

# Disability Support Services e-newsletter

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## **From Toni Atkinson Group Manager, Disability Support Services**

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2014. I hope this finds you well rested after a good break and re-invigorated for the challenges of the new year.



We have a busy year coming up with a number of key projects due to be finalised or moved to the next stage.

The pricing project will be coming to an end over the next few months, and based on the information provided from the sector, consideration will be given to implementing new pricing structures for key service lines.

The new Funded Family Care policy has now been in operation for several months and is working well for those families who have taken up this option.

Elements of the New Model will be evaluated early in the year. These evaluations will help determine which parts of this work can be progressed to 'business as usual' and potentially extended to other regions outside of the Bay of Plenty, Auckland and Waikato.

The Enabling Good Lives demonstration is progressing well, with a number of families working through the new process to achieve a different model of support for school leavers. Parts of the New Model work are helping to inform and guide the work of Enabling Good Lives.

Other work within DSS continues to progress, including Behaviour Support Services, the new Equipment and Modifications Prioritisation Tool, and changes to individualised funding to include access to respite.

I hope this newsletter provides you with an overview of some of the work planned for DSS over the coming year. If you would like more information on any of these projects, please see the DSS website or contact one of the DSS team.

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## Gutsy choices bring new way of life

After spending two years at Hamilton's Laura Fergusson Rehabilitation Centre recovering from an accident in which she broke her neck, Teresa knew it was time to make some big decisions about her future way of life.

During time spent at her sister's home, Teresa began to explore her capabilities by motivating herself to do everyday things from her wheelchair. 'I started to hang out the washing, saying, "Teresa, try this, try doing the dishes".'

When Teresa's case manager from Disability Support Link (DSL) saw her progress, she gave Teresa encouragement to continue. 'She had so much confidence in me going into my own home and said I could do it,' Teresa recalls. Teresa was able to move into her home by taking up the Ministry of Health's Choice in Community Living option, working with CCS Disability Action as her provider.



Teresa

Making the big move was initially intimidating: 'I was scared because I had been using a buzzer. I had on-call nurses and doctors, 24-hour care.'

However, after an adjustment period Teresa is now 'cruising'. Support workers are employed to assist her. A self-acknowledged fighter, Teresa says positive thinking has helped her to achieve her new way of life – along with family support. Modern technology provides reassurance: Teresa wears a wrist alarm, which connects to emergency services.

Teresa is now able to see more of her family, drives her wheelchair anywhere she wants and has joined a community Zumba class: 'I won't let anything hold me back.'

This story is abridged from the original by Tamara Rendell for CCS Disability Action, reproduced with permission. Image: courtesy of Teresa Beattie

## Support services for Māori who are blind, deafblind or have significant visual loss

Ngāti Kāpō o Aotearoa (Ngāti Kāpō) provide a national specialist support service to Māori and their whānau of all ages who are blind, deafblind, or have significant visual loss (kāpō): [www.kapomaori.com](http://www.kapomaori.com)

Ngāti Kāpō have been working closely with the Blind Foundation (previously the Royal Foundation of the Blind), who provide national specialist vision services such as training and advice to move and orientate within a person's home and community and/or daily living skills [blindfoundation.org.nz](http://blindfoundation.org.nz)

If a person is eligible for the Blind Foundation services, Ngāti Kāpō will support kāpō Māori and their whānau anywhere in New Zealand to access services offered by the Blind Foundation. →

→  
Ngāti Kāpō will also work alongside that person and Blind Foundation staff, offering vision services to help people maintain themselves, learn how to live with their blindness, and be self-determining and successful in realising their personal aspirations.

