



Welcome! Tena koutou, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Malo e Lelei, Bula Vinaka, Taloha Ni, Kam Na Mauri Namaste, Hallo, Bonjour, Hola and Greetings this month to our **5500+** member families and all our non-member subscribers!

Are you raising someone else's child full-time?

GRG provides support, information, advice, advocacy services and caregiver education programmes nationwide to full-time caregivers who are raising a child not born to them. Membership is free. Call us on toll free **0800 GRANDS** or visit www.GRG.NZ to join.

Raising resilient and healthy children and young people through empowering grandparent and whānau care families since 2001

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Financial support for raising someone else's child...

If you are raising someone else's child because there has been a breakdown in the child's family, or their parents have died, they are missing, or they have a long-term disablement and you are likely to be their principal caregiver for at least 1 year from the date you apply to Work and Income for this support then you are entitled to either the Unsupported Child Benefit or the Orphan's Benefit to help with the costs of raising the child.

The Unsupported Child or Orphan's Benefits are not taxable and is not affected by your income or assets as a caregiver. It is affected by any income the child might be receiving (e.g. ACC) and the child must be resident and present in New Zealand.

To qualify for it you must also be over 18 years of age, resident and present in NZ for a continuous period of 12 months or more and you must not be a natural parent, an adoptive parent, or a step-parent of the child.

If these circumstances apply to you and you think you have been incorrectly advised or you realise now that you should be receiving this support, please contact us tollfree on **0800 472 637** or call our National Support Office on **09 418 3753** for a referral to our advocate, Tricia Corin.

0800 GRANDS

Call us on our free helpline service for support, information, advice and referrals to our Outreach and Advocacy team.

0800 472 637 or **09 418 3753**

Monday - Friday 9am to 2pm



Keeping it Current

Our aim is to keep you informed and of what's happening, key information and opportunities that can help you. Letting us know if you've moved or had a change to your mobile phone or email is easy.

Click on the green **Update Your Member Details** button or visit our website www.grg.org.nz and click on the green button there.

Or email us at office@grg.org.nz Or call us on **0800 472 637**



[Facebook.com/grg.org.nz](https://www.facebook.com/grg.org.nz)

Update Your Member Details





Kate Bundle
Chief Executive

Kate's Take

Kia ora, greetings and best wishes to all our members and whanau!

Getting back into the swing of work and routine as we get well into the second month of 2021 has been a challenge. The summer break over the Christmas, New Year and school holidays was a wonderful time to focus on my children and whanau—catching up on precious lost time with my loved ones after a year of COVID lockdowns and work challenges that at times overwhelmed and absorbed my days. I know I wasn't alone in feeling beat towards the end of 2020!

The break from work was also a time to reflect, both with heartbreak and joy. I lost my beautiful mother Lyn on 8 December 2020, after a long illness. Everything was eclipsed by the grief that comes, even though I really thought I was prepared for its eventuality. It's true what they say; you are never prepared for the path of grief. But it is remembering them in life and the wonderful times that have been shared together that has brought joy.

The **8th of December 2020** was a day when I would otherwise have been thrilled and in a celebratory mood—and most certainly would have sent out a media release and posted to social media about a most important milestone for our non-state care grandparent and whanau caregivers! It was on that day that the **Social Security Act (Financial Assistance for Caregivers) Amendment Bill 2020** was finally presented to the House of Representatives in Parliament by the Minister for Children, the Hon. Kelvin Davis.

This Bill, if passed, will not only enable many of our children in receipt of the Unsupported Child or Orphan's Benefit to receive the Birthday's and Christmas allowance that children in foster care receive; but importantly it will remove the unjust rule in sections 44 and 47 of the Social Security Act 2018 that requires a caregiver to prove that they are *"likely to be the principal caregiver of a child for at least 1 year from the date of application"* for the Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child Benefit.

We have advocated strongly for the removal of this rule for many years and its removal can't come soon enough. I recall meeting with the then Minister for Children, the Hon. Tracey Martin at the Beehive March 2019, during which I told her about the serious injustices caused by this rule to many of our members, and outlined other anomalies that also exist in our social welfare system. Injustices that penalise children in non-state care—

and their caregivers—most often grandparents who are the least able to afford the costs of raising someone else's child. They do it tough economically, socially and physically in every sense—to keep their precious grandchildren safe.

