



GRANDPARENTS RAISING  
GRANDCHILDREN TRUST NZ

Raising resilient and healthy  
children and young people through  
empowering grandparent and  
whānau care families since 2001

## Are you raising someone else's child full-time?

GRG provides support,  
information, advice,  
advocacy services and  
caregiver education  
programmes nationwide to  
full-time caregivers who are  
raising a child not born to  
them. Membership is free.  
Call us on toll free  
0800 GRANDS or visit  
[www.grg.nz](http://www.grg.nz) to join.

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Welcome! Tena koutou, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Malo e Lelei,  
Bula Vinaka, Taloha Ni, Kam Na Mauri Namaste, Hallo, Bonjour, Hola and Greetings  
this month to our 6500+ member families and all our non-member subscribers!

## Financial support for raising someone else's child...

If you are raising someone else's child because:

- there has been a breakdown in the child's family, or
- their parents have died, or
- they are missing, or
- they have a long-term disablement

AND you are to be their principal temporary or long-term caregiver,  
from the date you apply to Work and Income for this support, then  
you are entitled to either the Unsupported Child Benefit or the  
Orphan's Benefit to help with the costs of raising the child.

The Unsupported Child or Orphan's Benefits are not taxable and  
they are not affected by your income or assets as a caregiver.

It is affected by any income the child might be receiving (e.g. ACC)  
and the child must be resident and present in New Zealand.

To qualify, you must also be over 18 years of age, resident and present in NZ  
and you must not be a natural parent, an adoptive parent, or a step-parent  
of the child.

If these circumstances apply to you and you think you have been  
incorrectly advised or you realise now that you should be receiving  
this support, please contact us tollfree on 0800 472 637 or call  
our National Support Office on 09 418 3753 for a referral to our  
advocate, Tricia Corin.



Brad Clark  
Chief Executive

# Hello and welcome!

As we step well into 2024, we say a fond farewell and thank you, to Judith McKay, who graciously stepped in as acting CEO following Kate Bundle's tenure. I extend my deepest appreciation and acknowledgement to our Board, national support staff, volunteers and supporters whose commitment has made Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Trust NZ, a valued cornerstone for our community. GRG, through its specialised support services for grandparents and caregivers raising grandchildren, has provided unwavering support and empowered families for over 22 years.

Kia ora, my name is Brad Clark, and I am honoured to introduce myself as your new Chief Executive.

I've been a proud New Zealander for over 30-years with a strong sense of place and pride in our unique culture and character. Before arriving in New Zealand, I grew up and went to school on the East Coast of Canada. Graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) led to management roles running bars and restaurants in Toronto and when my parents moved to the North Shore of Auckland in the early 90's, I was not far behind intending to have an OE (Overseas Experience), and I never left!

In New Zealand, I was determined to pursue a career that combined my passions for marketing, communications, and sport. I was fortunate to find a role with insurance and financial services company Sovereign in marketing communications and then sponsorship management. This led to my then dream job in professional sport, as the Sponsorship Manager for the New Zealand Warriors and subsequent contract, consultant and full-time roles in the tourism, sports and events world. One of many highlights was as Project Manager for American Express, leading their partnership with Team New Zealand and the America's Cup in 2000 and 2003.

My first foray into the social-profit (charity) sector began at CanTeen, as Marketing Manager, and then GM Marketing and

Fundraising. Working with a passionate team supporting young people living with cancer in New Zealand was transformative, affirming a belief that I could do what I love while helping others. This experience paved the way for my role as Chief Executive of the Starship Foundation. Leading a dedicated team, we raised millions of dollars, enhancing child healthcare capabilities, staff and facilities while supporting families nationwide.

Over the last few years, working in various roles with Auckland Museum, Blind Low Vision, and North Harbour Hockey, I've found my ideal place here at GRG - an inspiring organisation with a strong legacy of leading legislative change to benefit grandparents and caregivers nationwide. Our team, including our dedicated Support Group Coordinators and Coffee Group Facilitators, remains committed to the vision of our founder, Di Vivian. We are devoted to supporting tens of thousands of grandparents, caregivers and their tamariki and rangatahi across New Zealand.

"I am thrilled to be part of this team, and help drive our efforts to grow and evolve, so we can continue to support more families in need."





