



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.

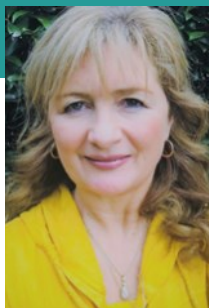
Click on the green **Update Your Member Details** button or visit our website www.grg.org.nz and click on the green button there.

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

Welcome to our April 2021 newsletter and to our 137 new member families who have joined our GRG whānau since our February newsletter!

It has been a busy two months for us all—and in spite of another lockdown, and a nervous period waiting to see if it would end, we were still able to go ahead with our Whānau Fun Bike Day in Auckland's Henderson Park on 21 March 2021. This fun event we held was in collaboration with Caring Families Aotearoa and VOYCE Whakarongo Mai and was generously funded by Auckland Transport's Community Bike Fund along with fantastic support on so many practical levels from AT's Simon Vincent. It featured many biking-related activities including Big Foot Adventures, the Bike Hub and the Bicycle

Chap with his Heritage Bikes and Penny Farthing and Orchard Gold's Smoothie Bike. Around 130 grandparents, whānau and foster care families took part in what was a most enjoyable Sunday afternoon of biking and other activities.

It was a joy to see the children's enthusiasm, biking all over the park, some learning to ride for the first time and learning about bike safety—and to see their caregivers getting a chance to relax, talk, eat and enjoy the sunshine together. Many thanks to all our generous supporters, sponsors and providers who made it a wonderful day to remember as the feedback from three of our members reflects! A big thank you too, to Karla, our GRG Communications and Projects Coordinator who pulled the whole thing together so expertly!

GRG turns 20 this year!

Later this year GRG, as a registered charity, officially turns 20 years of age. I mention this now because it is timely in this newsletter to acknowledge the tremendous work our volunteer local Support Group Coordinators and their volunteer committee members do, to support our members in their community.

These volunteers are the lifeblood of our organisation; providing the kind of support and understanding, guidance and advice that comes from experience walking in the shoes of a grandparent or whānau caregiver raising someone else's child.

In this newsletter we are delighted to share just some of the activities and events our support groups are engaged in around the country. It is also timely to extend our appreciation to the many generous community organisations and individual donors who have supported our groups, with financial donations that have covered



Thank you so very much. My grandkids thoroughly enjoyed their day and were so happy they can now ride (with a little confidence). It was great for us adults as well learning about seat height, leg length etc. Cant wait until it happens again. A great day.

Fantastic day my grandson loved the new bike he won and happy to give his bike (nearly new) to one of the friends he made on the day! Lovely to meet all the grandies raising their mokos and sharing ideas and thoughts! Keep up the good work.

Thank you so much for the opportunity for our 8 year old to enjoy herself just being a "kid", biking around and being amongst other children. One exhausted little girl last night!! I think my husband was worn out too It has been a while since he has ridden a bike. Fabulous afternoon, good people, great conversation.



the cost of their activities and events and donations in kind that help many of our families.

Zonta, Altrusa, Lions and Rotary clubs, Kids in Need (Waikato) and many others have provided fantastic support to our local groups and members—and at the risk of missing anyone out—and you know who you are—THANK YOU, each and everyone of you! We really appreciate your support for our mahi.



It is with your help that many of our member families in need regain faith in the kindness of others and the generosity of spirit that is alive and well in our country. That in turn engenders hope and a confidence that there is support for them when and where it is needed most.



We are just in the planning stages but we look forward to celebrating our 20th birthday milestone; empowering grandparent and whānau care families in New Zealand with all our support groups throughout the country.



Watch this space!

Arohanui, Kate

Survey



For more help and advice from Brave Hearts call **0508 272 834** or see www.bravehearts.nz

In collaboration with researchers at Bethlehem Tertiary Institute Tauranga, Brave Hearts are inviting all **families and whānau who are impacted by a family member coping with addiction** to take part in their **very short survey**. The survey is anonymous and has just three multi-choice questions with options to add further thoughts **to inform them** about what the **impacts are upon families and whānau**. You are welcome to pass on the link to anyone else you know who is or may have been affected.



