



**Profile**

# ***Who we are***

For most grandparents and whanau/kin caregivers, raising grandchildren and whanau/kin is a result of an unexpected and traumatic event that requires a significant readjustment to theirs and the children lives.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ is a unique organisation that has a deep understanding of both the benefits of grandchildren being raised by their grandparents or whanau and the challenges it can present.

We provide support services to full-time grandparents and kin/whanau caregivers raising children in circumstances where they can't be raised by their parents.

## ***Our Vision***

A community where grandparents and kin caregivers raising children are empowered to provide a safe, secure and nurturing home for them.

## ***Our Purpose***

To provide support services to grandparents/kin caregivers to protect and promote the well-being and development of the children in their care.

## ***Our Values***

- Family is everything
- Children are our taonga
- Knowledge is strength





## ***Our Guiding Principles***

### **Family first**

In circumstances where children cannot be raised by their parents, international research shows that children raised by whanau have better long-term outcomes than children raised by non-family.

### **Empowerment**

We empower full-time grandparents/kin caregivers with an understanding that enables them to act in the best interests of their children.

### **Sharing the load**

Together we can achieve more, enriching each other's lives as we work together.

## ***Our Objectives***

- To raise awareness of the advantages of full-time grandparent/kin caregivers, when a child cannot be raised by their parents.
- To achieve better life long outcomes for our children.
- To support full-time grandparents/kin caregivers to protect, care and provide for their grandchildren/kin.
- To facilitate change in the legal and regulatory environment to ensure that these caregivers receive appropriate support and are enabled to act in the best interests of the child.

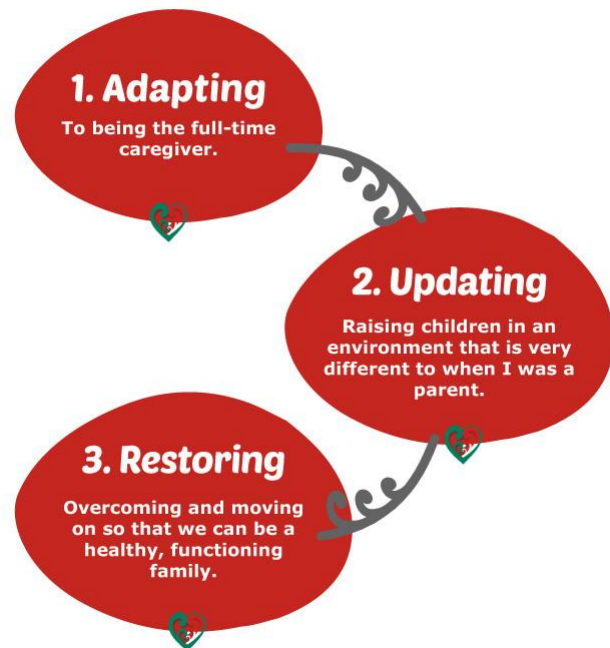


## Our Approach

For more than 95% of the families we work with, the grandparents/kin have become full-time caregivers because of a traumatic event or family breakdown. The fallout for both the grandchildren and grandparents is life changing and requires a deep understanding of their needs as they work to reform their family.



### 3 Key Areas of Need



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ has adopted an integrated approach to meeting these needs, ensuring we are able to provide grandparents and their family with the services they need either directly or indirectly as they arise.

Central to our approach is preparing grandparents and kin caregivers for the challenges that lie ahead and ensuring they know

what support is available when needed. Our GRG Roadmap is informed by one of our Guiding Principles — Empowerment. It clearly maps out the transition stages, the challenges and the support we make available.

# The 6 Rs

A Roadmap for  
Grandparents  
Raising  
Grandchildren.

## First Response

Crisis support for grandparents who have suddenly had to take care of their grandchildren.

## Rights and Responsibility

Understanding the legal situation; your rights and responsibilities as full-time caregiver.

## Relating

Understanding the world your grandchildren live in, their needs and how to relate to them as a full-time caregiver.

## Rebuilding

Your life has changed and so have the lives of your grandchildren. Strategies for rebuilding and stabilising your family and their wellbeing.

## Resolution

Life beyond trauma. Learning to deal with the consequences of what has happened—both for you and your grandchildren.

## Resilience

Being prepared for the life stages ahead and equipped to handle future challenges.

# Our Services

In keeping with our vision, our portfolio of services is designed to promote a community where full-time grandparent and kin caregivers are empowered and equipped to provide a safe, secure and nurturing home for the children in their care.

## Portfolio of Support Services

### Crisis Support

Including emergency 24/7 crisis line, clothing and care packages, guidance and advice.

### Education

From brushing up on parenting skills to updating technology skills to the influence of social media; we ensure our Grandparents/kin caregivers have access to relevant programmes. These include parenting and learning workshops and our biennial member summit, which provides an opportunity for ongoing fellowship and learning.

### Support Groups

A nationwide network of support groups providing local grassroots support and fellowship to more than 3,000 grandparent/kin care families and representing around 6000 full-time grandparent/kin caregivers in New Zealand.

### Advice and Advocacy

Ranging from legal to financial support to counselling referrals, field officer and outreach support, we have a network of advisors readily available to help when needed.

### Respite

Holiday programmes and camps are available to families - providing grandchildren/kin with life skills and adventure - and grandparents/kin with a well-earned break.



## Advocacy and Research

As the landscape for family life changes, it is important the regulatory and legal environment responds and remains relevant to their changing needs. We endeavour to keep abreast of best practice and we are committed to continuing our research into grandparent and whanau caring and the influence it has on our children.

## Research Publications

### Research Report, March 2005:

“Grandparents and other Relatives Raising Kin Children in Aotearoa/New Zealand.”

### Research Report, 2009:

“Grandparents and Whanau/Extended Families Raising Kin Children in Aotearoa/New Zealand—A view over time.”

### Research Report, October 2016:

“The empty nest is refilled: the joys and tribulations of raising Grandchildren in Aotearoa.”

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