Christina Howe  
Senior Community Advocate

# Legal Aid – What is it?

Let's start the year off by talking about Legal Aid. I know a lot of you did not qualify for Legal Aid and let me assure you that I have this issue on my to do list for 2024 but for those wondering what Legal Aid is and how it works, read on.

Legal Aid is available for most Family Court matters, excluding writing a will and filing for divorce. To get Legal Aid, you first need to find a lawyer that offers Legal Aid. They will fill out a form for you that goes through your income, dependents, assets, debts, and the same for your partner if you have one. They will then apply for Legal Aid on your behalf.

Other factors are also taken into consideration such as any personal protection issues, the interests and welfare of anyone affected, the merits of your case, complexity of your case, plus a few others. Each application for Legal Aid is considered on a case-by-case basis and the outcomes can vary between each application. For example, a person may be granted Legal Aid even when they own their own home, but other factors taken into consideration could be that a Protection Order is needed, there is little to no equity in the home, other high debts or they might have been on stress leave from work for the past month.

Being granted Legal Aid automatically covers your legal costs but did you also know it covers your filing fee, DNA testing in paternity cases, drug testing that the Judge directs, and interpreter and/or translation costs. You could also ask for the cost of expert witnesses, specialist reports, your lawyers travel disbursements, and drug testing that is agreed to by the parties.

It is important to note that Legal Aid is considered a loan. Some people do not have to pay anything back,

again this will be based on individual considerations, but some people do have to pay Legal Aid back. This may change with each person. For example, you might have to pay a maximum amount of \$3,500 because that's what similar cases cost. Or you might have to pay nothing back while you are applying for a Protection Order, but if that disappears then you might have to pay for the Parenting Order. Or you might have to pay everything back. The great news is that if successful, this loan is now interest free! This is a step in the right direction.

**"Do not forget you can apply to write off your Legal Aid debt but only in very specific circumstances. For more information please contact me to discuss further."**

Please also remember that the majority of lawyers do Legal Aid and private work. Meaning that your Legal Aid lawyer is just as good, if not better, than a privately paid lawyer. Legal Aid lawyers do this work because they believe in it which makes them a force to be reckoned with!

If you would like to know more about Legal Aid or have any questions, please contact the GRG National Support Office on 0800 GRANDS





Tricia Corin  
Specialist Advocate  
Income/Financial  
Support

# Tricia Advocating for You

## Working for Families Tax Credits

There is often a lot of confusion around what the various Tax Credits from Inland Revenue Department are and who is eligible for them. This month we look at the Working For Families Tax Credits.

These are payments for families with dependent children aged 18 and under. The payments are to help you raise your family. Entitlements are based on your yearly family income and family circumstances. Working for Families (WFF) is not child support. Child support is paid by parents who do not live with their children or who share care with someone else. Payments are based on your yearly income and circumstances.

There are 4 types of Working For Families Tax Credits:

1. Family Tax Credits
2. In Work Tax Credits
3. Minimum Family Tax Credits
4. Best Start Tax Credits:

**1. Family Tax Credits:** This Payment depends on how much you earn, the number of children you have, and any shared care arrangements.

If you are on a Main Benefit, then the Family Tax Credits can be paid with your Benefit or directly from IRD. When a person is on a Main Benefit, they can get the Family Tax Credits and the Best Start payment. They can not get the other two Tax Credits.

NZ Superannuation and Veteran's Pension with dependent children must apply to Inland Revenue for payment of the Family Tax Credits and Best Start payments.

Below are the Family Tax Credit rates at 1 April 2023.

Category	Amount per week
First or only child	\$136.94
Second or subsequent child	\$111.58

**NB:** If you are receiving the Orphans/Unsupported Child's Benefit for a child you are caring for then you can not receive Family Tax Credits as well.

**2. In Work Tax Credits:** The In-Work Tax Credit is an incentive for people to be in the workforce and is paid by Inland Revenue to low-income working families with dependent children. You must be over 16 years of age and have the principal care of a child who is financially dependent on you. There are no minimum hours of work required to get this payment (from 1 July 2020). Working families can get up to \$77.50 (from 1/4/2022) for the first 3 children (total) and up to \$15 extra per week for each additional child.