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 in May 2021:

Ngaruawahia Friday 31 May (venue advised on registration)

Whanganui: date and venue to be advised

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

SALT@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.



Caring Families Aotearoa National Caregiver Training Programme—Term 2 Calendar

CFA's Term 2 National Caregiver Training Programme is now [open for registrations](https://www.caringfamilies.org.nz). Their workshops start in the first week of May, and the calendar can be viewed online at www.caringfamilies.org.nz

The National Caregiver Training Programme is free to all caregivers and is a great chance to reflect on your role and gain knowledge. Training also gives you the opportunity to meet and share experiences with other caregivers in your area. In this next term of training they will be covering the following topics in various locations:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Understanding the National Care Standards | • Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder |
| • Creating Connections to Thrive | • Kia Puawai—Supporting Tamariki to Flourish |
| • Keeping Memories (E-module course) | • Identity and Belonging |

Any questions, or for any assistance please contact CFA's Training Coordinator: caregivertraining@caringfamilies.org.nz or 0800 693 323.



Hannah Morris
Community Outreach
Advocate

Hannah's Outreach—Surviving Lockdowns

Surviving Lock Downs with Children

We've been through a number of lockdowns of varying types and lengths since the COVID-19 pandemic began and even with the vaccine being rolled out, there is no guarantee we won't have another one in the near future. I started writing this article during one of them and I've lost count, but it got me thinking about how well do we cope with them? Living through lockdown looks different for everyone. People live in all different types of homes; they have families of different shapes and sizes and they have varying living conditions. The one thing that ties us all together is the urge to get through this, to do our bit and to eventually see the end of COVID-19. That is why this month I thought it would be useful to look at how to survive lock downs – particularly with children! Here are a few tips to

help you and your grandchildren get through lockdown with your sanity still intact. They also help if you are going through a tough time—even when there isn't a lockdown.

1 The priority is to get through each day

Things can be tough during this time, never ending jobs to do that you never seem to get on top of, home schooling children, meals to cook, rooms to clean, washing to do – it seems endless. When it comes down to it though, the most important thing is just getting through. It is about surviving. Go easy on yourself and take each day as it comes, do what you can and if you get to bedtime then you have won another day. It can be easy to see all the jobs you need to do and feel stressed and anxious about them all building up - but you can only do what you can do. Write a list each day of the things that really need to be done, take your time working through them and look at anything extra you achieve is a bonus.

2 Give the children independent tasks

Make these age-appropriate tasks. The idea of this is if you can give them activities to do that can be done without constant supervision it will allow you some much needed free time to either get some of your own tasks done or practice some self-care. Some examples are jigsaw puzzles, colouring in, working through an educational app or a worksheet that school has given, reading a book, or even just watching TV. Another great way to engage the children is setting up some face time dates! This allows the children to stay connected to friends and whanau as well as giving you some time out. After all physical isolation does not have to mean social isolation!

3 Stay active

And please seek the outdoors as much as possible when doing so! There are so many benefits to being outdoors for both young and old. Being outdoors is an effective way to help children burn off their busy energy and connecting with nature is beneficial for mental health for all. Make it fun while you are outside and have a game of nature bingo - spotting insects, trees, or flowers whilst you walk.

If going outside is not an option due to weather or whatever reason, there are plenty of virtual classes you can engage in – cosmic kids' yoga is a brilliant YouTube channel which engages children in yoga in a playful way. Playing hide-and-seek in the house is another fun activity. If you are feeling brave head outdoors any way – I mean what kid does not love splashing in puddles!

But please remember if you venture beyond your house, avoid contact with public surfaces (e.g., no playground equipment please!), remember to wash your hands with soap before and after you return and give others adequate space to respect social distancing.

4 Lower your expectations

As much as we would all love to have a routine and do all the work that is set out whilst doing our day jobs from home and cooking a nutritious dinner, sometimes something must give. At times like this we all need to give ourselves a break, have lower expectations and just get through the day. Have picnic dinners in front of the TV, eat whatever is in the cupboards or fridge, be a bit more relaxed on schoolwork for a day, let the children have screen time for longer than they usually would... do what you need to do to get through.