And they do it on the smell of an oily rag, often forgoing their own medical treatments, food, clothing and other necessities, to ensure that their grandchildren have what they need.

We know that the reasons why the majority of children in non-state care are largely the same as for the children who are taken into state care. Parental drug abuse, neglect, family violence, alcohol abuse and mental illness being among the many reasons for a family breakdown in which the child cannot be cared for by their parents. The needs of the children impacted by this trauma are also largely the same.

The reality is that but for the grandparents or whānau caregivers' willingness to take on the care of the children in these circumstances, there would be no other alternative but state care and a placement with foster caregivers. The children would, in those circumstances receive financial support from the time the care placement commenced, whether it is for three weeks or three months.

We also know that often a child may be placed in state care with foster caregivers, receiving financial support on a temporary basis awaiting a result of a Family Group Conference. Whereas if a child is placed with a non-state care whanau caregiver, they must prove they will be caring for them for at least 12 months.

In our experience, Oranga Tamariki will usually prefer a whanau caregiver rather than a foster caregiver, outside the state-approved caregiver

regime due to the principles in the Oranga Tamariki legislation and for fiscal reasons. This does not take away the reality that children who cannot be raised by their parents all need support wherever they end up living.

The hardships that so many of you have experienced have not gone unnoticed and I was heartened by Minister Martin's response at the time and subsequently. She really understood your plight and launched the Review of Financial Support for Caregivers in May 2019.

In May 2020, she also announced the increase to the base rate for the UCB, OB and the Foster Care Allowance and signalled the decision to present this Bill to change the law.

With the election result in 2020 being what it was, regrettably she is unable to see it passed into law under her watch. But I do wish to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge her and the Ministry's policy and the legislation team for all the work that has gone into advancing these much needed changes to the law.

It is another positive step towards ensuring equity for all children and young people in state and non-state care in circumstances where they cannot be raised by their parents.

You will also recall that it was Tracey Martin as a Member of Parliament in 2013 who successfully spear-headed the campaign to enable the clothing allowance to be made available to children on the UCB and OB. This change came into effect in July 2018.

Step by step, over the years, good progress is being made to better align the supports available and to remove the discrimination that exists between children in state versus non-state care.

The job is not done yet however, and there are many areas of the law that need to be addressed to ensure better equity between children and caregivers as between the state and non-state care scenario. Respite, legal costs, support for therapy, medical, dental and other costs to name but a few.

The closing date for submissions on the Social Services Select Committee is Monday 22 February 2021.

We have prepared submissions to the committee which will shortly be available to read on our website. The committee is keen to hear from caregivers. The timing of this closing date hasn't been ideal for most of us so if you haven't made a submission, but would be interested in talking to me about how the current law and the requirement to be likely to be a caregiver for at least 1 year **has impacted you and the child you care for**, please feel free to [email me](#) or phone our **0800 GRANDS** number. There may be an opportunity to discuss this with the committee at a later date.



Thank You Philippa Wilson!

It is with much gratitude and sadness that our Wellington GRG Support Group accepted Philippa Wilson's resignation as their group's secretary.

For those of you who belong to or have belonged to the Wellington GRG Support Group, you will know that Philippa has been Cecilee Donovan's 'right-hand-woman' over the past 10 years as secretary.

In this capacity, and at the same time as walking the often difficult and challenging path of a full-time grandparent caregiver, Philippa has been a wonderful support for so many members of the group over the years and has done a fantastic job on the administration, funding and so many tasks helping to organise the group's activities and support for members.

"Life" as Philippa has said, is "for some reason getting busier and I need to get on with family stuff." Thank you Philippa from all of us at GRG for your dedication and contribution over the years. It has been a pleasure working with you and we wish you all the very best with your family and everything else that life has to offer.

With his grandmother's blessing I want to finish this column, sharing with you the inspirational story about **Shane Levi White**, who tragically passed away on Boxing Day 2020.

Shane in spite of his cerebral palsy and the many challenges he faced with his health, and "countless surgeries" over the years, had an infectious smile and a love of life, sport and the Hurricanes!

His grandmother, Anne Donnell, is our Rotorua GRG Support Group Coordinator. She has raised Shane along with his brothers from when he was just a baby.

"When you meet a person with a disability, never assume that they're not intelligent or don't understand you," Anne explains.

