caregiver Induction	LowerHutt	26th/27th Feb
Caregiver Induction	Hamilton	26th Feb/5th March
Caregiver Induction	Tauranga	28th Feb/1st March

These courses are FREE for any person looking after someone else's child on a full time basis, and they are NOT just for Child, Youth and Family Caregiver's only. The courses are fun to attend, and are a wonderful way to meet with other Caregivers. It doesn't matter how long you have been a Caregiver – there is always something new to learn. Some support is available to help with childcare and transport costs. Currently there are 9 courses, with each usually run over two consecutive days, or as organised, to cover the Caregivers needs in a particular area. If you complete all of the courses, you then have the opportunity to pursue the National Certificate in Family/Whanau Foster Care.

To book please contact the Caregiver Training Coordinator directly, by phone (04) 913 2168, fax (04) 914 4473, or the Training Coordinator direct on 0800 227 305 (0800 CARE 'O'K), and ask to be referred to Maxine Carroll.

Introducing Street Talk:

Man Alive would like to introduce Street Talk, a new 'driving awareness' programme developed by the LTSA and now being offered in Waitakere City. This course targets young people, particularly young men, to be safer, more aware drivers on the road. The programme is run by one of senior facilitators – Stephen Bell

Street Talk

Young people, particularly young men (15-24 year olds) are involved in the highest number of serious injury or fatal crashes in New Zealand. To help address this the Land Transport Safety Authority has developed a programme called **Street Talk**.

Street Talk is a 10 hour driving awareness programme designed to assist young drivers, both men and women, to identify the risk factors they face on the road and become safer drivers. **Street Talk** helps participants identify and challenge attitudes and behaviours that lead to dangerous or reckless driving.

By completing a **Street Talk** course participants are able to get six months off their restricted licence (i.e. apply for their full licence six months sooner). Participants receive a logbook and certificate on completion of the course.

Street Talk is now being offered in Waitakere City. The next course dates are as follows:

- Monday April 18 9.00 am to 1.00 pm
- Wednesday April 20 9.00 am to 11.00 am
- Friday April 22 9.00 am to 11.00 am
- Tuesday April 26 9.00 am to 11.00 am
- Monday July 11 9.00 am to 1.00 pm
- Wednesday July 13 9.00 am to 11.00 am
- Friday July 15 9.00 am to 11.00 am
- Monday July 18 9.00 am to 11.00 am

If you would like to attend this course or want more information please contact **Stephen Bell or Jane Tyrer, phone: (09) 817 1122 mob: 027 404 1256** or email: drivesafe@actrix.co.nz

ASIST Workshop – Living Works:

Living Works programmes are designed to help and mobilise and prepare people to engage in suicide prevention activities. ASIST – Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, is designed to respond to this need for enhanced suicide intervention knowledge and competence. Importantly, it also invites reflection on how attitudes about suicide can impact on intervention activities.

The focus of ASIST is suicide first aid recognising and responding to people at imminent risk.

ASIST Workshops are a two-day skills-based workshop that helps equip people for suicide first aid. The emphasis is on increasing carer's ability to promote the immediate safety of someone who may be at risk of suicide and providing links for further help. ASIST has been highly valued by all kinds of carers. Workshop participants include people concerned about family members or friends, along with those in public contact, volunteer or professional helping roles.

Training Dates for 2005

February 10 & 11, March 17 & 18, April 7 & 8, May 19 & 20, June 16 & 17

For further information contact: Living Works Education NZ, P.O. Box 74 010 Market Road – 95 Great South Road, Auckland.

Phone (09) 5243080, fax (09) 5243092, or email livingworks@lifetime.org.nz.

Strengthening Families – Counties Manukau – Introduction to Strengthening Families:

Want to know more about Strengthening families? How to make a collaborative casework approach work for your client families? Register now for one of our free (gratis, no charge) 3hr training courses –

When? 9am to midday on Tuesday 01 March, and again on Tuesday 05 April

Where? Counties - Manukau Police HQ, Harlech House (next door to cyfs & gse) , 482 Great South Road, Otahuhu

To register, simply phone or email your name, contact details and preferred course date, to Dave Jackson, Counties-Manukau SF Co-ordinator, ASAP. (Limit 20 per course)

Strengthening Families - Auckland City - Introduction to Strengthening Families:

Dates for 2005 - Feb 23rd, May 4th, August 3rd, November 2nd

To be held at the - Fickling Centre, 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings - 9am - 12.30pm

1. Training is open to all workers from social service agencies and community organisations involved with at risk children, young people and families in Auckland city area.
2. Training will enable workers to identify and refer families to Strengthening Families Collaborative Casework Management and participate in and/or be the link Agency for the family.
3. There is no cost for the Training.

For more information and to register for Training, please contact Siobhan Doran-Read, Coordinator phone (09) 914 1110, fax (09) 913 4032 Email: Siobhan Doran-Read001@cyf.govt.nz.

Online computer training:

The WintecActive Certificate in Computer Applications (CCA) is an online Certificate Programme offered by Wintec in partnership with Technocatz NZ Ltd.

The Certificate consists of a number of optional modules comprising general introduction to computing subjects as well as specific software applications modules. The CCA is suitable for computer novices through to experienced users. The CCA is free to New Zealand citizens and permanent residents and citizens of Australia, aged 16 or above. You begin with an introductory classroom session with a trained facilitator at a WintecActive site near you. Learning is completed online, using the interactive course materials over the Internet at a time and place that suits you.

To find out more about WintecActive visit: <http://www.wintecactive.co.nz>

Getting Your Point Across:

Description - A workshop for people in the mental health field (staff and families) who wish to use the media and public speaking tools for community education. Handbooks on media use and on public speaking are included as resources to use when asking public presentations such as drafting speeches, overheads etc.

Day One - facilitated by people with experience of mental illness. Issues of stigma and discrimination, language, the influence of public speaking and dealing with the media are covered. Ethics and mandate are also explored, so people can work alongside people with experience of mental illness in genuine partnership.

Days Two and Three - an expert in public speaking with a background in issues of social change supports participants to develop their own styles of speaking.

Day Four - A journalist with extensive knowledge of the mental health field and a track record of working in partnership with tangata whaiora shares techniques for successfully writing for newspapers and speaking on radio. Facilitators with an experience of mental illness support the key facilitators on Days 2 - 4.

Cost -Negotiable

Facilitator -Day One - Serious Fun 'N Mind Trust facilitation team

Day Two and Three - Diana Beattie

Day Four - Lyn Carruthers

Duration - 5 hours a day spread over four days

Contact - Ruth Gerzon, Education Co-ordinator, Serious Fun 'N Mind Trust, gerzon@xtra.co.nz, 07 312-5310 (ph), 07 312-4932 (fax)

Tangata Whai Ora Support Training:

Description - A workshop only for people with experience of mental illness. Facilitated by people with experience of mental illness, this workshop recognises that the best support is often from others on the same journey. Experiential learning techniques are used to encourage group participation and reflection so new learning relates directly to everyday experiences.

Topics covered include active listening; communicating positively and assertively; cross-cultural communication; boundaries; affirmations; reducing conflict; social support networks; referral to services.

Cost -Negotiable

Facilitator - Serious Fun 'N Mind Trust facilitation team

(There are always two facilitators and in most cases Māori and Tauwi work side by side)

Duration - 5 hours a day spread over two days

Contact Ruth Gerzon, Education Co-ordinator, Serious Fun 'N Mind Trust, gerzon@xtra.co.nz, 07 312-5310 (ph), 07 312-4932 (fax)

Advocacy Workshop:

Description - A workshop for people with experience of mental illness, staff and families which introduces the comprehensive Advocacy Tool Kit which has been developed in Aotearoa New Zealand. Topics include:

1. The Context - issues of power in the current political and social climate; information on rights and social justice.
2. Effective Relationships - self-knowledge, boundaries, ethics, mandate cultural safety.
3. Skills - listening, assertion, mapping, effective letters, record keeping.
4. Processes - choosing approaches and strategies, preparation and debrief for meetings, negotiation techniques.