The way the service is designed means input from Ngāti Kāpō is customised to meet the needs of kōpō Māori and their whānau, and delivered to give practical assistance and support, and to enable people to pursue a good life [www.health.govt.nz/publication/whaia-te-ao-marama-maori-disability-action-plan-disability-support-services-2012-2017](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/whaia-te-ao-marama-maori-disability-action-plan-disability-support-services-2012-2017)

Ngāti Kāpō is a well-established kaupapa Māori provider with specialised knowledge and expertise in the Māori and disability community. It has been overseen by blind, visually impaired and deafblind Māori since the 1980s. They are the ones best placed to provide these services using contemporary Māori philosophies, principles and practices (kaupapa), and also more traditional Māori customs and practices (tikanga) to meet the needs of kōpō Māori and their whānau.

If you wish to find out more about this service, please contact: Ngāti Kāpō on 0800 770 990, the Blind Foundation on 0800 24 33 33, or email [GeneralEnquiries@blindfoundation.org.nz](mailto:GeneralEnquiries@blindfoundation.org.nz)

## Disability services complaints process emphasised

**Barbara Crawford, Manager, Strategy and Contracts Team**

The Ministry has recently been contacted by several users of Ministry-funded disability support services, or their family members, who have commented on how relieved they were to have someone listen to their concerns and record their complaints regarding disability services.

The Ministry appreciates the significant efforts made by many disability support service providers to respond in a timely, supportive and constructive manner to complaints from service users and/or their families, whānau or aiga.

All NASCs and disability support service providers must ensure that all service users and their families are provided (at least annually) with information about how to raise a concern or make a complaint, and what to expect from this process, as set out in the Health and Disability Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights. A good complaints process provides valuable information that can be used to inform continuous quality improvement.

If you have a concern about Ministry-funded disability support services provided to you or someone you know, the Ministry's complaints process can be found online at: [www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/disability-services/contact-disability-support-services](http://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/disability-services/contact-disability-support-services)  
Or you can call Freephone: 0800 373 664.

# Funded Family Care

DSS has a new policy that provides funding for some people with a disability to employ their parents or resident family as caregivers.

The new policy is called Funded Family Care. This funding is paid directly to eligible disabled individuals 18 years or over, with high or very high needs, who might not be able to remain living at home if they could not employ a resident family carer. It provides an additional choice for eligible individuals to employ the supports they need from having family live with them.

There are specific criteria to be eligible for Funded Family Care. Disabled individuals who are interested in employing their family caregivers with this funding should first contact their local Needs Assessment & Service Coordination (NASC) agency for more detailed information, or visit the DSS 'Projects and Programmes' web page on the Ministry of Health website [www.health.govt.nz](http://www.health.govt.nz)

## Sector news

### Sponsorship for people with disabilities to attend the IIDL event

**Barbara Crawford, Manager, Strategy and Contracts Team**

In March 2013 New Zealand hosted the International Initiative for Disability Leadership exchange and network meeting in Auckland.

A key feature of the IIDL initiative is the opportunity it provides for disabled people, their families, policy makers, funders and providers to work collaboratively towards common goals – to achieve the best possible life opportunities for disabled people and their families.

Over 9–13 June 2014 this international event will be hosted in Manchester, in the United Kingdom. The event comprises two days attending a Leadership Exchange on a topic of interest to the participant, and two days attending a network meeting in Manchester. Details can be found on the following website: [www.iimhl.com/iimhl-leadership-exchange-2014-manchester#Step2](http://www.iimhl.com/iimhl-leadership-exchange-2014-manchester#Step2)

The Ministry of Health has made funding available to support people with disabilities who can demonstrate their leadership role to attend the IIDL event in Manchester. If you are interested in being considered, please go to:

[www.tepou.co.nz/library/tepou/2014-leadership-exchange-scholarship-application-form](http://www.tepou.co.nz/library/tepou/2014-leadership-exchange-scholarship-application-form)

Applications close in March. (Please note that there are restrictions on numbers attending due to venue constraints.)



## Did you know?

Your community group may be eligible to access funding to work more closely with other organisations, for the purpose of achieving greater results for your community.

The Working Together More Fund helps community groups make a greater difference for the people and communities they serve. The Fund can provide seeding money and expertise to develop collaborative arrangements, but it does not provide ongoing operating costs.

