



NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2016

DATABASE: 6765 WHANAU CARERS

*Tena Koutou, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Malo e Lelei, Bula Vinaka, Taloha Ni, Kam Na Mauri, Greetings to all!*

## From the National Office

### Health & Disability Service

Everyone using a health or disability service has the protection of the Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights. Your rights when receiving a health or disability service are:

1. Respect
2. Fair Treatment
3. Dignity and Independence
4. Appropriate Standards
5. Effective Communication
6. Full Information
7. Informed Choice and Consent
8. Support
9. Rights During Teaching and Research
10. Have Your Complaints Taken Seriously

Health and disability services include:

- Audiologists
- Dentists
- GPs
- Palliative care
- Pharmacies

...and many more

You can seek Advocate support to help you resolve your complaint. The advocacy service is:

- Free
- Independent of health and disability service providers



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- Confidential
- On the side of the consumer
- Available to give free presentations to consumer groups, on the topics of Advocacy, the Code of Rights, and the Health and Disability Commissioner

For more information, please contact the advocacy service on freephone 0800 555 050, and you will be put in touch with your local Advocate

## A Big Issue

Sarah and her husband aged 64 owned their own home with a \$10,000 mortgage on it, they were just managing on Job Seekers Benefit but at their age had little chance of finding work.

Due to circumstances, which we all know too well three of their grandchildren needed care due to drug abuse of the mother and no father was named on the birth certificates. There was obviously going to be a very expensive court battle coming up, potentially to the tune of \$25,000+, the Family Court Lawyer stated. They did not want to take out another mortgage on their home as close to being on a pension in five months they knew they could not repay anymore and there would be three children to raise, they needed to keep the home to house all the children. They were denied Legal Aid.

What to do? The children needed them. Their home value was \$420,000.

They sought help and found a potential option in Heartland Bank, which was where they had their accounts.

After sitting down and going through all their options and the detail around a Heartland Home Equity Facility, Sarah found although she didn't want another mortgage, she did have an option to utilize the equity in their property to refinance the existing \$10,000 mortgage and provide a facility up to \$69,000 to cover court costs. She was also given three promises by Heartland Bank.

### **PROMISE ONE** – Lifetime Occupancy guarantee

Your home will remain the place you live in for as long as you choose.

### **PROMISE TWO** – No Negative Equity guarantee

The amount required to repay the loan will never exceed the net sale proceeds of the property.

### **PROMISE THREE** – Loan Repayment guarantee

There is no requirement to make any loan repayment until the end of the loan.

It is important to ensure that Sarah and her husband are completely happy with all aspects of their Heartland Home Equity Loan, and they must obtain legal advice by a solicitor of their choice, who will represent only their interests and work with them to make sure everything has been fully explained and discussed.

**NB:** Sarah will need to contact W&I to ensure a Home Equity Release Facility from Heartland Bank will not impact her Job Seekers Benefit.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Anderson on 09 9279167 or [Rob.Anderson@heartland.co.nz](mailto:Rob.Anderson@heartland.co.nz)

Sarah and her husband decided after taking independent advice, to take up the offer with Heartland bank, paying off the \$10,000 mortgage and an extra \$30,000 to cover legal bills. They timed this to coincide with when they left Job Seekers to go on a pension.

Their Job Seekers Benefit would (our understanding) not be affected, but if they had an Accommodation Supplement they would lose that: i.e. having money in the bank could affect any additional or Supplementary assistance from W&I.

**Disclaimer:** GRG Trust does not endorse any of the claims made in this article and cautions any person seeking this kind of finance/loan to ensure they obtain independent legal advice before signing any documentation.



## Drug Issues

When finding ourselves in this situation with a family member we found the local Auckland CADS (Community Alcohol and Drug Services) group very supportive and helpful. It was free and we learned to separate ourselves from the problem that our family member has and to put our energy into looking after our grandchild.

Here is what is on their website: <http://www.cads.org.nz>

Here at CADS we are aware that being alongside someone who is using ... in a way that is causing problems for themselves and others can be very stressful and confusing. The ongoing use and consequent stress of those involved can have a negative impact on families, emotionally, financially and socially.

Those alongside someone using ... in this manner are often experiencing anxiety, fear, grief, hopelessness, shame and isolation and may not know where to turn to for help.

Family and friends may need to access CADS services as support for themselves to manage these feelings, learn about dependency, substances, boundaries and useful coping strategies.

CADS has a range of options available as support for you:

- Family & Friends Information Evenings
- Family & friends Support groups in all the CADS Units.
- One to one counselling as support

Family friends and whanau: Reclaiming our lives - information and support for people who have concerns about the alcohol or other drug use of a relative, partner or friend

You are welcome to seek support for yourself whether the person you are concerned about is a CADS client or not. Phone 09 845-1818

**Alcohol Drug Helpline** If you live outside the Auckland region contact Alcohol Drug Helpline 24/7 0800 787 797

## Sigh, Hello All You Amazing Grandparents,

You have convinced me to write, as I love to read others stories.

