



NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2016

DATABASE: 6602 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

### Notice For Caregivers

The Government has launched a new service which specifically targets PERMANENT caregivers who have had a child or young person placed with them by CYF or an approved social service provider.

The Permanent Caregiver Support Service (PCSS) is a contact centre staffed by qualified and registered social workers in Palmerston North. Social workers are available from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday apart from statutory holidays.

The service will provide tailored financial and other assistance to permanent caregivers, both kin and non kin. As a permanent caregiver, you can contact the service at any point until the young person turns 17. Services and Support Orders phased out  
This new service replaces the old system, where Home for Life caregivers applied to the court for ongoing services and support orders. Those orders will expire on the first review date after 1 July 2016.

**Important** note this is only available in normal office hours as it is not a critical service...critical services are still Police, Hospitals, CYFS After Hours to seek help.

Permanent Caregiver Support Service

<http://www.pcss.org.nz>

Telephone: 0800 367 7277

E-mail: [enquiries@pcss.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@pcss.org.nz)



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## Preliminary Research Results

Study of 1100+ grandparents and 1300+ grandchildren undertaken between March and May 2016. Large (160 question) online and telephone survey.

Thanks to funders the Lotteries Community Sector Research Fund.

Thanks to the University of Canterbury for ethical support and use of survey software.

The research was carried out by a team from Pukeko Research Ltd with support from Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (NZ) Trust. This is a 'first cut' report – far more to come!

## Who are the grandparent carers – 2013 census

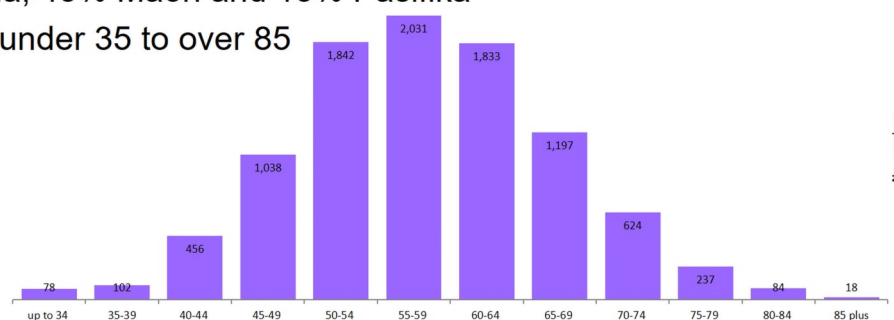
9543 grandparent families as parents

6432 couples and 3111 single grandparent families

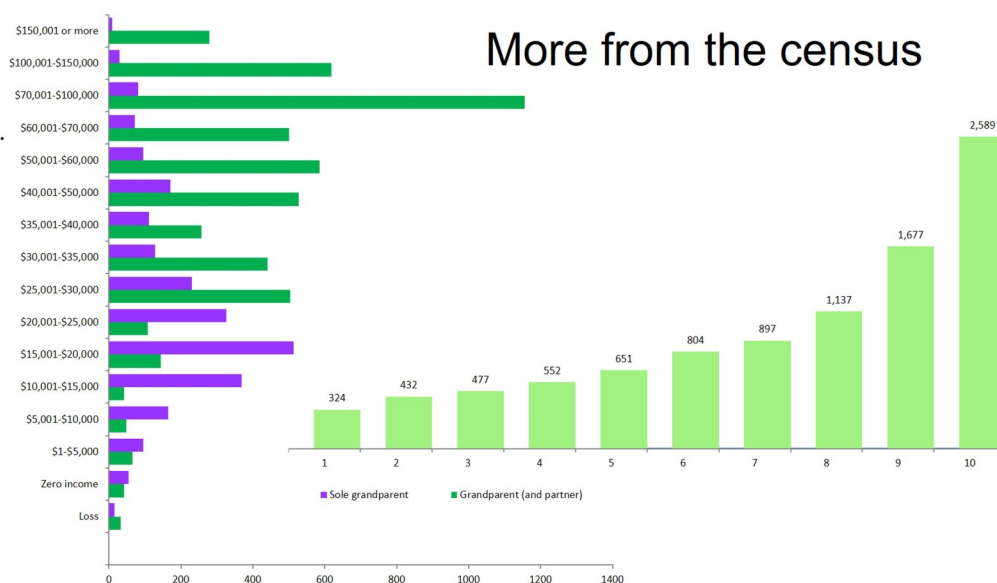
Most live in Northland, Auckland, Waikato, the Bay of Plenty and the remainder of the North Island