Visit [www.workingtogether.org.nz](http://www.workingtogether.org.nz) to find out more.

## Citizens Advice Bureau Napier

Citizens Advice Bureau Napier is now open until 6.30 pm every Thursday.

This will provide people with the opportunity to visit the Bureau outside of normal working hours. The Bureau will continue to open from 9 to 4 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, also offering a Justice of the Peace service daily and a FREE Lawyer clinic every Saturday from 9.30 to 10.30 am.

Address: Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Hub, 62 Raffles St, Napier. Tel: (06) 835 9664

For any queries, please contact Jenny Pearce, Bureau Manager, at: (06) 835 7139 or [cab.napier@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cab.napier@xtra.co.nz)

## Recent disability events

### Attitude Awards

First held in 2008, the Annual Attitude Awards, operated by The Attitude Awards Charitable Trust, are the only national awards that celebrate achievement in the disability sector across all disabilities.

The 2013 Attitude Awards were held at a spectacular black tie event at the Auckland Viaduct Events Centre on 3 December 2013. It was a night of entertainment, glitz and glamour and awards were presented across seven categories to people whose extraordinary talents have often failed to be recognised by New Zealand society

The Attitude Making a Difference Award, sponsored by the Ministry of Health, was won by Robyn Hunt. Robyn, who has visual impairment, is a fearless fighter for accessibility – especially when it comes to communications, technology and equal work opportunities. She was selected to be a Human Rights Commissioner for eight years and played a major role in driving the commission to hold an inquiry on the accessibility of public transport. →



Jill Lane presents the 'Making a Difference' award.



Robyn now runs a communications company that ensures websites, information and communications are fully accessible. She also writes a blog related to human rights and disability issues called Low Visionary and travels around the country speaking about disability issues.

For details on other award recipients, please visit: [www.attitudeawards.org/2013\\_Nominees.html](http://www.attitudeawards.org/2013_Nominees.html)

From unsung heroes to people already in the limelight, the Attitude Awards are a time to shine a spotlight on the disability sector, on ordinary people living extraordinary lives. It's time to hear about the spectacular things they have done and are doing, and it's also time to start thinking about your nominations for 2014.



Jill Lane (left) and Ruth Dyson (right) with award winner Robyn Hunt (centre).

## Putting People First

*Putting People First: A review of disability support services performance and quality management processes for purchased provider services was presented to Minister Ryall in November 2013.*

Led by David Russell and supported by Beverley Grammer and Karen van Eden, this review made 34 recommendations, which the Ministry has accepted and is working to implement. A copy of this review is available at: [www.health.govt.nz/publication/review-disability-support-services](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/review-disability-support-services)

The review provides an excellent platform for the Ministry and the disability sector – both consumers and providers – to work together to improve the lives of people with disabilities, and to achieve better-quality outcomes.

## Disability Sector Strategic Reference Group meeting

**The Disability Sector Strategic Reference Group met in December 2013.**

This group includes five people with disabilities, four provider representatives, one carers' representative and four Ministry of Health representatives.

The meeting included: DSS project updates; a presentation by David Russell on the 'Putting People First' review; a presentation by Rachel Noble (CEO of Disabled Persons' Assembly) on the DPA Forum Agenda for Change; a presentation by Laurie Hilsigen on the Eurocarers Conference 2013 in Dublin; and a presentation by Julia Balsillie (Development Manager, DSS) on the review of the DSS Strategic Plan.

A summary of the meeting can be found on the Ministry's website:

[www.health.govt.nz/our-work/disability-services/disability-sector-strategic-reference-group](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/disability-services/disability-sector-strategic-reference-group)

# Upcoming disability events

## DSS pricing forums postponed

Unfortunately, Disability Support Services have made the decision to postpone the pricing model forums scheduled to occur between 27 February 2014 and 7 March 2014 until mid to late May.