The one I really connected with was explaining how resentful the Grandmother felt at being thrown back into child raising again, I get it. And also I felt really bad about resenting the change of circumstances, which of course was not the child's fault. I had five children, and 10 years ago the second one had a baby at 18 years of age, both she and the baby's father were far too immature to care for him at that time, even though I gave them a home etc. Dad moved out when baby son was 4 months old, then my daughter gradually had far more attractive things to think about (going out,

drinking, smoking weed), baby care and getting a job/ training/ career were nowhere on the radar. So, by the time my grandson was 6 months old, both of his parents were effectively absent. It wasn't too bad as my youngest was 10 at that time, so we just carried on.

So many lies and so much stealing from my home went on for years, but what do you do? Yeah, I know toughen up. My middle child then started on the dope smoking, which caused psychosis, so there was a never-ending stream of health appointments for him, over a few years. I tell you something though, the mental health system in Northland is utterly marvelous, they gave us

incredible support and help. He went to Starship for a while, so I was travelling up and down three times a week. Now he is 25 and is a really great guy, he has come through brilliantly, and lives life like any NZ young man. He won't touch drugs, just likes a few beers! I hope that may give someone some hope in their situation perhaps. Before we sound too off the wall, my first son is fine, fourth child just graduated with a double major in Science from Auckland University, and the youngest is working in Civil Engineering and having a great time.

The difference is that they weren't attracted to doing drugs. There's one for the psychiatrists, why do some go down the drugs road, and others have the strength to turn away from it? I don't know.

Then just over a year ago, it became very obvious that my daughter was now very involved in meth. She had had another child, a girl, who had her 8th birthday last month. The father of that one was how the "p" became entrenched. They had split up a few years back, but he needed more money for his meth, so just hook back into the previous relationship, and use her benefit. She was claiming all sorts of unjustified help from WINZ, and so was he.

WINZ and IRD and CYFS all are aware now, and money is hard to come by for them. This of course leads to crime, police involvement etc, and I got asked by CYFs to have the little girl, as I already had her brother. Otherwise she would be put with ?? well, who??? A year on now, still a rocky road as far as her parent's behaviour goes.

We had "Calf Club" day at school last week, the child was focused on her lamb and what she was doing. Her father kept reaching over the fence to try and hug his (embarrassed) daughter, then she suddenly said very loudly "Just because I don't want a hug from you, you don't have to call me mean!" He had bent over and told her she was a

mean person!

However, I was glad that she now has the confidence to speak that out, (instead of dissolving into tears) and I told her that later. The look of relief on her face was great.

So slowly we are getting her confidence, happiness, and health to a point where "normal" 8-year-old children should be. Including, arguing with her brother and telling everyone how they should behave.

I remind them both regularly that I am the adult, and they only need to be responsible for their own actions while they are children.

I haven't heard a thing from CYFs for months and months, no reply to phone messages either. It seems that once they have placed a child in a safe situation, they don't do any follow up, probably due to their huge workload. I'm still surprised that they've never come to check our home either. WINZ were very good, I get the unsupported child \$\$ for her, with minimal jumping through hoops, and the boy's Dad has matured and has a home, a wife and two more children, and has his first son most weekends, they go hunting, fishing, motorbikes, all the dad/son things, he also pays child support. Yay.

So, we just carry on, and try not to think of overseas trips, or other possible retirement plans for another ten years. Just have to enjoy how life is now.

I hope someone gets some encouragement from these ramblings, we are really very fortunate to live in this lovely country, and where was it ever written that life was going to be easy. Keep smiling everyone.

## Grandparents Talk

by Janice Marriott

Publication date: November 2016 RRP \$39.99

What does it mean to be a grandparent in New Zealand society today? What is it that keeps families and communities functioning? Continuity? Trust? Love? Janice Marriott, award-winning author and, more importantly, grandmother decided to find out...

Grandparents Talk contains frank, sometimes astonishing, inspiring and thought-provoking interviews with a cross-section of New Zealand grandparents. We discover the variety of grandparents in our diverse society, the heartbreak and the hilarity, and just how indispensable grandparents are. Photos of the featured grandparents, and gorgeous pictures and paintings of grandparents by school children, adorn the pages.