"Shane was non verbal, but he was extremely bright and he will forever shine like the stars in the sky."

The [Rotorua Daily Post](#) has shared a great tribute to Shane and his former teacher Dana Watkins has set up a [Givealittle](#) page to help Shane's family and to help them get Shane a headstone.

On behalf of us all, our hearts go out to Anne and her family in this difficult time of grief. Kia kaha. Arohanui, the GRG team.

Celebrating the life of



Shane Levi White

October 31st, 2008—December 26th 2020

"To Infinity and Beyond"

Caregiver Education



'SALT' (Simply Acquired and Learned Techniques™) Training Programme

Gain practical insight and understanding of the impact of past trauma on a child or young person and learn to effectively manage and parent a child who may be exhibiting troubling or challenging behavior.

Two SALT workshops coming up soon:

Hastings date and venue to be advised

Katikati-Tauranga-Papamoa: 23 February 2021

Venue: Curate Church Building, 14 Christopher Street, Tauranga

If you are interested in attending either of these workshops, please RSVP by calling **0800 472 637** or by emailing:

Francesca@grg.org.nz – registration is essential!

Interested in attending a SALT workshop programme?

- If you are a caregiver interested in attending a SALT workshop programme in your area; or
- You or your organisation works with grandparent or whanau caregivers and you'd be interested in attending a workshop programme;

Please register your interest with us by emailing Francesca@grg.org.nz or call us on **0800 472 637**. For more information please refer to our website under the Education and Training tab.



Hannah's Outreach— Setting Up A Routine!

Hannah Morris
Community Outreach
Advocate

Kids thrive on a routine. It is comforting for them to know what is next in their day, even for those things they do not like.

That is why this month I would like to talk more about healthy routines in the home and how this benefits the entire whānau. Daily routines help family life run more smoothly and they also help you as a whānau enjoy more time together. Routines help family members know who should do what, when, in what order and how often. Also, routines can reduce stress, and lower stress is good for children's immune systems.

Ultimately a consistent daily schedule and step-by-step routine gives children a predictable day and helps them feel safe and secure – which is particularly important for children who have experienced trauma in any form!

Let's start 2021 by implementing healthy habits into our homes.

Routines are a common subject in any parenting programme for good reason. Routines help children and adolescents feel safe, secure, and looked after and this is achieved by having a predictable home environment that children can learn to participate in. This predictable family life can also help children cope during development changes like puberty, or life events - like settling into a new home with their grandparents.

Routines can also help with building attachment and strengthen family bonds - this can be encouraged by incorporating family-based activities into your routine (we recommend you include as much of this in your routine as possible!). Implementing these activities into your daily/weekly routine will ensure that you are spending quality time together. Examples of these activities are reading stories before bed, sharing family meals with no devices, movie night Fridays or weekly soccer practice in the backyard to name a few.

Ultimately routines are beneficial for the entire whānau unit, and not only that; they help children set healthy habits that they will carry with them for a lifetime.

Alright, enough about the children... Routines really do benefit the whole whānau. They have several benefits for YOU as the caregiver too! Routines take some effort to create. But once you have set them up, you will reap the benefits. Some examples are:

- When life is busy, routines can help you feel more organised and in control, which lowers your stress.
- Regular and consistent routines can help you feel like you are doing a good job - as a caregiver.
- Routines help your family get through your daily tasks more efficiently and free up time for other things.
- Routines often mean you do not have to sort out disputes and make decisions. For example, if Sunday night is pizza night, no-one needs to argue about what is for dinner.

Routines are also a great opportunity to schedule downtime for yourself and practice good

self-care (something I like to talk a lot about with our GRG members!). So, remember to schedule in down time and make it something you really enjoy. Treat relaxation as a vital part of your schedule, just as you would cleaning or cooking and try schedule two or three times a day to get outside. Being physically active is important for staying healthy, it is a great stress reliever!



Now for the Practical Part!

What makes a good routine and how do you set one up? A good routine is one that suits your family, keep it simple! You do not have to do anything you are not already doing, you are just organizing it better. There are three key features:

Well planned

In a good routine, everyone understands their roles, knows what they need to do and sees their roles as reasonable and fair. As children get older, they can have a say in planning routines also.

Consistency

Good routines become part of everyday family life.