The process has taken longer than expected due to delays in receiving data from some parts of the sector and the complexity of determining 'best practice' models for the future. Rather than rush the development within the shorter time frames, the Ministry has decided to take the time to get it right. The additional time is required to fully consider the implications (to both the Ministry and providers) of the proposed models and their implementation, to ensure the continued viability of the sector and delivery of quality and accessible services to people with a disability.

Rescheduled pricing forum dates will be advertised as soon as they have been arranged.

The Ministry apologises for any disruption this change may have caused you and appreciates your ongoing support and participation in this important project.

If you have any queries please contact either Barbara Crawford, Manager Strategy and Contracts, Disability Support Services [Barbara\\_Crawford@moh.govt.nz](mailto:Barbara_Crawford@moh.govt.nz) or Peter Chew, KPMG [pchew1@kpmg.co.nz](mailto:pchew1@kpmg.co.nz)

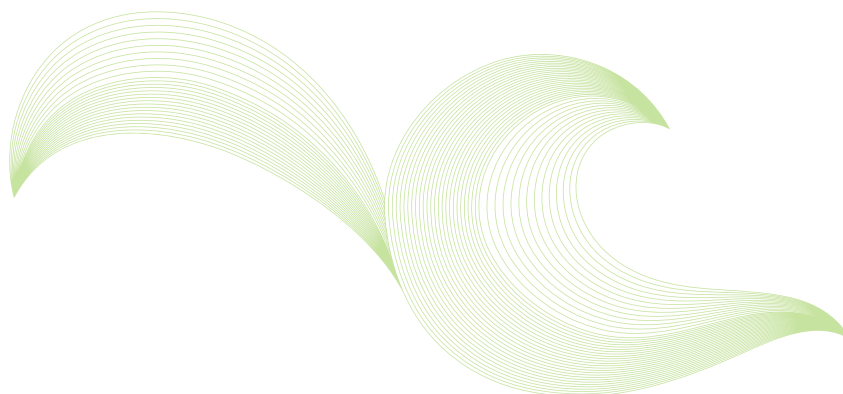
## Disability Consumer Consortium Meeting

The Consumer Consortium Meeting will take place on 9, 10 and 11 April in Wellington.

## Disability Provider Forums

The 2013 Provider Forums were postponed in order to give providers the opportunity to attend the pricing model workshops.

The 2014 provider forums will be hosted in Auckland, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. Details and dates of the 2014 forums will be provided in the May newsletter.



# NGO National Forum on 14 March – book now

Now is the time to book for the NGO National Forum to be held in Wellington on Friday 14 March 2014. It is free to register, so go online now and secure your place: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/TXJKTGB](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TXJKTGB)

The focus this year is on showcasing the health and disability NGO sector and sharing expertise. The morning sessions will feature presentations from a range of non-profit providers that are achieving success in different ways. These will include presenters from the Smokefree Coalition, NZ Family Planning Association, NorthAble, the Haemophilia Foundation of NZ, Progress to Health and Switched On.

The afternoon break-out sessions will be discussion-based groups on a range of topics, including vulnerable children, Māori health, working effectively with DHBs, having influence through collaboration, and improving quality of services. Each session will have some key participants from NGOs and/or the Ministry of Health to get things going, but then you'll all have opportunities to contribute ideas and share your insights. The detailed programme will be available soon.

This Forum promises to be more interactive than in recent years, plus you'll still have ample time for networking and making those important connections with fellow attendees. Any non-profit health or disability provider is welcome to attend – as are PHOs, DHBs, public servants and others keen to engage with NGOs.

The Forum kicks off at Wellington's Westpac Stadium at 9 am (with arrivals from 8.30 am) and will finish by 3.30 pm, so you can book your travel accordingly. Register now at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/TXJKTGB](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TXJKTGB)

## Good Governance workshops in February

The NGO Council is running five Good Governance workshops for small to medium-sized non-profit NGOs.

They are filling fast, so book now if you want your board members to attend. Dates and booking details for the events in Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin are on their website, along with some links to useful resources. Please note that Auckland and Christchurch are full, but if you are in these centres and are interested, let us know so that if more workshops are scheduled you'll be invited along.

