

5 - 6 March 2014  
Novotel Hotel • Ellerslie  
Auckland • NZ

Register  
Today!

# Empowering Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

3<sup>rd</sup> National  
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust  
New Zealand Training Conference

**DON'T MISS** this **MUST ATTEND** event for all grandparents raising their grandchildren, professionals and organisations working at the frontline of family and social welfare support, child advocacy and policy development

**Hear from an outstanding line-up of leading NZ experts including**



Nigel Latta  
ONZM  
Psychologist



Dr Simon Rowley and  
Nathan Mikaere-Wallis  
Brainwave Trust



**Brainwave**  
build a lifetime in the early years



Pat Buckley  
Amae4Life



**PLUS** Jill Worrall MNZM, Minister for Social Development Paula Bennett, Shane Harris, Principal Family Court Judge Laurence Ryan, Paul Nixon, Catherine Atchison, Alan Gluestein Grant Cleland, Tricia Corin, Sandy Biggs, Hana Ellis and Pio Terei MNZM

**Gain inspiring and empowering insights into the key issues affecting grandparents raising grandchildren**

Update on the **Government's additional \$35M support for GRGs**

**Latest research and insights into early childhood brain development, the teenage brain and the value of kinship and grandparent care** • Practical tips for raising teens who have suffered abuse and neglect • **New Family Court reforms** and how it will affect GRGs

**Sexual behaviour** in children and adolescents - what's normal and what's not?  
**NZ's youth drug culture** - what's really going on? • **Guiding your grandchildren to make the right choices for life** • **UCB entitlements and Benefit reforms**  
**Estate planning** • **Welfare guardianship** • **Transitioning disabled adult grandchildren into the workforce**

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[www.grg.org.nz](http://www.grg.org.nz)

