

# Foster Care Networker

(An Independent Social Services Newsletter)  
Issue 19 –March/April 2005

## Hello and Welcome

Only one and a half more weeks until the school holidays. They start on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2005. I myself am looking forward to the school holidays – no more getting up in the dark (when it is supposedly morning), and no more having to make school lunches for two whole weeks. Now I just have to pray that the kids are nice to me, and that they all play beautifully together.

I'll let you know in the next issue, if my prayers were answered.....

In issue 17 of the Foster Care Networker, I included an 'Open Letter to Foster Children' - an article by Lawrence P Adams. Shortly after this issue went out Lawrence P Adams made direct contact with myself. He sent me through the following article for a future issue of the Foster Care Networker. Thank you Lawrence for taking the time to send this through to me.

### **A TRIBUTE TO FOSTER PARENTS**

By: Lawrence P. Adams

*I have written a number of articles where I have been extremely critical of the foster care system. I feel it is badly broken and in need of drastic reform. There is one area; however, that I have not been critical of...the foster parents.*

*It seems, from my point of view, that the only time the general public thinks of foster parents/children is when a horrendous story reaches the headlines. Even then we may only talk about the story for a few days, when it leaves the headlines...they leave our thoughts. Yes, there are a few bad apples in foster parenting, just as there are biological or adoptive parents. This however, does not portray the vast majority of foster parents. As one who lived within the foster care system for eighteen years, I believe I can speak with a degree of authority on the subject.*

*Maybe it is time for the media to tell the story of those who dedicate their lives to make a child's life better rather than the few who destroy them! Foster parents, to me, are very special people in our society. They provide a temporary refuge for those of us considered societies "throw away kids."*

*I do know that being a foster parent takes a very special type of individual. It takes someone who knows both sides of life. One who knows what it is like to be loved and also knows what it is like to be abused. I am not talking about "guessing" what abuse is like. You have to know the feelings of deep, dark despair that a child feels when he, or she, has been abused and has never been loved.*

*You see, foster parents in many situations; do not receive the perfect little boy, or the perfect little girl, when they take in a child. There is no perfect little child by the time they reach foster care. The damage has already been done and it can be very severe. Children have already been physically or sexually abused, neglected, moved numerous times on the foster care system merry-go-round or just plain abandoned. Yet, foster parents take us kids into their homes for short or extended periods of time. They attempt to provide the nurturing, care and love that has been deprived us.*

*Many times they do this at great emotional and financial expense to themselves. Most are not fostering for the money, but for the love of the child. They often feel as abandoned by the system as do many of the kids. They should not also go bankrupt in the process. Often, though the system says they are part of a team, foster parents are left swinging in the wind...left to the whim of the current social worker assigned to the child. Their opinions about the child, their progress or problems are left unheard. The "so called" experts feel they know best! However, who knows better what is going on in a child's life than those caring for him/her twenty-four hours a day. Rather than be considered a "servant" of the system...they should be considered their most valuable resource and the "true" experts.*

*I receive e-mails daily or read posts from groups on the Internet from across the country. In one day recently I received notices from MO, CT, IL, OH, PA, CA, NE, FL and WI. The children have ranged being in the system from one-half year to nine years. Some have had several moves in this time period. The biological parents have been given several stays before TPR proceedings were begun or have yet to begin. All are in foster homes that wish to adopt them into their families if given the opportunity. If a foster parent appears to be advocating "too hard" for a child in their care they are threatened with simply having the child removed from their home. It is things such as this that foster parents must deal with, and they do. Why?...for the love of children!*

*I for one believe foster parents are the spine and backbone of the foster care system. It is time they are not only heard but also actually listened to by those in charge. Many counties and states are pleading for people to become or stay foster parents, maybe if they were allowed to really be a part of the team, listened to and cared about...more would.*

*To foster parents everywhere I say a very humble yet sincere THANK YOU for all that you do! You may not know the impact you have on a child's life while they are with you, but you will have one! I for one do not know where I would be today if it were not for people such as you willing to open your home to me as a child. I will be forever grateful. Please continue to be a great strength and courage for children. Sometimes the fruits of your labor may take years to harvest. You must always keep in mind, when taking in a foster child, that you are working toward, not just saving a child, but saving an adult later on down the road.*

*I have made something of my life, not because of the system and what it put me through as a child, but in spite of it. I wish I could take full credit. But the credit is not mine to take. The credit belongs to those who took, however briefly, the time to make a difference in my life. YOU are my heroes. You may never get a medal or an award. You, however, will be able to know that many of your kids of today or us kids of yesteryear became something...just because of YOU!*

*I was fortunate to be able to maintain a close relationship with one of my foster families for years after I was removed from their home for the third and final time. I loved them deeply and they will always remain Mom and Dad to me. They knew what they meant to me and the impact they had on my life. They are now long passed on but their impact will continue throughout my life.*

*You may never know the true impact you have had on a child who has been in your home, however, rest assured there are thousands across the country who say a quiet thank you and a prayer for you each and every night.*

© 2004 Lawrence P. Adams

#### **ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

*In 2004, Lawrence P. Adams wrote 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."*

*With a growing corps of loyal readers, he shares yet another inspirational and moving book, "A Voice from the Voiceless and Forgotten."*

*It could also bring about the beginning of change within the foster-care-system. The book will be released during the summer of 2005.*

*Mr. Adams has had numerous articles published of the need for child welfare reform and shares his inspiring message with groups around the country. He serves as an Advocacy Ambassador for International Advocates for Children.*

Thank you Lawrence Adams – Sometimes when a child comes into my home that is extremely difficult, I often have to remind myself why I continue to be a fosterparent. It's reading and hearing the positive stories like yours, which keeps me here. We can only plant the seed – but it just may be that seed, which changes a child's future for the better.

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information within this newsletter, I do not guarantee it's correctness, and I do not accept any legal responsibility. Please feel free to send me through any items for future issues of the Foster Care Networker to the contact details below.

Allysa Carberry

[Carberrys@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Carberrys@xtra.co.nz)

[www.hrs.org.nz/fostercare](http://www.hrs.org.nz/fostercare)

## **Up Coming Conferences**

### **ESOL Home Tutors National Conference:**

The National Association of ESOL Home Tutor Schemes will be holding their national conference at the Brentwood Hotel, Wellington from the **6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2005**. The theme for the conference is 'Settlement through English, Making a Difference'.

For more details please contact Claire Szabo , PO Box 12114, Wellington. Phone (04) 4712382 Email [natoffice@esolht.org.nz](mailto:natoffice@esolht.org.nz), website address <http://www.esolht.org.nz/about/>

### **National Local Authority Community Development Conference:**

Hosted by the New Plymouth & South Taranaki District Council Town on the **21-23rd September 2005**.

This conference is for those working in, and interested in community development in NZ. To share best practice, network, upskill, and energise! International delegates and Keynotes. The theme for this conference is 'Energise, our selves, our community, our world'

For more information please contact Andy Gowland-Douglas Postal address New Plymouth District Council, Private Bag 2025, New Plymouth. Phone (06) 7596060 Email [csandy@npdc.govt.nz](mailto:csandy@npdc.govt.nz) Website address <http://www.newplymouth2005.com>

### **SPINZ Symposiums:**

2005 Symposium – To be held in Christchurch, **13-14 October 2005**

*Theme: Suicide and Gender*

For more information or to register your interest please contact Te Rina Moke [terina@mentalhealth.org.nz](mailto:terina@mentalhealth.org.nz)  
ph (09) 300 7036

### **International Gambling Conference, Policy, Practice and Research – one year on:**

This conference provides a forum to examine current international developments in gambling policy, practice and research.

27-28 May 2005, Auckland  
AUT, Auckland

To view an online brochure go to

[http://www.aut.ac.nz/about/news & information/conferences/gambling and problem gambling in new zealand/?fs=0](http://www.aut.ac.nz/about/news_and_information/conferences/gambling_and_problem_gambling_in_new_zealand/?fs=0)

### **Safety in Schools for Queers:**

National Conference, Saint Andrews on the Terrace, Wellington, on the **11-12 June 2005**.

Safety in schools for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people is one of the next big human rights issues facing the queer community. 12.9% of non-heterosexual secondary students report that they are bullied at least once a week. 9% say they don't feel safe at school, and a further 25% only feel safe sometimes!

Registration Fee  
Waged, (circle) \$30  
Koha/donation for students and unwaged

Funding may be available for travel to the conference if you are a young person, student or PPTA member. Cheap accommodation is also being organised.

For more information write to SS4Q, C/- Awhina Centre PO Box 9247, Marion Square, Wellington  
Or email: [sarah.helm@nzaf.org.nz](mailto:sarah.helm@nzaf.org.nz). Check [www.outthere.org.nz](http://www.outthere.org.nz) <<http://www.outthere.org.nz>> for further details, or phone Sarah Helm on (04) 3816640

\*Queer is a reclaimed word inclusive of all members of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, fa'afafine, takatapui, and other sexual minority and non-heterosexual communities. We acknowledge that it is a word with which not all people will wish to be identified.

Out There is a national queer\* youth development project run by the New Zealand Aids Foundation and Rainbow Youth. The aim of Out There is to improve the well being of queer youth in Aotearoa/NZ.

### **Seventh Young Maori Leaders' Conference 2005:**

**20 & 21 June 2005, The Wellington Town Hall - For Young Maori with Leadership Potential**

The Young Maori Leaders' Conferences takes committed young Maori leaders from the iwi, business, government, and community sectors to provide an unprecedented opportunity for examining complex and interdependent development issues such as education, justice, the economy and whanaungatanga. It offers participants shared visions and collaborative approaches to New Zealand's development, implements innovative models for change, and engages leaders in pioneering projects with social benefit.

This conference offers to participants collaborative leadership skills and a greater understanding of the inter relatedness of all parts of society. Organisation's which sponsor employees and participants can benefit from new skills perspectives and

networks across all sectors. The community benefits as participants actively engage with social problems and develop a common approach to finding solutions

Invitations are herewith extended to Young Maori with expectation of leadership roles (through personal dedication or thrust upon them) to attend the Seventh YMLC. Themes to be covered are:

- ?? Leadership and social innovation
- ?? Iwi, hapu and whanau development
- ?? New pattern changing approaches to social issues
- ?? The Politics of Mana Maori
- ?? Strategic Planning
- ?? Community Relations
- ?? Language acquisition

### 13 Reasons Why Potential Leaders in Your Organisation Should Attend:

1. Smart CEOs are making strategic investments in leadership development to ensure that their key organisation executives produce consistent and positive results
2. The need for good leaders is undisputed. Discussion continues on how best to develop current and future leaders. How do the best organisations select and groom their leaders and what processes transform managers into leaders who can make the decisions and set strategies that will be victorious in an arena where there are no second chances?
3. For leadership development to be effective in the change process, it must be aligned with all the strategic objectives of the organization. By aligning leadership with corporate strategy will new challenges and global market constraints be met.
4. All best practice organisations create a separate corporate leadership development function that focuses on leadership skills and business specific skill development to the business themselves
5. A majority of best practice organisations have identified leadership competencies or, at least, tried to define characteristics and qualities of successful leaders. Any discussion of leadership competencies helps organisations to understand those qualities, characteristics, and skills that lead to outstanding performance.
6. Best practice organisations grow leaders as opposed to buying them by emphasising that their top leaders come from within the organisation
7. Best practice organisations lean towards internal leaders because of the powerful and distinct cultures in which they work. These organisations see their strong cultures as critical to continued success
8. Best practice organisations focus on getting the right people into the right programmes. They are clear about the type of individual and the type of programme they want for their leadership development process to determine who will be selected as a participant
9. Best practice organisations spend a great deal of time deciding who needs to be involved in leadership development
10. Action, not knowledge, is the goal of best practice leadership development processes. In preparing their leaders to make critical decisions, these organisations have realised the need to do more than simply provide their leaders with knowledge and information. The right knowledge can build a strong foundation, but the leadership development process must also equip participants with the skills, qualities, and techniques to apply that knowledge in ambiguous situations.
11. Experience of getting leaders away from jobs and providing kanohi ki te kanohi exposure to colleagues from across Te Ao Maori is an essential part of best practice programmes
12. The leadership development process is linked to the organisation's succession planning efforts. As a part of the alignment between leadership development and other corporate systems, best practice organizations have a tie between educational efforts and the formal succession process
13. Each of the leadership development efforts studied begin with a commitment unique to the organisation, and from that solid foundation the organisation has built superb programs and processes