If you apply for Temporary Additional Support from Work & Income the In-Work Tax Credit is considered "chargeable income" and part of your income for assessment purposes. Like the Family Tax Credit this payment depends on how much you earn. If you're receiving an income tested benefit or a student allowance you will not be eligible for this payment. However you can get the In-Work Tax Credit if your income is from Accident Compensation (ACC) - including survivor payments, or paid parental leave.

As long as you are working, you can get the In-Work Tax Credits. If you receive other types of income, including:

- NZ Superannuation
- a Foster Care Allowance
- an Orphan's Benefit
- an Unsupported Child Benefit
- a Veteran's Pension
- weekly compensation from Veterans' Affairs New Zealand.

You cannot get In-Work Tax Credit (IWTC) when your family gets.

- a student allowance
- a parent's allowance or a children's pension from Veterans' Affairs New Zealand

If you're receiving an income-tested benefit or a student allowance, you will not be eligible for this payment.

Income-tested benefits are:

- Jobseeker support
- Sole parent support
- Supported living payment
- Youth payment
- Young parent payment
- Emergency benefit
- Main benefit equivalent assistance

### Unpaid break of 2 weeks or less

Since 1 April 2021, you can keep receiving the in-work tax credit for up to 2 weeks when taking an unpaid break from work. This could be either as you transition between jobs, are unpaid for a period, or leave employment. If you're taking an unpaid break from work, you'll need to notify Inland Revenue (IR) to ensure your IWTC payments continue. The best way to do this is through myIR.

### Before 1 July 2020

To get in-work tax credit payments before 1 July 2020 you had to work a minimum number of hours.

- A single parent had to work at least 20 hours a week.
- In a 2-parent family, 1 or both parents between them had to work at least 30 hours a week.

**3. Minimum Family Tax Credits:** This is a payment if your annual family income after tax is:

- less than \$31,096 from 1 July 2021
- less than \$32,864 from 1 April 2022.
- less than \$34,216 from 1 April 2023.

It tops up your family's after-tax weekly income to at least \$658 from 1 April 2023.

### Estimating your income

The payments you receive each week or fortnight are based on how much you estimate you'll earn for the year. If you earn more than you've estimated:

- you could get a bill at the end of the year
- IRD may reduce your weekly or fortnight payments to reduce the risk of you being overpaid.

This means that you need to estimate your income very carefully and let IRD know when your hours of work change to make sure you get the right amount.

### Minimum hours of work

To get the minimum family tax credit you must work a minimum number of hours for salary or wages each week.

- A single parent must work at least 20 hours a week.
- In a 2-parent family, 1 or both parents between them must work at least 30 hours a week.

In any week that you work less than the minimum required hours, you are not eligible.

The minimum number of hours cannot come from self-employed work. A self-employed person must still work the minimum number of hours in salary or wage work to qualify for the minimum family tax credit.

### When you cannot receive the minimum family tax credit

The minimum family tax credit is not available to families receiving the following:

- an income-tested benefit
- a parent's allowance
- a children's pension from Veterans' Affairs New Zealand.

### Shared care

If you have shared care of your children this may affect the amount of minimum family tax credit you are eligible for. If you think you may not be receiving the correct amount, please contact IRD.

#### 4. Best Start Tax Credits:

Best Start tax credit is a payment to help families with costs in a child's early years.

Best Start tax credit payments can be paid to main benefit clients by the Ministry of Social Development on behalf of Inland Revenue.

When a person is working, Inland Revenue pays the Best Start tax credit.

Best Start tax credit is not income tested until the child's first birthday. All people with an eligible child receive the same rate of payment whether they are on a main benefit or working.

After an eligible child reaches the age of 1 year, the Best Start tax credit is income tested except when the Best Start tax credit is paid to a caregiver who is getting a main benefit.

New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension clients who have a qualifying child apply to Inland Revenue to get Best Start tax credit payments.

Note clients getting a main benefit and Orphans Benefit or Unsupported Childs Benefit can choose to get Best Start tax credit from the Ministry of Social Development if they meet the qualifications. Caregivers getting an Orphans Benefit or Unsupported Childs Benefit but not getting a main benefit need to apply to Inland Revenue for Best Start tax credit payments.