# Day 1 - Wednesday 5 March 2014

- 8.00 **Registration and Coffee**
- 8.30 **Karakia and Welcome**
- 8:50 **Opening Remarks from the Chair**  
*Jill Worrall MNZM*
- 9.00 **Keynote Address from the Minister**  
Funding of \$35 million over four years has been set aside in contingency for extended family members caring for children, recognising the difficult job they do. Following a Ministerial Reference Group established to provide further advice to the minister; how will the Government deliver on its new initiatives and vision for financially supporting the crucial role that grandparents raising grandchildren are playing in our society today and what will it mean for you raising your grandchildren?  
**Honourable Paula Bennett, Minister for Social Development**
- 9.40 **Resolving Guardianship and Care Issues: Family Court Update**  
Changes are afoot in terms of how the Family Court will deal with disputes that come before it. With particular reference to the potential impact on the resolution of guardianship and welfare disputes involving GRGs, this session will provide a comprehensive update on the:  
  - Latest developments and changes to access, representation and funding for counselling and mediation
  - Legal rights and standing of grandparents
  - Ascertainment of children's wishes
  - Family group conferences, their role and limits
  - Roles of the professionals - social worker, lawyer for child, and psychologist**His Honour Judge Laurence Ryan, New Zealand Principal Family Court Judge**  
Court's perspective on legislative/policy changes  
**Hana Ellis, Barrister and Mediator**  
Practitioner's perspective on practical implications for GRGs
- 10.30 **Table Talk**
- 10:50 **Morning Tea**
- 11.10 **Brain Development in Young Children: Why the Early Years Last Forever**  
The human brain is not fully formed at birth and does most of its growing in the early years of life. In this session, we learn why these first three years of life last forever, why it is so important for caregivers to understand the development of a young child's brain and how a loving, secure and nurturing environment can make all the difference.  
  - Developmental changes that occur in the frontal cortex
  - The ideal physical, emotional, educational and social conditions under which the developing brain functions at its best
  - Impact of early life trauma on early brain development
  - What approaches and interventions work best and how can we guide behaviour change in a way that acknowledges and utilises the unique workings of the developing brain**Dr Simon Rowley, Paediatrician, Brainwave Trust**
- 11.50 **Open Forum**  
Facilitated by the Chair, this session provides an opportunity for questions, discussion and reflection on the issues raised by the earlier speakers.
- 12.00 **Lunch**
- 12.50 **Zac Johns and Elizabeth Sayegh Entertain**  
Inspiring young entertainers who were raised by their grandparents
- 1.10 **Understanding the Entitlements to Financial Support and Advocating for You**  
Accessing income support under the Social Security Act to adequately provide for the needs of a grandchild can be problematic for many grandparents raising grandchildren. In this session we share our learning of the complexities involved including:  
  - Your rights, the law, UCB and other benefits
  - Reviewing and appealing decisions
  - Benefit reforms and what they mean for GRGs**Tricia Corin, Field Officer and Benefits Advocate, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust**  
**Sandy Biggs, Auckland Manager, Work and Income New Zealand**
- 2.20 **Reflections on the Past, Parenting and Being Raised By Kin**  
**Pio Terei MNZM** is a talented and entertaining comedian, presenter, actor, writer and singer with many comedy shows to his credit including *Pete and Pio, Pio!*, *The Life and Times of Te Tutu* during the late 1990s until 2001. He has hosted on *Intrepid Journeys: India and Big Saturday Night In* and written pieces for New Zealand dramas *Mataku* and *Spin Doctors*. Pio hosts his own fishing show on the Maori channel and is spokesperson for the New Zealand Coastguard. He is also a presenter and spokesperson for the Parenting Place (Parents Inc) and since 2003 he has presented *No Sweat Parenting / Manaaki Whānau* shows around the country, and launched a new touring program called *The Parenting Show with Pio* in 2011. Pio has won Best Comedy Performer at the NZ Film and TV Awards twice. His series *Pio!* has won Best Comedy programme and his show *Te Tutu* became New Zealand on Air's highest rating comedy programme.
- 2.40 **Afternoon Tea**
- 3.00 **Who Will Look After My Grandchildren When I Am Gone?**  
For many grandparents raising grandchildren there is anxiety about who will look after and/or support their grandchildren in the event of their untimely death. For some raising grandchildren with special needs/severe disabilities and unable to fully support themselves there is also the concern to ensure their care and support as they transition to adulthood. This session outlines:  
  - The options for protecting against future uncertainty through estate planning
  - Wills, trusts and testamentary guardianship
  - Welfare guardianship for teens with severe disabilities**Catherine Atchison, Partner, Martelli McKeeg Alan Gluestein, Barrister, Wyndham Chambers**
- 4.20 **Empowering a Disabled Grandchild's Transition into the Workforce**  
The physical or mental disabilities affecting some grandchildren can add further challenges and obstacles to their grandparent carers as they help them make the transition to adulthood, the workforce and independence. Workbridge; a national not for profit professional employment service for people with all types of disability, including people who have lived with the long-term effects of injury and illness, assisting approximately 4000 disabled people into the workforce each year.  
**Grant Cleland, Chief Executive, Workbridge**
- 5.00 **Closing Remarks from the Chair**
- 5.10 **Day One Concludes**
- 7.00 **Conference Dinner**

# Day 2- Thursday 6 March 2014

## 8.50 Opening Remarks from the Chair

## 9.00 Kinship and Grandparent Care

Considering research findings and developing trends this session examines the value and importance of kinship/whānau care and its impact on child welfare outcomes.

**Paul Nixon, Chief Social Worker, Child Youth and Family**

## Guiding and Parenting Our Youth into the Future

In today's fast paced world of social media, ever-changing technology, youth and party drug culture it is not easy for grandparents to understand the scene that is shaping our grandchildren as they experience their adolescent years. In the following sessions we explore their world and the critical information that will empower you in your role as their most important guide through these challenging years.