For more information or to register please go to [www.firstfound.org](http://www.firstfound.org) or contact us at [ymlc2005@firstfound.org](mailto:ymlc2005@firstfound.org). Or write to P.O.Box 1078, Shortland Street, Auckland, Tel: (09) 3676804, Fax: (09) 3676805

**Foundations: New Zealand Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services National Conference:**  
22<sup>nd</sup> and 23 September 2005, The Dunedin Centre, Dunedin

Email: [childconference@healthotago.co.nz](mailto:childconference@healthotago.co.nz) or call 027 223 6386  
Website [wwwFOUNDATIONS.CO.NZ](http://wwwFOUNDATIONS.CO.NZ)

In association with Foundation **Pasifika Child & Family Mental Health fono announcement.**  
This fono is for all people who work in or have an interest in Pacific Child & Adolescent Mental Health.  
Email: [Monique@ficl.co.nz](mailto:Monique@ficl.co.nz) or phone (09) 373 7599 x84956

### **National Network for Living without Violence:**

Family Violence Conference – 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2005. This conference is to be held in Auckland.

Proposed speakers: Fernando Merderos and Mason Durie.

For further information on submitting papers for the conference, or on the conference itself, please contact Holly Carrington on (09) 3033938 ext. 707. Email: [enquires@preventingviolence.org.nz](mailto:enquires@preventingviolence.org.nz), [www.livingwithoutviolence.org.nz](http://www.livingwithoutviolence.org.nz)

### **NZ Association of Child & Family Support & Community Services:**

Annual Conference – 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> September 2005, to be held at the Airport Centra Hotel, Mangere, Auckland.

This conference will have:

- Stimulating Keynote Speakers
- Interesting Workshops
- Opportunities to Network

For more information or to register, please contact the Conference Organiser – Barbara Burt, by phone (09) 4347867, mobile 027 473 9794, or email [barbara.burt@xtra.co.nz](mailto:barbara.burt@xtra.co.nz), or [www.theorganisation.org.nz](http://www.theorganisation.org.nz).

### **Future Direction – Mental Health Wellbeing in Schools:**

International Conference to be held in Christchurch 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

Email for expressions of interest stating NZSEA 2005 in the subject line to [team@conferenceteam.co.nz](mailto:team@conferenceteam.co.nz)

Keynote Speakers: Professor Garry Hornby and Mary Atkinson, Dr Catherine Wiltshire, Professor David Fergusson, Associate Professor Richie Poulton, Dr Chris Hardwick, Dr Lara Farrell and many excellent workshops on a wide variety of subjects.

The NZSEA Canterbury is a group of people primarily involved with education who have a particular interest in Special Education. They organised the very successful National conference: *Future Directions* September 2000 held in Christchurch.

### **Many Faces of Abuse:**

A conference to address the presence, nature and impact of abuse in care settings

To be held at the Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre, Mt Wellington, Auckland - 10th - 12th August 2005.

#### Purpose:

The conference is seeking to promote a deeper understanding of:

- ?? The nature, presence and experience of abuse in care environments.
- ?? The influence of systems and care environments in the presence of abuse.
- ?? A means of address to the issues of abuse.

#### Registrations

Registrations will be available in early April 2005.

#### Presenters

The Keynote [presenters](#) are: **Jo Massarelli**, Massachusetts, USA, **Anne McDonald**, Victoria, Australia, **Marc Tumeinski**, Massachusetts, USA, **Christopher Newell**, Tasmania, Australia.

The Principal presenters are: **Dr Martin Sullivan**, Palmerston North, New Zealand and **Huhana Hickey**, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand.

### Who Should Attend

Attendance at this conference is a necessity for all people with a commitment to advancing the personhood of those who are dependent upon formal and informal caregivers.

It will be of particular interest to:

- ?? Disabled people.
- ?? Older people.
- ?? People with mental illness.
- ?? People who support the wellbeing of children and their families and caregivers.

For more information please contact by email [standardsplus@imaginebetter.co.nz](mailto:standardsplus@imaginebetter.co.nz), Phone (09) 262 5374, Fax (09) 262 5371, or by post to Standards Plus, PO Box 23725, Hunters Corner, Papatoetoe, Auckland

## **Workshops/Seminars/Training**

### **CYF/NZFFCF Joint Training for Caregivers:**

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, which is due to be released shortly.

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

#### **April 2005**

<b>Course</b>	<b>To Be held</b>	<b>When</b>	
Non Violence Crisis	Nelson	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> April	
Legal Issues	Porirua	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> April	
Safe caring	Invercargill	8 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup> April	
Managing Behaviour	Waitakere	8 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup> April	
Safe Caring	Whangarei	9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup> April	
Family Dynamics	Taupo	11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> April	9am to 4pm
Caregiver Induction	Porirua	12 <sup>th</sup> /13 <sup>th</sup> April	
Legal Issues	Lower Hutt	14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> April	
Caregiver Induction	Wanganui	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> April	9am to 4pm
Legal Issues	Gis/Wairoa	28 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> April	

#### **May 2005**

<b>Course</b>	<b>To be Held</b>	<b>When</b>	
Understanding Maltreatment	Dunedin	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> May	
Understanding Maltreatment	Waihi	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> May	
Caregiver Induction	Waitakere	6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> May	
Caregiver Induction	Auckland South	6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> May	
Child Health	New Plymouth	9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup> May	
Managing Behaviour	Ash/Timaru	9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup> May	
Caregiver Induction	New Plymouth	11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> May	
Managing Behaviour	Auckland South	13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> May	Evening & Day
Managing Behaviour	Nap/Hast/CHB	13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> May	
Caregiver Induction	Balclutha	14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> May	
Caregiver Induction	Hamilton	14 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> May	
Non Violent Crisis	Nelson	12 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> /26 <sup>th</sup> May	7pm to 10pm
Caregiver Induction	Greymouth	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> May	Evening & Day
Caregiver Induction	Wellington	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> May	
Caregiver Induction	Mast/Dann	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> May	
Legal Issues	Westport	20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> May	
Safe Caring	Christchurch	20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> May	

Legal Issues	Whangarei	21 <sup>st</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup> May	
Understanding Maltreatment	Horowhenua	21 <sup>st</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Fri night-Sat
Child Health	Tauranga	23 <sup>rd</sup> /24 <sup>th</sup> May	9am to 4pm
Legal Issues	Alexandra	26 <sup>th</sup> /27 <sup>th</sup> May	
Family Dynamics	Auckland South	27 <sup>th</sup> /28 <sup>th</sup> May	
Caregiver Induction	Nelson	27 <sup>th</sup> /28 <sup>th</sup> May	

### **Association of Non-Governmental Organisations of Aotearoa – (ANGOA):**

The first forum is to be held in Wellington on the **18 May 2005, 2pm — 5pm.**

These Forums are convened by ANGOA - the Association of NGOs of Aotearoa, and the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector. They are open to all that are working to increase the pool of information on the sector by undertaking research or research-related projects, or by promoting or funding research.

#### Venue:

The Auditorium, 3rd Floor, Bowen State Building, Bowen Street, Wellington

Please RSVP to [dave.henderson@angoa.org.nz](mailto:dave.henderson@angoa.org.nz) by 10 May 2005.

#### Future meeting schedule:

?? 17 August, 2pm — 5pm

?? 16 November, 2pm — 5pm

For more information please contact Dave Henderson , by post, PO Box 12470, Wellington, Phone (04) 9727708 Email [dave.henderson@angoa.org.nz](mailto:dave.henderson@angoa.org.nz) Website address <http://www.angoa.org.nz>

### **Pathways into the World of Work – Career Services:**

Career Services in Manukau City invite all Parents who are new New Zealanders and members of the community of South Auckland to come to an evening where you can find out about Pathways into Training, Work Opportunities, Apprenticeships and Career Decision making. To be held on the **15th June 2005.**

For more information please contact Carey Murphy Postal address PO Box 76306, Manukau City, Auckland Phone (09) 2624251 Email [cmurp@careers.govt.nz](mailto:cmurp@careers.govt.nz) Website address <http://careers.govt.nz>

### **Communication within Conflict – Volunteering Canterbury:**

Conflict is common and normal and the result of diversity and difference. How we react to conflict will determine to a large extent our ability to resolve it. Participants in this workshop will learn:

?? How to identify the ingredients of conflicts and their own responses to conflict.

?? Effective communications skills — active listening skills, assertion techniques, looking for common ground.

?? How to find solutions that are sustainable and will improve the relationship.

Cost \$60 (\$35 for members of Volunteering Canterbury). This course is to be held in Christchurch on the 12 May 2005.

For more information please contact Catherine Harris Postal address Box 13698, Christchurch 8031 Phone 03 3662442 Email [vc@volcan.org.nz](mailto:vc@volcan.org.nz) Website address <http://www.volcan.org.nz>

### **From Strength to Strength – James Family:**

The James Family is offering a powerful foundation course in Strengths-Based Practice.

By attending this hands-on training course you will:

?? Gain a clear understanding of strengths-based practice, solution-focused practice

?? Explore the conditions necessary for growth and change, and identify structural and personal constraints

?? Explore the practical implications of how these principles shape service delivery and organisational structures, including case planning and management

?? Practice the skills of this approach

?? Gain valuable skills in identifying and highlighting strengths and resources for change

- ?? Gain new tools and techniques which enhance the application of strengths-based solution-focused principles for your practice
- ?? Receive a certificate in recognition of your training

Where and when:

- Auckland - 18 / 19 April 05
- New Plymouth - 10/11 May 05
- New Plymouth - 16, 17 May 2005

For a registration form, or further information on these workshops, please contact Fiona Wormald by post, James Family, 1083 Eruera Street, Rotorua, or Phone (07) 3490990 Email [training@jamesfamily.org.nz](mailto:training@jamesfamily.org.nz)

**Keeping children safe is a tremendous responsibility – CPS Training:**

Are you:

- Concerned about a child?
- Confused over what to do, or whose responsibility it is?
- Uncertain about getting involved or making a referral?

CPS Training is pleased to offer - Certificate in Child Protection Studies

A highly successful Child Protection education programme providing the skills and confidence to take positive action and keep children & families safe.

To be held in

- Manukau - 21-24 and 27-29 June 2005 A seven-day course, running 9am – 4pm each day
- Waitakere - 15-19 August 2005 A five-day course, running 9am – 4pm each day

For further information about Child Protection Training or to register please contact CPS Training, PO Box 679, Hamilton Phone 07 838 3370, Fax 07 838 9950, Email [dianne@cpstraining.co.nz](mailto:dianne@cpstraining.co.nz), [www.cpstraining.co.nz](http://www.cpstraining.co.nz)

**Keepwell Courses:**

Half-day workshops are \$80 and full day workshops are \$180, including publications.

