



Newsletter January 2013

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



Data base: 5258 Whanau/Family Carers.

Like us at www.facebook.com/grg.org.nz

From the National Office:

A Plea Please:

When calling our free phone 0800 number please bear in mind this costs us. Would you be kind enough to keep your calls to a

minimum, our accounts of late have been shockers. Calls of 1 to 3 hours duration are becoming too prevalent, we do understand that you have many complicated issues which take time to tell, it would assist us greatly if you have information on hand when calling. In particular if a W & I issue have your client number handy and other court documents if these need to be discussed. Thank you (from a "fainting") Di and team.

Do you have free calling throughout NZ? If so, may we suggest please that you use these phone numbers instead of the 0800 number, which would help us no end. Also if you are local to the person you are calling.

For Di 09 4806530: Nola Adams 06 8453141:
Sharon Lee 09 4190045: Diana East 04 9708177:
Tricia Corin 07 869 0404

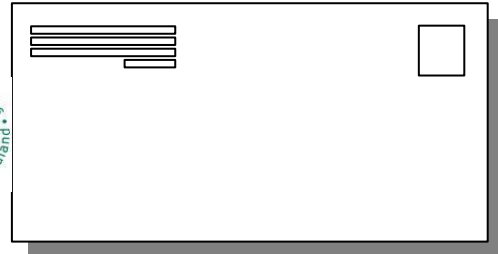


We have a beautiful 7½ yr. old g/daughter who keeps us on our old toes. I had to laugh the other day when she said to me. 'mummy' when I am 22 can I drive you to work. I did the math and worked out I would be 76!!!!!! I HOPE NOT. Then she asked. Mummy when I am 42 can I have a boyfriend. Of course I said yes.

The youngest grandmother we have on our books is just 28 and the oldest who has just finished caregiving for her now independent grandchildren is 91

Friend for Life

I'll never forget the first day you came to visit in your little white car (envelope) with the GRG logo. I did not know what to expect and was surprised at the grand old lady and two kids you brought along. They helped to carry the presents.



We sat down over a cuppa and you encouraged me to unwrap the variety of boxes – long, short, large and those who seemed to be fillers of bits and pieces, but those captured my heart as it was a display of love, caring and nurturing. What amazed me is that you could not stop talking! (*too true. Di*) The more I unwrapped the presents the more you continued to address my fears, uncertainties and even insecurities about what was happening at the time with the grandkids. You seemed to know it all.

I listened in awe. This has been the trend ever since.

The problems did not stop but moved to a different level and still you continue to visit with advice and support without placing any demands on me. You are indeed a wonderful friend. I now do not wonder if you will come, but quietly demand your presence. You always help me to pull myself right up by my bootstraps when I am down. You make me laugh and reflect but most of all help me to continue to care and nurture my three who are now six, five and three years old.

Once you get out of your white car and the little kid with the static hair says “hi, what’s up” then I know the day will be nothing as I anticipated. The sun always shines brightly through our GRG Newsletter - our friend for life.

Thank you DI and Team, but also to the other grandparents who contribute to make the newsletter a compulsory necessity in my life.

Love, Marlene

A Child's point of view:

When you walk briskly and hurry on your way, so big and strong with legs so long I feel like I am left behind small and unloved.... *Slow down for kids. Mind you for us grand's that is not hard is it!*

Exhausted Grandma:

What I would like to know is, what is it with all these birds? And we live in Auckland City.

Now I do understand the dawn chorus but since when is 4.05am the dawn? Not content with that they then decide to swoop the skies, Tui's clicking, chortling and calling, into the neighbours bottle brush they fly outside my bedroom window, their banter tossed back and forwards. Then come the noisy Rosella's these parrots screech and squabble with each other and fly into the same bottle brush tree which does not impress the Tui. Finally relative peace reigns and apart from a Thrush and Blackbird singing their melodic song I drift back to sleep, until a Pigeon decides to land upon the neighbours TV aerial and coo's nonstop. That's it, up I get shattered, to be greeted by two darling little faces saying, 'good morning grandma' that changes the whole world for me.



Grandma C

Māpihi Pounamu Financial Support Scheme



The Māpihi Pounamu Financial Support Scheme accepts applications throughout the year. The closing date for applications is the last day of each term, and the selection panel meets during the following school holidays.

Māpihi Pounamu is a capped fund and assistance can only be allocated to those students who are considered most at risk. Please consider this when making an application.