## 9.40 Adolescent Brains: What on Earth is Going on in Their Heads?

Being a generation apart from their young charges, grandparents raising their grandchildren face even more of a challenge to remember what it is like to be a teen and to understand what is going on in their heads. Using evidence based information this session examines the latest scientific information on brain development and behaviour of adolescents to help understand:

- The impulsive emotional decision-making of the teenage years
- Risk-taking behaviour from a different perspective
- How decisions are made differently when peers are involved
- Why teenagers' sleep patterns change
- Impact of technology on teenagers
- How alcohol and drugs affect the adolescent brain

**Nathan Mikaere-Wallis, Brainwave Trust**

## 10.30 Morning Tea

## 10.50 Complex Problems Don't Need Complex Solutions: Raising Teens Who've Suffered Abuse and Neglect

Raising a teenager is hard enough at the best of times, but when you're doing it for the second time around, and when those teenagers have experienced abuse and/or neglect; then a tough job gets a whole lot tougher. In this session Nigel will outline the sorts of issues teenagers face, how these issues often present, and some ideas for helping kids deal with the tough stuff. The good news is that just because the issues are complex, doesn't mean the solutions have to be.

**Nigel Latta ONZM, Clinical Psychologist**

## 11.50 Open Forum

Facilitated by the Chair, this session provides an opportunity for questions, discussion and reflection on the issues raised by the earlier speakers.

## 12.00 Lunch

## 12.50 Understanding the Sexualised Behaviour of Children and Youth – What's OK, What's Not, Why Not, and What Can I Do About It?

Children and adolescents engage in and display a range of sexualised behaviour that is healthy and normal for their age. But sometimes they engage in or display sexualised behaviour that causes others to be concerned because it is unusual for their age or it makes others feel uncomfortable, confused or hurt. This session will help you to distinguish between healthy and concerning or harmful sexual behaviour, and provide practical information about how you can support your grandchild.

- Normal development in children and adolescents
- Normal and problematic sexual behaviour
- What makes it abusive?
- Managing problematic sexual behaviour
- Safety and support in the home
- Where and how to get help

**Shane Harris, SAFE Network**

## 1.40 Table Talk

## 1.50 Heads Up on NZ's Youth Culture and the Drug Scene - What's Really Going On and How to Guide Your Grandchildren to Make the Right Choices in Life

As human beings it might be said that we are hardwired to seek the highs of joy, elation, rapture and bliss and alcohol and drugs have been used for centuries in the pursuit of artificial highs. But while today's youth are no different to that of yester-year in their desire to experiment and experience an altered state of reality; in many cases the drugs of choice are! This session examines the truth about today's drug scene and will empower you as your grandchild's parent and guide, helping them to make the right choices and avoiding the significant dangers inherent in taking and abusing drugs and alcohol.

- Methamphetamine, synthetics and traditional illicit drugs and RTDs
- What are they, what do they look like and what should you be looking out for?
- Demystifying the lingo that goes with youth drug and alcohol culture
- The mental and physical effects of drug and alcohol abuse
- Signs your teens are engaging in drug/alcohol use or abuse
- The best way to confront and address the issue with your teen
- Empowering your grandchildren to make the right decisions and choices
- Avenues for help and rehabilitation

**Pat Buckley, Managing Director, Amped4Life**

## 2.40 Open Forum

## 3.00 Closing Remarks from the Chair

## 3.10 Conference Concludes with Afternoon Tea

Having two little boys again is hard. You don't fit in with the "normal" grandparents and you don't fit in with other "parents" as you are really neither. But...when you are feeling as if the world is against you and a little hand goes in yours and a little voice tells you they love you and you are the best...it makes all the hassles...worth it.

GRG Member

# About the Speakers

**Jill Worrall MNZM** holds a Masters in Social Work and is an Honorary Research Associate at Massey University. She has been a Board member of both Youth Horizons Trust and GRG and is currently board chair of SAFE. She is a life member of the New Zealand Family and Foster Care Federation, is on the Board of the International Foster Care Organisation and is a consultant to the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ. She is the mother of three sons and grandmother to seven grandchildren and with her late husband John, cared for several foster children over a period of twenty years. Jill was raised by extended family for the first half of her childhood. She wrote the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Handbook, undertook the GRG research on Grandparent and other kin caregivers 2005 and 2009 and developed and runs the SALT (Sharing and Learning Together) programme for GRG members together with Diana East.