- April 12 - Working with Voices - Fickling Centre, 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings, AUCKLAND
- April 14 - Psychiatric 1st Aide in Psychosis - Fickling Centre, 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings, AUCKLAND
- April 15 - Hearing Voices that are distressing, *In partnership with Hapu te Howaru Tapuni* - Fickling Centre 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings, AUCKLAND. Register your booking with Hapai Te Hauora Tapui Ltd for discount by email [iritana@hapai.co.nz](mailto:iritana@hapai.co.nz)
- April 19 - Hearing Voices that are distressing - Harbour City Motor Inn, 50 Wharf Street , TAURANGA
- April 20 - Working with Voices - Harbour City Motor Inn, 50 Wharf Street , TAURANGA
- April 21 - Psychiatric 1st Aide in Psychosis – WELLINGTON, Venue to be announced
- April 22 - Hearing Voices that are distressing – GREYMOUTH, Venue to be announced
- April 26 - Working with Voices – INVERCARGILL, Venue to be announced
- April 27 - Working with Voices – DUNEDIN, Venue to be announced
- April 28 - Psychiatric 1st Aide in Psychosis – TIMARU, Venue to be announced
- April 29 - Hearing Voices that are distressing – CHRISTCHURCH, Venue to be announced
- May 24 - Hearing Voices that are distressing - Pukekura Park Pavilion, Park end of Liardet St, NEW PLYMOUTH
- May 25 - Working with Voices - Pukekura Park Pavilion, Park end of Liardet St, NEW PLYMOUTH
- May 26 - Psychiatric 1st Aide in Psychosis - Pukekura Park Pavilion, Park end of Liardet St, NEW PLYMOUTH
- May 30 - Hearing Voices that are distressing - Tauranga Harbour City Motor Inn, 50 Wharf St, TAURANGA
- May 31 - Psychiatric 1st Aide in Psychosis - Tauranga Harbour City Motor Inn, 50 Wharf St, TAURANGA
- June 1 - Hearing Voices that are distressing – WELLINGTON, Venue to be announced
- June 2 - Working with Voices – WELLINGTON, Venue to be announced
- June 3 - Psychiatric 1st Aide in Psychosis – WELLINGTON, Venue to be announced
- June 7 - Hearing Voices that are distressing - *In partnership with Hapu te Howaru Tapuni* - Fickling Centre 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings, AUCKLAND

Register your booking with Hapai Te Hauora Tapui Ltd for discount. Email [iritana@hapai.co.nz](mailto:iritana@hapai.co.nz)

- June 8 - Working with Voices - Fickling Centre, 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings, AUCKLAND

- June 9 - Psychiatric 1st Aide in Psychosis - Fickling Centre, 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings, AUCKLAND  
For more information please contact - Keepwell Limited, P.O. Box 10-771, The Terrace, WELLINGTON  
PHONE: (04) 2189 8468 FAX: (04) 384 1233 EMAIL: [tangatawhaiora@actrix.gen.nz](mailto:tangatawhaiora@actrix.gen.nz)

## **Preventing Violence in the Home:**

### **Professional Training**

A one day professional training enabling workers in related fields to deal effectively with victims of domestic violence.  
Teaching: RECOGNISE RESPOND REFER

- Understanding the dynamics of domestic violence
- Identifying the effects of domestic violence
- Learning how to intervene with victims safely and effectively
- Clarifying professional boundaries and ethical issues

### **Professional Training dates for 2005:**

Wednesday June 15

Monday September 12

For enrolment, email: [training@preventingviolence.org.nz](mailto:training@preventingviolence.org.nz)

### **The Training Team also delivers - For Community Organisations:**

An understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence, sharing victims' experiences and exploring explanations for domestic violence.

Specialised in-service domestic violence training programmes to meet the specific needs of agencies.

- Focus on Children, effects of witnessing family violence particularly on brain development, legal issues, how to intervene safely
- Focus on Abusers, beliefs that support abusive behaviour, process of change for abusers, how to safely intervene
- Focus on Concepts of Masculinity and how these concepts can endorse family violence
- Focus on Risk Assessment
- Focus on Relevant Law and Justice System Response

### **For Employers:**

**DVFREE**, awareness programme for the workplace inviting employers to assist victims of domestic violence.

'Preventing Violence in the Home' believes that everyone has the right to live and work in an environment that is respectful and free from abuse, violence and fear. Everyday. Always.

For more information contact - 195 Khyber Pass Road, PO Box 106 126, Downtown, Auckland Tel: (09) 303-3938  
Fax: (09) 303-0067 Email: [enquires@preventingviolence.org.nz](mailto:enquires@preventingviolence.org.nz), [www.preventingviolence.org.nz](http://www.preventingviolence.org.nz) Crisisline: (09) 303-3939

## **Kill the Experts – Simple Rules for 'Fixing' Complex Kids:**

Nigel Latta – Clinical psychologist, author, and passionate heretic will be presenting this workshop. If you've ever felt paralyzed by the inevitable complexity surrounding 'difficult' kids, or ever wondered why things always get so complicated, then 'Kill the Experts' is for you.

'Kill the Experts' is a multimedia extravaganza that will thrill, amaze, entertain, and educate you. This workshop will be of interest to therapists, teachers, social workers, psychologists, youth workers, and pretty much anyone who ever has to try and figure out what to do with 'difficult' kids (or adults for that matter).

There are no rules, and this workshop is going to give you them all.....

### **When/Where:**

Hamilton – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2005 – Novotel Tainui

Auckland – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2005, Alexandra Park Raceway

Time: 9am to 3pm

Cost: \$149 (inc. GST) morning tea and lunch provided.

For registrations or enquires please contact Goldfish Wisdom Ltd., P.O. Box 9022, Dunedin, phone (03) 4558778, or email [nlatta@paradise.net.nz](mailto:nlatta@paradise.net.nz).

### **Sexual Abuse Work with Children and their Families:**

The training covers a wide spectrum of work:

- Definitions
- Incest and Stranger Abuse
- Initial Interviews
- Family systems and the impact on victims
- Working with – preschoolers, primary school children, adolescents
- Handling Disclosures
- Working with other systems – CYF's, Medical, Police, Court
- Understanding Court Systems and preparing children and families
- Vicarious Trauma

This training is helpful for those wishing to work with children and their families and wanting to work towards ACC registration. The workshop has also been updated to include a review of recent research from the Child and Family Maltreatment Conference 2005.

#### When – Block Course:

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 9am to 5pm

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 9am to 5pm

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 9am to 5pm

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 9am to Noon

Cost: \$400 for Early Bird Discount before 25<sup>th</sup> May 2005  
\$425 Course fee by the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2005.

For more information or to book please contact the presenter – Sue Urshaw on (09) 2997656, fax (09) 2982455, or by post P.O. Box 75 786, Manurewa.

### **Celia Lashlie Seminars:**

Charismatic speaker Celia Lashlie will join forces with CPS Training to present a series of five seminars later this year.

The theme will be – **Raising our children safely together.**

#### When/Where:

- Hamilton – 9<sup>th</sup> August 2005
- Auckland – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2005
- Wellington – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2005
- Christchurch – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2005
- Dunedin – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2005

Keep these dates free in your diary, and more details about the seminars will be available mid year.

### **Autism NZ Inc – S.P.E.L.L Training Courses:**

Training is for people who work in the area of Supported Employment, who are interested in understanding how an Autism Spectrum Disorder affects a person and ways to help people with an ASD be more comfortable in a working and learning situation.

The course is free to people who work in supported employment, or who work for agencies that provide support for employment.

The next course is to be held in Tauranga on the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

For more information or to book, please contact [training@autismnz.org.nz](mailto:training@autismnz.org.nz), or website [www.autismnz.org.nz](http://www.autismnz.org.nz)

### **Free Training for Caregivers (ASD) – Family Matters:**

Autism NZ, Auckland Branch is providing free monthly training for students interested in working for parents of children with Autism or Aspergers Syndrome. If you know of anyone who may be interested or if you as a parent would like to have a trained student to work with your child, then please contact Tracy or Tricia for more information and consent forms.

For more information contact Tracy Aksoy, New Parent Co-ordinator, Autism NZ Auckland Branch on (09) 276196.

### **Support Parent Training Course – Parent to Parent:**

Parent to parent NZ 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.

The Parent to Parent Support Parent Training Course is an eighteen hour course. It covers:

- Communication Skills
- Grief Issues
- Resources within the disability sector

It provides the opportunity for personal awareness, where parents can consider their ability to support others in similar circumstances. At the end of the training, parents are able to apply for accreditation as Support Parents. The volunteer Support Parents provide support to the families contacting Parent to Parent.

These courses are held throughout NZ. If you would like to be notified when a course comes up in your area, then please contact Parent to Parent National Office, P.O. Box 234, Waikato Mail Centre. Phone (07) 8538491, or toll free 0508 236236. Or email [national@parent2parent.org.nz](mailto:national@parent2parent.org.nz).

### **Strengthening Families – North Shore:**

Strengthening Families training is open to anyone working on the North Shore with at risk children, young people and their families.

Sessions on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2005, and the 6<sup>th</sup> September – 9am to 12.30pm at the Awataha Marae.

For more information or to book in for the training please contact Agnes Cherrington by phone (09) 4871161, fax (09) 4871187, or email [agnes.cherrington@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:agnes.cherrington@minedu.govt.nz).

### **SF Wellington Family, Whanau & Friends – Making Sense of Mental Illness:**

Education Courses Content:

- Discussion of mental illness symptoms and medication
- Understanding psychosis
- A personal story of the experience of mental illness and the chance to ask questions relevant to you.
- Communication challenges and strategies
- How the mental health system works
- Opportunity to explore your own thoughts and feelings
- Self Care

Next available courses – venues to be confirmed:

- Kapiti Coast – 2 Thursday's - 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> April 2005 – 6pm to 8.30pm
- Wellington – 4 Thursday's – 5<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2005 – 6pm to 8.30pm
- Porirua – 2 Wednesday's – July 2005 – 10am to 2.30pm
- Upper Hutt – 2 Saturdays – August 2005 – 10am to 2.30pm
- Porirua – 4 Tuesdays – September 2005 – 6pm to 8.30pm
- Wellington – 4 Mondays – Oct 2005 – 6pm to 8.30pm

**To register for any session please phone (04) 4991062.**

### **Family Whanau & Friends Recovery Workshop:**

Kathryn and Gary Platz facilitate this workshop, and this workshop will:

- Use a framework to describe the experience of mental illness and recovery in a holistic way not just as symptoms of illness
- The facilitators are a family with 14 years ongoing experience in the journey of recovery and are trained in the psychodramatic method.
- All members of the family are welcome – 'family' includes the person with experience of mental illness.

The next workshops are from 10am to 4pm in:

- Wellington – Sat/Sun 28<sup>th</sup> /29<sup>th</sup> May 2005 at the QV House 163 Thordon Quay, Wellington
- Hutt Valley – Sat/Sun 29<sup>th</sup> /30<sup>th</sup> May 2005 – venue to be confirmed.

To register for any session, then please phone (04) 4991062.