Experiential learning techniques are used to encourage group participation and reflection, and case studies are used so new learning relates directly to everyday experiences.

Cost - Negotiable

Facilitator - Serious Fun 'N Mind Trust facilitation team.

(There are always two facilitators and in most cases Māori and Tauwi work side by side)

Duration - 5 hours per day spread across four days

Contact - Ruth Gerzon, Education Co-ordinator, Serious Fun 'N Mind Trust, gerzon@xtra.co.nz, 07 312-5310 (ph), 07 312-4932 (fax)

Teamwork for Social Change:

Description - With the movement to reduce stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness and mental health service development, more opportunities are becoming available for tangata whai ora.

Opportunities can be in paid positions as consumer advisors, consultants, facilitators, educators, and public speakers. Others are involved in consumer advisory groups, committees and trusts that are being set up. In other social change movements, energy needed to work towards change has been diverted by needless conflict and personal disputes, which result in skilled people becoming burnt out and leaving.

Good communication, team work, conflict resolution skills and an understanding of how social change occurs, supports people to work together and respond to others in a way that is safe, effective and promotes mental health.

A workbook is provided for each participant.

Cost - Negotiable

Facilitator - Serious Fun 'N Mind Trust facilitation team

(There are always two facilitators and in most cases Māori and Tauwi work side by side)

Duration - 20 hours spread over four days. Ideally this workshop is run for two days, twice, with a fortnight between sessions.

Contact Ruth Gerzon, Education Co-ordinator, Serious Fun 'N Mind Trust, gerzon@xtra.co.nz, 07 312-5310 (ph), 07 312-4932 (fax)

Legally Speaking - Essential Laws affecting Children:

CPS Training invites you to attend this workshop

Manukau
Tuesday 22 March 2005
9am-4pm

There are dozens of different laws that govern children's lives and affect how adults can support them. Gain a layman's understanding of the laws affecting children and how to work within the legal framework. The programme for the day includes the opportunity to hear from a local lawyer and have your specific questions answered.

Do you know?

- ?? If you have to report child abuse?
- ?? When you can share information about a child?
- ?? Do I have to go to court?
- ?? How old does a child have to be to?
- ?? Is there a law to protect me?

This Workshop Will Cover

- ?? Legal jargon
- ?? The major laws relating to children, and how they interact
- ?? The implication of these laws for adults who work with or care for children
- ?? Common misconceptions
- ?? Other para-legal matters concerning children and those who are responsible for them
- ?? How laws are made and changed, and how you can influence this process

Who should register?

- ?? Anyone working with children or young people
- ?? Teachers
- ?? Family support workers
- ?? Policy writers
- ?? Family counsellors
- ?? Family violence workers
- ?? Victim support workers
- ?? Community support workers
- ?? Health Professionals

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. Please contact CPS if you would like further information or would like to register for the workshop to: 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

Preparing a Comprehensive Child Protection Policy – Protect Children, Protect Yourself:

CPS Training invites you to attend this workshop

Hamilton
Tuesday 22 February 2005
9am-1pm

Would your organisation be able to stand up to public scrutiny if something went wrong?

A Child Protection policy provides benefits for ALL members of your team – from Board and Trustee personnel to front-line staff.

The workshop will cover:

- ?? **Twelve** basic policy areas that should be included
- ?? Who should be involved in developing policy?
- ?? How a comprehensive policy can protect children from abuse
- ?? Guidelines for writing policy
- ?? Examples of clear policy statements

- ?? Ensure that your policy is working
- ?? Reviewing policy

This workshop provides the framework; guidelines and rationale for you to develop a child protection policy based on your organisation's kaupapa, mission and philosophy. It will be tutored by Anthea Simcock, CEO - CPS Training, author of 'Safe not Sorry', and a leading child advocate. Handouts will be available and a certificate will be given to all those completing the workshop.

The cost is \$75.00 per person, with a discount of 5% per person if 5 or more people from the same organisation attend. Please contact CPS if you would like further information or would like to register for the workshop to: 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

Moana House Training:

The Moana House Training Institute is offering 'Te Aka', a modular Drug and Alcohol training course.

Commencing in **Dunedin on May 13 2005**, the course will take place on a Friday, Friday evening, and Saturday, once a month for the following 6 months. There will also be a further session for assessment.

'Te Aka' will also be offered in **Christchurch** on the same modular basis. Training in Christchurch commences on **May 20 2005**.

Also on offer is 'Clinical Supervision - the theory and practice', a three day course which provides a basic approach to supervision as practiced in professional clinical settings. This will take place in **Dunedin on 24 and 25 February**, returning for the final day on **March 18**.

For more information visit www.moanahouse.org.nz

Assessing impacts of policies on health and community wellbeing:

'*Health impact assessment: a process for promoting health and tackling inequalities*' is a practical 2-day workshop to learn about assessing potential impacts of policies on health and community wellbeing

Taking place on **15-16 February 2005** the workshop is a part of the Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences 9th Public Health Summer School at the University of Otago Stadium Centre, Wellington.

The workshop is a joint initiative of the Wellington School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Public Health Advisory Committee. It will focus on health impact assessment (HIA) at a policy level.

This course will provide participants with the opportunity to:

- ?? Understand the value of using HIA in the policy setting
- ?? Gain and develop an understanding of HIA theory, principles and methods
- ?? Increase their understanding about how HIA has developed in New Zealand and internationally
- ?? Undertake a hypothetical HIA using *A Guide to Health Impact Assessment: a policy tool for New Zealand* developed by the Public Health Advisory Committee
- ?? Know where to access further information on HIA
- ?? Network with others interested in HIA
- ?? Explore how to make HIA happen.

Copies of the Summer School brochure, which includes information about this workshop, and registration form are available from the website <http://www.wnmeds.ac.nz/academic/dph> or on request from the Summer School administrator: Email: linda-jane@wnmeds.ac.nz

For further information please contact Barbara Langford, 04 496 2084, barbara_langford@nhc.govt.nz or, from 17 January Louise Signal, 04-918-6477, louise@wnmeds.ac.nz

Couples, Intimacy and Sexuality - A Seminar by Isabelle Hénault

Dr Isabelle Hénault will be in **New Zealand** in **March** and **April 2005** to present this **seminar** at a number of venues around

the country.

Isabelle Hénault, Ph.D., MA, is a therapist and researcher from the University of Quebec in Montreal, Canada. She is an expert in helping with relationships and social skills of individuals with Asperger Syndrome. Dr Hénault has designed and delivered education workshops, and trained parents and professionals over the past 5 years.

Recently she was a contributor to the book *Asperger Syndrome in Adolescence—Living with the Ups, the Downs and the Things in Between* edited by Liane Holliday Willey. Isabelle's book *Asperger Syndrome and Sexuality From Adolescence through Adulthood* will be available from late 2004.

Dr Hénault has lectured worldwide and is presently collaborating with Dr Tony Attwood on an international research initiative on the development of social and sexual skills for individuals with Asperger Syndrome.

Overview:

This workshop examines the intimate relationships of couples affected by Asperger's Syndrome (AS). Numerous couple issues are raised when we consider the relationship between an individual with AS and a neurotypical partner.