5 Try not to worry

We are all in similar boats and just trying to navigate and survive this new normal. Try not to put too much pressure on yourself or the children about how much work is getting done or how much screen time they are having or whether they have had too many snacks. Just get through it – everything will be okay and the most important thing above all during this time is keeping a calm home – so do whatever you need to do to achieve this.

Lockdown's can feel laborious for the entire family, but we are all in this together! If you need someone to talk to during this time, please reach out. GRG continues to operate during all levels, and we are happy to take your calls and help in whatever way we can. Stay safe Aotearoa!

For more information follow: <https://bit.ly/3cZpRUh>



Merle Lambert
National Support
Coordinator

Merle's Support Group Update

It's been a busy few months for our Support Group Coordinators throughout the country and I am delighted that after a tough year in 2020 with lockdowns—they have been able to get out and about and continue their great work supporting our members in their local communities and engaging them in activities that strengthen their whānau and their relationships with each other.

Hot off the press—we congratulate our SGC Debbie Newton (Tokoroa) on graduating with a Bachelor of Social Work. (See next page for her story and journey).

We also have news from our Waitakere, Motueka and Taumarunui Support Groups to share in these next few pages.

Introducing recently appointed Support Group Coordinator, an addition to the Waitakere Team!

We would like to introduce you to Gina Coleman - who has recently been appointed to work alongside our current Support Group Coordinator Esther Price in the Waitakere, West Auckland area.

**Ko Makeo te Maunga
Ko Waiaua te Awa
Ko Ngati Patu Moana te hapu
Ko Whakatohea te iwi
Ko Mokomoko te tangata
Ko Mataatua te waka
Ko Gina ahau.
Tihei mauriora**

Gina prides herself in hailing from the gateway of the East Coast – Opotiki; but has lived most her life in Ahuriri



(Napier). She has resided in Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland) for the last 15 years.

She is a solo gran to her grand-nephew who has been in her care for 7 years from the age of four and a half months. She has whanau and friends that have been a wonderful support in this challenging, but rewarding and incredible ride.

Gina has held positions as coordinator, team leader, manager, tutor, steering group committee member, administrator, secretary and fundraiser. She has served in sectors including social services, family violence, brain injury, mental health, early childhood, sports and dance groups and volunteers her time at her grand nephew's school with the Garden to Table and Reading Recovery programmes.

Gina's talents don't stop there. She has a green thumb that sees her in her garden growing and harvesting vegetables and fruit, produce, that she then turns in to jams, relishes, pickles. Teaching her moko 'garden to table skills' and baking keeps them connected and gives her joy. Other interests involve professional background acting, dancing, camping, reading, knitting and weaving.

Gina is passionate about the GRG Kaupapa and wishes to honour grandparents and kincarers for being the true champions they are, in parenting their nga tamariki (children).

She sees the SGC role working alongside her colleague Esther, as being her way of delivering on this through empowering grandparents in reaching their goals. Welcome to the team Gina!

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 GRG?

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/whanau, we would like to hear from you.

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

Tokoroa Support Group News



On behalf of our Tokoroa Support Group Coordinator Debbie Newton and her wonderful Tokoroa region member base we sincerely thank the **Tokoroa Host Lions Club** for their time, support and generosity supporting our Tokoroa Support Group. They are so grateful for your recent donation which will go towards assisting many of their families who strive to achieve the best lives for their grandchildren and mokopuna.

Congratulations Debbie Newton on your BSW!



Hi all, I am Debbie Newton, GRG Support Group Coordinator for the Tokoroa region.

April this year, I finally got to walk the stage at Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, Rotorua after studying for six years to qualify for a degree in Bachelor of Social Work.

My greatest thanks to my granddaughters Kurapo Kora Edwards and Kahu Toi Edwards who were with me for the long journey, with all the struggles, laughter and tears along the way. My family, friends and tutors all say, if Deb can do it, anybody can.