### **SibSupport NZ – Parent to Parent:**

The aim of Parent to parent's SibSupport NZ programme is to provide children with an experience that will assist them to cope with the challenges and stresses of having a brother or sister who has a disability. Siblings develop their own support network, through sharing and making friends with others who understand. The programme is designed for children, who do not have special needs themselves, aged from eight to eighteen years of age, who have a brother or sister with a disability or special need.

Parent to Parent National Office provides SIBSUPPORT NZ programmes to siblings, free of charge throughout NZ.

Upcoming programmes:

- Wellington/Wairarapa – 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> April 2005.
- Waikato – 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

For more information please contact Parent to Parent NZ Inc, P.O. Box 234, Waikato Mail Centre, email [p2pnational@compuserve.com](mailto:p2pnational@compuserve.com), toll free 0508 236 236, or [www.parent2parent.org.nz](http://www.parent2parent.org.nz).

### **Preparing a Comprehensive Child Protection Policy - CPS**

#### ***Protect Children – Protect Your Organisation***

Hamilton	Tuesday 14 June 2005 – 9am to 1pm
Manukau	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2005 – 10am to 2pm

#### **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. Handouts will be provided and a certificate will be given to all those completing the workshop.

**Places are limited so enroll now!** \$75 per person, including GST and morning tea

You can also purchase **Well Prepared - A Guide to Preparing a Child Protection Policy**. This 40-page guide provides concrete examples of what a child protection policy might look like what should be included, and advice about how to link the policy to other organisation documents. **Well Prepared!** Can be purchased from CPS Training for \$30, plus \$2 p&p, or for \$25 on the day for those attending the workshop.

Please contact CPS [dianne@cpstraining.co.nz](mailto:dianne@cpstraining.co.nz) to secure you place, or write to CPS Training, P O Box 679, Hamilton, Phone (07) 838 3370 Fax (07) 838 9950, [www.cpstraining.co.nz](http://www.cpstraining.co.nz)

## **Werry Centre Training & Support Day - Intersectorial care of infants & their family/whanau:**

To be held on the 9th June 2005, in Wellington

More details to come shortly.

## **Consumer Products Recalls**

### **Russell Hobbs Mona Kettle:**

#### **THE PROBLEM**

The kettle may leach lead into the water.

#### **DETAILS**

Russell Hobbs Mona Kettle:

- Model 3022. Polished stainless steel.
- Model 3023. Brushed stainless steel.

Sold throughout New Zealand since June 2003.

#### **WHAT TO DO**

Stop using the kettle.

Contact the Salton Customer Service Department on 0508 555 000 for instructions on returning the product and receiving a refund.

### **3000Kg and 5000kg Super Works Car Stands:**

#### **THE PROBLEM**

The following models do not conform to all elements of the relevant standard, which may reduce the stability of the stands.

#### **DETAILS**

Super Works 3000kg and 5000kg car stands. Models:

- \* TT636N
- \* TT633N

Sold since July 2002, from Super Cheap Auto Pty Ltd.

#### **WHAT TO DO**

Return the product to your nearest Super Cheap Auto retail store for a refund.

For details of the nearest store call 09 250 4630 or check Super Cheap's website: <http://www.supercheapauto.co.nz>

### **SpongeBob Squarepants Activity Book:**

#### **THE PROBLEM**

The two water-expanding toys attached to this book pose a potential choking hazard if swallowed, particularly to children under 3 years of age. The book itself poses no risk.

#### **DETAILS**

The "Spongebob Squarepants Movie: I'm Ready Colour and Activity Book". ISBN: 0375829881. APN: 9780375829888.

The product was available for sale from December 2004.

#### **WHAT TO DO**

Parents should dispose of the toys immediately, or return the book and toys to their store of purchase for a full refund.

For more information, call Random House customer services on 0800 860 513, or email [julie@randomhouse.co.nz](mailto:julie@randomhouse.co.nz).

### **Campmaster Butane Puncture Gas Stoves:**

#### **THE PROBLEM**

In some cases the burner could overheat, causing the burner base to melt and the stove to become unstable.

#### **DETAILS**

Two models are affected:

- \* CM2300 - Campmaster Butane Puncture Gas Stove
- \* CM2300D - Campmaster Piezo Butane Puncture Gas Stove

These products were sold between 1 October 2004 and 31 March 2005.

#### WHAT TO DO

Return the product to the retailer, for a full credit.

For further information, contact Amalgamated Hardware Merchants Ltd, on 09 571 1310, or email enquiries@ahm.co.nz.

## Political Information

### **New Zealand Children are being raised in poverty – The Jobs Letter:**

An Unicef study has found that 16.3% of New Zealand children are being raised in poverty – a rate higher than all but three OECD nations. Child Poverty in Rich Countries 2005, was published by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and based on data collected in 2001 found that one in six NZ children were living in homes that earned less than half of the local national medium income. Only Mexico, the USA and Italy had higher rates of poverty.

According to Unicef, the proportion of children living in poverty in NZ rose during the 1990's, from about 5.5% in 1990 to about 14% to March 2005. This increase in child poverty is a reflection of the 1991 benefit cuts and the freeze in family support rates from 1998 until April 2005. NZ was one of seven countries that cut its welfare spending during the 1990's as a proportion of the national income, from 21.9% in 1990 to 19.2% in 2000.

Denmark and Finland have child poverty rates of less than 3%, and Norway is the only OECD country for which Unicef describes child poverty levels a 'very low and continuing to fall'. In contrast the USA and Mexico have child poverty rates of more than 20%.

'Child Poverty in Rich Countries' 2005, (Unicef March 2005), published by the Unicef Innocenti Research Centre, can be downloaded from [www.unicef-icdc.org/presscentre/presskit/reportcard6/repcard6e.pdf](http://www.unicef-icdc.org/presscentre/presskit/reportcard6/repcard6e.pdf).

### **Waitakere Youth Transition Service launched:**

Young people in Waitakere will get extra help in the transition from school to work with the launch of a new Youth Transition Service. The Waitakere service, which will be delivered by the Youth Horizons Trust, is the first Youth Transition Services to be officially launched. 2007 will roll out a total of 14 services.

The service will provide career training, job seeking advice, information on educational opportunities and customised support for at-risk school leavers.

The Youth Horizons Trust is well placed to draw together the range of services that young people will require, to identify skills shortages and labour market opportunities, and to link young people with employers and training providers.

This announcement is an important step towards achieving the goal set by the government and the *Mayors Taskforce for Jobs* to have all 15-19 year olds in work, education or training by 2007."

The Youth Transition Service, co-ordinated through the Ministry of Social Development provides funding for regional programmes which:

- Provide at-risk youth with access to career planning and job-seeking help
- Encourage and assist youth to take advantage of education and training opportunities
- Provide school-leavers with customised support and guidance to facilitate their pathway into work, education or training

It's estimated that up to 45,000 15 to 19 year-olds do not enroll in tertiary study or get a job after leaving school. The Youth Transition Service is part of the government's \$56.9 million package that will make sure these young people have the tools to become productive members of their communities.

The Youth Transition Service is funded by the government and implemented in partnership with the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs.

## **Child, Youth and Family caregiver recruitment campaign "off to positive start"**

A Child, Youth and Family recruitment drive for more caregivers is "off to a positive start and beginning to produce some good results on which the Department can build.

Since the recruitment drive was launched last November during Foster Care Awareness Week, the Department's sites have sent out 341 packs. Of the 114 returned, 28 have led to approved caregivers that have now joined the Department, 10 have been declined and a further 76 are currently being assessed for suitability.

The high ratio of returned application packs has been partly attributed to speedy follow-ups by the Department's sites, particularly given that part of the campaign ran during the Christmas and New Year holiday period. The intention is to complete the remaining assessments as quickly and thoroughly as possible so further caregivers can come on board. The assessment process can take up to two months and involves providing photographic proof of identity, a police check, a medical report, reference checks and two interviews, one within the home."

The campaign will actively run until Easter with leaflet drops, newspaper advertisements and the continuing placement of some cinema and bus advertising in some areas, notably Auckland and Wellington.

Sites will continue with their own local recruitment drives at the end of the national campaign.

The Department will conduct a full evaluation of the campaign in May after its flow-on effects are more evident.

Children and young people come into care for two main reasons: either for care and protection reasons when they have been abused, neglected or when parents, for a number of reasons, can no longer safely care for their children; or for youth justice reasons. Child, Youth and Family try to place them with family/whanau if possible but looks outside the family if not.

Child, Youth and Family's campaign predominantly focuses on finding caregivers outside the family, although highlighting their work could lead to a greater number of kin carers coming forward.

CYF still need to recruit more caregivers to build up a sizable pool to help the Department get the best match for children needing placement. They particularly need caregivers to look after teenagers.

From 1 April, an increase in the Foster Care Allowance means a rise of \$15 per week per child for the Department's caregivers.

Anyone wanting to become a caregiver should phone 0508 FAMILY (0508 326 459) or visit Child, Youth and Family's website [www.cyf.govt.nz](http://www.cyf.govt.nz)

## **Grandparents lift the lid on Raising Grandchildren:**

The Grandparent Raising Grandchildren Trust commissioned a report following a survey of 324 grandparents and other kin caregivers across NZ.

The research represents the largest quantitative and qualitative analysis undertaken in New Zealand or Australasia covering the issues grandparents, in particular, and other family members such as aunts, uncles and even great grandparents are experiencing as they struggle to cope with raising children placed in their care when the parents, for various reasons, are unfit or unable to care for them.

The research shows that:

- 82.69% of caregivers are over 50 years of age with a significant proportion (43%) of them aged over 60
- 58.9% of the caregivers had a deterioration in their health since assuming the primary care of the children
- 37.4% of caregivers are caring for the grandchildren on their own
- 37% of the caregivers were caring for their grandchildren on an income of less than \$20,000 per annum, with a further 29.2% on an income of \$20,000-\$40,000 per annum. Less than one quarter have an income over \$40,000
- Parental relationship breakdown is a common feature for the children being cared for by their grandparents
- The major cause of placement with grandparents is drug (40.25%) and alcohol (29.10%) abuse and neglect (as a co-existing state).

- The age of the parents at the time grandparents assumed primary care of their children was also analysed. The largest cohort for both genders was in the 20-30 year age group. The figures tend to debunk any theory grandparents are for the most part assuming the care of children of teenage parents
- Nearly 25% of the caregivers have been caring for their grandchildren since birth, with drug/alcohol abuse, mental illness, abandonment, parental incapacity or incapability being cited as the principal reason for the placements.
- Nearly 85% of the respondents in the survey reported that the children in their care suffered from physical illness or disability with Asthma being the most prevalent condition (30%)
- Behavioural and psychological problems of various types were reported with 22.91% reporting severe aggressive behaviour, 18% reporting destructive behaviour (to property and persons), 17.34% reporting conduct disorder and 21.67% with ADD or ADHD, with 18.58% citing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.
- 77% reported that they had not received any financial assistance to pay for the specialist fees and medical costs associated with their grandchildren's physical and/or psychological problems.

Among the key recommendations in the report to the Government, its agencies and the courts are that:

- Kin/whanau caregivers must receive adequate income support commensurate with Foster Care Board Payments and financial support that is reflective of the particular needs of children placed with kin/whanau.
- WINZ workers should be better educated with respect to the income support entitlements of grandparent and kin caregivers, particularly in relation to the UCB and other benefits they are entitled to in addition to the UCB
- Judges need to focus more on the need of children to have placement stability and they should be more proactive in the prevention of on-going custody challenges by disingenuous parties who place their own needs above that of their children and put their children's stability and security in jeopardy.
- Respite care, day care, after school care, free medical care and free counselling should be provided as a matter of course for kin/whanau caregivers, particularly grandparents.
- Where a child has been under the care of Child Youth and Family, all legal expenses incurred to achieve kin/whanau custody and/or guardianship should be paid for by the State. Similarly Grandparents gaining permanent custody/guardianship of their grandchildren should not be liable to repay legal aid payments.

