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May Newsletter 2010

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*Saying
Smile*

and you just might make someone else's day

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,

DPA would like to hear from you about 5 key questions that you would ask the hospital board around these issues. Plus one issue that came through for example was paid for car-parking as a means to at least partially support the hospital. Love to hear back to you ASAP so send your 5 queries into DPA no later than Friday 28th May, send it to DPA PN & Districts, Westside Chambers, 151 The Square, Palmerston North, 4410.

We caught up with many of you at the Health Services Forum here in the Manawatu which DPA hosted on 27th April 2010 concerning ongoing reviews on services that continue to be offered. We are thankful to Christine Riddy (Dental), Lee Hefford (Social Worker. Star 3) from MidcentralDHB, and Kate Aplin Sexual Health, Ben Dibble from Workbridge and discussions we had with Sue Gould from Age Concern and Janet Webb from Manawatu Stewart Centre

There is a lot of concerned dialogue and suggestions occurring at present around ways forward for the Hospital to be able to continue providing these services.

We think it is great that the 111service is being adapted for people that are hearing Impaired so check out the Dominion Post article on Page 6. DPA supports funding for hearing impaired people and we would like to see progress on this for school children and adults allowing them to be involved in our community.

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.

Delysse Kennard DPA PN Coordinator

President's Corner

Note: President's Corner

I have been sitting outside in the lovely Autumn sunshine today and I thought to myself, May already, where have the months gone to! It seems to be the busier and older we get the faster the time goes.

With Winter fast approaching I trust that those who have to get in firewood have managed to find a supply at a reasonable cost.

In April we held a forum on the proposed DHB health cuts. This proved to be a lively forum with some very good speakers and some interesting conversation and ideas coming from the forum.

The proposed health cuts could for some be extremely detrimental with ramifications spreading across the board to a lot of outside agencies. If the cuts as proposed go ahead for some people who rely on the services affected there could be life changing changes that need to be made.

Please remember to contact the office if you have forum ideas for the future as the forums are designed to gather information and knowledge for all people in the community and we would rather run forums that you the people are asking for rather than a forum that we as DPA have chosen.

On a closing note check out the new Palmerston North DPA website which will be updated regularly with information and events.

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

www.dpapn.org.nz

Christine

Committee Dates

4.30pm Start

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



DPA would like to congratulate the winner of The draw for the April Sun on Cuba voucher following their letter to Disabled Persons Assembly.

nice one to

Chris and Carl Hansen!

Don't forget the early membership prize to be drawn if you pay before 1st June 2010!

Subscription Rates

which are effective from 1 July 2010 for your information are:-

- | | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| • 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 |

Disabled Persons Assembly has a vision of a Society which provides both equity and maximum opportunity to participate for all people

Community Notices

Note: Community Notices

DPA regional Leadership Forums coming up! 31 July -1 August

At Travel Lodge, 175 Cuba street, Palmerston North.

For anyone who has a passion for the rights of Disabled people and it is not restricted to just DPA members, but those that would like to be involved! DPA would love for you to contact the office on (06) 3579877 before the 1st July 2010 to register your attendance.

Not necessarily DPA members, but those that see the importance of joining DPA! If you have networking skills and a willingness to work with your Community we would love to hear from you!

Call DPA if you would like further information!

Disability Minister Lynne Pillay

Greetings all Firstly, congratulations to all the athletes who have done so well at various national and international events over the past few weeks – New Zealanders should be and are very proud of our athlete's achievements. We all know that behind all sporting heroes there is a strong support system – congratulations to all families and friends who assist in make our sports people's goals and ambitions come true.

Also congratulations to the New Zealand Guidelines group and the volunteers who have been working hard creating the Autism Spectrum Disorder website, which is a fantastic resource. I recommend you visit this site and forward it onto your networks www.asdguideline.com

It was great to catch up with many people in the disability sector at the function celebrating the appointment of Ross Brereton as the new CEO of DPA in February. Ross has extensive experience in the Disability Sector and I know his energy and commitment will continue the good work carried out by Gary Williams and the DPA team. Welcome aboard Ross.

Since my last newsletter I have lodged Notice of Motions in Parliament acknowledging IHC, Riding for the Disabled and New Zealand Sign Language Weeks, and the families, friends and volunteers who support people living with the disabilities.

Last week was New Zealand Sign Language Week and I want to acknowledge all the work that Deaf Aotearoa and other organisations throughout the country have put into celebrating Sign Language and raising awareness – it is great to see so many people in our communities growing interest in Sign Language and taking part in events. It is regrettable that despite Sign Language being an official language in New Zealand cuts to Adult and Community Education has meant that many Sign Language classes throughout the country have been shut down. Sadly in addition support for Deaf school students and Deaf tertiary students has been cut too. This has had a dramatic effect on Deaf students being able to participate fully and reach their full potential.

I have written to the Minister of Disability Issues, Hon Tariana Turia, Associate Minister for Education, Hon Heather Roy, and Hon Steven Joyce, Minister for Tertiary Education requesting for this funding to be fully reinstated. I encourage you all to also write to the Ministers and your local MP asking them to reinstate this vital funding.

In unity

Lynne Pillay Labour MP Labour Spokesperson for Disability Issues Associate Labour Spokesperson Justice – Victims' Rights

(Thanks to the Office for Disability Issues for this article)

Message from Hon Tariana Turia, Minister for Disability Issues.