A principal caregiver or principal temporary caregiver is not eligible for Best Start tax credit for a child if they are getting at the same time:

- paid parental leave or
- parent's allowance or a children's pension

Below are the Best Start tax credit rates at 1 April 2023.

Category	Amount per week	Per year
Up to 3 years old (with a main benefit)	\$69.85	\$3,632.20

If you would like to know more about Working for Families Tax Credits or have any questions, please contact the GRG National Support Office on 0800 GRANDS

#### To Apply for Working For Families Tax Credits

There are 3 ways to register for Working for Families payments.

- Register in myIR.
- Complete the IRD online form.
- Call IRD. IRD Will process your registration the same way we would if you used myIR or our online form.

If your child is a newborn you can register their birth, apply for an IRD number and apply for Best Start in SmartStart.

The length of time you're eligible during the first year of Best Start will be reduced for each week of paid parental leave taken after the birth of the baby. So if you took 20 weeks of paid parental leave after the baby was born, you'd be eligible for 32 weeks of Best Start in the first year instead of 52 (since 32 is 52 minus 20).

If you want IRD to check if you're eligible for the other types of Working for Families payments, you'll need to provide further information to IRD once your Best Start application has been processed.

If you do not have a newborn you can register for Working for Families in myIR.

You do not need to apply again if you have had Working for Families payments in the past. It's easy to restart your payments in myIR.





Giselle Stalls  
National Support  
Manager

## A word from Giselle

Greetings everyone. I'm excited to share some updates with you all.

In June 2021, I began my journey with Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ (GRG) as the Client Services Administrator, a role that I truly cherished.

However, as life unfolds, we find ourselves evolving and growing, leading me to my new position as the GRG National Support Manager. In this role, I have the privilege of working closely with our dedicated Support Group Coordinators (SGC's) and Coffee Group Facilitators Nationwide. Transitioning into this new role, I initially felt overwhelmed and vulnerable, hoping to provide the support our SGC's need and deserve. However, I've been met with nothing but warmth and acceptance from our incredible team. I hold a deep admiration for these individuals, many of whom are also raising their own grandchildren while dedicating their time to support GRG caregivers.

On a personal note, I've had the honour of raising a foster daughter who is about to turn 20 next month. Seeing her flourish in supported accommodation fills me with immense pride. While she's venturing into the wider world, she remains connected to her family roots.

In terms of recruitment, I'm thrilled to announce the addition of two new SGC's in December 2023, each bringing their unique stories and experiences to our SGC team. Additionally, we have five new volunteers set to join us soon, filling vacancies in key areas. Keep an eye on this space as we continue to grow and evolve.

## We welcome two new Support Group Coordinators (SGC's) to the team

Kia ora, I'm Robyn Hahipene, and I'm thrilled to join this exceptional organisation. Allow me to share a bit about myself. I call Torere home, a charming coastal community nestled on the east coast of the Bay of Plenty, with the nearest township being Opotiki.

Family holds a special place in my heart. I'm a parent to three wonderful children, two of whom reside in Australia, while one lives in Papamoa. I also have the joy of being a grandmother to seven moko whom I cherish dearly.

Currently, I devote part of my time to Growing through Grief, an organisation focused on facilitating change and loss programs within schools for both children and adults. Through this work, I've had the privilege of engaging with many grandparents who lovingly care for their grandchildren. It's this connection that ignited my passion to apply for the role of GRG Support Coordinator for Opotiki.

Beyond my professional endeavours, I find joy in cooking and gardening. However, my greatest pleasure stems from spending quality time with my children and moko. Whether it's through virtual connections or cherished in-person visits (where hugs are plentiful), these moments are truly precious to me.



Robyn Hahipene, Opotiki



Fleur Deavin, Foxton

Hello, I'm Fleur Deavin. My husband Mike and I are proud parents to three grown boys and the grandparents of eight wonderful grandchildren. Our journey took an unexpected turn about three and a half years ago when we were granted interim custody of four children, including Zara (9), Braxton (8) and Lincoln (6). Originally, we had purchased a home with plans for retirement, but life had other plans.