'The urge to write a book about grandparents came to me when I was looking at sculptures on a Sculpture Walk and a friend was reading to me words associated with the sculptures. A girl, maybe three years old, and a woman, maybe 60, were listening, the grandmother with her hand on the girl's shoulder. I noticed that the girl's ponytail was pulled through a hole in the top of her sun hat. This made me smile at the grandmother, and she understood my smile. She told me the hole was her way of keeping the girl's hat on. Just an ordinary interaction on a hot day, but its ordinariness seemed to me so extraordinary: the practicality of the grandmother, the shared love — conveyed by that hand on her granddaughter's shoulder — and we two grandmothers acknowledging each other.

'I set out to explore more of these extraordinary ordinary moments. I chose to do this by interviewing, face-to-face, a variety of grandparents. None would think they were extraordinary, but they all were,' says Janice.

Most grandparenting doesn't feature in the formal statistics. As these grandparents talk, their words reveal the varied and often heroic role that grandparents play in today's families: the heartache of long-distance grandparenting, the sacrifices some people make to keep their grandkids safe and well, the sports coaching, the school pick-up, the concerns about the future. This book shows how and why grandparents do this work, and celebrates the unique bond between themselves and their grandchildren.

'Of course we lose the intensity of the relationship as the grandchildren grow. They crack open that fragile shell of our love and escape, as independent as newly-hatched crocodiles, into a new world that doesn't care about grandparents at all. But it doesn't stop us from adoring them, treasuring their every moment, the times when we feel we have cheated old age, been born again, and have a foothold on the rock of immortality.' — Janice Marriott

Janice Marriott is an award-winning writer of novels, memoir and children's books, and a columnist, a writing tutor and a grandmother.

GRG's feature in this book too!





# Grand's reflections...

## Oh My

Over the weekend my nearly 7 year old grandson (identical twin) came with me to the Rebel Sports 30% off sale. He took a great interest in the clothing dummies and asked why they did not have heads. I explained that they were for putting the clothes on them to encourage people to buy the clothes. He grabbed the arm of the male dummy and said but he has arms Nana! He then looked down the pants of the male dummy but said nothing and walked on. He then looked at the female dummy and put his hand over her breast and pulled the top across and said look Nana she has a bra on. Before I could respond he then looked down her pants and in a VERY loud voice shared that she did not have a vagina. I said that's right no vagina and we carried on shopping. The looks on the faces of the MANY people around us was priceless.



## Out of the Mouths of Babes

I look after a five-year-old grand-daughter. Recently, while removing a bottle seal from under lid, I complained - "These things are a pain!" A few days later, Daisy picked up a seal from the ground and announced, "I found a pain Poppa".

## Yep Boys!

I had my daughter home for the Labour Weekend, and six grandchildren staying, aged 6 – 9 years. Thank goodness for the fine weather and a large section with a paddock. I spent the weekend gardening and was horrified to find so many snails. So, I had a brainwave to get rid of them. I offered to pay 5c for small ones and 10c for big snails. The kids were so excited they

headed off and within moments, I heard shrieks of, "there are zillions of them here!"

My granddaughter asked what will you do with them, and I told her I would put them in the bucket of water. This was moments after my grandson had just told his mum, "don't hurt them" as she helped him put them into the bucket. So, a change of plans and the bucket was taken into the paddock and the snails deposited.

Hopefully the pig found them!

Half an hour later, I called a halt as they had all got to \$5 each, so I sent them to the dairy with their money for a well-deserved ice block.

Later on, sitting having lunch the two boys (8yrs) were bragging to the girls about how they could do bigger and smellier farts than them. When I heard this, I told them that when I eat fruit, I could out fart them, thinking that they would find that funny. Well they did. My grandson, in a very serious voice said, "I know nanna, you do the loudest and stinkiest farts, and I've told all my friends". Upon which all six children roared with laughter and agreed with him.

My joke had completely backfired on me and I retreated inside with a huge smile.

## Should Have Known Better

Needed some new bra's so off to you know where. It was very busy, little one darted off. Next minute I hear shouting at the top of her lungs, "Nan, Nan I have found you some big comfy bras." I arrived red faced to find her holding up a bra which could have fitted a cow's udder! Yep that's my girl, not known for her quietness.

## Help needed!!

With our ever-increasing numbers of GRG members in the Christchurch area it has become too much for just one Support Group Coordinator to provide support at a local level. So we would like to appoint an additional Coordinator to work alongside Veronica Brunt as another point of contact for our Christchurch members.

If you are interested in joining our network of voluntary Coordinators – or just want some more information - please contact Diana East, Field Officer, on 0800 472 637 (x6) or email [d.east13@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:d.east13@yahoo.co.nz).

Diana will talk with you about the Coordinator's tasks and responsibilities and explain the appointment process.

## Tauranga Support Group Meetings

Held on the first Tuesday of every month, (except January) 10 -12.30.

St Peters in the City: corner of Cameron road and Spring Street.