Aim

To help ensure that at-risk secondary students participate and achieve in education. It is available to students of all ethnic groups, and targeted at those students who are required to board away from home because they face barriers to learning, either through difficult home circumstances such as ongoing risk to their wellbeing, or lack of supportive care.

Entitlement

The maximum entitlement per applicant is \$7,500 per year, depending on how much the hostel charges. Where the applicant is also receiving a Government Boarding Bursary, this is deducted from the grant. The funding can only be used for hostel boarding fees at a state or a state-integrated secondary school.

A list of secondary schools with boarding hostels on web site. Schools are listed from north to south. Assistance begins from the term in which the application is approved. Any additional costs need to be met by the parent or caregiver.

Contacts

Māpihi Pounamu, Ministry of Education, PO Box 1666, Wellington

Phone 04 463 8085, fax 04 463 8252

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/NZEducation/EducationPolicies/Schools/PublicationsAndResources/MapihiPounamuFinancialSupportScheme.aspx>

Email mapihi.pounamu@minedu.govt.nz

Scheme Guidelines: *Aim of Māpihi Pounamu:*

This scheme supports students to attend boarding school so that they may participate and achieve in education. It is targeted at those students who face barriers to learning, either through difficult home circumstances such as ongoing risk to their wellbeing, or lack of adequate supportive care.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Who may apply for Māpihi Pounamu support?

The scheme is open to secondary students of all ethnic groups who

- face barriers to learning through difficult home circumstances, which require the student to attend a boarding school
- have been accepted for enrolment into a nominated state or state integrated boarding school.

How do you apply for Māpihi Pounamu support?

Complete the application form. You will need to include a referee's report and confirmation from the Principal of your nominated school that accepting your enrolment will not exceed the number of Māpihi Pounamu students agreed between the school and the Ministry of Education.

If you are applying for Māpihi Pounamu support to attend a state integrated school, you will also need confirmation from the school's Proprietor that accepting your enrolment will not exceed the overall maximum roll, or non preference maximum roll, specified in its Integration Agreement.

How are applicants selected?

Application forms (and the letter of referral), are sent to the Ministry of Education. A panel, made up of representatives from the Ministry of Education, Child Youth and Family (CYF), the NZ Police, considers the applications on a regular basis. Applicants are advised of the outcome by letter. The fund is limited, and not all applications will be successful. Applications which are declined can be reconsidered if there is further information available to support the case.

What does Māpihi Pounamu provide?

Māpihi Pounamu will pay up to \$7,500 a year towards the boarding school fees of successful applicants. This is paid directly to schools. If students are

also receiving a Boarding Bursary, the combined total will be a maximum of \$7,500 a year.

Ongoing support

Funding will be provided for a student throughout their schooling, for as long as they remain eligible. Support may be reduced or cancelled if

- the circumstances change
- the student fails to attend school regularly, or
- the student is stood down or suspended.

Confidentiality

All applications are treated with confidentiality. Information will not be disclosed to a school (unless the parent/caregiver requests this to happen).

Restrictions

- Students with CYF status under sections 78, 101, 102, 110, or 140 of the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1989 are not eligible for Māpihi Pounamu support (as their boarding fees would normally be met by CYF)
- If applications exceed the funding available, financial support will be allocated to those students the panel determines will be most likely to gain the greatest benefit from participation in the scheme.

A GRG member emails: *Both our Granddaughters Boarded at St Kevin's College with the assistance of the Mapihi Pounama Grants, and I'll always maintain that it was because of their Boarding school experience that Kayla is now in her final year for her Masters at Victoria Uni and that Bonnie has passed her second year at Otago Polytech with 100% marks.*

So my advice is to go for it, bit daunting to have to fill in all those personal details but what the heck it sets your Grandchild up for life.

Otago Grand's

Happy New Year to you:

On behalf of the GRG Trust Board, CEO, Field Officers and your co ordinators we wish each and every one of you a very happy New Year.



Hello Fellow Grandparents:

I would just like to share with other members a very wonderful course that I have just completed and found immensely helpful in the hard world of parenting again in your older years, after a long break of going through those teaching /coping years of pre-schoolers. Yes, I did PPP courses etc. when my own children were young, but this particular course is by far the best I have ever encountered and I thoroughly recommend it.

The 14 week (1 morning per week) is with the Incredible Years Parenting course, run in conjunction with Ministry of education and Barnados.

It is fully funded and has helped me so much in parenting a child who came to me with significant problems and difficulties in emotional control and social skills. It has also helped *me* to change my attitude and style of learning to help raise a wee man into a child who will in time become a caring, confident and emotionally balanced young man.