**To purchase a copy of the full report, please post a cheque for \$20 plus postage of \$1.30 to the Grandparent Raising Grandchildren Trust, P.O. Box 34 892, Birkenhead, North Shore City. Please include your name and address.**

## **Call to end poverty in New Zealand – Stuff News**

The New Zealand Action Plan for Human Rights has said successive generations had built a country "committed to ensuring everyone gets a fair go".

However, poverty, abuse, and entrenched economic and social inequalities threatened New Zealand's human rights record, said the report's authors, Rosslyn Noonan, the Human Rights Commission's Chief Commissioner, and Children's Commissioner Cindy Kiro. The action plan aims to ensure the human rights of everyone in New Zealand are better recognised, protected and respected.

Dr Kiro said human rights abuses committed against children and young people were one of the greatest challenges in New Zealand. "This action plan clearly outlines how we can all prioritise children's safety and well-being. New Zealand's high rates of child abuse and neglect are evidence of the need for urgent and comprehensive action by families, communities and government. "This violence is able to continue only because it is sanctioned throughout New Zealand society."

The report said it was critical current initiatives aimed at preventing violence against children were effectively implemented. It has also called for the repeal of Section 59 of the Crimes Act, which allows force to be used on a child for discipline. The Government has already said it would probably review the law this year. The report said poverty was a major issue for New Zealand, with the human rights assessment having found nearly one-third of this country's young people lived in poverty. "This has significant implications for their development and experience of human rights." Creating affordable housing and education and adequate income support should be priorities for government, the report said.

Education should be the subject of special focus, and New Zealand should aim for equitable access to appropriate quality education services. Dr Kiro said New Zealand had ratified United Nations conventions, which required free compulsory education, but had some way to go. "Participation and achievement rates for Maori, Pacific peoples and those from poorer communities are disproportionately low when compared to other New Zealanders," she said.

Other measures proposed in the report include: increased participation of disabled people in policy development and decision-making; a focus on eliminating poverty; actions to safeguard people in detention and institutional care; measures that enable every child to grow up able to communicate in English and Maori and, where different, their mother tongue; improving democratic participation, including that of children and young people; a focus on the place of the Treaty of Waitangi in New Zealand's constitutional arrangements; and a commitment to ensure New Zealand's legal framework fully protects human rights.

## **NZ record poor on child poverty and drug use – OECD – Stuff News**

Child poverty and high drug use are two areas where New Zealand is doing badly, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in a report released yesterday.

New Zealand performed poorly on child poverty, with 16.3 per cent of children 17 years and younger living in households with incomes below 50 per cent of the median household income, the fourth worst in the OECD.

"While countries with higher poverty rates for the entire population also display higher poverty among children, the difference between the two is especially large in New Zealand, the United States and the United Kingdom, suggesting that specific factors in these countries increase risks of poverty among children," the report, *Society at a Glance*, says.

At the other end of the scale, at just 0.4 per cent, New Zealand had the lowest poverty rate for people aged 65 and over. That was despite New Zealand's public pension being the second least generous in the OECD at 40 per cent of pre-retirement earnings, higher than only Ireland. Retired people in Luxembourg received 110 per cent of their pre-retirement earnings.

Drug use in New Zealand was high by OECD standards - 13.4 per cent of 15 to 64 year olds said they had used cannabis in the last year. That was the second highest rate in the OECD after Australia. Amphetamine use was also the second highest in the OECD at 3.4 per cent in the last year. Ecstasy use was fourth highest at 2.2 per cent.

New Zealand's suicide rate was lower than most countries in the OECD at 8.9 per 100,000 annually, but New Zealand's five to 24 year olds were the third most likely in the OECD to kill themselves.

New Zealand was one of only three OECD countries where fertility rates for people born between 1960 and 1965 were above that needed to replace the population. But New Zealand had the oldest average age in the OECD for first time mothers - 30.

New Zealand had the seventh highest infant mortality rate at 6.3 per 1000 live births - three times the rate in the best performing country - Iceland. The numbers of teenage mothers were below the OECD average.

The New Zealand Government spent less than the OECD average on social services - 18.5 per cent of GDP. Pensions took 4.9 per cent, income support 6.7 per cent, health 6.1 per cent and other services 0.3 per cent.

New Zealand had one of the highest proportions of foreign-born people living in the country - 19.5 per cent, with only Australia higher at 23.1 per cent.

## **Views Sought on Total Mobility Scheme:**

Public comment on ways that improve 'The Total Mobility Scheme' is sought with the release of a consultation document. The government is looking to increase the amount of funding available to the Scheme. People who currently use it will not be disadvantaged by the Review. Comments on ways to make the scheme better are what this consultation is about.

Operated by local authorities the scheme provides a subsidised taxi transport service to people with serious mobility constraints. Last year, \$3.277 million of central government funding, and an estimated \$4.7 million from regional councils, went into the Scheme.

Around 10,000 consultation documents and submission booklets are being mailed out to stakeholders. These include regional councils, disability sector organisations, assessment agencies, transport operators' organisations and key government agencies. Consultation meetings will also be held in April in Auckland, Howick, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. A consultation website has also been established.

A report on the review's findings and recommendations will be provided to the Minister of Transport in August 2005.

For more information on the Total Mobility Scheme and the review see: <http://www.transport.govt.nz/business/land/land-transport/total-mobility/index.php>

## **Scientist: Meat Is Important For Children's Development – Scoop Media**

Meat and animal protein is important for the development of children. Without meat in the grocery bag children would stay smaller, weaker and less intelligent. The results of the alimentation study in which 544 Kenyan primary school children took part are so clear without ambiguity that study author Lindsay Allen from the Californian Davis University calls it irresponsible to nourish children on a vegan diet – exclusively herbal.

During the biennial study the boys and girls (aged on average seven years of age) were divided into four groups. The children of each group received (on top of their normal daily intake of food) either 60 grams meat, a cup of milk, vegetable oil or no complement.

After the two years, those children, who received extra food, gained 400 grams more than the children without supplement did. Boys and girls who got extra milk had upper arm muscles that were enlarged by 40 per cent; those who got extra meat had an enlargement of even 80 per cent.

Those children who had been supplied with meat showed a better performance in intelligence and mathematics tests. “The meat group was on the playground more active, more eloquent and friskier and showed more qualities” reports Allen. Meat and animal products such as milk contain nutrients, which cannot be supplied via vegan food. The nutrition of Kenyan children consists mainly of corn and beans, which leads to a lack of iron, zinc, calcium and the vitamins A, E, B12.

The result of the study might not please parents, who refuse to feed their children meat or animal products, says Allen. “It’s quite evident, that it is not arguable to raise children strictly vegan.”

## **Is Chocolate A Miracle Drug That Reduces Blood Pressure? – Scoop Media:**

*Scoop Report:* Dark chocolate lovers can indulge their desires without cause for concern or guilt over what their passion may do to their health, according to an Italian scientist who has studied the effects of chocolate on the human heart. He says chocolate may also contain anti-aging agents.

Findings of a study into the consumption of dark chocolate suggest it has a positive impact on blood pressure and diabetes and also has an anti-aging-effect. That's the result of a study from the [Università degli Studi dell' Aquila](#), which was published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

“The consumption of dark chocolate doesn’t only reduce blood pressure, but also improves the insulin sensibility”, explained study author Claudio Ferri. Ferri says flavanols contained in chocolate is the magic ingredient. The Italian scientists administered to 15 person’s 100 grams of dark chocolate daily, which contains an amount of 500-mg polyphenol. The control subjects received 90 gram white chocolate per day, which doesn’t contain any polyphenols.

The scientists observed that the consumption of dark chocolate minimized insulin resistance and increased insulin sensibility.

Of special importance for diabetes patients is the discovery that the body catabolises insulin by the consumption of chocolate. Moreover a reduction of the systolic blood pressure was registered in the dark chocolate group.

Experts ascribe the constitutional effect of chocolate to the flavanols. Flavanols are antioxidants, which have the ability to neutralize free radicals that attack the cell structure. A similar effect was attested for other products, which contain flavanols, such as tea or wine.

“The identification of healthy products and an understanding of how various products influence our body’s physiology are important for a healthy nutrition. Nevertheless I advise caution, because chocolate indeed contains antioxidants, but beyond it also big amounts of fat and calories”, explained Ferri.

## **Situations Vacant**

### **Research Assistant needed urgently:**

If you know of anyone who might be interested in a short term, full time position as a research assistant for a Youth specific Lifestyle Behaviours Screening Tool which will include data input and analysis, then please contact Barbara Docherty on any of the contact details below.

This will be an interesting position for someone with qualitative research experience and a keen interest in youth development. A favourable remuneration for the right person will be provided

Barbara Docherty  
National Project Director TADS (Training and Development Services)  
Brief Interventions for Harmful Behaviour  
School of Population Health  
Faculty of Medical and Health Science (Dept General Practice and Primary Health Care)  
University of Auckland Tamaki Campus  
Private Bag 92019 Auckland  
Phone: 64 9 3737599 ext. 86233  
Fax: 64 9 3737624  
Mobile: 027 2266562

### **Seeking Art Coordinators – Like minds:**

The 2005 Like Minds Framework Trust Annual Art Exhibition, are seeking Art Coordinators for the 2005 Art Exhibition.

They have six categories to be coordinated. These include:

- Maori Art, Pacifica Art, Painting, Photography, Multimedia and Sculpture

If you would like further information then please contact Catherine Ross, (Like Minds, Like Mind Coordinator), on (09) 8155123, or by email [catherine.ross@framework.org.nz](mailto:catherine.ross@framework.org.nz).

### **National Coordinator, Information and Communications – NZAAHD:**

NZAAHD is recruiting for the new position of *National Coordinator, Information and Communications*, based in Wellington.

This is a key communications position for NZAAHD and for the wider youth health and development sector.

The Position Description and more information about NZAAHD is available at [www.nzaahd.org.nz](http://www.nzaahd.org.nz)

For an application form and more information please contact Kirsten Smith (details below). Applications close 5.00pm Monday 18 April.

Kirsten Smith  
National Executive Officer  
New Zealand Association for Adolescent Health & Development (NZAAHD)  
PO Box 27-326 Wellington  
Phone 04 382 9944 or 0211 902 718  
*RE:DEFINE* Challenge Youth Stereotypes  
Youth Week 9-15 May 2005 [www.youthweek.co.nz](http://www.youthweek.co.nz)

### **Violence Free Waitakere – part time position:**

A part time position has been created for an **administrative assistant** to the coordinator of Violence Free Waitakere.

This dynamic project is concerned with primary violence prevention for the Waitakere area through several new initiatives including promotion of positive parenting.

This position is for up to 30 hours per month, and involves light secretarial and administrative duties. Own transport, Internet connected computer and some skill at using this is essential.

Please contact Elaine Dyer at [elainedyer@clear.net.nz](mailto:elainedyer@clear.net.nz) or 4168774 for more information and a job description, or write to VIOLENCE FREE WAITAKERE, PO Box 21920, Henderson.