I encourage Grandparents, their children/tamariki, and grandchildren/mokopuna to never give up on your hopes, goals and dreams. It is within us all to achieve our greatest potential.



Debbie Newton's granddaughters Kurapo Kora Edwards (left) and Kahu Toi Edwards (right).

Motueka Support Group News

– Rankeilor Arnott, GRG Support Coordinator, Motueka

On Saturday 24th November 2020 members of our support group and their grandchildren (19 in total) gathered on the shore at Kaiteriteri beach at 9.00.am. There was much excitement, anticipation with a little apprehension with the prospect of the waka trip. Lee-Anne, our Waka Abel Tasman guide was wonderfully reassuring and the group were taught the history of the waka and how it was vital for travel and trade for thousands of years.

Their trip began with a karakia for protection and then the group learnt the etiquette associated with the waka. Even our youngest grandchildren were respectful and listened intently.

The group then left the beach and paddled around the bay. We divided into two groups so all had an opportunity to paddle the waka during the three hours we were there.

Lee-Anne finished with a karakia and the group expressed their gratitude for her wonderful patience and kindness. The day was perfect with so much enjoyment and knowledge gained by the group especially to work and paddle as a team. And being on the beach and sharing a picnic following the waka trips was enjoyable and relaxing. Many stories and reflections on the waka experience were exchanged.

A grant to enable us to organise an occasion such as this, is invaluable and our GRG support group are so appreciative of the opportunity to have had this waka experience.

Three of the grandchildren are now involved with waka ama.



Taumarunui Support Group News

— Jo Wickham, GRG Support Coordinator, Taumarunui

On Camp in January!

We arrived at the Salvation Army's Blue Mountain Adventure Centre (BMAC) at 3.30pm on a Sunday afternoon (all worried about what we had let ourselves into). Three nights and two days of activities!

The accommodation was nice, most family units got a room each and after settling into our rooms we then explored the kitchen.

The food was incredible and so much. To give the grandparents a break we had taken the easy option by getting BMAC to purchase the food and write the menu.

On the Sunday afternoon we stayed around camp and chilled.

The next day camp leaders were at our building at 8.30am ready to take team building, rock wall climbing, high swing and confidence style courses. All the children participated from the under 5 years right up to the adults, even one of the Nanas went on the swing.

That night we had a bonfire down by the river and ate toasted marshmallows sandwiched between chocolate wheaten biscuits—so decadent!

That was a full-on day, but the real fun was still to come. Tuesday morning at 9am all of our mokopuna who were over 8 years got taken white water rafting. What an adventure!

All the children under 8 years were taken to the trout hatchery and the turtle pools at Turangi. We were constantly counting heads in the pool and it was a most humorous moment when a group of kids went to leave the area where we were, and one of our Nanas yelled out "hey we're you going?".

They stopped and said "sorry, we aren't one of yours!"

We met the rafters for a picnic lunch and there were smiles all round which was so good to see.

We all arrived back at the camp tired but happy.

It was an awesome bonding time for both grandparents as well as their mokopuna.

Our sincere thanks for the considerable generosity shown by one of GRG's private donors along with several local donors who made it possible for us to attend this camp with our mokos. We are now working on fundraising so this can become a yearly event.

— Jo Wickham





Tricia Corin
Specialist Advocate
Income/Financial Support

Tricia Advocating for You

I am still shocked by the numbers of grandparents and whānau caregivers who haven't been advised that they may be entitled to apply for the Unsupported Child Benefit. Just the other day I heard about a grandparent who had been raising her grandchildren for many years and had no idea of this support until she went along to one of our Support Groups. So this month I thought it would be a good opportunity to set out the eligibility criteria and process involved in **Applying for the Unsupported Child's Benefit (UCB)**

Eligibility for the UCB

If you are raising someone else's child because of a "family breakdown" and you are **"likely"** to be the **principal caregiver** of the child aged under 18 years of age **for at least 1 year** from the date of application for the unsupported child's benefit and the **child has no parent who is able to care** for the child, **or provide fully for the child's support** then you may qualify for the UCB.