The Good Governance workshops will help your board members to increase their understanding of good governance for not-for-profit organisations and evaluate the effectiveness of your board. Topics covered include:

- governance and management defined
- board members – roles, rights and responsibilities
- key functions of the board
- how boards can add value
- challenges, pitfalls and dilemmas for boards
- board–staff relations
- effective meetings.







These workshops are free for non-profit health and disability providers, as part of the NGO Council's strategy to improve sector capability. If your board members aren't able to attend a workshop, your NGO may still benefit from some of the [links on our website](#) or by completing the NZ Navigator online self-assessment tool

Remember, too, that if you have a contract with the Ministry of Health's Disability Support Services, you can apply for **leadership development grants** or funding for **National Certificate or Diploma training** from Te Pou. See [www.tepou.co.nz/training/disability-sector-grant-funding](http://www.tepou.co.nz/training/disability-sector-grant-funding) for details.

Those of you who deliver social services with funding from the Ministry of Social Development also have opportunities to gain assistance with capability-building through the **Investing in Services for Outcomes programme**. There are also some great low-cost training opportunities available in various regions around the country, including those offered by **Community Waikato**, so make the most of these opportunities to upskill and build your capability.

## DSS project updates

# The New Model for Supporting Disabled People

**Catherine Bennett, Programme Leader**

## Local area coordination (LAC)

Leanne's story (below) is one of a number that have recently been gathered in the Bay of Plenty about disabled people working with local area coordinators.

Leanne's LAC is supporting her on her journey to find a permanent job and increase her social connections.

### Leanne's story

Leanne is an articulate speaker, skilled facilitator and responsible mortgage holder who for the last 15 years has wanted a permanent job.

She also has spina bifida and lives independently from her parents in her own home with two disabled flatmates, with whom she shares support workers.

'I want paid work to eventually be mortgage free and be more involved in the community,' she says.

Together, Leanne and her LAC, Jenny Dawber, have been working on how they can realise Leanne's goals.

With Jenny's support, highly motivated Leanne has finished a computer course, done voluntary work for Parent to Parent and is regularly participating in a disability accessibility focus group through the Bay of Plenty District Council.

As well as contributing to the discussions at the Council, Leanne has taken on some of the administrative tasks for the group, which have come easily after her recent course and voluntary work.



Leanne





Leanne's mother, Brenda, says Jenny has been able to open doors for Leanne that as a parent she would have found hard. 'LACs know their communities and have those connections, and it's up to Leanne to do the rest,' she says. 'It's harder when you're a parent because you fear that people will let her down and you can feel it personally.'

Ask Leanne how her life has changed since she met Jenny and she says 'dramatically'. 'If I hadn't met Jenny I wouldn't be where I am today ... And where I am is happy. I've got more things going on in my life now and I'm looking forward to the future.'

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## Individualised Funding

The Ministry will be extending the nationwide Individualised Funding scheme to include respite services from mid-February. This will increase the flexibility that disabled people and their families have over how they use the funding they are allocated for home and community supports, and now respite. Options for people purchasing respite under Individualised Funding include being able to employ or engage people to provide respite in or outside their home, at a time that suits the disabled person and their family.

If you are interested in exploring Individualised Funding and how it can support you or a family member/friend, contact the local NASC to discuss the options available.

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## Supported self-assessment and the Funding Allocation Tool

New tools have been developed to help disabled people in the Bay of Plenty and Lakes regions to have more control and choice over their funding and support.

A new supported self-assessment form, a Funding Allocation Tool and purchasing guidelines are being demonstrated as part of the Ministry of Health's New Model for Supporting Disabled People. Together, they will offer disabled people more input into the funding they receive and more choice over how they use it.

The **Supported Self-Assessment** form is called 'Understanding You and Your Situation'. Disabled people referred to, or being reassessed by, a NASC organisation such as Support Net will be using the form.