In the ECBI (Eyberg Child Behaviour Inventory) at the beginning of the course, my grandson (aged 3 and half) was scored with an intensity of 68, Problem 58 (a score of 60 or more indicates behaviours with significant concern.)

After the 14 weeks, which included lots of practice hands-on homework, teaching and working though the "children's needs" parenting pyramid , ie praise, coaching, encouragement, self-esteem, social skills etc. he was re-rated at Intensity of 54 and Problem 41.

Also the Social Competence Scale before the course came out at 9 , which showed significant difficulties with emotional control and social skills. Post course he was rated at 27 which was in the normal range,(17 -27 being in borderline range). This is an immense achievement for both of us, with his social competence score showing a significant increase from 9 to 27.

So if you need to re-learn, have wonderful support, and share with other parents/caregivers going through the same parenting problems, take up the challenge of 3 hours per week and go for it. Contact your local Ministry of Education or Barnados 0800 227 627 to see if there is a course coming up in your own area.

Granny S

Tricia Corin Field Officer: GRG Trust

The previous month I took a case to the Social Security Appeals Authority. This case was for a Grandmother who was declined the Unsupported Child's Benefit. She had taken the case to a Review of Decision via (MSD) Work & Income Benefit Review Hearing and lost this so her next option is to take it to the Social Security Appeals Authority.

I represented this Grandmother (from Whangarei) and it was held in the Auckland District Court. We won the case and the Grandmother received \$11,000 back pay. This decision will have significance to GRG with the reference to the term "*Family*".

Quote

"We must first consider what is meant by the term *"Family"* in S29.

Ref in S 29 of the Social Security Act 1964 to the parents of the child, whether they be the natural parents, adoptive parents or step-parents suggests that in the first instance what is meant by *"family"* means **immediate family**, namely a child's mother and father. The reference to *"natural"*, *"adoptive"*, and *"Step-parents"* suggests that these are the people with a natural responsibility for a child and automatically responsible for the child's care and financial support.

While grandparents or a brother or a sister might also be regarded as part of the child's extended family, the fact that the inability of extended family members to care for a child is not specified as a condition for Unsupported Child's Benefit to be paid suggests that a breakdown in the wider family is not required by s 29(b). Moreover grandparents, uncles, aunts, brothers, and sisters have no legal duty to financially support a grandchild, niece, nephew or sibling. **We are satisfied that the term *"family"* in s 29(b) refers to immediate family rather than extended family**".

I have **four** other cases presently with the **Review of Decision** process.

It is very clear that in a great deal of cases where the grandparents are seeking the UCB for their grandchildren, the process is extremely difficult and long and drawn out - some taking over a year to get granted.

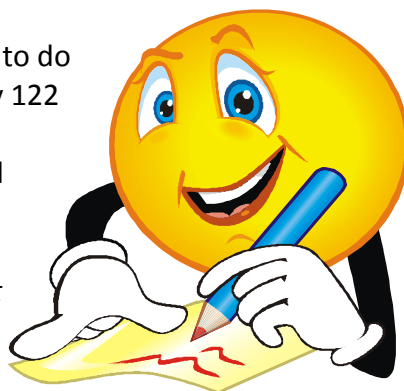
The inconsistencies around the country disturb me, as you can have one office of Work & Income who will bend over backwards to help a grandparent and others that will do anything to discourage them away from applying for the UCB, by saying they don't qualify and offer them Family Tax Credits instead.

This does concern me and I am not sure if the Minister Paula Bennett is aware of this. She is quick to say that Grandparents Raising Grandchildren can get the UCB, but a great deal of the time this is not the case.

We heard your voices: Survey GRG.

Oh yes we did! Thank you so much for taking the time to do this for us either online or via snail mail. Unfortunately 122 were invalid due to the descending order of using one number only once, but regardless of this it has painted another picture, but cannot be used in results.

The 'other' comments are yet to be evaluated and that will be my task over the holidays in January. I can easily see clear common requests. Some very valid!



We received: Snail mail.	362	
Electronic survey:	269	
Total.	632	
Less.		
Invalid: ☹	122	
Total.	509	5/12/12.