## Other Information

### **Child & Adolescent Mental Health in Aotearoa/New Zealand – Werry Centre:**

This CD based teaching resource is now available via Pearson Education (free phone 0508 332 665) at only \$39.95 per copy.

The teaching resource is designed to complement the lifespan development and mental health content of undergraduate nursing, occupational therapy and social work programmes. It is suitable for either independent and/or group study. It will also be helpful for staff new to the area of child and adolescent mental health.

Special features include:

- Three CDs with video clips, cartoons and interactive learning exercises.
- The learning exercises allow the student to integrate theoretical knowledge into a 'real life' context.
- Suggested answers are provided for the exercises.

If you would like to know more about this teaching resource please contact Mathijs Lucassen on (09) 373 7599 extension 89122 or email [m.lucassen@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.lucassen@auckland.ac.nz) (Mathijs Lucassen, Research Assistant - Strategic Framework).

### **Jim Moriarty, Te Rakau Trust and The Edge present:**

#### **'The Battalion' - 5 shows only!**

**From Tuesday 5th - Saturday 9th April**, Te Rakau are performing as part of the ignite 05 Youth Arts Festival at the **Aotea Centre**.

There are nightly shows (Tue - Fri) for the public from 6pm, and a matinee performance on Saturday 9th April at 4pm.

**Tickets: \$15 Adult**

**\$5 Student- with ID**

**Bookings through Ticketek: 09) 307 5000**

**Doorsales at the venue: Lower NZI Convention Room, Aotea Centre, Auckland Central.**

The latest show is 'The Battalion'. It involves both rangatahi and seasoned theatre performers, and is an amalgamation of Jim Moriarty's 'Theatre Marae-Theatre for Change' projects and a theatrical version of the real history of the Maori Battalion.

You can expect the usual hard hitting Te Rakau show- where the rangatahi tell their gut wrenching stories, but this time the modern day battlefields of mental health issues, abuse and drug and alcohol addictions that many of these youth tread, will be interwoven with the history of their ancestors- the legendary warriors of the Maori Battalion. You will experience contemporary choreography and dance combined with dance and music from the period. (Deidre Tarrant of the Footnote Dance Company assisted with the choreography, Waiata-a-ringā training by Bill & Donas Nathan.)

A review from the show that was performed by Te Rakau at ignite 03 said: "Anzac day seemed appropriate for these young warriors to be staging their battle stories. Fields of war have figured early in their young lives – and it seems that the violence and cruelty they have encountered is only the closer-to-home and smaller-scale version of the world's larger battles." Jennifer Shennan: The Dominion Post, reviewing Te Rakau's 2003: 'Kia Mau: Te Timatanga Hou'.

**Please come along to support the awesome work of Jim Moriarty and the Te Rakau Trust, still battling on after more than 10 years of working with rangatahi at risk.**

### **The Great Project K Celebrity Dinner Debate:**

#### **"Women are from Venus and Men have sore necks from looking at them"**

Come and join Project K for an evening of fun and laughter. 'The Great Project K Celebrity Dinner Debate' and auction promises to be a night to remember. To be held on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2005**, at the Carlton Hotel, Auckland.

This is a fundraising event to support Project K programmes in the Auckland region. The evening will feature cocktails, dinner, auction and the Celebrity Debate with Gary McCormick, Tim Shadbolt, Michelle A Court, Ben Hurley, Kerre Woodham and Debbie Harwood as well as our MC Jim Hopkins.

Tickets cost \$1800 per table of 10 or \$180 each. Call (09) 411 9439 for ticket information.

### **‘Every Child Counts’ - Support needed for major campaign:**

A realisation that New Zealand could do better for its children has led 180 individuals and organisations to start a joint campaign to promote the interests of children and families in the lead up to the 2005 election.

‘Every Child Counts’ is a non-party political campaign with a simple message. Children and families must be central to policy if New Zealand is to thrive socially and economically. Placing children and families as the centre of policy will lead to:

- ?? fewer children growing up in poverty
- ?? fewer children growing up experiencing violence
- ?? Public policy being more child and family centred.

Organisations leading the project are Barnardos, UNICEF New Zealand, Save the Children, Royal New Zealand Plunket Society and the Institute of Public Policy, Auckland University of Technology. Other organisations and individuals have signed up as supporters. .

A key element of the campaign is to have a huge list of personal and organisational supporters from across New Zealand telling all political parties to take more notice of children and families. To sign up as a supporter, or for more information, contact:

‘Every Child Counts’, PO Box 6434, Wellington, or email: [everychildcounts@barnardos.org.nz](mailto:everychildcounts@barnardos.org.nz), or phone 04 385 7560  
Read more about ‘Every Child Counts’ on [www.everychildcounts.org.nz](http://www.everychildcounts.org.nz)

**There are no membership fees, and no specific obligations – simply list your name as a supporter.**

### **Tutei O Te Hau A Kiwa - Mental Health Peer Support & Advocacy Services:**

Tutei O Te Hau A Kiwa are contracted to provide peer support and advocacy to people with an experience of mental illness, residing in Whakatane. Eastern Bay of Plenty Consumer Advisory Group (EBOPCAG) Trust provides our governance.

#### Their service activities include:

- Peer support
- Advocacy
- Social Activities
- Physical Health days
- Relaxation methods
- Delivering workshops on mental health
- Creative expression
- Peer support groups.

They welcome all inquiries and visits. The contact details are Unit 14/143 King St, Kopeopeo, Whakatane. Ph. (07) 307-9392, Cell. 027-507-9392.

### **Facilitators - New Trainees Needed – Serious Fun ‘N Mind:**

Later this year Serious Fun ‘N Mind plans to train new facilitators for their workshops such as Tangata Whaiora Experience, Media Madness, Community Voices and others.

If you are interested in becoming a facilitator please contact Serious Fun ‘N Mind Charitable Trust, P.O. Box 592, Whakatane. Ph. 07-308-0304 Fax: 07-308-0306 Email: [seriousfunnmind@xtra.co.nz](mailto:seriousfunnmind@xtra.co.nz)

### **Auckland Zoo April School Holiday Programme:**

**Saturday 16 April – Sunday 1 May**

Kids can have fun and learn how to save Planet Earth at the same time at Auckland Zoo these April school holidays. The Zoo is offering a daily programme of activities, centred on the theme of conserving and protecting the environment.

Entertaining and interactive children’s theatre show will play every day at 11.30am and 1pm, from Saturday 16 April to Sunday 1 May, in the band rotunda area. There will be fun games and great spot prizes during the shows, which focus on themes such as recycling, pollution, energy and water conservation, and the rainforest.

As well as daily shows, there will be an activity trail around the Zoo. Every child who completes their mission will receive an Eco-Ani bookmark from the Auckland Regional Council, and a yummy treat. They will also go into a daily draw to win a prize pack including a Two Brothers DVD, two cute tiger toys, and a Holdson's windchime or kite construction set.

Watch out for special guests, including Eco-Ani and special activities on International Earth Day, Friday 22 April. This year, Earth Day celebrates its 35th anniversary, and its organisers are urging people around the world to champion the theme of 'Protecting Our Children and Our Future', to ensure that children everywhere are healthy, educated, and free from oppression.

NEWSTALK ZB sponsors the school holiday programme, with support from the Auckland Regional Council, and Holdson.

## **211 Community Helpline – Mental Health Foundation:**

The 211 Community Helpline is a free, confidential service that connects people to a wide range of community services and information. It will be piloted in the Rotorua and Tauranga areas from 14 March to 3 June 2005.

The 211 Community Helpline is open seven days a week from 8am to 9pm. Provides an easy central point of contact where New Zealanders can access resources for families and communities. A partnership between government and the community. Call **0800 211 211**

### **Parent to Parent are looking for the following:**

**LEBERS CONGENITAL AMAUROSIS WITH MACULAR COLOBOMA:** Mother of 13 month old daughter would like contact with a family whose child has this rare eye condition. Mum would be happy with contact with a family whose child has Leber's Congenital Amaurosis and/or Macular Coloboma. *Ref L0066*

**DIFFUSE PALMOPLANTAR KERATODERMA:** Mother of 5-year-old daughter would like contact with a family whose child has the same condition. *Ref D0097*

**BILIARY CYSTADNOMA:** A mother who has this condition would like contact with an adult who has this condition. *Ref B1003*

**MECKEL-GRUBER SYNDROME:** Mother of 5 month old son would like contact with a family whose child has this rare syndrome. *Ref M0156*

**ANORCHIA (Congenital Absence of Testes):** Mother of 12-year-old son would like contact with a family whose child has the same condition. They would love to talk to another family that have either gone through treatment or are due to go through the artificial hormone treatment. *Ref C0189*

### ***We are still searching for the following contacts***

**CEREBRAL ATROPHY:** Mother of 4-year-old son would like contact with a family whose child has the same condition. Their son is walking but lacks coordination, is very unsure on his steps, on uneven surfaces as well as climbing. He has low muscle tone and fine motor skill problems. Their son is non-verbal. Mum is very proactive and positive and keen to share with another parent. *Ref C0227*

**WEAVER SYNDROME:** Mother of 6-year-old son would like contact with a family whose child has this condition. *Ref W0030*

**CEREBRAL PALSY WITH CARNITINE DEFICIENCY:** Mother of 19 year old daughter would like a match with a family whose child has the same condition with the key link being the Carnitine Deficiency which is a rare metabolic disorder. *Ref C0007*

**BLOUNT'S DISEASE:** Mother of 2 year old son would like contact with a family whose child has this rare growth disorder. Their son has been given callipers to wear however this has traumatised him as a result he cannot wear them. The family is wondering if there is any alternative treatment. Is there another family who has experienced this with a young child? *Ref B1001*

**NEUROCUTANEOUS MELANOSIS WITH DANDY WALKER CYST:** Mother of 3-year-old son would like contact with a family whose child has both conditions. Her son is also experiencing seizures. *Ref N0068*

**CAYLER SYNDROME:** Mother of one year old daughter would like contact with a family whose child has this extremely rare condition. Her daughter has ventricular septal defect, is developmentally delayed and is also delayed physically. *Ref C0231*

**PRIMARY BILIARY CIRRHOSIS:** A mother who has this condition would like contact with an adult who has the same condition. Her current symptoms are nausea, vomiting, itching skin, fatigue, unusual liver function and high cholesterol. This Mum also has Chronic Pain Syndrome. *Ref P0186*

**If anyone is able to help out, please contact National Office on 0508 236 236 or email [p2pnational@compuserve.com](mailto:p2pnational@compuserve.com) as soon as possible. Remember to check out their web site at: [www.parent2parent.org.nz](http://www.parent2parent.org.nz)**

### **When Can I? – Youthlaw:**

A Guide for children and young people as to their legal rights and responsibilities at different ages:

An easy to understand illustrated guide for children & young people as to their legal rights and responsibilities at different ages. "When Can I" has been totally revised & updated Class sets Of 30 - \$200, or \$10 per individual copy.

To order please contact Youthlaw – Tino Rangatiratanga Taiamariki (Inc), P.O. Box 7657, Wellesley Street, Auckland. Phone (09) 3096967; fax (09) 3075243, email [info@youthlaw.co.nz](mailto:info@youthlaw.co.nz), or website [www.youthlaw.co.nz](http://www.youthlaw.co.nz).

### **Social costs: the effects of child maltreatment:**

Published by the Australian Institute of Family Studies and compiled by Nick Richardson, this online document on child maltreatment shows the wide range of immediate and long-term negative outcomes that are associated with maltreatment and briefly outlines the spectrum of psychological and physical problems resulting from child maltreatment.