Other reflections can be made from examining the relationship between two individuals with AS. In a couple, the expression of traits and behaviours linked to AS vary according to several factors such as prior experiences, self-disclosure, acceptance of the syndrome, quality of communication, family situation, mutual support, partner motivation, and many more.

The presentation will explore issues such as intimacy, empathy, sexual desire and commitment. Finally, reflections made by individuals with AS on the topics of couples and sexuality will be addressed:

1. Intimacy
2. Sexual desire
3. Affective communication
4. Couple dynamics
5. Empathy
6. Sexual intimacy
7. Reflections from adults with Asperger's syndrome

Dates & Venues

Christchurch - Date: 4th of April 2005 **Venue:** Chateau on the Park **Closing Date:** 11th March 2005

Auckland - Date: 6th of April 2005 **Venue:** Waipuna Hotel, **Closing Date:** 13th March 2005

Wellington - Date: 8th of April 2005 **Venue:** Portland Hotel **Closing Date:** 15th March 2005

Duration

This is a full day Seminar from 9.00am - 4.00 pm

Cost (incl. gst) - **Earlybird Registration:** Professional Fee: \$120.00, Family/Whanau Fee: \$90.00

After 04/03/2005: Professional Fee: \$150.00, Family/Whanau Fee: \$120.00

To participate in this programme please complete a registration form and return it to National Office, Autism NZ Inc. P.O. Box 7305, Sydenham, Christchurch, phone (03) 3321038, fax (03) 3321024.

Understanding the Autistic Spectrum: Implications For Learning

Course Overview

Understanding the Autistic Spectrum: Implications for Learning will introduce participants to the Autistic Spectrum and, to the learning differences of these students. It will give an understanding of the Spectrum and help plan for Student Success.

What will the course cover?

- Introduction to the Spectrum , (a more developed introduction
- How to modify the curriculum for those with an autism spectrum disorder
- Focus on high functioning autism , (including Asperger's Syndrome) or,
- Focus on Low functioning autism, (including Kanner's Syndrome)
- Suitable to adapt for all students on the autism spectrum
- Develop strategies which best suit your supported student
- Practical focus on age and/or ability
- Can focus on Early Childhood, Primary or, Secondary School aged students

Aim

Participants will develop strategies, which best suit, the student they support with an autism spectrum disorder.

Who should attend? Suitable for two or more team member's i.e.: parent and teacher. Also suitable for staff and professional development, parents, teachers, specialists and educational support teams.

Duration This is a six-hour training programme run throughout New Zealand.

Cost - \$80.00 per delegate per six-hour course. Late Registration \$100.00

Upcoming courses for 2005:

Auckland - Date: 11th March 2005 **Venue:** Waipuna Hotel **Closing Date:** 4th March 2005

Invercargill - Date: 18th March 2005 **Venue:** Ascot Park Hotel **Closing Date:** 11th March 2005

Christchurch - Date: 15th April 2005 **Venue:** The Chateau on the Park **Closing Date:** 8th April 2005

Dunedin - Date: 6th May 2005 **Venue:** Kingsgate Hotel **Closing Date:** 29th April 2005

Wellington - Date: 27th May 2005 **Venue:** Portland Hotel **Closing Date:** 20st May 2005

Napier - Date: 2nd September 2005 **Venue:** War Memorial Centre **Closing Date:** 26th August 2005

Please email info@autismnz.org.nz or call us on 0800 AUTISM (0800 288 476) for more information.

Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences - (Child and Adolescent Mental Health):

If you are a graduate in nursing, medicine, occupational therapy, social work or clinical psychology and work .8 to full time in a child and adolescent health service, and wish to gain further skills and knowledge in this field, then this may be for you.

Places are available for the above programme offered by the Department of Psychological Medicine, University of Auckland. Funding is available for those who meet the eligibility criteria.

The programme begins in March 2005 and comprises of 4 courses -two theory based and two clinical. You can complete either full time in one year or part time two years.

The courses are:

- Child and Adolescent Psychopathology - (offered fully by distance mode)
- Child and Adolescent Development - Flexible/distance
- Child, Adolescent and Family Assessment – Flexible
- Case Studies in Child and Adolescent Mental Health – Flexible

If you are interested in applying, please do so online www.auckland.ac.nz and also fill in the expression of interest form online www.health.auckland.ac.nz/study/postgrad/subjects (follow the links to the specialization child and adolescent mental health.) For more details contact: Prasuna Kumar, Programme Administrator, Email:p.kumar@auckland.ac.nz, Phone: 09 373 7599 ext. 89717

Brainwave Trust and the Pacific Foundation– From Infant to Adolescent: A Neurodevelopment Approach to Attachment: New Directions in Clinical Interventions:

DR BRUCE PERRY - Senior Fellow of the ChildTrauma Academy

Auckland: Monday 28 February 2005, Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre, 58 Waipuna Road, Mt Wellington

Wellington: Wednesday 2 March 2005, Llott Theatre, Wellington Convention Centre, 111 Wakefield Street

Christchurch: Friday 4 March 2005, Holiday Inn City Centre Christchurch, Cnr Cashel and High Streets

Registrations will close on the 21st February 2005, and there will be no refunds on cancellations after the 14th February 2005. The cost for an Early Registration received by the 21st January 2005 is \$165, or \$185 for registrations received after the 21st January 2005. For further information or to register go to www.thelearningcurve.com/bruceperry/seminar.html, or phone (09) 307 6706, or fax (09) 3661969, or by mail to The Learning Curve, P.O. Box 4075, Auckland.

Support Parent Training:

Parent to Parent Auckland offers free training to parents who have children with disabilities, health impairments and special needs, who are interested in supporting others through the Parent to Parent network.

This 18 hour Support Parent Training covers:

- ?? Communication
- ?? Grief issues

- ?? Resources within the disability sector
- ?? It provides the opportunity for parents to consider their ability to support others in similar circumstances.
- ??

Our volunteer Support Parents provide support to the families contacting Parent to Parent. If you have a child with special needs and are interested in becoming a Support Parent, please contact the Parent to Parent National Office on 0508 236236

Certificate in Children Protection Studies (CPS)– Manukau:

CPS is delighted to bring another **Certificate Course in Child Protection Studies**, to **Manukau**, commencing **Tuesday 21 June 2005**.

Those working with children, young people and families would benefit from this course as it provides participants with the knowledge to recognise and respond to children at risk, and the confidence to take the necessary steps to keep them safe.

You can find further information about the course on our website at www.cpstraining.co.nz.

Some sponsorship is available. If you need sponsorship to attend this valuable course please call and discuss your options with Dianne on 07 8383370.

Please contact CPS if you would like further information and an enrolment pack - as places are limited we suggest you get your enrolments in early. Contact details are: CPS Training , PO Box 679 , Hamilton , Phone 07 838 3370 , Fax 07 838 9950
Email dianne@cpstraining.co.nz, www.cpstraining.co.nz.

Skylight Courses:

skylight offers a wide variety of workshops and training sessions around the issues of change, loss and grief and their impact on children, youth and their families and carers. These are offered as core courses or, on request, as courses tailor-made for specific audiences.

Skylight is committed to partnering with communities wherever possible to bring quality training to individuals and professionals. **Skylight** works regularly with existing groups, organisations and agencies to add value to what they do by designing courses to fit their particular world of work or situation.

For all enquiries, including dates of training coming to your area, contact Jennie Jones – National Training Co-ordinator on 0800 299 100.