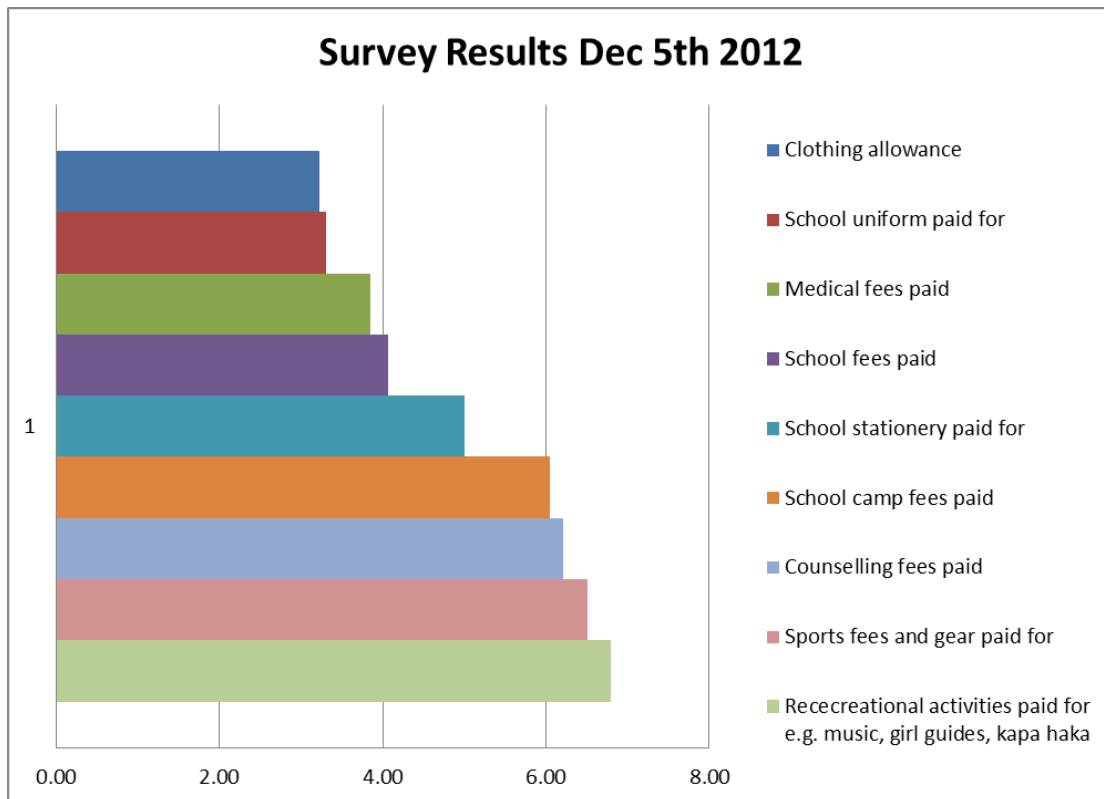
Preliminary results:

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ survey of members White Paper Results as at December 2012

To date we have received 267 responses to our Survey Monkey survey and 232 responses from our Mail Survey totalling 499.

Preliminary results are as follows with the **lowest score equaling the most important.**

Item	Score	Rank
Clothing allowance	3.23	1
School uniform paid for	3.31	2
Medical fees paid	3.84	3
School fees paid	4.06	4
School stationery paid for	5.00	5
School camp fees paid	6.05	6
Counselling fees paid	6.21	7
Sports fees and gear paid for	6.51	8
Recreational activities paid for e.g. music, girl guides, kapa haka	6.79	9



Formal Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Groups: All welcome.

Locality, Name, Phone, E-mail Address.

Ashburton** Jude Suddens 03 3072147 jude.brian@clear.net.nz

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Auckland North ** Bonnie Williams 09 473 9055 willingclan@xtra.co.nz

Auckland South ** Virginia Peebles 09 256 1620

Auckland West ** Debbie Hall 09 818 7828 debron@xtra.co.nz

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Christchurch/ South** Sharyn Parker 03 342 5528 davesharyn.parker@xtra.co.nz

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 Taupo** Viv Neeham 07 07 386 8033 viv.maree@gmail.com
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 Whakatane ** Shirley Faulkner 07 322 8524 shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz
 Whangarei ** Janet Puriri 09 435 0044 jpuriri@ihug.co.nz

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office@grg.org.nz

Member Support Manager: Di Vivian Email office@grg.org.nz

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Landline users only. Auckland callers (09) 480 6530

Postal Add: PO Box 34 892 Birkenhead. Auckland 0742

CEO: Geoff Lawson. Email geoff@grg.org.nz Ph. 09 360 8690 021 727 004

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please contact 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.



We are a Charitable Trust

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