Predictability

In a good routine, things happen in the same order each time. Everyone knows what to expect for the day.

Remember to remain flexible. Plans change, things happen, just give your child a warning ahead of time if things are going to be different. The first few days are probably going to be rough but try to stick with it. Keep in mind that having a predictable schedule does not mean you have to live by a rigid clock. In fact, this can be a good opportunity to loosen up some time limitations that have been stressing you out.

Above all, as you navigate your new routine, try to cultivate patience, practice and empathy for the children and keep a sense of humour. This can be difficult in times of crisis, but it is also more important than ever. Fortunately, kids give us lots of reasons to laugh. And those unpredictable moments can be just what we need to make our new routines work.

For more information on routines for your family and some examples of what this may look like to you:

www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/family-dynamics/Pages/The-Importance-of-Family-Routines.aspx

www.cdc.gov/parents/essentials/structure/building.html



Merle Lambert
National Support
Coordinator

Merle's Support Group Update

New Support Group Coordinator Appointment

Warm greetings to you all for 2021!

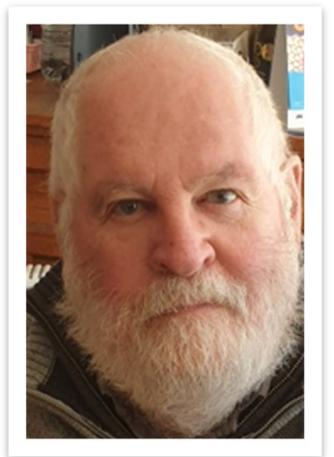
As we start of this year, we welcome **Bob Wilson** as a Support Group Coordinator for the Whanganui area. Bob and his wife Betty have been raising their grandchildren fulltime since 2017.

Bob has extensive experience in the school sector and although he served as a school principal at a mission school at the age of 26, he soon realised that he enjoyed the hands on experience of working with children more than the administrative component of running a school.

His love of working with children has seen him involved in supporting special needs and traumatised kids in the school system and working with young people in transitioning them into courses, job experience and ultimately, work. This required a very proactive approach in reaching out into the community, links that continue to support his volunteer work today.

The family has a close connection with their Catholic Church family/whānau and have found them a great support to them over the years. Bob has balanced his community involvement with his creative side of being a potter, sculptor, and an artist. He is also a keen gardener and avid reader.

We would like to extend a warm welcome and thanks to Bob for volunteering his time, extensive knowledge, and expertise in supporting grandparents in the Whanganui area.



Our team of Support Group Coordinators is growing enabling us to provide much needed support to more grandparents.

However, there are some areas that we are still looking to cover: Kaitaia, Kerikeri, Whangarei, Bream Bay, Hibiscus Coast, Mangere/Onehunga, Te Puke/Papamoa, Dannevirke/Tararua, Levin/Otaki, Greymouth and Otago-Coastal. Would you be interested in volunteering your services for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren?

If you are raising a grandchild on a full-time basis or have an understanding of the blessings and challenges that this role brings and would like to share your experience and abilities to support and empower other like-minded family/whānau, we would like to hear from you.

Email Merle@grg.org.nz or call us on toll-free on 0800 472 637

Tricia Advocating for You



Tricia Corin
Specialist Advocate
Income/Financial Support

Starting off this column in 2021, I thought it was a good time to raise an issue that a lot of our grandparents and whanau caregivers aren't aware of.

Sadly, we have learned that some of you have applied—unsuccessfully to the Extraordinary Care Fund in the past for funding to buy glasses for the child in your care who needs them.

The ECF is not able to fund this because there is another avenue to get a subsidy for this purpose.

The Children's Glasses Subsidy!

If your child is 15 or under and has vision problems, you may be able to get this spectacle subsidy. WINZ guidelines outline as follows:

Who can get the spectacle subsidy?

A child or young person who is **15 years of age or under**, provided:

- the parent/guardian or child has a valid community services card, or
- the child has a current high use health card.

There are also clinical guidelines your child will need to meet. Your optometrist or ophthalmologist will discuss these guidelines with you during your appointment.

If your child does not meet the clinical guidelines, your optometrist or ophthalmologist may apply to [Enable New Zealand](#) for a review of your child's circumstances.