Core Courses Offered

When Tough Stuff Happens - understanding and supporting children through change, loss and grief (Focusing on Primary and Intermediate age children)

The Journey Through - understanding and supporting young people through change, loss and grief (Focusing on teens)

The Impact of Trauma on Children and Young People

The Aftermath of Suicide

Supporting Grieving Families

Supporting Grieving Families - for Church Pastoral Workers

Tailor-made courses are also available to deal with a broad cross section of change, loss and grief issues, including: illness, disability, grief within a school context, suicide, homicide, accident and injury and foster care. To discuss your training needs, contact **skylight** on 0800 299 100 and ask for our Training Co-ordinator, Jennie Jones.

Costs - For information about the costing of courses, contact our Training Co-ordinator, Jennie Jones, on 0800 299 100.

Consumer Products Recalls

Baby Walkers:

THE PROBLEM

It has come to the attention of the Commerce Commission that various baby walkers have been sold that does not comply with product safety standards.

Non-compliant baby walkers may be at risk of tipping over, collapsing with the child inside, or toppling down stairs.

DETAILS

The problem brands are Penny Oil, Everyone Loves and Happy Baby, although a number of others do not have any branding on them.

Non-compliant walkers have been sold nationwide, though the shops the Commerce Commission is most concerned about are lower-scale retail stores in Lower Hutt and Auckland.

WHAT TO DO

If you own one of the brands listed above or have any concerns about the safety of another baby walker that you have bought, return it to the retailer for a refund.

Children's Bikes from Kmart:

THE PROBLEM

Testing indicates the bicycles have a faulty headstem, which is a potential safety issue and may result in the handlebars slipping.

DETAILS

The bicycles, from Toy Group Australia, were sold in NZ Kmart stores from November to December 2004.

Affected models are:

- * 20-inch Hot Wheels (Silver) Hornet bicycle
- * 20-inch My Scene Girls (Pink or Purple) bicycle
- * 16-inch Hot Wheels (Red and Black) Adrenaline bicycle
- * 16-inch Disney Princess (Pink) bicycle

These bicycles were advertised on page 19 in Kmart's "Santa's Percentage Off" catalogue, commencing 2 December 2004.

WHAT TO DO

Return the bikes immediately to Kmart for a full refund.

Gasmate Stylus Barbeques:

THE PROBLEM

The side burner hose on the models below vary from the Australian Gas Association approved standard.

DETAILS

Gasmate Stylus Barbecues 2004 models purchased prior to 29 November 2004.

WHAT TO DO

Do not use the BBQ.

Contact AberGas on 0800 161 161 with your name, address and the model number of your BBQ to arrange a replacement hose.

United Water Drink Bottle:

THE PROBLEM

The pop-up in the lid can be removed or unscrewed and can present a choking hazard to children 3 years and under.

DETAILS

United Water Plastic Drink Bottles received after March 2003 as giveaways at public events and/or donated as part of sponsorship agreements.

WHAT TO DO

If young children have access to the water bottle remove and destroy or discard it.

For any further enquiries call United Water head office on 09 296 2626.

Kellogg's Just Right Just Grains:

THE PROBLEM

Some packs may contain small amounts of almonds, soy and sulphite not stated on the label.

Consumption of these ingredients could present a serious issue for a small percentage of the population who has allergens or intolerances.

DETAILS

Kellogg's Just Right Just Grains 510g packs, with best-before dates up to and including September 2005 (shown as SEP 05 16).

The blue coloured packaging can easily identify the packs.

WHAT TO DO

Consumers with an allergy or intolerance to these ingredients should not consume the product and should consult their doctor if they have any concerns.

Return the packs to the store of purchase for a full refund, or call the Kellogg Consumer Contact Centre on 0800 881 889, for further information.

Political Information

Call Centre audio-recording calls:

Child, Youth and Family's National Call Centre is now audio recording calls. It's a move that will improve call management at both the telephone operator and social worker level.

Eighty per cent of notifications to Child, Youth and Family are taken by the Call Centre, and greater community awareness of child abuse and neglect means call numbers are increasing. In the year to date as at November 2004, CYF received close to 21,000 calls—up from just over 16,000 in the same period the previous year.

Audio-recording calls means CYF can better monitor the quality of the social workers' decisions, assist in training and coaching their staff, and have an accurate and complete record of all calls handled by social workers at the Call Centre.

The move to audio-record is the result of a review prompted by a call made by Ron Burrows in January 2003, which found that call monitoring would be enhanced if the Department implemented an audio-recording system.

Other steps taken by Child, Youth and Family since the review include manually recording and monitoring all calls handled by social workers which do not result in notifications, increased staff supervision at the Call Centre, and an enhanced induction programme for new Call Centre staff.

All calls forwarded to social workers will be recorded, as will a selection of calls to call centre telephone operators. Recordings will be archived for 15 years. All access to them requires specialised software, and will be fully logged and audited. This will ensure the recordings remain confidential.

Government supports HELP sexual abuse service:

A \$200,000 contract between ACC and the Auckland Sexual Abuse HELP Foundation will fund a one-year 'pilot' approach to services targeting sexual abuse.

ACC will work with the foundation to support crisis counselling and telephone support. Outcomes will be closely monitored. The ACC contract will contribute towards HELP's long-term viability, and its work in addressing the impact of sexual abuse on communities.

ACC worked with HELP earlier in the year to organise its finances so it could continue to provide services. This 12-month contract is a tangible contribution towards this outcome, but the foundation may still require assistance from other organisations.

ACC will track the foundation's viability over the next year, to determine whether the pilot approach can be extended to other community organisations.

ACC has also provided indirect assistance to the foundation by increasing the level of payments made to individual counsellors by 36 per cent from 1 April 2004. ACC's support for HELP is in line with the whole-of-government implementation of the Safer Communities Action Plan To Reduce Community Violence and Sexual Violence, released in June 2004.

ACC is working with other crown agencies and community organisations through an inter-agency steering group to identify gaps in current services. The agencies include the Ministry of Justice, CYFS, Police, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Te Puni Kokiri and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

Minimum wage increased:

The minimum wage will increase from \$9 to \$9.50 per hour from 21 March 2005.

The minimum hourly rate for workers aged 16 and 17 years will move from \$7.20 to \$7.60 an hour, to keep it at 80% of the adult minimum wage. The minimum training wage, which is set at the level of the minimum youth wage, will move to the same rate. These changes will benefit about 35,000 adult workers and 6,500 youth workers.

The increase in the minimum wage will also complement other government objectives, such as the working for families assistance package, designed to ensure that families with dependent children are always better off when in work. With three months till the change come into effect, businesses will have time to prepare. Employers, unions and employees can contact the Department of Labour on 0800 800 863 for more information or go to www.ers.dol.govt.nz."

Charities Bill Reported Back:

The Social Services Committee has now finished its consideration of the Charities Bill and presented it back to Parliament, commonly referred to as "reporting to the House". A copy of the bill with the Committee's commentary on it and the recommended amendments shown is available from <http://www.clerk.parliament.govt.nz/Content/SelectCommitteeReports/108bar2.pdf>.

The Ministry of Economic Development has invited a number of umbrella organisations to provide written feedback to it on the technical workability of the changes that have been made.

For further information on this consultation process please ring 0508 Charities (0508) 242 748 or email info@charities.govt.nz.

New Telephone Service for Deaf People

A newly launched telephone service, NZ Relay, will enable people who are Deaf or who have speech or hearing impairments to participate in telephone conversations using a textphone.

A trained call centre operator will convert typed text into speech for a person at the other end of the call, and vice versa. Several textphone models will be available to meet a range of user requirements for a rental charge of \$15 (incl. GST) a month. The charge will be waived for people who meet the income threshold for the Community Services Card.

Education Amendment Bill Introduced

The regulatory regime for early childhood education is to be overhauled by the Education Amendment Bill, which amends the Education Act 1989. The Bill also extends the use of national student numbers (unique identifiers) to the early childhood sectors and throughout the compulsory education period. This means that every student will have a number to be used for the entirety of his/her student career.