Navigating the legal system and undergoing counselling, we faced the challenges head-on. Though one child returned to their mother, we found ourselves permanently caring for the older three siblings. Through this journey, I've realised that our experience isn't unique and there are others facing similar changes in parenting dynamics.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren has been a lifeline for us, showing that we're not alone in this journey. Now, I'm determined to pay it forward by supporting other families through their tough times and celebrating their victories, no matter how small they may seem.

While I don't have all the answers, I'm always here to lend a listening ear and offer whatever assistance I can. Remember, "It takes a Village to Raise Children," and I'm honoured to be part of that village for anyone who needs support.

## Caregiver Education



### GRG's Simply Acquired & Learned Techniques™ SALT trauma informed care workshop programme

This programme has been developed specifically for grandparents and whānau caregivers to help them learn how to increase attachment in children who have experienced trauma, and how to:

- safely de-escalate conflict, develop self-regulation and
- increase the child's resilience, feeling of stability, security, and belonging within their whānau.

Upcoming workshops: 10am - 2pm - Venues to be confirmed on registration

March: Monday 25 March - TeKuiti/TeAwamutu

April/May: New Plymouth, Whakatane, Wairarapa, Levin/Foxton, Whanganui, Gisborne

REGISTER NOW at [SALT@grg.org.nz](mailto:SALT@grg.org.nz) or phone 0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637)  
Each SALT workshop is FREE for all GRG registered members!



# Bruce Hopkins raising money for GRG

It was a picturesque January afternoon, Tuesday 23rd January 2024 and the spotlight illuminated Bruce Hopkins, whose unwavering dedication to a cause dear to his heart has deeply resonated with our Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ (GRG) community.

Through the support of Red Bull, GRG proudly showcased the remarkable journey of Honorary Life member, Bruce Hopkins. His life narrative, rich with diverse experiences, from adventures in Middle Earth to traversing the Te Araroa Trail, showcasing his dynamic array of roles.

In 2018, Hopkins embarked on a Te Araroa hike to fundraise for GRG, a cause he holds close to his heart as a devoted grandfather himself, raising over \$30,000.

"I've got four grandkids and I deeply empathise with grandparents who have to transition from the unconditional love of grandparenting to assuming disciplinary roles, making lunches — their entire grandparenting dynamic changes. It's often due to traumatic circumstances," shared Bruce.

During his hike of Te Araroa at the end of 2017, Bruce discovered that he had cancer. This discovery led him to stay with two GRG members in Te Kuiti for four days while awaiting the blood test results to come back. Following the diagnosis, he underwent surgery in early January 2018. After a two-week stand-down period, he was able to resume his journey through the North Island section of the 3000km hike and eventually make his way to the South Island to complete the trail.

Known for his love of swimming around Herne Bay and his signature backflips off the wharf, Bruce celebrated his 67th birthday in style, performing 67 backward somersaults and raising over \$2,500 for GRG back in 2022. With the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series finale coming to Auckland, Bruce saw an opportunity to amplify his platform and undertake his daring feat once again, this time on a larger stage for his 68th birthday. However, due to a 13-metre sinkhole that appeared in Parnell, allowing raw wastewater to flow directly into the harbour in September last year, the event was postponed. Initially set for November and to be hosted in Auckland's Wynyard Quarter for the first time, it was rescheduled for January 2024.

Bruce marked his 68th birthday by executing 68 backward somersaults from a towering 6-meter platform, reaching speeds of up to 40km/h, all in support of GRG.

"I couldn't let this opportunity pass, so I asked if I could utilise part of the tower — although I hadn't realised it would be six meters!" expressed Bruce.

Anticipating a duration of two hours, which became a reality for his philanthropic flips, Bruce remained undeterred, even as he practiced on-site exhibiting optimism in the face of the towering challenge.

Bruce's established Givealittle page to support his somersaults challenge is still open and taking donations <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/somersaults-for-charity-bruces-68th-challenge> - Bruce's current fundraising currently sits at \$5,185, and will get even larger with your support!



Bruce's generosity and spirit continues to inspire us all, thanks a million Bruce!



## GRG Support Groups Nationwide

### MID NORTH

Contact: Cheryl London  
021 680 863 / Midnorth@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Every 3rd Tuesday of the month.  
Please contact Cheryl for time, as this varies.  
Location: Te Koha Digital Business and Learning Hub, 74 Guy Road, Kaikohe (Totara Board Room).