45% pākehā, 43% Māori and 13% Pasifika

Aged from under 35 to over 85

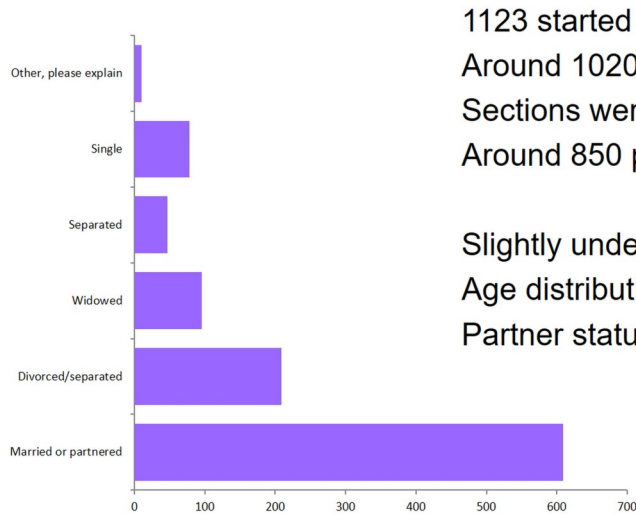


For the first time ever in 2013, the Census asked questions about grandparent carers. Notable was the wide age distribution, the different family formations, the overrepresented Māori population and their residence primarily in the northern half of the North Island.



There is a bi-modal distribution of incomes. Sole grandparent families have much lower incomes, on average, than two grandparent families. As well around two-thirds of such families are clustered in 40% of deprivation deciles 6-10 - meaning that many of the families are below the accepted poverty line.

## A marathon study



1123 started the survey

Around 1020 completed the first part

Sections were completed for 1324 children

Around 850 people completed the final part

Slightly under-represented Maori –36%

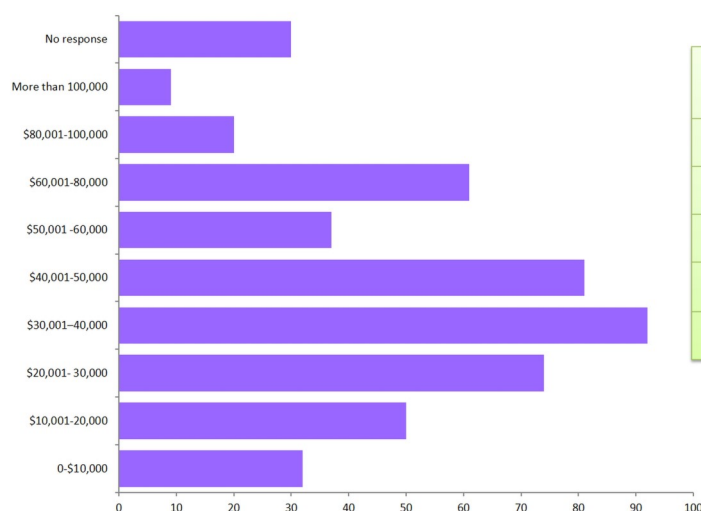
Age distribution almost identical to census

Partner status similar to census

Our survey was really long and some people did not complete. Nevertheless, we think this is the largest study of its kind every completed.

In this first report we are skimming over the surface with the main findings. Other reports will follow over the next few months: the family court experiences of the families, a report on the Māori participants, alcohol abuse and drug addiction, reasons for coming into care, family stories and a report on the 44 great-grandparent families included here.

## Income and employment status



Employment status	No. (%)
Yes, I am employed	415 (40%)
Yes, I am self-employed	80 (8%)
No, I am not in paid work	380 (37%)
No, I am retired	165 (16%)
Total	1040

Modal income \$30-40,000 of participants. 48% are employed or self-employed. Many changed their employment status when they took on their grandchildren.