The primary provisions of the Bill are:

- ?? Early childhood education and care centres are to be licensed and all must be up to the Charter standard (defined in the principal Act).
- ?? Home-based education and care centres and hospital-based education and care centres have the option of being licensed.
- ?? There will be a lighter regime for playgroups, which have the option of being licensed if they want government funding.

- ?? The standards will be set by regulation, with a transition period of 6 years.
- ?? The Minister of Education will have the power to set a curriculum framework for licensed services.
- ?? There will be various amendments to other Acts to enable the introduction of student numbers throughout the education sector (which would otherwise be in breach of the Privacy Act 1993).
- ?? The NZ Teachers Council is to be given the power to correct errors of fact on teacher's records; to have greater disciplinary powers over teachers; and a teacher's right of appeal over disciplinary matters is clarified.
- ?? Boards of Trustees will no longer need to hold an AGM.
- ?? International students enrolled with adult and community education providers will come under the same legislative regime as other international students.
- ?? There is an amendment to enable the government to share revenue by applying the international student levy to integrated schools.

Living With a Disability in NZ: Report:

What's claimed to be the most comprehensive report ever to look at people with disability in NZ (22 percent of adults and 11 percent of children) has been released. The 450-page report, "Living With Disability In NZ – A Descriptive Analysis", looks at the day-to-day lives of people with disability, including their access to education, employment and income, travel, transport and housing. It explores support services and patterns of disability across a range of ethnic groups, including Maori and Pacific peoples, and looks at whether people are receiving the assistance they feel they need. A large number of statistical graphs and tables are included

The report is based on two surveys carried out by Statistics NZ in 2001. The first examined the living arrangements and activities of around 7200 adults and children with disability living in households. The second gathered information from around 900 disabled adults living in institutions such as rest homes and hospitals.

The full report can be found on the Ministry of Health website www.moh.govt.nz; and a shortened version in hard copy and alternative formats will be available by the end of the year

Innovative programmes for at risk students:

Six schools will be running the trial innovative programmes in 2005 to improve educational outcomes for students at risk.

Three Auckland schools - Waterview Primary, Avondale Primary and Rosebank Road Primary - along with Tauranga Boys High School, Manunui School in Taumarunui and Hurunui School in Kaikoura will receive funding. The programmes will run at a cost of \$341,075 in 2005 and will be funded through the Ministry of Education's Innovations Funding Pool.

The Innovations Pool provides funding for the trialing of new programmes to assist students at risk of achieving poor educational outcomes. The results of the trials will contribute to the knowledge of the schools, and the Ministry of Education, on ways to assist students to improve their level of achievement. The programmes aim to address students' behaviour and attitudes, and develop skills, which benefit the school community.

Two further programmes, at Branston Intermediate in Christchurch, and Clendon Park School in Manurewa, have already been funded and will also continue to receive funding from this pool.

Two hundred caregiver application packs sent out – CYF:

Over 200 application packs have been sent out to potential caregivers since Child, Youth and Family launched its largest caregiver recruitment campaign in November 2004.

Caregiving can be extremely rewarding and satisfying. It also requires real commitment. It generally takes a while for people to make up their minds once they've received an application pack that being a caregiver is definitely a commitment they are prepared to take on.

Around 50% of responses have been generated via the Department's website www.cyf.govt.nz, closely followed by local print advertising (35%), national print advertising (5%), newspaper articles (2%), radio interviews and advertising (2%), television interviews (1%), family connections (1%) and other methods such as leaflets (4%).

The greatest number of packs have been sent out in the East/West Region (53), followed by Southern (39), then Wellington/Upper South and Northern (both 36), Midlands (34) and Auckland (17).

Child, Youth and Family aims to recruit around 300 caregivers for its 29 sites around the country. There is a particular shortage of caregivers prepared to look after teenagers and those with challenging behaviours such as mental health or anger management problems.

The new recruitment campaign, with the slogan, '*Small Things Can Change Everything*' hinges on some of the significant first-time events in a child or young person's life whilst in the care of foster carers like having their photo taken, being taken to a rugby game and being taught to skim a stone. It shows the benefits to a child or young person of having positive experiences and adult role models.

The Department is seeking emergency, respite, short-term and longer-term caregivers as well as those willing to run a Family Home or take on permanent guardianship and custody of a child or young person in care.

People wishing to apply should call toll free on 0508 FAMILY or 0508 326 459 or email www.cyf.govt.nz

Assorted Information

The Mental Health Foundation has prepared a South Asian Tsunami support Kit:

SOUTH ASIAN TSUNAMI SUPPORT KIT

The devastation of recent events has impacted on the lives of many New Zealanders. This may have been directly through experiencing the tsunami, losing loved ones, and/or losing home communities, or indirectly through media responses to an event of this intensity. However, for some people, they may be particularly distressing. Indeed, many people are concerned about the potential impact on their whanau, family, friends, children, young people and students, colleagues and/or communities.

This support kit is designed to provide all New Zealanders with information on supporting the mental and emotional well being of themselves and others when coping with the effects of the South Asian Tsunami. It is intended as a generic guide to people wanting to access and provide appropriate support. It contains general suggestions, tips, and information, and is a link for further specialised resources within Aotearoa/New Zealand. It is not designed as a therapeutic tool in and of itself. Please, if you or someone you know is particularly effected by the event, seek appropriate support.

CONTENTS:

1. Support for Adults

How Can I Build a Supportive Environment?

How Can I know if myself or Someone Else Is Especially Distressed?

How Can I Seek Professional Help?

2. Positive Ways of Helping Children and Young People

How Will I Know If a Child or Young Person Is Especially Distressed?

How Can I Talk To A Child or Young Person About the Tsunami?

What Can Children and Young People Do?

What Can I Do?

What Additional Things Can Schools Do?

3. Community Resources and Services
Useful Trauma, Change, Loss and Grief Related Resources
Useful New Zealand Health Website Links
Contact Numbers and Support Services

The Mental Health Foundation hopes you find it helpful, and welcome any feedback. To view it go to www.mentalhealth.org.nz and look under 'spotlight'

Sponsored Service Directory by the CMDHB:

Webhealth is a **FREE community organisation** designed to link people to health and social services. Besides being FREE, compliments of the DHB the other benefits of webhealth are: 24/7, User Friendly, Local, Anonymous

Quality Information...

ACC, POLICE, WINZ, HUMAN RIGHTS, HEALTH & DISABILITY COMMISSIONS, Another Avenue of Access
There's a SECTION on Finding a Health and Social Service Provider full with: Provider profiles. Services provided. Cost and a PIN number to make changes.

Resource Information including:

Funding concerns. Therapies descriptions NZAC. Disability & Mental Health issues. Community Noticeboard. This is driven and run by the Community for Community.

The website goes "live" after May of next year with a launch and an invitation to you for registering. Please register yourself absolutely FREE! On the attached link: www.webhealth.co.nz/countiesmanukau, or contact: Webhealth Promoter Counties Manukau Team, 021 750 743, email fiapaipai@webhealth.co.nz, or website www.webhealth.co.nz/countiesmanukau.

Societies Online:

On 2 November the Companies Office launched a new website for incorporated societies and charitable trusts.

This website has been launched so that they can improve service delivery to organisations operating in the voluntary sector. The new website has enabled them to implement online document registration services for incorporated societies, and ensure they can better target information and resources to incorporated societies and charitable trusts. Initial client feedback on the new website has been very positive.

Now is a great time to ensure the contact details we hold for your society are current - including an email address if you have one. It is very important you keep your email address for communication up to date, as we will send out any correspondence e.g. reminders to file annual financial statements.

