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Saying

**My Friend, No matter where I am, Or what I am doing,
When you come to mind,
A smile comes to my face...**

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

Konnichiwa Everyone,

Wow there is so much going on it's hard to know where to start...

First of all DPAPN would like to give Kevin at Speedy Signs a great thank you for supplying us with signage on the right side of the lift in Westside chambers indicating where we are situated on the 3rd floor up with Supporting Families.

Annual General Meeting Our AGM is coming up on **Thursday, 14 October 2010** and we are privileged to have our National DPA, CEO Ross Brereton in attendance. Maybe if you have the time we would love to catch you here -It will be appreciated if you could RSVP the office so we are aware of seating .

DPA is also looking for more involvement from our members and anyone interested in assisting the disability sector. So if you or anyone you know has an interest then please do not hesitate in getting in touch. I would love to catch you up here for a coffee sometime soon!

Lastly DPAPN is hosting a forum in September on our upcoming local body elections & we would love to both see you there and receive any questions you might have for our candidate.

Delysse Kennard DPA PN Coordinator

Members Comment

Note: President's Corner

Hello one and all,

My name is Melanie Severinsen & firstly I would just like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to attend the recent National DPA Leadership Forum. I learnt and came away with a lot of valuable information and hope to be of further use to the Committee and membership in the future.

We are very lucky to have Pam MacNeill available as mentor for those who attended and also received instruction on how to compile submissions to various government bodies and had a chance to network with other DPA regional agencies which I think was invaluable.

Though DPAPN is a non-profit organisation (NPO) we are in a fortunate position in that we work closely with the PNCC to ensure the voice of Disabled people does not go unheard & the community stays informed through both Newsletters and regular Forums.

Hope you have a lovely day & I look forward to working with the Committee more in the future.

Cheers

Melanie

International exchange opportunity for young people working in the disability sector.

Young people, aged 23 - 40 years, involved in non-government organisations can apply to participate in the 2010 Young Core Leaders of Civil Society Groups Development programme in Japan.

The programme involves a mutual exchange of young leaders taking active roles in the social activities of disabled people, youth and senior citizens in Japan, New Zealand, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Young leaders of non-government organisations in these countries are invited to Japan to develop skills and establish networks between Japan and their countries.

In October 2010, nine young leaders from Japan will visit New Zealand. In February 2011 the New Zealand participants will visit Japan for ten days. The costs of the participants are covered by the Japanese Government, but not for support people.

Applications are open until 7 September 2010.

For more information and application forms:

Email: japan18@ej.org.nz or odi@msd.govt.nz



Note pic of bonsai tree in front of Japanese changing screen

Accessible Tourism Conference.

The first New Zealand Conference on accessible tourism, travel, and hospitality for people with disabilities and seniors will be held on 4 October 2010.

Topics being covered are the current situation in New Zealand and worldwide, website access and information best practice, government strategy, policy, and obligations, best practice in transport, accommodation, and attractions access.

This one day conference is organized by the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland New Zealand.

For more information: www.nztri.aut.ac.nz/accesstourismconference/index.html

National Disability Conference December 2010.

The Health and Disability Commissioner is hosting a National Disability Conference on 6 December 2010 for disabled people, their family, friends and wider networks. The theme is "Making it Easy to Speak Up".

For more information: Contact: Mauryse Dix, Phone 0800 11 22 33, Email: mdix@hdc.org.nz

Note:Text BoxNational Disability Conference-Dec 2010.

General Election and Referendum on Voting System – Accessibility Action Plan 2011.

The Chief Electoral Office (CEO) is leading a consultation on how services at elections for people with disabilities can be improved.

Through this consultation the CEO aims to build on the progress made for the 2005 and 2008 elections by maintaining and improving access for people with disabilities.

It also aims to provide information about the referendum on the voting system in accessible formats. More information will be available online at Monday 16 August 2010 at www.elections.org.nz

\$500,000 for new service for visually impaired audiences.

NZ On Air has made \$500,000 available for

Audio Description for vision impaired and blind audiences. Audio Description describes the non verbal on-screen action in a programme alongside the normal soundtrack.

NZ On Air's funding is for a pilot year for a limited amount of TV One programming. After NZ On Air and TVNZ evaluate the success of the pilot, and depending on available funding, it is expected the service will roll out more broadly.

More information:

[http://www.nzonair.govt.nz/news/newspresreleases/pressrelease_2010_08_12-\(1\).aspx](http://www.nzonair.govt.nz/news/newspresreleases/pressrelease_2010_08_12-(1).aspx)



Note: pic of person reading television

Newborn hearing screening rolled out to all District health Boards.

The national newborn hearing screening programme is now in place in all District Health Boards, and it is expected that around ten babies a month born with a significant hearing loss will be identified.

Identification is important so steps can be put in place to help babies learn language as part of their usual early development.