The form replaces the traditional needs assessment that disabled people have had until now, which has been facilitated by a professional. Self-assessment means that the person with a disability can complete the form at a time, place and pace that suits them, with whoever they want to support them.

The **Funding Allocation Tool** will be used by the NASC to allocate an indicative amount of funding to a disabled person. This funding is the Ministry's contribution towards a disabled person's unmet disability support needs. The 'Understanding You and Your Situation' form will be used as part of this process.

Disabled people who are allocated funding will be able to determine what they can buy by using the new *Purchasing Guidelines*, which can be found on the Ministry's website (search for Purchasing Guidelines).

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## Changing lives – Choice in Community Living

Choice in Community Living (CiCL) is continuing to make a positive difference in the lives of disabled people by bringing more choice and control over where they live, who they live with and how they are supported.

Since the CiCL demonstration began in Auckland and Waikato in late 2012, 44 people have taken it up and about another 90 or so are in transition towards it. CiCL is proving popular with younger people, with just under a third of those in the process of adopting it aged 16 to 25 years.

‘We are now seeing the hard work from everyone involved translate into greater numbers of people being supported to live their good life,’ says Morgan Stevenson, Project Manager, Ministry of Health. ‘More importantly than numbers, however, is the positive difference that increased flexibility and real choice and control make to people’s lives as seen through the fantastic stories being shared.’

### Fast facts

- CiCL is for disabled people who are in residential care or who have similar disability support needs.
- People moving to CiCL need to meet eligibility requirements for disability support services funded by the Ministry of Health.
- CiCL is available through the Taikura NASC, based in Auckland, or the Disability Support Link NASC, based in Waikato.

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## Child development services: Stocktake and needs analysis

### Murray Penman, Family and Community Support Team

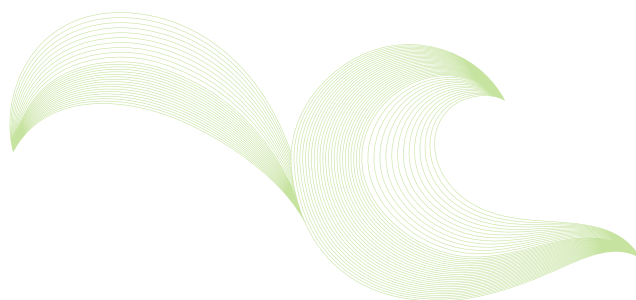
The child development stocktake project is progressing well.

The online survey of child development and conductive education teams is nearly complete. There is a lot of interest from stakeholders to participate in the case studies, and interviews have now commenced.

If you have any questions about this work, the points of contact are:

Murray Penman, Relationship Manager, Family and Community Services  
[Murray\\_Penman@moh.govt.nz](mailto:Murray_Penman@moh.govt.nz) and

Dr Deborah Widdowson, PhD, Director, Centre for Child and Family Research  
[d.widdowson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:d.widdowson@auckland.ac.nz)



# Environmental Support Services

**Sue Primrose, Development Manager, Service Access Team**

## Equipment and Modification Services Prioritisation Tool

Stage One implementation of the new Equipment and Modification Services (EMS) Prioritisation Tool commenced in the Northern region (the three Auckland DHBs and Northland DHB areas) on 28 January this year. It will mean a fairer and more transparent prioritisation process for access to Ministry funding for equipment and modifications for disabled people. All disabled people will be assessed against the same criteria, using the same tool.

The implementation of the EMS Prioritisation Tool will mean that those disabled people with the greatest need and ability to benefit from equipment or modifications will get access to EMS funding. The disabled person, and possibly their family or whānau, will have a 'voice' in the process by way of the Impact on Life questionnaire. This questionnaire lets the person give their perception of the current impact of their disability on their life.

A client information brochure has been developed to help disabled people and their families and whānau understand the purpose of the Prioritisation Tool and how it works. This information is also available in New Zealand Sign Language, large print, Braille, Māori, Cook Island Māori, Samoan, Tongan, Simplified and Traditional Chinese.