To update your details online go to www.societies.govt.nz and from the left-hand menu select Maintain Organisation Details / Update Organisation Details. You will need to enter your registry key and then you will be able to amend any incorrect details we have for your society.

You are also now able to include additional information such as your public email address; website address and contact phone number so people are able to get in touch with you more easily. Online services for charitable trusts will be launched in early 2005.

For more information or help with using the societies online services, access the information library on the left hand menu at www.societies.govt.nz, or contact us on 0508 762 438

TXT B4 U BUY:

When buying a second hand vehicle privately you should always check that it isn't subject to a registered security interest (debt), otherwise the vehicle could be repossessed. When consumers purchase a vehicle from a registered trader they buy the vehicle free of security interests, meaning the trader is responsible for checking the PPSR. However, when purchasing privately it is the responsibility of the buyer to search the PPSR.

TXT B4 U BUY will give you an immediate indicative "Yes" or "No" as to whether or not finance is owing on the vehicle you want to buy. **Simply enter the vehicle registration plate into your mobile phone then TXT to FIND (3463). A text response will be sent back to you shortly after.**

It is strongly recommended that in any check you include the VIN number of the vehicle as well. Simply text search by entering the vehicle registration plate number followed by? And the VIN number then TXT to FIND (3463). Please note there are no spaces between any of the characters in this search i.e. Registration number (up to 6 characters) is followed immediately by? Then immediately by the VIN number (17 characters). Standard charges apply to all text messages. Third party providers will also be able to provide other information about the vehicle.

The Ministry is currently conducting a public awareness campaign promoting this mobile service which helps to protect those individuals in the market for a second hand vehicle.

Alternatively, a full search can be done on our website at www.ppsr.govt.nz.

“Cut Price Kids: Does the ‘Working for Families’ Budget work for children?”

Child Poverty Action Group’s (CPAG) latest report on family incomes and assistance is now available. Written by Susan St John and David Craig, the report exposes how 175 000 of the country’s poorest children will be left behind in the government’s new, important family assistance package.

Although CPAG aim to recover costs of \$10 per copy, CPAG understand this may be beyond what some people can afford. Where that is the case, they are happy to send free or ‘cut price’ copies to those interested!

E-copies are still freely available on the web: www.cpag.org.nz You can post orders to CPAG PO Box 56-150 Auckland, or just email admin@cpag.org.nz, enclosing your postal details.

Want to Chat online with other NZ foster parents?

Then go to Peter Fosters – Foster Care New Zealand Otago website at www.nzfostering.netfirms.com. Click on Peter’s photo and follow the instructions.

Or

Go directly to www.fosterparents.com/ChatEntry.htm, and follow the instructions.

For New Zealand Foster parents to chat online together – hook onto the above chat line between 7.30pm and 9.30pm most nights. If connecting at other times, you may enjoy the company of foster parents from around the world.

This is a fun way to get to know other foster parents around the country, as well as a safe way to ask questions that may be concerning you about fostering, as a nickname may be used. If nobody is on line when you first connect – just leave your name showing for a while. Someone else may connect to chat shortly.

Wildspace Rocks CD (NEW):

Wildspace Rocks CD \$25 (GST incl.)

Orders for the Wildspace Rocks CD can be made by fax, email, phone or post, and you will be invoiced with the resources when they are sent to you.

The Wildspace band is a delicious blend of teachers, family and friends of Childspace Early Learning centres in Wellington, Aotearoa. Wildspace Rocks is an album created for children that doesn't patronise. The album features all original words and music covering subjects such as friendship, pets, germs, fairytales, and the seaside. There are ballads, rock, blues, jazz and country songs. Children of all ages will love these songs!

For any queries please email institute@childspace.co.nz

CHILDSPACES - a DESIGN SOURCEBOOK for Early Childhood Environments:

Design Sourcebook \$40 (GST incl.)

Orders for the Design Sourcebook can be made by fax, email, phone or post, and you will be invoiced when the resources are sent to you.

Foreward

The sub-title of the Childspaces book: "a design sourcebook for early childhood environments" emphasizes the word 'design'. As readers will see for themselves, there is a good reason for that emphasis. Toni and Robin Christie demonstrate a flair and passion for good design - design to please the eye; design to feed children's active senses, minds and bodies; design to address potential safety hot spots: design to protect adult backs; and design to reduce clutter.

Some of their designs serve several purposes - for example, changing tables with steps alongside for toddlers who love to climb up for their special one-on-one nappy change time and for minimising adult back strain. Once a toddler has climbed down, a gate at the bottom is shut to prevent any 'adventurer' climbing up without adult supervision. Some designs are tactile as well as visual, and their photos are so good that my grandson reached out to 'feel' the natural materials.

The book is intended for adults who want to incorporate Childspace design ideas into their own early childhood education environments, and practical tips are provided for those who do. I have learned, by getting to know them, that this generosity to the sector is typical of Toni and Robin. More centres have been asking them to do their design work than they are able to do in person. This book, with its excellent photos and practical yet enthusiastic text, allows a much wider audience to take advantage of their ideas, and more children and adults will benefit from the results.

Anne Meade, Ph.D.

The Sourcebook is intended to benefit early childhood centre teachers, managers, owners, students and environment enthusiasts everywhere in the early childhood field.

For any queries please email institute@childspace.co.nz

Parent to Parent Auckland:

Auckland region is currently operating under National Office. **Ph:** 09 625 5021 **Fax:** 09 625 5027 **Mail Address:** PO Box 24 753, Royal Oak, Auckland **Office Location:** c/- CCS Royal Oak, 14 Erson Avenue, Royal Oak, Auckland **Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday: 9am - 2.30pm Superclinic Thursday Morning **Contact:** Co-ordinator – Michelle **Email:** p2pauckland@xtra.co.nz

Parent to Parent Auckland covers the greater Auckland area.

Services:

- ?? Matching with a similar family
- ?? Information
- ?? Support Parent Training
- ?? Local Group Newsletter

Events and Activities

Coffee Support Meeting - Third Monday of the month

The Dyspraxia Support Group of N.Z. (Inc.)- Auckland:

Local contact: Jane Carew, Phone (09) 623 4010.

A.D.H.D Support Group Meetings West Auckland:

Third Monday of every month. Speaker: David Curtis of Active8

Venue: Ignite Waitakare, 184 Lincoln Road, Henderson

Time: 7-9 pm

Contact: Elizabeth (09) 810 8610 or Sue (09) 834 9559

Howick/Pakuranga Contact: Diane Wellacott 10am - 4pm, Phone (09) 570 5646

South Auckland Special Needs Support Group Office/Drop in Centre:

Phone (09) 278 2804. Co-ordinator: Sandy Jayne Crookes Franklin contact: Christine (09) 235 0204 Papakura contact: Jayne Muir (09) 298 2347

Research Funding Opportunities:

Barnardos New Zealand has recently identified its research priorities for the coming year. Researchers and postgraduate research students are invited to consider working collaboratively with this community provider of services to children and families. Information about Barnardos' research priorities, Barnardos' research guidelines and application forms are available online at: www.barnardos.org.nz/GetInvolved/Research.asp.

Or contact Samantha Oakley at Barnardos (Tel: 04 385 7560) for more information.

Youth Week 2005 – NZAAHD:

YOUTHWEEK dates 2005 is 9th - 15th May. Anoushka Issac, a Youthline Wellington volunteer and design graduate, will be helping to co-ordinate Youth Week starting mid-January.

The theme for 2005 will be **RE: DEFINE!** - Redefining stereotypes of young people and turning them into something more positive.

For more information visit www.nzaahd.org.nz.