**Judge Laurence Ryan, New Zealand Principal Family Court Judge**, was educated at Selwyn College, obtained an LLB at Auckland University and was admitted to the Bar in 1973. He became a Barrister sole in 1988 specialising in Family Law and was appointed to the District Court bench in 1996 with a Family Court warrant and Youth Court designation. Judge Ryan was appointed Principal Family Court Judge of New Zealand in February 2013.

**Hana Ellis, Barrister and Mediator** (Nga Puhi/Ngati Porou) has been in practice 20 years and works as a barrister in South Auckland. She does a range of family law matters including acting for children, parents and grandparents and has a particular interest in vulnerable children with disabilities.

**Dr Simon Rowley, Paediatrician, Brainwave Trust** is a neonatal paediatrician at National Women's Hospital as well as working with children of all ages in private practice in Auckland. Simon's concern for the health and wellbeing of our children led him to become a Trustee for Brainwave as well as a presenter. His clinical experience, depth of medical knowledge and relaxed friendly manner make him a popular speaker to medically oriented groups as well as at conferences, seminars and talks to parents and caregivers.

**Tricia Corin, Field Officer and Benefits Advocate, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust**, has been raising her grandson who is nearly 18 years old, since he was a baby. She has developed a wealth of invaluable experience and knowledge of income support issues and social security legislation and at Minister Paula Bennett's request is currently working with the Ministry of Social Development's National Office to work on resolving problems and issues around policy implementation, particularly as they affect grandparents raising grandchildren. Tricia advocates for grandparents raising their grandchildren where needed when dealing with Work and Income New Zealand including representing clients at Benefits Review hearings and appeals to the Social Security Status Appeals Authority.

**Sandy Biggs, Auckland Manager, Work and Income New Zealand** is responsible for a number of Work and Income service centres mainly covering the area from Avondale to Otahuhu. Most recently, Sandy has been leading a project with the Youth Service Support Unit for Work and Income and working closely with Youth Service providers around the country. Sandy has held senior roles with the Ministry of Social Development and its predecessor organisations since 2000. Prior to this, she was a senior manager with Centrelink in Australia.

**Catherine Atchison, Partner, Martelli McKegg** is one of New Zealand's leading trust lawyers. She has broad experience in all aspects of family and business asset protection, trust management and estate planning. She became a partner at Martelli McKegg in 1988, after five years at Wilde Sapte, a major London law firm. Catherine is co-author of a number of publications in the field of estate planning and speaks regularly on the subject. Catherine sits on the board of several major charitable trusts and community organisations.

**Alan Gluestein, Barrister, Wyndham Chambers** has over 30 years legal experience mainly in litigation and since 2002 has specialised in family law. He is regularly appointed to represent children in matters involving their guardianship and welfare in

the Family Court and has considerable experience in property relationship law, trust and estate litigation. In particular he has extensive experience in Elder Law and is regularly appointed as Counsel for persons subject to the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act as well as other parties engaging in proceedings under that Act, including cases involving disabled teenage and adult grandchildren where the Care of Children Act guardianship laws no longer apply.

**Grant Cleland, Chief Executive of Workbridge** has over 22 years experience working in the disability field. Born with a physical impairment, Spina Bifida, Grant uses a wheelchair for mobility. He therefore brings to Workbridge both lived and professional experience; particularly in employment, transition and tertiary education. Over the last 12 years Grant has developed 'Creative Solutions' offering project management, training, external supervision, mentoring, advocacy, group facilitation, research and strategic planning services.

**Paul Nixon, Chief Social Worker, Child Youth and Family** has over 20 years experience in child welfare and protection, always in a statutory setting and is originally from the United Kingdom. Paul has been involved in a range of strategic and service development roles, and has always been interested and inspired by practice and innovations from New Zealand, particularly Family Group Conferences, Restorative Justice, and Whanau / Kinship Care. He has been in his role as Chief Social Worker since February 2011.

