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April Newsletter 2010

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Saying

I've learned-
You can believe in dreams because
they maybe the start of your sketch for the future!!

DPA's telephone messages

Thank you for leaving your messages.

Do not forget to leave **your telephone number first**, then your message as it certainly makes a difference as we can promptly return your call.

Co-ordinator's Comments

Note: Coordinator's Comments

Kia Ora Everyone,

We would love to catch as many of you as we can at the upcoming Health Forum so please pass out the flyer on page ? onto those concerned who are looking for information on Support Services here in the Manawatu.

Palmerston North DPA website is now live so check it out on the following address:

www.dpapn.org.nz

Funding Acknowledgement We would like to thank **Eastern & Central** for funding the DPA PN & Districts web site.

Talking about funding if you get your membership into DPA PN before the 1st of June you will go into the draw for an early bird prize.

Have you put a submission into the PNCC and Horizons regarding the 10 year Annual Draft Plan, check out the website or head into the council if you require a copy.

www.pncc.govt.nz

We have been fairly busy and have enjoyed hearing back with your letters of concern, keep them coming. We have also been in consultation with people who are disconcerted with the lack of accessibility in regards to recent building developments in the Manawatu region, stay tuned for our update in the May Newsletter and don't hesitate to get in touch if you have your own concerns.

Finally, thanks to Angella, Vanya & Richard at April Sunset on Cuba we have the massage prize to be drawn later this month!

Delysse Kennard DPA PN Coordinator

Committee Corner

Note: Committee Corner-Angella Young

Greetings to all.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Easter Holidays without too much indulging on the token chocolate Easter bunnies. I started Easter thinking in January when I spotted the first hot cross buns on supermarket shelves. Is nothing sacred anymore?

Perhaps more specifically; what financial impact will the government have on everything else this year?

During March 2010 I managed to drag myself to the Palmerston North Community Advisory Group (PNCAG) meeting held at the Public Health Organisation on Tuesday 16th. The main topic discussed was the government funding of some health services and the possible loss to funding for other targeted

Subscription rates which are effective from 1 July 2010 for your information -

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • Unwaged, Individual | \$ 15.00 |
| • Waged, Individual | \$ 30.00 |
| • Organisations, up to 25 members or clients | \$ 40.00 |
| • Organisations, 26 - 100 members or clients | \$ 80.00 |
| • Organisations, 101 - 200 members or clients | \$120.00 |
| • Organisations, 201 or more members or clients | \$150.00 |

health services provided by the public hospital.

The meeting also highlighted the need for community agencies NGOs (non-government organisations) to work more closely together to create an improved network of those who can provide more action and increased reporting to the PNCAG. This in turn will give the PNCAG a more solid foundation to work with while dealing with the many health issues they tend to and form a stronger bond with the P.H.O.

Movement within the P.H.O and health practitioners in general, is toward, forming larger centres, but less in the number of P.H.O.s and for example general medical doctors to merge. Reason is to decrease the number of unnecessary admissions to hospital, A & E departments, and the heavy demand placed on G.Ps.

The increased use of practice nurses will also contribute to lessening the burden of walk-in patients, to ensure that all who need emergency care/maintenance of on-going conditions are able to be seen as soon as possible. Not to mention the efficiency of these centres on the financial flow from the government.

Basically the targeted groups for this year to be of most benefit is

- *the elderly over 65 years old;*
- *Maori; maintaining specific cultural care*
- *Unenrolled Maori; point to increase in patient registrations with a G.P.*
- *Priorities placed on those with chronic illnesses and with long-term severe disabilities.*

One point that will affect everyone is privacy; in the attempt to provide increased efficiency of services to patients, there will be a step toward 100% access to patient notes by patients themselves and the medical centres they attend.

Good or bad for each one of us; the main focus of present and future input from individuals and community groups is to:

PULL TOGETHER, GO PUBLIC AND FIGHT ON!

Now is the time to make the government and public realise what effect it would have by cutting or closing these services for those of us who rely on these as they are.

So if you or anyone you know will struggle with the moves due to the restriction of funding to your local District Health Boards, be sure to make your views known by contacting those acting for the D.H.Bs.

Remember to come with your ideas and statements to the DPA & PN City Council Public Forum Tuesday 27 April 2010.

RSVP to DPA by Friday 23 April 2010.

Committee member- Angella Young.

Committee Dates

4.30pm Start

- **June 10th**
- **August 12th**
- **October 14th AGM**
- **December 9th**



Message from Hon Tariana Turia, Minister for Disability Issues

This year is shaping up as an action-filled year for the disability issues portfolio. Many different initiatives are starting up, underway, or due to be implemented.

It's great to see these changes happening after a long time of review and consideration.