### DARGAVILLE

Currently vacant. If you or someone you know would like to consider becoming the local Support Group Coordinator for the Dargaville area, please contact Giselle Stalls at Giselle@grg.org.nz / 021 246 0553.

### WHANGAREI

Meets: First Friday each month at 10am  
Location: Anglican Care Centre, Drummond Street, Whangarei. Currently Vacant: If you or someone you know would like to consider becoming the local Support Group Coordinator for the Whangarei area please contact Giselle Stalls at Giselle@grg.org.nz / 021 246 0553.

### NORTH SHORE

Contact: Cameron Gay  
021 190 3594 / Norhtshore@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Date and location varies.  
Please get in touch with Cameron for confirmation of the next meeting.

### TAMAKI/EAST

Contact: Tess Gould-Thorpe  
09 535 6903 / Tamaki@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Date and location varies.  
Please get in touch with Tess for confirmation of the next meeting.

### AUCKLAND CENTRAL

Contact: Helen Hewitt  
021 469 964 / Aucklandcentral@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Every first Wednesday of the month  
Location: Melville Cricket Pavilion, 18 Street Andrews Avenue, Epsom.

### NEW LYNN

Contact: Faye James  
022 417 7840 / Newlynn@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Every third Wednesday of the month at 10am.  
Location: Fale Avondale Community House, 50A Rosebank Road, Avondale.

### MANUREWA

Currently vacant. If you or someone you know would like to consider becoming the local Support Group Coordinator for the Manurewa area, please contact Giselle Stalls at Giselle@grg.org.nz / 021 246 0553.

### PAPAKURA

Contact: Shirley Afoa  
021 129 4151 / Papakura@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Second Thursday of each month at 10am.  
Location: Smiths Avenue Community Hall, 20 Smiths Avenue, Papakura.

### PUKEKOHE/WAIUKU

Contact: Anne Doddrell  
09 237 8161 / Pukekohe@grg.org.nz  
Meets: The last Tuesday of the month at 10am  
Location: St. Andrews Church, 43 Queen Street, Pukekohe.

### NGARUAWAHIA/HUNTLY

Contact: Trevor Don  
027 229 2041 /  
Ngaruawahia@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Trevor for confirmation of next meeting.

### MATAMATA-PIAKO

Contact: Jennifer Porter  
027 683 6207 /  
matamata-piako@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Date and location varies.  
Please get in touch with Jennifer for confirmation of next meeting.

### HAMILTON WEST

Contact: Pat Davis  
022 600 7672 /  
Hamiltonwest@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Last Thursday of the month at 10am to 11.30am  
Location: St Davids Hall, Rifle Range Road, Dinsdale, Hamilton.

### TURANGI

Contact: John McRae  
021 521 900 / Turangi@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with John for confirmation of next meeting.

### TE KUITI

Currently vacant. If you or someone you know would like to consider becoming the local Support Group Coordinator for the Waitakere area, please contact Giselle Stalls at Giselle@grg.org.nz / 021 246 0553.

### TAUMARUNUI

Contact: Shona Coster  
027 468 8492 /  
Taumarunui@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Date and time varies.  
Location: Women's Refuge Centre, 57 Miriama Street, Taumarunui.

### ROTORUA

Contact: Anne Donnell  
022 059 5107 / Rotorua@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Third Monday of each month at 9:30am  
Location: Linton Park Community Centre, 16 Kamahi Place, Pukehangi, Rotorua.

### WHAKATANE

Currently vacant. If you or someone you know would like to consider becoming the local Support Group Coordinator for the Whakatane area, please contact Giselle Stalls at Giselle@grg.org.nz / 021 246 0553.

### OPOTIKI/TE KAHAKA

Contact: Roby Hahipene  
027 284 8540 /  
Opotiki@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Date and location varies.  
Please get in touch with Robyn for confirmation of next meeting.

### NAPIER

Contact: Beth Thurston  
022 073 9900 / Napier@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Date and time varies, please contact Beth for confirmation of meetings.  
Location: The Octagon Room, All Saints Church, 23 Puketapu Road, Taradale.