The spectacle subsidy can be claimed for the following items:

- Eye examination
- Spectacles (frames and lenses)
- Eye patches, and/or
- Repairs

How much can I claim and what can I claim for?

The total subsidy amount available each year for your child **until they turn 16 years old** is **\$287.50 including GST**.

Of the **\$287.50**, a maximum of **\$138.00 including GST** can be used toward frames. Additional funding of **\$51.11 including GST** is available if your child requires adult size frames.

A **higher-level subsidy** is also available for children and young people with more complex vision needs. More complex vision needs means that the examining ophthalmologist has confirmed that the child or young person has rapidly progressing myopia and requires assessment 6 monthly, and possible 6 monthly modification to spectacles, or

has amblyopia or strabismus and requires more extensive intervention.

Your child's subsidy year will start from the date that the first examination appointment occurred with an optometrist or an ophthalmologist. **This date will become your child's anniversary date.**

It is important to note if you do not use the full entitlement available, the remaining balance is not able to be accumulated for the following year. **The spectacle subsidy cannot be claimed in advance.**



How do I claim the spectacle subsidy?

All optometrists and ophthalmologists registered with [Enable New Zealand](#) have the required forms you will need to sign.

On your behalf, the optometrist or ophthalmologist will submit the request directly to [Enable New Zealand](#).

Once [Enable New Zealand](#) has received your subsidy request, **the approved subsidy will be paid directly to the optometrist or ophthalmologist.** Anything over the threshold amount available will need to be paid directly by you to the optometrist or ophthalmologist.

NB: All children who are receiving the Unsupported Child's Benefit/Orphans Benefit will have their own Community Services Card.

The closing date for the first round of 2021 to apply to the **Extraordinary Care Fund** is **Friday 19th February 2021**, so hopefully, if your child is eligible, you have lodged an application already.

Decisions on this round are expected **after 13 April 2021**.

If you haven't lodged an application before the closing date—your application will be put forward for consideration by the ECF panel in the next round.

The 2021 rounds are:

<u>If you apply before:</u>	<u>You will hear back from WINZ</u>
19 February 2021	13 April 2021
9 July 2021	27 August 2021
15 October 2021	3 December 2021

Remember:

- You **MUST** take your paperwork into a Work & income Office. You can do this *anytime*
- An appointment is **not** necessary
- We advise getting Work & Income staff to scan and/or take photocopies of all paperwork, so you can keep all your paperwork and supporting documents for further reference.
- Make sure you include your postal address and who to direct the booklets to.

For more information and guidelines for applying to this fund for extra support for a child, please see our website page with [guidelines](#) and for a copy of the [application form](#).

*If you have any questions on any of these issues, or need assistance, please contact GRG's National Support Office on: **0800 472 637** or office@grg.org.nz*

If you do not have a smart phone that can scan QR codes, you can use the NZ COVID Tracer booklet

This is a booklet you can use to keep track of where you've been and who you've seen.

If you use the booklet, the Government still recommends that you sign contact tracing registers when you visit places like shops.

Ordering the booklet

- Each booklet has 30 pages, so will last around 1 month. If you're ordering multiple booklets, they come in a pack of 10.
- The booklets are available in English, te reo Māori and 22 other languages.
- There is an online form to fill in if you would like a booklet and cannot print your own.
- You can order your booklets by emailing Covid.Comms@dpmc.govt.nz

How to use the NZ COVID Tracer booklet:

- Keep your booklet with you so you can record your movements whenever you leave your house. The booklet can fit in your pocket, handbag or backpack.
- Write in the booklet where you have been, what time you were there, how you got there and who you met there — if you met someone you know.
- Use your booklet when you come into contact with other people, like in a shop, or when you cannot keep 2 metres away from others.



When a photo says it all!

There is no picture as beautiful as a bright-eyed, smiling child - in this case children!

This beautiful whānau reached out to us and this is the result. This photo was sent into us along with a heartfelt message of thanks. Thank you to all our donors that make this all possible, without your generosity we could not have achieved the happiness created here.

- Love and Support Goes a Long Way!



It always makes our day in the GRG National Support Office when we receive feedback and wonderful emails from members like this one, which is shared with you all, with her blessing:

I wanted to share some good news with you and to say thank you for being there when I needed you the most.