The Government is investing more than \$6.5 million a year in this programme.

More information: <http://www.nsu.govt.nz/current-nsu-programmes/newborn-hearing-screening.asp>

Message from Jan Scown, Director, Office for Disability Issues.

In the 2010 Budget several initiatives were announced to ultimately help disabled people achieve a better life. Here is an update on the work the Office has been doing on these initiatives.

The social change disability campaign has started to take shape. Budget 2010 made funding available to improve the public's attitudes and behaviours towards disabled people. A start up group of disabled people, others with experience of social marketing and disability advocates met in Auckland last week to discuss the new campaign about improving attitudes and behaviours to disabled people.

Price Waterhouse Coopers made their fabulous waterfront offices available for the workshop which was the first step in mapping out the needs and expectations of the disability sector with regard to the campaign. The day produced a wide range of thoughts and ideas about what the campaign might look like. The group will meet again in the near future.

The campaign work is being led by the Office of Disability Issues with Family and Community Services (also part of the Ministry for Social Development), working in partnership with disabled people and others.

The First Report to the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) is an opportunity to produce an exciting report that we can use on an ongoing basis to help drive action and change in New Zealand.

We are currently gathering responses from government departments on the UNCRPD articles. We have also met with the UNCRPD Sector Reference Group to discuss the plan for producing the report, the timeline and actions. We want this report to be an honest reflection of reality, identifying what is being done well, what is not, and how we plan making progress in these areas, but taking in to account the reporting constraints placed on the report by the UN.

Funding was provided in Budget 2010 so disabled people's organisations can also monitor New Zealand's progress. DPA, Association of Blind Citizens, People First, Deaf Aotearoa, Ngati Kāpo, and Nga Hau E Wha (a network of organisations of people with experience of mental illness) have formed the Convention Coalition to do this work.

They have trained disabled people to monitor disabled people's experience of their rights and have completed 100 interviews in four sites around New Zealand. They are now writing their report. The report will be ready in November.

Committee Dates **4.30pm Start**

- **October 14th AGM**
- **December 9th**



Note: pic of calendar

Message from Hon Tariana Turia, Minister for Disability Issues.

When I last reported on the Ministerial Committee on Disability Issues, I talked about developing a new single disability action plan.

While the vision and objectives of the New Zealand Disability Strategy remain as relevant today as when it was released, what has been missing is a set of concrete actions to put the strategy which take a whole-of-government approach into effect.

At the Ministerial Committee meeting on 20 July, we heard how the Chief Executives' Group on Disability Issues has started work on the plan. Instead of recording the large amount of low impact activity undertaken by government agencies, it is our goal to have a disability action plan that focuses on a number of strategic actions. This will help simplify the reporting obligations by agencies.

The plan will be guided by the Ministerial Committee's three priorities of Modern Disability Supports, Accessible New Zealand and Contributing Citizens; and also the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Already underway is the Ministry of Health's new model for supporting disabled people. With the new model approach now endorsed by Cabinet, the Ministry of Health is setting up demonstration projects to put into practice such things as local area co-ordination and encouraging flexible arrangements to enable more choice and control for disabled people. Learning from these projects will inform how the new model will roll out in the future.

As part of developing the action plan, the Chief Executives' Group will look at how the new model approach can be extended to other government agencies' disability supports. This will help promote consistency in how government funded disability supports are provided.

Other items discussed by the Ministerial Committee were:

- Proposed recommendations from the Review of Special Education
- The Ministry of Justice plan to improve the government's system for reporting on international human rights treaties
- Efforts being made in Auckland to make the Rugby World Cup accessible to disabled people.

We also appreciated the Association of Blind Citizens taking time to present to the Ministerial Committee key access barriers experienced by vision impaired people. These issues will be considered by the Chief Executives' Group and reported back to Ministers.

For more information on the new model for disability supports the Cabinet paper is on the Ministry of Health website: <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/disability-keyprojects-model>.
Mauriora!

Na Tariana



Note: pic of octopus working with notepad/mouse

Welfare Working Group report.

On 9 August 2010 the Welfare Working Group published a discussion document on the issues facing the current benefit system. They are looking for feedback.

The Welfare Working Group was established by Cabinet to undertake to review New Zealand's welfare system.

Submissions can be made online or by hardcopy by Friday 17 September.

To read the issues paper: <http://ips.ac.nz/WelfareWorkingGroup/Index.html>

To join the discussion group: <http://wwgissuespaper.wikispaces.com/>

To make an online submission <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VDSSJWZ>

To make a submission in hardcopy: <http://ips.ac.nz/WelfareWorkingGroup/Contact.html>

Local Body elections.

A new website has been developed to support the local government elections being held from late September to midday 9 October 2010.

On the website you can find out who is standing in your region or ward and for what type of position. Candidates can also put up their profiles and you can ask questions of them.

For more information: www.elections2010.co.nz