### HASTINGS

Contact: Nga Ngatae Heather  
022 341 7789 / Hastings@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Third Thursday of the month at 11am.  
Location: The Club, 308 Victoria Street, Hastings.

### NEW PLYMOUTH

Contact: Jeanette Hinton  
021 059 0954 /  
Newplymouth@grg.org.nz  
Meets: Date and time varies, please contact Jeanette for confirmation of meetings.  
Location: Taranaki Rugby Club, 1 Rogan Street, New Plymouth.

### PALMERSTON NORTH

Contact: Jacqui Phillips  
021 229 0455 /  
Palmerstonnorth@grg.org.nz  
Meets: First Thursday of the month at 1pm and 6.30pm (1.5-2 hours long)  
Location: Christian Community Church, 54 Pascal Street Palmerston North.

#### FOXTON

Contact: Fleur Deavin  
022 013 3928 / [Foxton@grg.org.nz](mailto:Foxton@grg.org.nz)  
Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Fleur for confirmation of the next meeting.

#### WAIRARAPA

Contact: Jonathan and Margaret Hooker  
027 448 6645 / 027 284 476 / [Wairarapa@grg.org.nz](mailto:Wairarapa@grg.org.nz)  
Meets: Date and location varies.  
Please get in touch with Jonathan and Margaret for confirmation of the next meeting.

#### KAPITI/OTAKI

Contact: Kathy Proctor  
029 249 9543 / [Kapiti@grg.org.nz](mailto:Kapiti@grg.org.nz)  
Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Kathy for confirmation of the next meeting.

#### LOWER HUTT

Contact: Maria Zoetebier  
021 148 0549 / [Lowerhutt@grg.org.nz](mailto:Lowerhutt@grg.org.nz)  
Meets: Date and time varies. Please get in touch with Maria for confirmation of the next meeting.  
Location: Walter Nash Centre, 22 - 26 Taine Street, Taita.

#### WELLINGTON

Contact: Cecilee Donovan  
021 158 6643 / [Wellington@grg.org.nz](mailto:Wellington@grg.org.nz)  
Meets: Date and time varies. Please get in touch with Cecilee for confirmation of the next meeting.

#### NELSON

Contact: Sharon Norriss  
03 548 6710 / [Nelson@grg.org.nz](mailto:Nelson@grg.org.nz)  
Meets: Every second Friday of the month at 10am.  
Location: The Nelson Golf Club, Bolt Road, Nelson.

#### MOTUEKA

Contact: Rankeilor Arnott  
021 133 7299 / [Motueka@grg.org.nz](mailto:Motueka@grg.org.nz)  
Meets: Every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 12.30pm to 3.00pm  
Location: St Andrews Church Lounge, 64 High Street, Motueka.

#### MARLBOROUGH

Contact: Molly Crowe  
027 470 5235 / [Marlborough@grg.org.nz](mailto:Marlborough@grg.org.nz)  
Meets: Every second Tuesday of the month at 10am.  
Location: Room 1, Marlborough Library (Te Kahu o Waipuna), 15 High Street, B

#### NORTH OTAGO

Contact: Robyn Cleverley  
027 897 3913 / [Northotago@grg.org.nz](mailto:Northotago@grg.org.nz)  
Meets: Every first Friday of the month at 1.30pm.  
Location: Waitaki Recreational Centre, 43 Orwell Street, Oamaru.

#### SOUTH CHRISTCHURCH

Contact: Anna Clare  
021 085 77404 / [Southchristchurch@grg.org.nz](mailto:Southchristchurch@grg.org.nz)  
Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Fleur for confirmation of the next meeting.  
Currently Vacant: If you or someone you know would like to consider becoming the local Support Group Coordinator please contact Giselle Stalls at [Giselle@grg.org.nz](mailto:Giselle@grg.org.nz) / 021 246 0553

#### ASHBURTON

Contact: Karen Kilgour  
027 741 2039 / [Ashburton@grg.org.nz](mailto:Ashburton@grg.org.nz)  
Meets: Date and location varies.  
Please get in touch with Karen for confirmation of the next meeting.