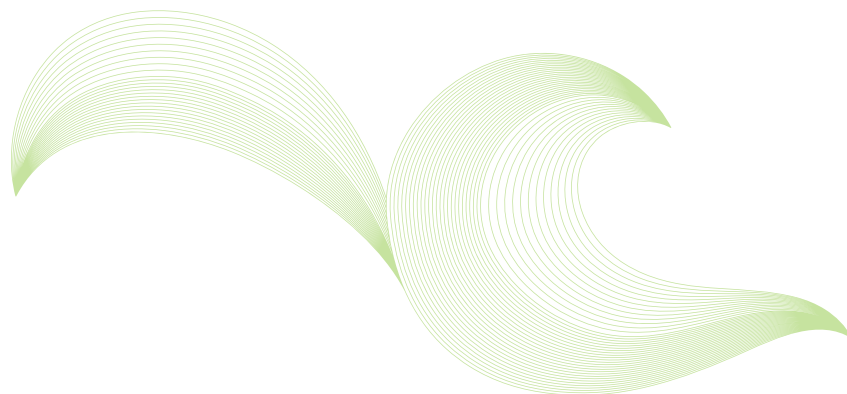
There will be a full review of the tool in June/July 2014 before national roll-out of the Prioritisation Tool commences.

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## Lifelong Design Advisory Service

This service, which provides free advice about lifelong housing design to the people of Canterbury who were significantly affected by the earthquakes, is funded jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Office of Senior Citizens at the Ministry of Social Development. It is operated through Enable New Zealand and based in its Christchurch offices. The service is aimed at encouraging people to consider using lifelong design features in their homes that would support their changing needs throughout their lifetime, particularly as they age.

Promotion of the service to Canterbury residents is being stepped up in February, following the Christmas break. Enable New Zealand has scheduled a number of presentations at Probus (meetings for retirees) clubs and is engaging with the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority, Lifemark and other key parties who are working towards achieving an accessible Christchurch.





# Disability workforce development

**Feala Afoa, Development Manager, Strategy and Contracts Team**

## **New Disability Workforce Action Plan 2013–2016**

In November 2013, after extensive consultation with stakeholders, the new workforce action plan 2013/16 was approved for implementation.

Over the 12 months ending December 2014 the plan aims to achieve a number of deliverables, including a disability workforce information project, a literature review of workforce development models and a national learning package for family/whānau carers.

The plan will also continue to support disability workers to access training for core and more specialised skills using the disability workforce development grants. Te Pou currently administers these grants.

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## **Disability Workforce Development Innovation Fund**

Applications for the workforce innovation fund closed in October 2013. Out of the 22 applications received, 10 project proposals were approved for the fund. The approved innovative projects have since commenced and are scheduled to be completed and evaluated by December 2014. Overall, these innovations aim to improve the capacity and capability of the New Zealand disability workforce. This fund is also administered by Te Pou.

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## **NZQA Mandatory Review of Qualifications – Disability Specialisation**

Following consultation with the disability sector, a number of qualifications have been proposed and were submitted to NZQA in December 2013 for approval to develop.

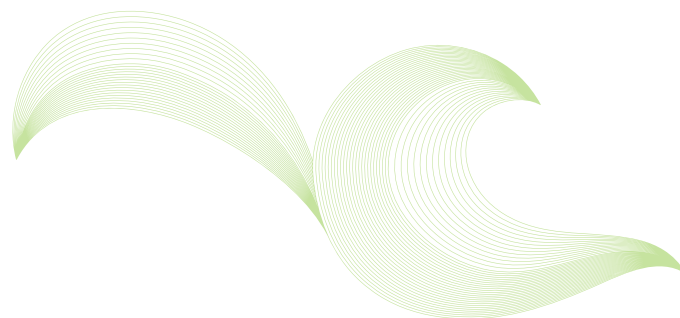
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# Pacific Development

**Feala Afoa, Development Manager, Strategy and Contracts Team**

## **Faiva Ora – National Pasifika Disability Plan 2014–2016**

A draft Faiva Ora plan 2014–2016 has been developed and has undergone consultation with key stakeholders. The finalised plan, including feedback received during the consultation process, is currently in the process for final approval.