Giant Leap: Excellence in Disability Arts:

International Disability Arts Festival 28th February – 6th March 2005 at The Auckland Performing Arts Centre (TAPAC), Western Springs, Auckland. Part of AK05 (Auckland Festival).

Visit www.giantleap.org.nz or email info@giantleap.org.nz for full programme details.

Auckland Sustainable Cities Programme Regional Child and Youth Development Forum:

With Guest speaker – Dr Cindy Kiro, NZ Commissioner for Children.

FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2005
9.15 A.M. – 12 NOON
MANGAWHAU ROOM, LEVEL 2,
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
65 MAIN HIGHWAY, ELLERSLIE

A best practice forum for central and local government agencies and community to share information and learning about:

- child & youth development
- youth participation
- sustainable development
- evidenced-based practice &
- whole of government approaches.

Your RSVP appreciated to Kelly Gregory: Email: Kelly.Gregory001@msd.govt.nz Telephone: 917-7744 by 5 p.m. Friday 18 February 2005

Child Abuse Prevention Services: Free Phone 0800 228 737:

Calls to this number are anonymous, accessible, but anti-abuse. Calls will be answered 24 hours a day. Someone will: * listen * give helpful advice * list your options * help you to cope * refer you to another Agency if needed * be supportive * talk you through.

Available for: parents, step parents, grandparents, caregivers, children & teenagers.

Choices for Children: Childcare and Education Services:

A New Zealand broadcast quality video – Duration 20 minutes

Purpose:

1. To promote early childhood education and show the benefits.
2. To show what can be reasonably expected from any service.

3. To support and empower parents in deciding to use an early childhood service and in selecting one that will make a really positive difference for their child and family.
4. To focus attention on outcomes and quality of experience for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their families (i.e. Will your child be happy? Will your child be safe and healthy? What will your child learn? Can the service meet your family's cultural and language needs? Can your needs as a parent be met?)

Outline:

This is a New Zealand video, showing real children, families, educators and services (not actors). It is designed to allow parents and families to see inside a range of early childhood services from their living room or lounge and to encourage them to access a service. It assists them to consider their child's and their family's values and needs and how these might fit with the different choices within early childhood services. The video shows what might be reasonably expected from an early childhood service so that parents can discuss these things with their child's educator(s) to optimise benefits and outcomes for their child.

A compilation of carefully selected footage from 14 diverse early childhood services is shown and supports a well-researched script. The main options available to parents are covered. Where care and education is provided in:

- ?? the family home (Nanny, Caregiver),
- ?? someone else's home (Home Educator, Family Day Care), or
- ?? A centre (Kindergarten, Playcentre, Childcare Centre or Pre-school, Pacific Island language nest, Te Kohanga Reo, and Montessori).

The focus of the video is on the important questions to consider when choosing a service and not on the types of services available. One type of service is not recommended over another. Viewers are asked to watch and think about they see so that they can decide what they like and what they want for their child and family. The video takes viewers beyond the issue of "quality" in early childhood education, to consider what makes for a "remarkable" early childhood service from the perspectives of children, parents and families.

Authored By: Sarah-Eve Farquhar **Date of Publication:** 2004 **Price:** \$20.00

To place an order or for more information contact: Dr. Sarah Farquhar, PO Box 58-078, Whitby, Porirua, New Zealand.

Email: sarah@CHILDforum.com Website: <http://www.CHILDforum.com>

What is Skylight?

Skylight provides unique support to children, young people and their families through tough times of change, loss and grief – whatever the cause. A not for profit organisation, we operate the most extensive specialist resource and information centre in New Zealand focusing on change, loss and grief.

1. They publish and sell specialist books on change, loss and grief. This material is for young children, right through to teenagers and young adults, and for adults themselves.
2. They have a national loan library (books, videos and games).
3. They provide a personalised information service on change, loss and grief issues.

Skylight also provides specialist counselling and support for individuals, groups and families. They undertake customised training on change, loss and grief for individuals, families, professionals and agencies. They advocate for increased awareness of the massive impact of change, loss and grief issues on society, and offer strategic solutions.

SKIP programme uses Skylight's The Anger Toolbox:

As part of its SKIP strategy to inform and equip parents, the Ministry of Social Development has recently used Skylight material to produce a booklet for parents and carers.

Managing Our Anger - guidelines for parents and carers - features one chapter from skylight's very successful book, THE ANGER TOOLBOX, and this new brochure is freely available across New Zealand. Copies of this brochure, and THE ANGER TOOLBOX, can both be obtained from skylight on 0800 299 100.

SkyLight - New pamphlets launched for teens and parents:

Skylight has launched two new high quality pamphlets for groups and organisations to use to help support bereaved families and young people.

? **GRIEF IS LIKE A WAVE** - tips for tough times of change, loss and grief. This colourful pamphlet has been especially designed for NZ teenagers facing loss and has been received very enthusiastically. Finally, here is a leaflet that can be placed in a young person's hands with confidence! It also features a removable card that condenses key information and which can be kept in a wallet or pocket for later reference. Copies of this pamphlet can be purchased from Skylight.

? ANSWERING A CHILD'S QUESTIONS ABOUT DEATH AND DYING – guidelines for parents and carers. This DL pamphlet, which can be purchased from Skylight, sets out clear guidelines for parents and carers to help them answer many of the questions about death and dying that children most commonly ask.

Both above items are available in bulk to keep costs low, and to order simply call free on 0800 299 100, fax 04 939 4759 or email reception@skylight-trust.org.nz.

Take it from us: Community Mental Health Forum – Radio Show:

'Take It From Us' is a radio show Live to Air every Tuesday from 12-30pm to 1-30pm on Access Radio, 104.6 FM Auckland.

The aim of the show is to reduce stigma and misunderstanding about mental health, by giving organisations, service providers and individuals the opportunity to inform, educate, and entertain the listening public.

'Take it from us' is the work of mental health consumers with input from the many people from different cultures who live or work in the world of mental health. The show offers a glimpse of mental health clients as ordinary people facing different challenges.

Expect a variety of guests including psychiatrists, politicians, nurses, musicians, overseas mental health experts, and mental health professionals. 'Take It From Us' has a tape library and catalogue of its' programmes at Framework Trust – www.framework.org.nz.

'Mind Your Health' – book by The Mental Health Foundation:

The Mental Health Foundation has published the first-ever practical book about how to promote mental health and wellbeing for New Zealand (September 2004), with many agencies responding very positively to this resource through their prior contributions into its development.

To purchase a copy (\$50 + p&p) contact the National Information Service and Resource Centre (09) 300 7030 or email resource@mentalhealth.org.nz. Alternatively the book is available as part of a [training package](#)

So often, the focus of their work is on problems and ill health. 'Mind Your Health' is about how to promote mental health and wellbeing in your work, amongst the people you work alongside, and within your own life.

Since 1974, the Mental Health Foundation has worked to improve the mental health of all people and communities in New Zealand. This book is seen as a useful way to share ideas, research and examples that work. Particularly, the book is for people working within:

- ?? health, welfare and social agencies
- ?? volunteer, community groups and non-government organisations
- ?? central and local government agencies
- ?? mental health promoters and health promoters
- ?? community development and whanau development
- ?? schools, and with young people
- ?? Community, primary health and public health agencies.