**Nathan Mikaere-Wallis, Brainwave Trust** is based in Christchurch. His professional background is in lecturing/teaching, child counselling, and educational systems/social service management and has worked with children in counselling settings relating to domestic violence, sexual abuse and childhood trauma. He is a father of three, a step-father to another three and has a background as a foster parent. He is a founding member of the Canterbury Brainwave group and is a trustee of the Brainwave Trust. He also runs his own consultancy business, X Factor Education which he established to facilitate training, professional development and the application of neuroscientific research to practice. Nathan has also been a lecturer at the Christchurch College of Education, lecturing in human development, brain development, language and communication and risk and resilience.

**Nigel Latta ONZM**, is a Clinical Psychologist, family therapist, best-selling author, radio commentator on parenting issues and television broadcaster. He worked for 17 years as a forensic psychologist working with violent offenders which led to his book *Beyond the Darklands* which inspired the making of the compelling television series and provided an insight into the minds of some of New Zealand's most notorious criminals. Nigel has worked extensively with families and children and specialises in working with children with behavioural problems, from the simple to severe. He has published several informative, pragmatic and highly entertaining books for families raising children, including *Fathers Raising Daughters*, *Mothers Raising Sons*, *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Teenagers* and most recently published in September 2013: *The Modern Family Survival Guide*. He has hosted the hugely popular and entertaining parenting shows *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Parenting* and *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Grown-ups*.

**Shane Harris, SAFE Network** is a Registered Social Worker who has been working in the Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Child Protection sectors since 2001. Shane is the Social Work and Education Services Leader for the Auckland-based SAFE Network Inc. SAFE provides specialist assessment and treatment services for children and adolescents who have concerning and harmful sexual behaviour, and adults who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour towards children.

**Pat Buckley, Managing Director, Amped4Life** is the Founder of the Amped4Life Trust formed in 2002. Amped4Life is a non-profit organisation that was formed to help bring insight and understanding to teenagers about the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of making good choices. Pat is a dynamic and powerful speaker who has spoken to thousands of school children and teenagers throughout the country over the past decade leaving them with a powerful and authentic message which drives home the reality - "your life can change with one bad choice".

# Empowering Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

5 & 6 March 2014 • The Novotel Hotel • Ellerslie • Auckland • New Zealand

## Conference Information

### Day One

Wednesday 5 March 2014  
8.30am to 5.10pm

### Day Two

Thursday 6 March 2014  
8.50am to 3.10pm

For enquiries about the conference please call 09 419 0042

Please Note: The GRG Trust reserves the right to make any changes to the conference that may be deemed necessary and in the best interests of the conference.

GRG Members	Non-Members Early bird Before 7 Feb 2014	Non-Members Full Rate After 7 Feb 2014
Two Day Conference \$20	Two Day Conference \$195	Two Day Conference \$225
One Day Conference \$10	One Day Conference \$125	One Day Conference \$150
Conference Dinner only \$60	Conference Dinner only \$60	Conference Dinner only \$60
Two day Conference and Dinner \$80	Two day Conference And Dinner \$255	Two day Conference And Dinner \$285
One Day Conference and Dinner \$70	One Day Conference And Dinner \$185	One Day Conference And Dinner \$210

### How to Register and Pay

All prices include GST

- Download a registration form at [www.grg.org.nz](http://www.grg.org.nz) and send completed form to: GRG Trust NZ, PO Box 34-892, Birkenhead, Auckland 0746 or email to [office@grg.org.nz](mailto:office@grg.org.nz)
- Payment by credit card, crossed cheque payable to GRG Trust NZ or
- by internet banking to 06 0115 0203334 00 with your full name as the reference code
- or call 09 4190042 to register with credit card by phone. Please note that only payments over \$100 will be accepted by credit card



## 3rd National Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust New Zealand Training Conference

For more information about the work of the GRG Charitable Trust New Zealand or for membership information please go to [www.grg.org.nz](http://www.grg.org.nz) or call 09 480 6530 9:00am - 2:30pm or Free Phone 0800 472 637 email: [office@grg.org.nz](mailto:office@grg.org.nz)

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<b>DAY 1</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DAY 2</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	\$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$125 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$150 <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Please Note: Payment is due upon Registration and only payments over \$100 accepted by credit card**

Pay by **cheque** \$  (Please post a crossed cheque payable to *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ* with your registration form)

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