Nearly two years ago my then 6 and 3 year old grandsons came to live with me after a 9 month journey of filing for an Interim Parenting Order. My daughter's ex partner had taken the children out of my daughter's care and wouldn't return them. Both parents had drug issues for a very long time and the ex partner also had a violent past, hence my daughter was drowning herself with drugs.

It was an eye opener as I am single and having two little children to care for again was a shock to the system and to theirs too. It was very hard for them and my youngest grandson acted out. The first 6 months was hell to be honest but slowly they adjusted to living with me and I have loved every minute of it.

On the other side of the coin, my daughter just kept spiraling out of control and as they say, she hit rock bottom which was hard to watch for myself and for her children. She finally realised that in order for her boys to be with her again, she had to sort her life out and her first steps were rehab. She was kicked out after 3 weeks and we were in despair. However she focused on her kids and she moved out of her then boyfriend's house and into a drug free environment with friends who supported her and provided her with a safe haven. She wasn't allowed to live with us throughout this time.

My daughter began to attend Narcotics Anonymous regularly and slowly over time I saw my daughter start to shine and I saw the light and life come back into her

eyes. The boys started to see the mum that loved and adored them. We still had our ups and downs and on top of all of this, was the fight through the courts with the ex partner who wanted the boys back and our fight for them not to go back into that environment. They had seen enough violence in their short lives.

Finally after an intense 3 day family court conference my daughter got her boys back. It was the most happiest day of our lives. My daughter has come back, she is now an advocate for drug free lives. She is now back at the rehab place as a speaker of her journey. She chairs NA meetings, she has a job and she also has the man of her dreams.

My sister and I have been fortunate enough to be able to purchase the townhouse beside me and my daughter and her family have moved in there recently. I get the best of both worlds, I get to see my daughter go from strength to strength and I also get to see my grandsons blossom and enjoy having their mother back in their lives permanently.

I was ignorant to the affects of what drugs or more specifically P can do to a family and I am one of the lucky ones who's daughter has turned her life around and can only go forward. I am so proud of my daughter, she is one of the strongest people I know and I know she will only move forward and never look back to those dark days under the influence of drugs.

I hope that there are many others out there who have had their children/whomever beat this horrible drug. It can happen, the journey can be long and down right horrible and dark, but there is light at the end of the tunnel.

GRG member

If you have a Grand Reflection you would like to share with our readers please send it through to Karla@grg.org.nz.



GRG Support Groups Nationwide

Meetings are held during school terms - with public and school holidays excluded unless otherwise stated.

KAITAIA

Contact: Merle Lambert 021 246 0553 / Merle@grg.org.nz

Meets: Every third Thursday of the month at 10:30am

Location: Hope Christian Centre, 234 Commerce Street, Kaitaia.

TAMAKI/EAST

Contact: Tess Gould-Thorpe
09 535 6903 / Tamaki@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Tess for confirmation of the next meeting.

PAPAKURA

Contact: Shirley Afoa
021 129 4151 / Papakura@grg.org.nz

Meets: Second Thursday of each month at 10am

Location: Smiths Avenue Community Hall, 20 Smiths Avenue, Papakura.

HAMILTON

Contact: Pat Davis
022 600 7672 / Hamilton@grg.org.nz

Meets: Last Monday of each month at 10am

Location: St Davids, Rifle Range Road, Dinsdale, Hamilton.

TOKOROA

Contact: Debbie Newton
027 284 2103 / Tokoroa@grg.org.nz

Meets: Last Friday of each month at 10am

Location: Tokoroa Council of Social Services, Gate 1, Tokoroa Hospital (1st building on the right). Parking available at the back.

TAUMARUNUI

Contact: Jo Wickham
07 896 7515 / Taumarunui@grg.org.nz

Meets: First Monday of each month at 10am

Location: Taumarunui RSA, 10 Marae Street, Taumarunui.

KAIKOHE

Contact: Moengaroa Floyed
09 401 3057 / Kaikohe@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Moengaroa for confirmation of the next meeting.

WAITAKERE

Contact: Esther Price
021 251 0690 / Waitakere@grg.org.nz

Meets: Every third Thursday of the month at 10am

Location: Terence Kennedy House Hall, 267 Glengarry Road, Glen Eden.

PUKEKOHE/WAIUKU

Contact: Anne Doddrell
09 237 8161 / Pukekohe@grg.org.nz

Meets: The last Tuesday of the month at 10am

Location: St. Andrews Church, 43 Queen Street, Pukekohe.