I am pleased to formally announce this week, New Zealand Sign Language Week 2 – 8 May 2010 that we are reviewing the New Zealand Sign Language Act 2006.

The review will assess how government agencies are implementing the aims of the Act and suggest improvements that may be needed. The Act specifies a review after three years because it was recognised how important it is to make sure that the Act is working for the Deaf community.

The Office for Disability Issues will be involving Deaf people in planning the review, prior to the consultation happening with the Deaf community, interpreters and other interested people.

I look forward to the findings of the review and will report back to Parliament later this year 2010.

Earlier this month I was also fortunate to launch the New Zealand Disability Support Network, which has a clear vision – a strong and collaborative community support sector that contributes to a society that values the lives, dreams and aspirations of disabled people.

As Minister for Disability Issues I have met with a range of incredible families, disabled people, advocates and groups who all seem to share similar goals and ideals.

I am fully supportive of organisations that are well connected, networked and committed to evidence based best practice.

The Ministerial Committee on Disability Issues is holding its next meeting 18 May 2010. A focus for this meeting will be monitoring of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by disabled people.

Mauriora!Na Tariana

For more information:

[New Zealand Sign Language Review: media release in NZSL](#)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOa6eusL-Oo

[NZSL review:](#)

www.odi.govt.nz/what-we-do/nzsl/2010-review-nzsl-act.html

[Ministerial Committee:](#)

www.odi.govt.nz/what-we-do/ministerial-committee-on-disability-issues/index.html

Thanks to the Office for Disability Issues for this article

Note Pic of Service Dog Holding Keys



Message from Hon Pansy Wong, Associate Minister for Disability Issues.

This has been a busy month for me as Associate Minister for Disability Issues and I have enjoyed getting out and about meeting many people from within our disability community.

Last week I had the pleasure of meeting Masterton teenager Bridget McLaren, who is the proud recipient of the Wairarapa region's first mobility dog, Goldie, which assists Bridget in her day-to-day activities. Goldie is giving Bridget, who has cerebral palsy, more and more independence each day and I was impressed to watch a demonstration of Goldie's ability, including paying for items in shops.

This dynamic duo can be seen out and about around Masterton and are one of

21 mobility dog and handler teams in New Zealand. With the assistance of Goldie, I'm sure that Bridget will continue to thrive, including in her study in computer papers and spreadsheets.

Also, on Monday, 3 May, 2010, I was pleased to be able to join Wellingtonians in launching New Zealand Sign Language Week at an event organised by Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand and their guests at Turnbull House.

It was an opportunity for me to practice my sign language along with a group of foreign diplomats and members of the public, who also attended the launch. New Zealand Sign Language is our country's third official language alongside English and Maori and I am passionate about promoting it.

New Zealand Sign Language is spoken by 24,000 people and it was a pleasure to participate in New Zealand Sign Language Week – including joining the

line of signers along Lambton Quay, Wellington, later on in the day.

I want to encourage all New Zealanders to participate in the week, to embrace our country's deaf culture,

and learn to communicate more effectively with Deaf people.

Thanks to the Office for Disability Issues for this article

• **World first' for deaf 111 text calls**

By CLAIRE MCENTEE - The Dominion Post

Last updated 09:12 01/03/2010

Deaf people will be able to text 111 in an emergency from August in a "world first".

The text service will be tested and extended to the hearing impaired, and could eventually be available to everyone. The system could also be used to track people's phones and send out mass "alert" texts to the public in an emergency. Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand chief executive Rachel Noble says New Zealand's 79,000 deaf people could send a fax in an emergency but often relied on finding a neighbour or someone to call 111. "That's a big delay. We've been demanding this for a long time." Deaf people will be able to register for the service by the middle of the year through Deaf Aotearoa. Most of the deaf community have mobile phones, she says. "As with the hearing community there are pockets of people who don't use them, like older people. But the mobile phone is the one piece of equipment that's advanced a deaf person's ability to communicate with either other deaf or hearing people, through text. "This is going to put deaf people on a par with their peers."

National communications centre manager Andy McGregor says people will not need special phones to use the service. Police decided not to extend the service to the general public because in most cases it is more efficient to report emergencies through a voice call, but it could be useful in situations where people are unable to talk. "That's something we will explore. I can't say that we will do it."

Australian firm Whispir will supply the software, which will be installed by IBM. Service users will be prompted to enter their location and details of the incident and their personal details will be automatically entered into the text. "From that initial text we'll be able to get sufficient information to dispatch a car if required and if we need further information we can text them back." The texts will be read and answered on computers by call centre staff - who are better suited to deciphering text speak than software, he says. Whispir is in talks with Telecom, Vodafone and 2degrees to ensure they prioritise their 111 texts - as they do with 111 calls from mobiles.

The system could be used to track GPS phones to determine the location of people and to send out texts to people in an area, but the police's priority is to improve access to emergency services for the deaf community, Mr McGregor says. "We want to make it easier for the public to access our services . . . if we do that we improve the public's trust and confidence in the police." The fire and ambulance services will not be able to receive emergency texts, but police can relay information to their systems, he says.

British authorities are testing similar software and Canadian authorities are interested in emergency texts, but New Zealand will be the first country in the world to roll out such a system. The Whispir software will also be used to send group texts to police, for example, in busy times when extra staff are needed. The regular 111 phone system in Auckland suffered an outage on Friday morning, when a third of emergency calls failed to get through.