View it at the National Child Protection Clearinghouse web site, at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/sheets/rs9.html>

### **The Carer – A Play for anyone who has ever been in love – Carers NZ:**

The following offer for discounted tickets to The Carer is not just for Carers New Zealand members but is also available to their friends. When booking tickets quote that you are affiliated to Carers New Zealand and you can save up to \$10.50 per ticket. This is a great opportunity for groups and organisations to have a fun night out at a special discounted price.

The Auckland leg of the Tour starts on March 31 and runs until April 9 at the Maidment Theatre.

To clarify these ticket prices for the Auckland Show: Full ticket price is \$42. The Carers New Zealand discounted ticket price is \$34 (\$8 discount). The price for a group is \$32 each or if you have a large group booking you can contact Jo Mackintosh at [jo@mcpersonstouring.com](mailto:jo@mcpersonstouring.com) to see if you qualify for a further discount.

To make bookings for the show phone Auckland (09) 308 2383. This is a great play and an opportunity for a fun night out at a special discounted price.

The Carer Tour Schedule until May is as follows:

- Hamilton – April 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>
- Tauranga – April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Rotorua – April 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>
- New Plymouth – April 19<sup>th</sup>
- Palmerston North – April 20<sup>th</sup>
- Napier – April 21<sup>st</sup>
- Nelson – April 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>
- Christchurch – April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>
- Timaru – May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Dunedin – May 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>
- Invercargill – May 7<sup>th</sup>

### **Stroke Identification – Symptoms:**

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- Ask the individual to smile
- Ask him or her to raise both arms.
- Ask the person to speak a simple sentence.

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 111 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

## 2005 School Term and Holiday Dates:

2005 - PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS			
Term 1	Monday 31 January	To	Friday 15 April (104 half-days)
Term 2	Monday 2 May	To	Friday 8 July (98 half-days)
Term 3	Monday 25 July	To	Friday 23 September (90 half-days)
Term 4	Monday 10 October	To	Tuesday 20 December 102 half-days)*
*or to a day in December which ensures that the school has been open for instruction for <b>394 half-days</b> in 2005			
2005 SECONDARY AND COMPOSITE SCHOOLS			
Term 1	Monday 31 January	To	Friday 15 April (104 half-days)
Term 2	Monday 2 May	To	Friday 8 July (98 half-days)
Term 3	Monday 25 July	To	Friday 23 September (90 half-days)
Term 4	Monday 10 October	To	Friday 9 December (88 half-days)*
*or to a day in December which ensures that the school has been open for instruction for <b>380 half-days</b> in 2005			

## TADS – Training and Development Service Youth Sector – Mental Health Foundation:

For people who work with young people around Tobacco, Alcohol and other Drug Use? Brief Interventions & Motivational Enhancement

An intermediate level brief intervention workshop.

For Information (09) 373 7599 ext. 987843 or email: [c.pilkington@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:c.pilkington@auckland.ac.nz)

## Taking the first step – a book for jobseekers with experience of mental illness (Mental health Foundation):

*Taking the first step* has been written for the one-in-five jobseekers who have experience of mental health issues, and for people who work with them. The aim of the guidebook is to inspire & encourage jobseekers, provide practical tips about employment rights, list services that can help, and discuss ways to deal with issues such as disclosure.

To download copies go to [www.likeminds.govt.nz](http://www.likeminds.govt.nz) or [www.mentalhealth.org.nz](http://www.mentalhealth.org.nz) see 'spotlight'

People in the Wellington region can also get hard copies FREE from Consumer Organisations (Wtgn Mental Health Consumers Union, Oasis Network, Kapiti Choices), Work & Income offices, HVDHB & CCDHB mental health services, Citizens Advice Bureau, Supported Employment Services and other health, welfare & community agencies.

## Youth Week 05 – 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2005:

Who decides who you are? Define yourself. Stereotypes are everywhere. And young people are stereotyped so often that a lot of the times we don't even notice it anymore.

**RE: DEFINE** is an installation that's all about challenging these stereotypes and celebrating young people for who they really are: an expression of how they see themselves, rather than how society sees them. **RE: DEFINE** encourages New Zealand's young people to be proud of who they are and to have the confidence to be themselves in the face of what are often misleading stereotypes of youth culture.

This idea of challenging stereotypes is the theme for Youth Week 2005. For more information please email, [anoushka@nzaahd.org.nz](mailto:anoushka@nzaahd.org.nz).

## NZ Innovation Annual Festival:

NZ Innovation is an annual festival to showcase and promote New Zealand innovation and entrepreneurship in partnership with industry associations, private sector organisations, relevant local and central government agencies, educational institutions, and other innovation stakeholders.

The festival's primary objectives are to:

- Demonstrate the essential role of research, development and idea commercialisation in the creation of sustainable growth for the country
- Profile New Zealand's significant intellectual capital and celebrate our diverse 'innovation' successes
- Reinforce the entrepreneurial process of developing profitable innovation from creative ideas
- Facilitate networking and collaboration between innovators, investors and the wider community on a regional and national level

NZ Innovation 2005 will use the many events organised to increase public recognition of the importance of innovation and to foster networking and business opportunities for the organisers and participants.

The NZ Innovation 2005 will be held from **26th April to 15<sup>th</sup> May** with national and regional launches held in the preceding week. There will be in excess of 100 events in NZ Innovation 2005. The six major university cities – Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin – will again feature prominently, but a key objective in 2005 is to extend the impact of the festival into rural New Zealand.

The 2005 theme will be '**Building a Culture of Innovation**'. The festival will be very much about demonstrating innovative kiwi approaches to everyday problems, creating new solutions and using new ideas to change and improve old ways of doing things. The programme will celebrate Kiwi successes as well as suggest opportunities for further improvement. With many supporters, partners and associates in New Zealand, the Festival aims to showcase our innovation achievements to the world, build on our research and technology capability and promote a new generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.

For more information please contact NZ Innovation 05, Level 15, 41 Shortland St, P O Box 1943, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1001, New Zealand, Phone: (09) 968 8146 Fax (09) 358 1018 Web: [www.nzinnovation.org](http://www.nzinnovation.org)

Email: [info@nzinnovation.org](mailto:info@nzinnovation.org)

#### **Updated Information**

Our website is - [www.nzinnovation.org](http://www.nzinnovation.org) - from which you will be able to source press releases, the events calendar, and updated NZ Innovation 2005 information.

#### **Human Rights Commission – A Citizens Handbook:**

This handbook, prepared by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative [CHRI] is designed to inform citizens about the existence human rights commissions; the type of complaints they take up; the procedure they follow; and the remedies they can provide.

The information contained in this handbook also seeks to enable citizens to effectively make use of the Human Rights Commissions in the event of their own human rights or the rights of their loved ones being violated. Equally the handbook is intended to be a guide to NGOs and civil society activists, informing them about the role and functions of Human Rights Commissions, so that they in turn can assist the public, especially those who belong to vulnerable sections of society in getting their complaints filed before the Commissions.

[http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/publications/hrc/hrc\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/publications/hrc/hrc_handbook.pdf)

#### **New Zealand Aid's Foundation Upcoming Events – Mental Health Foundation:**

Wellington Gay & Lesbian Fair ~ Wellington ~ March 12 ~ Newtown School

Gay & Lesbian Dance Party ~ Christchurch ~ April 2 ~ Addington Raceway

Doc Martens Online Auction ~ Online ~ April 4-11

Te Whanau o te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa, me te Mate Parekore - Family of the Pacific and HIV/AIDS Conference ~ Auckland ~ October 25-28

The New Zealand AIDS Foundation Gala Ball ~ Auckland ~ October 28

Queen of the Whole Universe ~ Auckland ~ November 26

World AIDS Day ~ global ~ December 1

For more information contact Garreth Spillane 300 6965 or [garreth.spillane@nzaf.org.nz](mailto:garreth.spillane@nzaf.org.nz)

## **New Resources from the Legal Services Agency:**

### Maori language: A guide to Legal Aid and Other Legal Assistance covering

- The Police Detention Legal Assistance scheme
- The Duty Solicitor scheme
- Criminal Legal Aid
- Civil/family legal aid

### Brochure about Community Law Centres

- Contact details about all community law centres in New Zealand

For copies contact Janine McIntosh at Head Office, Legal Services Agency, PO Box 5333, Wellington or (04) 495 5910; fax (04) 495 5911 or [www.lsa.govt.nz](http://www.lsa.govt.nz)

## **Youth Participation Advisors: What do they do?**

Their job is to work with young people, youth organisations and people working with young people to support the development of effective youth participation across the country. Youth participation is Principle Five of the *Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa* (YDSA). The YDSA promotes a youth development approach for government and society.

Effective youth participation is about creating opportunities for young people to influence, solve problems, inform, shape, design and contribute to an activity or idea. For a copy of the YDSA, see the MYD website [www.myd.govt.nz](http://www.myd.govt.nz) or contact MYD at [mydinfo@myd.govt.nz](mailto:mydinfo@myd.govt.nz)

As youth participation advisors, they do things like:

- ?? encourage young people's input into policy and practice
- ?? provide those working with young people with training in youth participation
- ?? encourage youth-run and youth-initiated programmes
- ?? support communities to involve young people in community affairs
- ?? Promote young people's political participation.

Or for more information please contact the Youth Advisors - Emma Haxton and Michelle Ngakai by email [Emma.Haxton001@myd.govt.nz](mailto:Emma.Haxton001@myd.govt.nz) [Michelle.Ngakai001@myd.govt.nz](mailto:Michelle.Ngakai001@myd.govt.nz)

## **Glade Plug-In Warning:**

This original message was written by a lady whose brother and his wife learned a hard lesson just lately.

Their house burned down.... Nothing left but ashes. They have good insurance so the home will be replaced and most of the contents. That is the good news. However, they were sick when they found out the cause of the fire.

The insurance investigator sifted through the ashes for several hours. He had the cause of the fire traced to the master bathroom. He asked her sister-in-law what she had plugged in the bathroom. She listed the normal things....curling iron, blow dryer. He kept saying to her, "No, this would be something that would disintegrate at high temperatures".

Then her sister-in-law remembered she had a Glade Plug-In in the bathroom.

The investigator had one of those "Aha" moments. He said that was the cause of the fire. He said he has seen more home fires started with the plug-in type room fresheners than anything else has. He said the plastic they are made from is a THIN plastic. He also said that in every case there was nothing left to prove that it even existed. When the investigator looked in the wall plug, the two prongs left from the plug-in were still in there.

Her sister-in-law had one of the plug-ins that had a small night-light built in it. She said she had noticed that the light would dim and then finally go out. She would walk into the bathroom a few hours later, and the light would be back on again.

The investigators said that the unit was getting too hot, and would dim and go out rather than just blow the light bulb. Once it cooled down it would come on. That is a warning sign. The investigator said he personally wouldn't have any type of plug in fragrance device anywhere in his house. He has seen too many homes that have been burnt down due to them.

*"I received the above article from a few different sources – hence why I thought that it may pay to add it in".*

## **Article in the NZ Listener:**

If you haven't seen it already - there's an article in the 2-8 April edition of NZ Listener called 'Not Disabled Enough' about funding in schools for special needs and especially children on the Autistic Spectrum.

## **Interested in Human Rights?**

- Can you support others to make their own decisions?
- Can you advise people without taking control?
- Have you a few hours to spare?

People with a learning disability all over the country is looking for volunteers to assist them to run their self-advocacy groups.