TE KUITI

Contact: Kay Higgins
027 430 2939 / Tekuiti@grg.org.nz

Meets: Third Wednesday of each month at 10am

Location: Tiffany's Café, 241 Rora Street, Te Kuiti.

TAUPO

Contact: Lesley-Anne Wells
07 377 3539 / Tauupo@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Lesley-Anne for confirmation of the next meeting.

ROTORUA

Contact: Anne Donnell
022 059 5107 / Rotorua@grg.org.nz

Meets: Third Monday of each month at 9:30am

Location: Linton Park Community Centre, 16 Kaimahi Place, Pukehangi, Rotorua.

DARGAVILLE

Contact: Sandy Zimmer
09 439 4420 / Dargaville@grg.org.nz

Meets: First Wednesday of each month

Location: Northern Wairoa Boating Club, Totara Street, Dargaville.

NEW LYNN

Contact: Robyn Robertson
021 309 365 / Newlynn@grg.org.nz

Meets: Third Tuesday of each month at 10am

Location: House of Prayer, 9B Binsted Road, New Lynn.

NGARUAWAHIA/HUNTLY

Contact: Trevor Don
021 566 735 / Ngaruawahia@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Trevor for confirmation of the next meeting.

TE AWAMUTU

Contact: Ruth Gilling
022 045 4475 / Teawamutu@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Ruth for confirmation of the next meeting.

TURANGI

Contact: Charmaine Timihou
027 645 2002 / Turangi@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Charmaine for confirmation of the next meeting.

TAURANGA

Contact: Cathie Kenyon (she is filling in for Pam Downing for Term 1) 021 08878686 / katikati@grg.org.nz

Meets: Every fourth Thursday of the month at 10am (Term 1) (Term 2 TBA)

Location: Curate Church building
14 Christopher Street, Tauranga.

KATIKATI

Contact: Cathie Kenyon

021 088 78686 / Katikati@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Cathie for confirmation of the next meeting.

HASTINGS

Contact: Temporary—please contact GRG National Support Office on 0800 472 637 for information and confirmation on meeting times and dates.

PALMERSTON NORTH

Contact: Jacqui Phillips

021 229 0455 / Palmerstonnorth@grg.org.nz

Meets: Two meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 1:15-2:45pm and 6-7:30pm

Location: Crossroads Childcare Centre, 220 Church Street, Palmerston North.

PORIRUA

Contact: Roma Paull

022 050 4761 / Porirua@grg.org.nz

Meets: Every second Wednesday of each month at 10am

Location: First floor, Connect Global Office, 1 Walton Leigh Avenue, Porirua.

NELSON

Contact: Sharon Norriss

03 548 6710 / Nelson@grg.org.nz

Meets: Every second Tuesday of the month

Location: Varies – please get in touch with Sharon for confirmation of the next meeting.

SOUTH CHRISTCHURCH

Contact: Anna Clare

021 085 77404 /

Southchristchurch@grg.org.nz

Meets: 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month 10:00am to 12pm. 1st Friday at Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall at 168 Stanmore Road, Linwood, Christchurch. For further information please contact Anna.

SOUTHLAND

Contact: Colleen Saunders

03 216 4173 / Southland@grg.org.nz

Meets: Second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 10am

Location: Family Works, 183 Spey Street, Invercargill.

WHAKATANE

Contact: Karlene McCormick

021 022 20328 / Whakatane@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Karlene for confirmation of the next meeting.

NAPIER

Contact: Beth Thurston

022 073 9900 / Napier@grg.org.nz

Meets: First Friday of the month starting February 2021 at 9:30am

Location: Cadet Training Hall - Sea end of Coote Road, Napier.

WHANGANUI

Contact: Bob Wilson 027 268 7678 /

Whanganui@grg.org.nz

Meets: Every Thursday at 10am

Location: Stone Soup, 48 Alma Road, Whanganui.

HUTT VALLEY

Contact: Serenah Nicholson

021 743 414 / Huttvalley@grg.org.nz

Meets: First Friday of the month at 9:30am

Location: Pomare Community House, 55 Farmer Crescent, Taita, Lower Hutt.

MOTUEKA

Contact: Rankeilor Arnott

03 528 5089 / Motueka@grg.org.nz

Meets: Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00pm

Location: St Andrews Church, 64 High Street, Motueka.