#### SOUTHLAND

Contact: Colleen Saunders  
03 216 4173 / [Southland@grg.org.nz](mailto:Southland@grg.org.nz)  
Meets: Second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 10am  
Location: Family Works, 183 Spey Street, Invercargill.

#### COFFEE GROUPS

Maungatoroto Angela 027 488 4441  
Whangarei Christine 021 061 5387  
Birkenhead Flo 021 056 93639  
Whitianga Gillian 027 454 0314  
Te Puke Rae 021 235 6452  
Paeroa Sue 021 029 16936  
Matamata Jennifer 027 683 6207  
Te Aroha Jennifer 027 683 6207  
Cambridge Brenda 027 438 5401  
Hastings Nga 022 341 7789  
Opunake Jayne 027 586 5190  
Waimate Maureen 029 775 1970  
Timaru Lorna 021 262 8045

## CURRENTLY VACANT

Would you be interested in volunteering your services for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren?

With over 6,500 members across the country Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ rely on volunteer Support Group Coordinators to provide hands on support, information and advocacy in addition to running regular support groups for members to get that peer support that is so valuable when sharing their experiences and accumulated knowledge. Currently we are seeking Support Group Coordinators in the following areas:

Kerikeri, Whangarei, Bream Bay, Hibiscus Coast, Avondale, Waitakere, Henderson, Glen Eden, Mangere/ Onehunga, Te Puke/Papamoa, Tauranga, Tokoroa, Te Kuiti, Whanganui, Dannevirke/Tararua, Levin, Wellington, South Christchurch, Dunedin, North Otago and Otago Coastal.

Contact:  
Giselle 021 246 0553 or  
[Giselle@grg.org.nz](mailto:Giselle@grg.org.nz) or

CALL US FREE on 0800 472 637 (0800 GRANDS) for support, information, advice and referrals to our Outreach and Advocacy team please contact GRG's National Support Office on:

0800 472 637 or  
[office@grg.org.nz](mailto:office@grg.org.nz)  
Mon – Fri 9am to 2pm

## Other Handy Helpline Numbers

**EMERGENCY** 111 for emergency services, fire, ambulance or police

**PLUNKETLINE** 0800 933 922 for advice on child health or parenting from a registered Plunket Nurse

**HEALTHLINE** 0800 611 116 for health triage and advice from a registered nurse.

**COVID-19** Healthline concerns 0800 358 5453

**'NEED TO TALK?'** Text 1737 Get help from a counsellor

**LIFELINE** 0800 543 354 or Text 4357 – 24/7 confidential support from qualified counsellors and trained volunteers

**YOUTHLINE** 0800 376 633 helping families and youth

**0508 CARERS** (0508 227 377) a 24/7 Caregivers Guidance and Advice Line.

**0800 WHATS UP** (0800 942 8787) is a free counselling helpline for teenagers and children run by Barnardos.

**DEPRESSION.ORG.NZ** Free text number 4202

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ

Established in 2001 as a registered charitable trust (CC20205), GRG supports over 5500 grandparent and whanau care families nationwide, representing around 9,000 caregivers and over 14,000 children. Our vision and kaupapa is to empower grandparent and other whanau care families to achieve positive life outcomes, through providing support, information, advice, advocacy services and caregiver education programmes.

[Donate](#)

Have your circumstances changed?

Our aim is to keep you informed and of what's happening, key information and opportunities that can help you. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or you have changed address or phone number please update your details by clicking the button below or contact us.

[Update your member details](#)

Can we help you? Members ONLY services are available free of charge nationwide.

New members and existing members please call our Helpline 0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637) or 09 418 3753

Join GRG or subscribe to our newsletter via our website or click the button below.

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[Our Website](#)

Heoi ano, na. E te Atua, aroha mai... O God shower us with love. Ka kite Ka Whangaia ka tupu, ka puawai – That which is nurtured, blossoms and grows. He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ake o mātou – We are respectful, we listen, we learn.

Please pass this newsletter on to other grandparents and whanau caregivers who need support.

Ngā mihi nui – Thank you to our Funders for their support for our newsletter.



Disclaimer: Opinions or views expressed in this newsletter shall be understood as reflecting those of the author as quoted and are not to be taken as given or endorsed by GRG. This newsletter is subject to copyright. © 2024

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust New Zealand

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