“Changed the whole pattern and lifestyle. Now had to take up all the responsibilities of a parent. We are great grandparents.”

To read more please go to [www.grg.org.nz](http://www.grg.org.nz)

## Childcare Subsidy

Childcare Subsidy is a payment that helps families with the cost of pre-school childcare.

### Important information

All payments are automatically stopped when the programme you use closes for Christmas holidays and are restarted when the centre reopens.

Who can get it

*You may get a Childcare Subsidy if:*  
you're the main carer of a dependent child  
you're a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident  
your family is on a low or middle income.

You should also normally live in New Zealand and intend to stay here.

**It also depends on how much you and your spouse or partner earn.**

The child must be:

- under five years old (or under six years if you get a Child Disability Allowance for them) attending an approved early childhood programme for three or more hours a week.

Approved programmes include early childhood education and care services, eg:

- kindergartens and preschools
- childcare centres and creches
- playcentres and playgroups

- Kohanga Reo, Punanga Reo, Aoga and other programmes with a language and culture focus approved home-based care.

Childcare Subsidy is a payment that helps families with the cost of pre-school childcare.

### Hours paid for

A Childcare Subsidy is normally paid for up to nine hours of childcare a week if you're not working, studying or training.

You may be able to get up to 50 hours a week if you're in one of these situations:

- o working, studying or on an approved training course
- o involved in an activity that Work and Income has asked you to do
- o a shift worker who works nights
- o **seriously ill or disabled**

caring for a child in hospital or for a child you get the Disability Allowance for.

In most cases you can't get the Childcare Subsidy for more than nine hours a week if the child's other parent or caregiver can care for them.

Families getting 20 hours Early Childhood Education (ECE) can't get the Childcare Subsidy for the same hours.

Below are the [Childcare Subsidy](#) income thresholds and maximum rates at 4 April 2016.

Number of children	Gross weekly income	Childcare Subsidy (per hour, per child)	Childcare Subsidy (per week, per child for 50 hours)
1	Less than \$800.00	\$5.00	\$250.00
	\$800.00 to \$1,199.99	\$4.00	\$200.00
	\$1,200.00 to \$1,299.99	\$2.79	\$139.50
	\$1,300.00 to \$1,399.99	\$1.55	\$77.50
	\$1,400.00 or more	nil	nil

## **SALT Workshops for South Auckland, West Auckland and Papakura/Pukekohe**

We are delighted to announce that we are offering three SALT (Sharing and Learning Together) workshops specially designed for grandparent/kin/whanau carers with the aim of 'growing stronger grandparents, growing stronger grandchildren'. These are free to GRG members and will be held 9.30am (prompt start) - 2pm as follows:

**Auckland South on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016** at the **Mangere East Pacific Island Church**, cnr Buckland Road and Lyncroft Street (venue is the small blue house behind the church)

**Papakura-Pukekohe on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016** at **Pukekohe Library**, 12 Massey Avenue (large meeting room)

**West Auckland on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016** at **267 Glengarry Road, Glen Eden** (in the hall under the Terrance Kennedy Retirement Home)

Facilitators will be Jill Worrall and Diana East, both having many years experience as adult learning facilitators and trainers. Their workshops are fun, very interactive, strengths-based and cover:

Identifying participants' internal and external strengths;

Examining the impact of caring and changes in relationships and life-styles since taking care (Eco-map work);

Identifying one impact or change that each participant would like to work on (eg loss of friends);

Discussing the concept of resilience and how that can be harnessed to improve the lives of grandparents and the children they care for.

Feedback from previous workshop participants includes comments such as:

- *'It's really important for us grandparents to nourish ourselves and this workshop is excellent for that';*
- *Until today I felt I was in a hole. Now I am reminded that I will bounce back and life will be bright again';*

*'I enjoyed the learning process. My mind has been opened and I have achieved quite a degree of clarity'.*

Enthusiastic comments like these clearly show that our SALT workshops successfully help members to gather strength, realise that they have resilience and courage and to discover ways of addressing the problems that confront them. AND people have fun, too!!