ASHBURTON

Contact: Karen Kilgour

027 741 2039 / Ashburton@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Karen for confirmation of the next meeting.

COFFEE GROUPS

Whangarei

Warkworth

Waitakere

South Auckland

Morrinsville

Whitianga

Cambridge

Napier

Upper Hutt

Christchurch

North Christchurch

Janet 09 435 0044

Shirley 09 423 7052

Gina 020 411 12699

Virginia 09 277 7514

Jennifer 027 683 6207

Gillian 027 454 0314

Brenda 027 438 5401

Beth 06 843 9385

Margaret 04 976 9475

Elaine 021 025 08834

Donna 021 448 010

OPOTIKI/KAWERAU

Contact: Sophie Wilson-Kahika

07 262 5136 / Opotiki@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Sophie for confirmation of the next meeting.

NEW PLYMOUTH

Contact: Diane Richardson

021 185 1097 / Newplymouth@grg.org.nz

Meets: First Thursday of the month at 9.30am

Location: Barnardos New Plymouth 186a Tukapa Street, Westtown, New Plymouth.

WAIRARAPA

Contact: Tere Lenihan

021 509 493 / Wairarapa@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Tere for confirmation of the next meeting.

WELLINGTON

Contact: Cecilee Donovan

021 158 6643 / Wellington@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Cecilee for confirmation of the next meeting.

EAST CHRISTCHURCH

Contact: Sandra Murphy

021 025 52415 / Eastchristchurch@grg.org.nz

Meets: Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Sandra for confirmation of the next meeting.

NORTH OTAGO

Contact: Margaret Pink

03 437 0837 / Northotago@grg.org.nz

Meets: Every third Friday of the month alternated between Oamaru and Waimate. Please get in touch with Margaret for confirmation of the next meeting.

CURRENTLY VACANT

Kaitiā, Kerikeri, Whangarei, Bream Bay, Hibiscus Coast, Mangere/Onehunga, Te Puke/Papamoa, Dannevirke/Tararua, Levin/Otaki, Greymouth, Otago Coastal.

Contact: Merle 021 246 0553 (9am to 2pm, Monday–Friday) / Merle@grg.org.nz

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ

Established in 2001 as a registered charitable trust (CC20205), GRG supports over 5200 grandparent and whanau care families nationwide, representing around 9,000 caregivers and over 14,000 children. Our vision and kaupapa is to empower grandparent and other whanau care families to achieve positive life outcomes, through providing support, information, advice, advocacy services and caregiver education programmes.

For more information about GRG please contact us at office@grg.org.nz or +64 9 418 3753 | 0800 472637

Other Handy Helpline Numbers

111 for emergency services, fire, ambulance or police

0800 933 922 PlunketLine for advice on child health or parenting from a registered Plunket Nurse

0800 611 116 Healthline for health triage and advice from a registered nurse.

COVID-19 Healthline concerns call **0800 358 5453**

Text 1737 'Need to Talk?' Get help from a counsellor

0800 543 354 or **Text 4357 for Lifeline** - 24/7 confidential support from qualified counsellors and trained volunteers

0800 376 633 Youthline, helping families and youth
0508 Carers (0508 227 377) a 24/7 Caregivers Guidance and Advice Line.

0800 WHATS UP (0800 942 8787) - a free counselling helpline for teenagers and children run by Barnardos.
Depression.org.nz – Free text number 4202

Thank you to our Funders for their support for our newsletter



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ

Suite C, Chelsea Business Park
162 Mokoia Road
Birkenhead
Auckland 0626

PO Box 34892
Birkenhead
Auckland 0746

Phone: 09 418 3753

Email: office@grg.org.nz

Can we help you?

Members ONLY services are available free of charge nationwide
New members and existing members please call our Helpline 0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637) or 09 418 3753

Join GRG

Join GRG or subscribe to our newsletter via our website at GRG.NZ

Or click the red Join GRG button below

Have your circumstances changed?

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or you have changed address please update your details by clicking the green **Update Your Member Details** below or contact the GRG Trust NZ National Support Office

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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. *He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ake o mātou* —We are respectful, we listen, we learn.

Please pass this newsletter on to other grandparents and whanau caregivers who need support

GRG.NZ



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