'Mind Your Health' details;

- ?? the 'big picture' - what affects people's mental health e.g., environmental, social, cultural, historical, physical, spiritual, economic and political elements
- ?? what mental health promotion is, where it can happen, and with who
- ?? practical steps for planning, delivering and evaluating successful mental health and wellbeing work in New Zealand
- ?? examples of New Zealand mental health and wellbeing programmes, policies, and practice, including evidence and evaluation
- ?? commonly used mental health promotion concepts, models and approaches
- ?? benefits of promoting mental health, and
- ?? tips to enable workers to better take care of themselves

What's Up – Key Facts:

- What's up is a free telephone counselling service for children and young people aged five to 18 years.
- The What's Up help line number is 0800 WHATSUP (080 09428787)
- What's Up operates seven days a week from 12 midday to 12 midnight.
- What's Up receives about 900 calls every day. Current funding enables it's counsellors to answer about 280 of these.
- What's Up is unique in that it offers early intervention, rather than picking up the pieces later.
- More than 40% of the problems children and young people call What's Up about involve relationships with peers, family and partners.
- What's Up counsellors are paid professionals, trained specially in techniques and skills for counselling children and young people by telephone.

Opportunity for All New Zealanders:

A new approach to cross-government action for social progress – *Opportunity for All New Zealanders* – has been announced.

“*Opportunity for All*” spells out the vision of an inclusive New Zealand where all people have the opportunity to fulfil their potential, prosper as individuals and as families, and participate in the social, economic, political and cultural life of their communities and nation.

"It pulls together more than 70 key social sector strategies, representing the work of more than 30 government agencies."

Opportunity for All New Zealanders is the government's response to the state of social wellbeing, reflected in *The Social Report 2004*.

It identifies five critical social issues as priorities for interagency action over the next three to five years:

- improving educational achievement among low socio-economic groups
- increasing opportunities for people to participate in sustainable employment
- promoting healthy eating and healthy action
- reducing tobacco, alcohol and other drug abuse
- minimising family violence and abuse and neglect of children and older persons.

The document can be downloaded from the Ministry of Social Development's website at <http://www.msd.govt.nz/opportunity-for-all>. Hard copies can be obtained by emailing the Ministry of Social Development at info@msd.govt.nz.

Sparc Funding Directory:

Sparc are pleased to announce that the SPARC funding directory, is now live at the SPARC website.

The need for a directory focussing on sports and recreation funding was identified after the withdrawal of the Hillary Commission Community Sports Funding. The directory is collaboration between SPARC and the Funding Information Service. The information for the directory is fed directly from FundView and BreakOut – the first time the two information collections flow into one resource. The directory is free to view over the Internet – at the SPARC website, on their What We Do page – <http://www.sparc.org.nz/whatwedo/>.

ALAC – Youth Resource:

ALAC has recently developed new resources for young people and their parents.

‘The 6 Pack’, consists of two small booklets that go together and contain six key messages.

The first booklet concentrates on ‘facts and effects’ type of information about alcohol (called ‘Sobering Facts – what alcohol does), and the second booklet (called Smart Moves – dealing with alcohol) concentrates on ‘keeping safe’ type of information.

The booklet is designed for 14 to 17 years olds, and will provide a useful resource for youth workers, teachers and health promoters.

The resource was tested with a number of young people who attended focus group meetings.

Copies can be obtained from ALAC – Alcohol Advisory Council, P.O. Box 5023, Wellington. Phone (04) 9170060, call free 0508 258258, fax (04) 4730890, or email central@alac.org.nz.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Trust (NZ):

The Fetal Alcohol Support Trust has a range of information about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, including discussion groups and information for parents.

For further information contact: Fetal Alcohol Support Trust, 2 Simon Place, Nawton, Hamilton, phone (07) 8476752, or 0800 006752, email fast@xtra.co.nz, or check out the website at www.fast.org.nz.

Pacific Business Directory Published:

A new directory of Pacific businesses, service providers and business people in NZ has been published by the Pacific Business Trust. The 132-page directory aims to be a comprehensive and user friendly resource.

An initial print run of 3000 copies of the directory will be made available for sale at \$14.95 per copy.

People who buy the directory will also have automatic access to the online version of the website at the Pacific Business Trust's website www.pacificbusiness.co.nz.

To place an order or for more information, contact the Pacific Business Trust on 0800 287 7526.

Littlies Lobby:

The next Littlies Lobby Breakfast is to be held at the Grand Hall – Parliament Buildings, Wellington, on the **Wednesday March 2nd 2005 from 7.15am for a 7.30am start.**

Keynote speaker will be Dr Bruce Perry – Senior Fellow, Child Trauma Academy, Texas, with support of the Brainwave Trust and the Pacific Foundation.

Breakfast seating is limited. Please RSVP before 23rd February 2005 to Deborah Morris-Travers, Littlies Lobby Coordinator, by email deborah.morris-travers@plunket.org.nz, or phone (04) 4741568.

Starship Foundation – Gala Dinner:

Date: Monday 7th February 2005

Time: 6.30pm celebrity Cocktails, 7.30pm – Dinner

Venue: The New Zealand Room, SkyCity Auckland Convention Centre, 88 Federal Street, Auckland

Dress: Lounge Suit

RSVP: Rebecca Lowe, International Events and Speakers, phone (09) 3769247, fax (09) 3769248, or email rebecca@internationalevents.co.nz.

Kidney Kids – Book for Sale:

Caitlin Davidson has illustrated a lovely book, a story about her little sister – “Will You Sleep Today Amelia Fay?” Caitlin featured on the Holmes show to promote the book.

The book is on sale at \$20 with profits going to the Kidney Kids of NZ.

For more information please contact: Dezley Davidson by email dezley@xtra.co.nz, or send \$12 (incl. P&P), with your address to Kidney Kids of NZ, P.O. Box 13732, Onehunga.

CYF – Strong Tools – items for sale:

The new Everyday Communities strengths-based tools are a range of items including balloons, T-shirts, caps, sunhats, rulers, pens, pencil cases and the interactive family calendar. They feature messages in English, Maori, Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island Maori, or Niuean.

These tools were developed by Child, youth and Family's Communications Team, and can be ordered via the Departments website www.cyf.govt.nz in the Publications/Public Education Resources section.

Yan Oi Sei – Families & Friends of Chinese with experience of mental illness in NZ:

Yan Oi Sei is a charitable registered trust that aims to provide support for families and friends with experience of mental illness in NZ. It was established on the 10th April 2003 and is funded by SF Auckland. Yan Oi Sei is different to other family support groups in terms of using the Mental Health Development approach to run its sessions.

Yan Oi Sei's psychoeducational sessions and monthly meetings will be held at:
Studio 4, te tuhi – the mark, (Pakaranga Community and Cultural Centre), 13 Reeves Road, Pakaranga, Auckland.

Yan Oi Sei will be having their Grand Opening on the 10th March 2005, at 6.30pm.

For more information contact: Vincy Tam 021 266 3725, or write, P.O. 78122, Grey Lynn, Auckland, or email yanoisei_akl@hotmail.com, or website <http://www.geocities.com/yanoisei>.

Violence Free Waitakere:

The first meeting for the year is being held on Tuesday 15th February 2005 between 1 to 3pm at 22 Moselle Ave, Henderson. Violence Free Waitakere generally meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the same time and place.

For more information please contact Elaine Dyer, Project Coordinator, P.O. Box 21920, Henderson, phone (09) 8374449.

And to End

Why?

A child is living with a family
and wonders how long she will stay.
Will it be a week or a month
before she's pulled away?
She wonders what it would
be like to have a family.
Soon she's in an orphanage,
waiting and hoping for a family.
Couples come and go and she stays.
They all want babies, NOT
Older children.
She cries herself to sleep at
night and wonders why?
Isn't she good enough,
is something wrong with her?

All she wants is a family,
a place to stay where she is loved.
One day she leaves and goes
to another family, this time for a
few weeks.
It goes on and on, and she wonders
if the next family will be permanent.
She goes through life, feeling
unwanted, unloved, never belonging.

Written by Anne V. Brady