The self-advocacy groups are part of People First, an international self-advocacy organisation run by and for people with a learning (intellectual) disability. In Aotearoa/New Zealand, there are over 50 groups in 6 regions, a national committee and office in Wellington.

Concerned that many members know little about their rights, the leaders are keen to enlist volunteers with a good understanding of human rights to assist groups. As well as needing support to organise and facilitate meetings, some members need support to take part on committees for local bodies, health and disability funders and services. Support is needed to consider issues, decide how to respond, and express ideas clearly.

Volunteer assistants are needed throughout the country. People who can spare from 3 to 10 hours a month can assist in a variety of ways.

For more information please contact People First New Zealand, P.O. Box 9199, Marion Square, Wellington. Phone/fax (04) 3813242, or 0800 206070, or email [mail@peoplefirst.org.nz](mailto:mail@peoplefirst.org.nz).

## **Video resources for children in foster or kinship care – Who Cares?**

Who Cares” consists of two videos for children living away from home – usually in some of foster or kinship care. Who Cares? Video one is about 12 minutes long and is for children aged 4-7yrs and Who Cares? Video two is 15 minutes long, and is for 8-12year olds. A video guide is included for adults.

This video is \$35 incl. GST, and may be ordered from the Children's Issues Centre, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin, or by phoning (03) 4795038, fax (03) 4795039. Email [cic@otago.ac.nz](mailto:cic@otago.ac.nz), [www.otago.ac.nz/CIC/CIC.html](http://www.otago.ac.nz/CIC/CIC.html).

## **United 4 Action:**

United 4 Action is a group of individuals with disabilities, who have recently started meeting once a month in Whangarei to discuss issues that are important e.g. physical access issues, housing, carer services etc. Another role of the group is to provide advice and feedback from a disabled viewpoint to CCS Northland as part of their ongoing service development programme.

For more information, or to join the support group please contact David Timperley (09) 4389988, or Vanessa McGoldrick (09) 4373374 (evenings).

## **Skylight books:**

Announcing a NEW NZ book for Carers – **Rain, Hail or Shine – Exploring change, loss and grief in a carer's world.**

This new NZ book for Carers talks honestly and openly about the kinds of changes, losses and grief that carers can experience. Often unacknowledged, they can have a significant effect on carers' emotions, physical health, mental wellbeing, family life, social life, financial situation – and so much more.

This new book is due to be released in May 2005. If you would like to be notified when this new book – Rain Hail or Shine becomes available, then please send your name, address and contact details to Skylight, P.O. Box 7309, Wellington South, email [rs@skylight-trust.org.nz](mailto:rs@skylight-trust.org.nz), or fax (04) 9394759.

Skylight provides unique support to children, young people and their families dealing with life's tough times – whatever the cause. Skylight is a national, not-for-profit charitable trust.

To order any of Skylights books, or to discuss Skylight's counseling, support and professional development services, please call Skylight on 0800 299 100, or visit [www.skylight.org.nz](http://www.skylight.org.nz).

### **Phobi Faces Fear – A New Children's Resource Book:**

Phobi Faces Fear is dedicated to the children and young people of the world, to be read by an adult and child together to stimulate discussion about scary thoughts. The target audience is 4 to 10 year olds.

One in five children suffer from an anxiety disorder; some more debilitating than others; panic attacks can lead to school avoidance, which in time can develop into alcoholism, unemployment issues, social skills and more tragically – suicide.

Phobi Faces Fear also includes a musical CD by Tommy Ferguson. It has a recommended retail price of \$29.95 + post/handling.

For orders or for more information please contact Deimos Press, P.O. Box 33856, Takapuna, Auckland, or phone Fiona Selby 027 275 5944, or visit [www.phobic.org.nz](http://www.phobic.org.nz) bookstore.

### **Youth Participation Video – Speak Out:**

A video resource documenting young people's participation in the 'Joined-Up Services' 2003 Conference.

The cost for this video is \$25 incl. GST and postage and packaging.

For more information, or to order please contact Children's Issues Centre, university of Otago, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin, or phone (03) 4795038, fax (03) 4795039, or email [cic@otago.ac.nz](mailto:cic@otago.ac.nz), or [www.otago.ac.nz/CIC/CIC.html](http://www.otago.ac.nz/CIC/CIC.html)

### **Change of name – IHC to Idea – (Community Network):**

As from the 28<sup>th</sup> march 2005 the services of IHC New Zealand Inc will be delivered through a new company called IDEA Services Ltd. IDEA will be 100% owned subsidiary of IHC. IHC will continue to advocate for the rights and inclusion of people with intellectual disability and will continue to provide property management and information management services and fundraising. IDEA will focus on the delivery of support services.

### **Parent to Parent – change of details:**

Parent to Parent has a new number and email addresses at their national office.

Telephone/Fax (07) 8538491 and their new email is [national@parent2parent.org.nz](mailto:national@parent2parent.org.nz). Other contacts are as follows:

- CEO – [anne@parent2parent.org.nz](mailto:anne@parent2parent.org.nz)
- Matching and Information – [kay@parent2parent.org.nz](mailto:kay@parent2parent.org.nz)
- National Services Coordinator – [robyn@parent2parent.org.nz](mailto:robyn@parent2parent.org.nz)
- SibSupport NZ Coordinator – [nick@parent2parent.org.nz](mailto:nick@parent2parent.org.nz)
- Executive Support – [helen@parent2parent.org.nz](mailto:helen@parent2parent.org.nz)

### **Parent Aid – help for weary parents – (community Matters):**

Kids driving you mad? If you live northwest of Auckland, help is at hand in the form of 'Parent Aid Kaipara'.

Based in Helensville, Parent Aid Kaipara provides free, caring, practical home help when families, or people who have every day care of young people, face illness, stress, accident or other emergency.

The service is free, for emergencies only and temporary. Where need is long term, they help parents to access appropriate agencies. It is not a babysitting service and the parent is expected to be home during the service, though if a parent needs to visit a doctor or hospital, this can usually be allowed for. It is in-home only. Parent Aid Kaipara does not provide transport for parents or children, except in emergencies at the workers discretion.

**For more information please contact Parent Aid Kaipara, 53 Commercial Road, Helensville, or phone (09) 4207002.**

## **SKIP – funding round:**

Applications for Round 3 of the Local Initiatives Fund need to be in by 5pm 31<sup>st</sup> may 2005. Forms and information for applicants are available from [skipinfo@msd.govt.nz](mailto:skipinfo@msd.govt.nz), or on the website [www.familyservices.govt.nz/skip/](http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/skip/).

Community groups can apply for funding (up to \$75,000) for projects aligned to SKIP's objectives. The fund aims to support community organisations to promote the benefits of positive parenting and provide practical knowledge and skills on safe, effective, non-physical discipline to parents and caregivers of children aged 0-5yrs of age.

Projects most likely to be funded are those that encourage local leadership and collaboration and purpose innovative ways to get positive parenting messages widely spread across communities to parents and caregivers of 0-5 yr. olds.

If you would like to discuss an application or idea about the Local Initiatives Fund, then please contact Barbara Lambourn on (04) 9163531, or email [Barbara.lambourn008@msd.govt.nz](mailto:Barbara.lambourn008@msd.govt.nz).

## **Care Supplement info:**

### What is the Care Supplement?

The Care Supplement is a payment to former foster parents who are receiving an Orphan's or Unsupported Child's Benefit for a child whom they previously fostered.

### How do I qualify for the Care Supplement?

To qualify for a Care Supplement, you need to be a former foster parent who:

- a) Is Caring for a child who –
  - is not your child or step-child; and
  - had previously been in your care under s.362 of the CYPF Act; and
  - was discharged under the CYPF Act into your care from the custody or guardianship of a cultural social service, or the Director of a Child and Family Support Service or an Iwi Social Service or the Director-General; and
- b) Is receiving an Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit for the care of that child.

### How much is the Care Supplement?

The Care Supplement is the difference between the rate of Orphan's or Unsupported Child's Benefit that you qualify for (before it is abated for the child's income) and the applicable rate of foster care allowance set under s.363 (1) of the CYPF Act. Note: If the child is 17, use the rate for a child aged 16 years.

### How do I apply?

Entitlement to the supplement is from the date that you became eligible or the date your application was received, whichever is the later. However, an amendment to the Programme on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002 extends eligibility to former foster parents whom a child was discharged by a range of organisations other than the Director-General of Social Welfare and on a date before July 1<sup>st</sup> 1999. However people in this category were to apply before June 2003, and payment would have been made from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2002.

Source – Benefit Rights Service at the Wellington People's Centre with the support of the Legal Services Agency.

## **South Auckland Caregivers Association:**

### **Are you a Caregiver who lives in the South Auckland/Counties Manukau region?**

This includes the area up to and including the Bombay area. By Caregiver this means any foster parent, kinship/whanau carer, or grandparent carer who looks after a child not your own on a full time basis. This also includes those caregivers that offer emergency care and respite care through an agency.

### **Are you an Agency who has caregivers on your books who may fit the above category?**

If so – then are you aware that there is a new Association that has been set up in this region that offers support in whatever way possible for Caregivers?

### Some of the ways that support may be offered, is through:

- a) coffee mornings,
- b) help with allegations,
- c) newsletters,
- d) discounts on some family activities – (Current discounts are available for the Village Skycity Cinema, Kelly Tarltons, Waiwera Hot Pools, and the Rain Forest Express),

- e) outings organised for the whole family to attend
- f) information on parenting and foster parenting related issues
- g) organising of training sessions that may be applicable and of interest for caregivers
- h) Someone to talk to on any caregiver issues at any time. If unable to help, we will be sure to redirect your call to the most appropriate person if possible.

Interested – or want more information?

Then give the Chairperson a call on (09) 2670319, or email [carberrys@xtra.co.nz](mailto:carberrys@xtra.co.nz).

**Remember if you want to have a say, then join up with your local foster parent association. Contact details for your local association may be obtained from the website [www.hrs.org.nz/fostercare](http://www.hrs.org.nz/fostercare), or contact Allysa on the above details for more information.**

## And to End

### There is Hope in "The Way"

No more can they hurt her, nor call out her name  
 In weakness and anger to our house she came  
 Her silence was shattered, the secret was through  
 Hurt and confusion was all her heart knew.  
 "Just a short time do we need her to stay,  
 be careful" they said, "she might run away"  
 What terrible pain did this young girl endure?  
 Inside she was frightened and so insecure.  
 The end finally came and with us she was safe  
 yet the anger, the fury, the bottled up chafe  
 All needed to vent, it needed to roar!  
 I prayed for the day that her spirit would soar.  
 Through floods of emotions and terrible pain  
 We watched as the sunshine took over the rain.  
 The conquering love that broke though one day  
 was enough to decide that she had found "The Way"!  
 Our days turned to weeks, and the weeks into years  
 And her countenance changed into laughter, from tears  
 With the help of the Lord and His Spirit to guide  
 we saw life begin new in a girl who had died.

**By Marjorie Allen, 2nd adoptive mom**

“Dear friends, we wanted to share a bit of our adoption story with you, about our new daughter!  
 She is 16 now, but was only 13 when she came into our home. We are her 2nd adoptive family, not because she disrupted,  
 but because the original adoptive father was sexually abusing her for almost 7 years, and the 1st adoptive mom wouldn't  
 believe her.

What a tragedy this little girl's life was. But now, after only 3 years with us, she is the sweetest, most charming, beautiful  
 young lady I've ever met!

Her name is Jacqueline, and the poem above is hers”.