## Can we help you?

Members ONLY services are available nationwide  
Caregivers Toll free helpline  
**0800 GRANDS** (0800 472 637)  
For landline caregivers only please.

**New members and general information please dial ext. 1**

### Members' Support Manager:

Di Vivian  
Auckland/free callers:  
(09) 480 6530  
Email Di at: [office@grg.org.nz](mailto:office@grg.org.nz)

**GRG Trust NZ**  
**PO Box 34892**  
**Birkenhead**  
**Auckland 0746**

**Suite 4 (Ground floor)**  
**Rawene Chambers**  
**17 Rawene Rd**  
**Birkenhead Auckland 0626**

Office Manager:  
Kelly Vivian 09 418 3753  
Email [office2@grg.org.nz](mailto:office2@grg.org.nz) or  
[kelly@grg.org.nz](mailto:kelly@grg.org.nz)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or you have changed address please update your details by contacting Kelly at the Trust Office as this is where the total mail out membership is kept.  
Moved home or planning to? Be sure to let us know.

**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.©

### Member Support Manager: Di & Team (as a caregiver you are part of our team)

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

We are respectful, we listen, we learn

*He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ako mātou*

Please pass this on to other grandparents/kin carers you know.

GRG Trust Head Office hours are 9am – 2pm daily. (We raise grandchildren too)

**We are a Charitable Trust**



[Anti-bullying](#)



0800 456 450



Give a Little for GRG

<https://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/grg>

[www.powertoprotect.net.nz](http://www.powertoprotect.net.nz)



# SUPPORT GROUP CONTACT NUMBERS

Locality	Name	Phone	E-mail Address
Ashburton	Lorraine Sherratt	022 378 7768	lsherratt@hotmail.com
Auckland East **	Tess Gould-Thorpe	09 535 6903	pan@xnet.co.nz
Auckland North **	Diane Vivian (Temp)	09 4806530	office@grg.org.nz
Auckland South **	Virginia Peebles	09 277 7514	
Auckland West **	Debbie Hall	09 818 7828	debron@xtra.co.nz
Auckland Papakura/ Pukekohe** **	Sharon Warne	0274194777	warneysvision@hotmail.com
Auckland Waiuku	Luana Misa	0210708465	luanapayne@hotmail.co.nz
Canterbury **	Veronica Brunt	03 942 5935	r.v.brunt@paradise.net.nz
Dannevirke**	Malcolm Johnson	06 3740407	
Dargaville **	Sandy Zimmer	09 439 4420	sandy.zimmer@hotmail.com
Hamilton **	Pat Davis	0226007672	hamilton111.grg@gmail.com
Hastings	Tom Kupa	06 879 4302	kupakarate@outlook.com
Invercargill **	Lynette Nielsen	03 216 0411	jhandli2@xtra.co.nz
Kaikohe*	Moengaroa Floyed	027 644 0978	floyedz@xtra.co.nz
Kaitaia *	Martha Taonui-Andrews	0272662653	marthataonuians@xtra.co.nz
Kaiwaka	Dianah Roberts	0223819539	mydogmollymycowmoo- moo@gmail.com
Kerikeri *	Martha Taonui-Andrews	0272662653	marthataonuians@xtra.co.nz
Levin*	Ann Waddell	06 362 7269	ann.hen@xtra.co.nz
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Papamoa *	Rawinia Macredie	07 562 2850	jnmacredie@kinect.co.nz
Porirua Wellington **	Lise Maru	04 477 9445	lise.maru@clear.net.nz
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Ruakaka	Tauser Kingi	09 432 8611	tauser.kingi@vodafone.co.nz
Taumarunui **	Aroha Rudkin	027 873 0061	sf@ckcreap.org.nz
Taupo *	Viv Needham	07 378 1811	viv.maree@gmail.com
Tauranga	Karen Ormsby	021 225 5108	jewelzs@hotmail.com
Te Kuiti **	Kay Higgins	027 430 2939	palmdrive@xtra.co.nz
Upper Hutt **	Margaret Pearson	04 976 9475	maggiemagpie@paradise.net.nz
Wairarapa **	Tere Lenihan	06 379 5407	terel@swscc.org.nz
Wanganui **	Jenny Morton	027 443 7780	jaydeez@clear.net.nz
Wellington **	Cecilee Donovan	04 477 0632	cecileed@gmail.com
Whakatane **	Shirley Faulkner	07 308 8524	shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz
Whangarei **	Janet Puriri	09 435 0044	

For the most up to date contact details please go to our website [www.grg.org.nz](http://www.grg.org.nz)

If you are a grandparent or whanau caregiver and need a referral to one of our Field Officers please call 0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637) or if you are in Auckland please call 09 480 6530