Our challenge is to make sure all this action has coherence and is consistent with the New Zealand Disability Strategy and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Ministerial Committee on Disability Issues is providing this leadership and co-ordination across government. The new Chief Executives' Group on Disability Issues will drive the development of better integration of action on disability issues at an agency level. So far under the direction of the Ministerial Committee on Disability Issues, government agencies are focusing on more immediate, practical actions in their New Zealand Disability Strategy implementation. We are also reviewing the work on the recommendations from the Government Response to the Social Services Select Committee's Inquiry into the Provision of Services and Quality of Care for Persons with Disabilities.

Some key actions happening across government include the Review of Special Education, developing more flexible and individually responsive disability supports, the video relay service trial; and ensuring support is available for disabled people who want to work. The review of the New Zealand Sign Language Act will happen later this year.

I am also considering how New Zealand can best support implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Currently we are developing our first report on implementation to the UN. The report is being led by the Office for Disability Issues. There will be public engagement on the report, due to happen around June-July 2010. More information will be available closer to the time.

The contribution of disabled people's organisations is necessary to ensure all this work has real meaning. Ultimately, the true value will be measured by disabled persons themselves – letting us know whether the work being undertaken is making a difference to their capacity to enjoy a good, ordinary life on an equal basis with others.

Mauriora!

Na

Tariana

Thanks to the Office for Disability Issues for this article

Community Notices

Note: Community Notices

Check out page2 about Council submissions and what you feel has been of benefit and also what else could be of assistance to the community.

Draft Accessible Signage Guidelines

The Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind (RNZFB) is seeking your feedback on best practice guidelines for accessible signage usable by blind and partially sighted people, including those who are deaf/blind.

www.rnzrb.org.nz/lobbying/draftsignageguidelines/draftguidelines

Download the draft guidelines www.rnzfb.org.nz/lobbying/draftsignageguidelines/wordsignageguidelines

Feedback

If you would like to submit feedback, you can do so in the following ways:

using www.rnzfb.org.nz/lobbying/draftsignageguidelines/feedback.form

email: signage@rnzfb.org.nz

Wellington 6141

The closing date for your feedback is **Monday 26 April 2010**.

Note: Aerial pic of Ashhurst Domain All Access Path



1. Ashhurst Domain - wheelchair accessible chicane and path has been constructed from the lay-by beside the Ashhurst Manawatu River Bridge into the network of paths in the bush further work on covering roots etc is planned shortly to make it easier to take in the beautiful bush.
2. In Palmerston North the section of Riverside Path under the Fitzherbert Bridge has been sealed so now there is a continuous sealed section from the Holiday Park/Dittmer Drive through to the river level gauge beside the Massey Hokowhitu Campus child care centre, measuring about 1.7 km and including sealed links up to the Esplanade and Centennial Drive lime path network. The Centennial Drive / Hokowhitu Lagoon path network is to have a makeover to overcome the winter puddle problems.
3. The full access grade ramp from the car park off the bottom of Ruahine Street is being linked to the section of sealed path behind Waterloo Park shortly. The grade of the access down the stopbank has been altered and sealing is due to be completed shortly. This section will then have 1.3 km sealed.

DPA 2010 FORUMS

Note: DPA Upcoming Forums

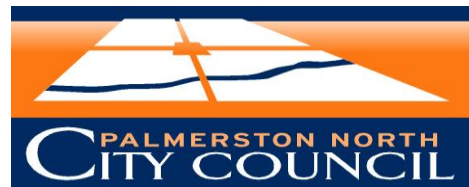
DPA wishes to know what other forums you would like hosted therefore please contact the office. Stay tuned for the dates for our upcoming forums & check out page 5 for our April Agenda, would love to have you at the forum e.g. DHB Services & Forums.

Disabled Persons Assembly and PNCC Public Forum-**Sign Language Interpreter/communicators** at meeting.

All Welcome as DPA wants to update you in regards to the following services, pass this agenda around to anyone who may be interested in attending and please phone regarding numbers



DPA (New Zealand) Inc



Service concerns re: upcoming budget cuts

Core District Health Board (DHB) Services under threat:

- ✓ ACC
- ✓ Community Nursing
- ✓ Enable
- ✓ Dental
- ✓ Diabetes
- ✓ Health Protection
- ✓ Mental Health
- ✓ Sexual Health
- ✓ Star 3 Ward (closure)
- ✓ WINZ-Health and Disability
- ✓ Workbridge

Date: Tuesday 27th April
 Venue: Community Leisure Centre
 569 Fergusson Street
 Palmerston North
 Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm
 RSVP: Friday 23rd April
 Tel: 06 3579877
 Fax: 06 3579880