## Faiva Ora Leadership Group

In November 2013 the Faiva Ora leadership group met to provide final comment and feedback on the new Faiva Ora plan.

At this meeting the group also provided advice on the Ministry's DSS Business and Annual Plan, and provided further guidance and information to the University of Auckland to support its delivery of the research project on Pasifika children, youth and their families.



Faiva Ora Leadership Group, with Toni Atkinson and Barbara Crawford from the Ministry of Health, November 2013

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## Talanga Project – Research on Pacific disabled children, youth and their children

The University of Auckland's School of Population Health has been contracted to undertake research on Pacific disabled children, youth and their families from September 2013 to December 2014.

In late December 2013 the disability research committee met for the first time to confirm its terms of reference and provide Pacific youth and research specific advice on the implementation of the research project.

This forum comprises Pacific disabled youth, family members and disability provider representatives. The research is now currently recruiting for research participants to take part in the workshops, focus groups and interviews. For more information, please contact Faith Mahony on 0800TALANGA or 0800 825264, or by text to 027 TALANGA, or by email to [0800talanga@gmail.com](mailto:0800talanga@gmail.com)

The research aims to identify challenges faced by the growing group of Pacific disabled children, youth and their families, as well as the current impact and likely future changes needed for Ministry-funded disability support services to address these challenges.

# Development of DSS Disability Strategic Plan 2014–2018

## **Julia Balsillie, Development Manager, Strategy and Contracts Team**

The current Disability Support Services Strategic Plan expires in June 2014 and the process to develop a new strategic plan has begun. The full 2010–2014 plan can be found on the Ministry of Health's website:

[www.health.govt.nz/publication/disability-support-services-strategic-plan-2010-2014](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/disability-support-services-strategic-plan-2010-2014)

The purpose of the plan is to document the vision and strategic direction of Disability Support Services for the next four years.

### **Development progress**

- Initial discussions have been held with various groups, including the Consumer Consortium, the DSS Strategic Reference Group and the Faiva Ora Leadership Group. Discussions have focused on identifying priorities, themes and actions for the next four-year plan.
- A review of existing strategies and commitments is under way to ensure the new DSS strategic plan will complement and support these important initiatives.
- A review of actions achieved within the current plan is also underway.

All feedback and suggestions are welcome. Please contact Julia Balsillie, Development Manager, Strategy and Contracts, at [Julia\\_Balsillie@moh.govt.nz](mailto:Julia_Balsillie@moh.govt.nz)

## **Contract streamlining**

### **Hayden Taylor, Development Manager, Strategy and Contracts Team**

In March last year the Cabinet tasked the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to lead the Streamlined Contracts with NGOs project. The project involves the roll-out of a standard set of contracting documents across government agencies, to reduce variances and duplication in contracting practices across government. The aim is, over time, to reduce the compliance costs for NGOs and allow for better collaboration across government agencies.

A key feature of the new contracting framework is the use of results based accountability (RBA). RBA allows for a common approach to performance management and will help streamline reporting for NGOs with the use of shared performance measures.

Within the Ministry of Health, a Contract Streamlining Programme has been established and a plan is being developed to engage with NGOs on the transition to the new contracting framework. The transition of all NGO contracts within DSS to the new framework is expected to take two to three years.

For further information on the Streamlined Contracts with NGOs project and RBA, please visit the MBIE website at:

[www.business.govt.nz/procurement/procurement-reform/streamlined-contracting-with-ngos](http://www.business.govt.nz/procurement/procurement-reform/streamlined-contracting-with-ngos)





## Contact Disability Support Services

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Web: [www.health.govt.nz/disability](http://www.health.govt.nz/disability)

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