Numbers at each workshop will be limited to a maximum of 18 participants so you will need to register your interest quickly! You can do this by phoning our Office Manager, Kelly Vivian on 09 418 3753 or emailing [office2@grg.org.nz](mailto:office2@grg.org.nz)

Tea, coffee and morning tea will be provided but participants are asked to bring their own lunch.

So come on everyone: Take advantage of this exciting opportunity and contact Kelly NOW!



# Grand's reflections...

## Such is life.

Hi, we are grandparents who have just taken on the care of our 9 year old granddaughter. At this stage there is nothing legal in place, however, we may have to consider going down that track. We still have one of our own living at home, a 19yo daughter. The g/d is our eldest son's child.

She was living with him for the last 18 months, but he drinks and was gradually getting slacker and slacker about taking her to school and making sure her needs were met. He has now moved for work and did not think he could cope with her without us there in the same town.

The mother is a whole story on her own. She is afflicted with mental illness that she refuses to acknowledge, very paranoid.

When g/d left her care last year, the child had been described as the most neglected child in the town by one of the school teachers. G/d went long spells without going to school because she had to get herself out of bed and get herself to school, 2 km away. Her mother was not feeding her, townspeople and the school were feeding her, she was filthy, smelly and very, very thin. We later found out that her mother's alcoholic boyfriend was knocking her around if she came near him. It was an awful situation for g/d to be in.

Despite all of that, she is a very happy and polite child. We are getting her extra help to catch up with her schooling - she reads and writes at about the level of a 5yo. There are some emotional issues, which we will address; we will strive to give her a fantastic life.



## Mum or Nan?

Our Granddaughters all call us Mummy and Daddy we fought it at first. Their counsellor told us to allow them to call us whatever they wanted. They have done it in front of their bios which caused a bunch of drama for a while. They all know we are the grandparents. However we play the parent role in their lives so to them we are mommy and daddy.

It also from a child's point of view makes them normal to their friends, that is very important in a kid's life.

## Lost.

Hubby & I were talking and being silly a few years back about how I had lost 'em (my marbles) years ago and the granddaughters were listening, I guess. Especially, the three year old. She bent down and began looking under the furniture, behind the TV, all over the place. "I gonna find 'em for ya Nanny." It was important to her that my marbles be found. The days go on.... About a week later, the 3 y/o comes running in the house screaming for me. By her tone, I thought she was hurt badly. But no, she finds me and says, "Nanny hold out your hand". "Close your eyes." Once I could see that nothing was wrong with her and got my heart rate back to semi-normal, I did as she asked. "Open your eyes now." I open my eyes to a beautiful perfect marble sitting in the palm of my hand. And Boo saying, "See, I helped find your marbles". Until that very moment in my life, I had NEVER laughed so hard. She was a little dumbfounded as to why I was laughing but knew I was very happy. That marble sits in my "good" jewellery box to this day and is worth more than all my sapphires and gold.



Our Beneficiaries Field Officer Trish in England visiting a group of GRG's (in pink in front row) Happy travels.

### Extra Ordinary Care Fund, for those on UCB

The next round opens on September 19<sup>th</sup> closes October 21. You will be notified from 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016. If you applied last round and received funding, you cannot apply this round.

### 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**  
**15 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.

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### 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
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
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
Invercargill **	Lynette Nielsen	03 216 0411	jhandli2@xtra.co.nz
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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
Nelson **	Paula Eggers	03 544 5714	paulaeggers2000@yahoo.com.au
Otago Est/Nth *	Aad & Leonie	03 465 1764	omaandopa@xtra.co.nz
Palmerston North*	Ann Waddell	06 362 7269	ann.hen@xtra.co.nz
Papamoa *	Rawinia Macredie	07 562 2850	jnmacredie@kinect.co.nz
Porirua Wellington **	Lise Maru	04 477 9445	lise.maru@clear.net.nz
Rotorua **	Anne Donnell	020 402 22910	rotoruagrg@gmail.com
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