Other qualifying factors are that the child must be **dependent upon you** and you must be an **eligible caregiver**. That means that **you must be over 18 years** of age and not be a natural parent, adoptive parent or step-parent of the child.

The child must also be resident and present in New Zealand and you must have been both resident and present in New Zealand for a continuous period of 12 months at any time.

The main difficulties faced by grandparent and whānau caregivers when they apply for the UCB is satisfying the criteria that there has been a family breakdown and that they are likely to be the principal caregiver for at least 1 year.

Currently there is a Bill before the Social Services and Community Select Committee to change the law and in particular to remove this 1 year rule. We are in support of this proposed change as far too many grandparents and whānau caregivers are asked to take on the care of someone else's child in the family for periods of less than 12 months when there has been a family breakdown involving care and protection concerns. Unless they can access the Foster Care Allowance or they can include the child on their benefit, they get no financial support for the child's needs. This causes many injustices and serious hardship and poverty for too many families doing their utmost to keep vulnerable children safe.

The definition of what is a "family breakdown" has been defined by the Courts as "the failure or collapse of the normal family dynamic which results in both parents being unable to fulfil the role of parent to their child."

It isn't always straight forward to determine this and often clients need help from an advocate to ensure that the WINZ Case Manager is equipped with all the relevant information to make the correct decision.

If Oranga Tamariki is involved, they can also provide evidence that there is a family breakdown.

Barnardo's Family Breakdown Assessments

If there has been **NO Oranga Tamariki involvement**, then you will need to attend an appointment with **Barnardo's for a 'Family Breakdown Assessment'**. This is usually done face to face in the **Work and Income office** in a private room.

You attend this on your own or you can take a Support person with you. This discussion is around why the child is in your care.

The Barnardos FBA Assessor then writes a report for **Work and Income** with their assessment of whether there is a **'Family Breakdown'** or not.

The **Barnardo's** assessor will also try to make phone contact with the parents.

This report then goes to the manager of **Work and Income** for their **final decision** to grant the UCB) or decline it.

This process should take between **2 to 4 weeks** however, if granted, the UCB is paid from the time of your contact with Work and Income to access support.

If it is declined, there may be grounds to have the decision reviewed. Get in touch with us on [0800 472 637](tel:0800472637) for a referral to our advocacy service.

1. Contact **Work and Income NZ (WINZ)** via **0800 559 009**

The Application Process

2. Explain that you want to apply for the **UCB**
3. You will have the choice to have either a **Face-to-Face Appointment** or **via Phone**.

This is now the process since COVID-19 Lockdowns.

4. Application Form

- Fill out the **Application Form** - **one for each child**.
- Ask the Contact Centre to put one in the mail or pick up one from any Work & Income office.
- It can be **downloaded from the Work and Income website** or the **GRG website** (NB: It is 24 pages) - **This application cannot be completed online.**
- You should **receive a phone call from a Case Manager** from your local office to discuss what is needed and what you will need to provide to Work & Income.

- If you have a **phone appointment**, you will need to either **email the application form and supporting documents to Work & Income** or you can take them into your local office

Examples of Supporting Documents:

Copies of any: Family Court Custody Orders, Birth Certificates, Your ID, Verification of your Bank Account, Copies of any Family Group Conference Plan and any supporting Documents if Oranga Tamariki are involved.

What you can get

Weekly Rate: The UCB is a non-taxable **weekly** payment to help cover the child's living costs. It is not based on your income or any money the child gets from working after school or in the holidays. But other income the child gets, eg from a family trust, ACC, investments or their parents' estate, could affect whether you qualify and the amount you can get. The weekly rates are currently:

Category	Non-taxable rate
Under 5 years	\$203.03
5 - 9 years	\$228.15
10 - 13 years	\$246.93
14+ years	\$265.62

Clothing Allowance

In addition to the **weekly** rate there is also a clothing allowance which is currently paid automatically at the following rates:

Category	Rate
Child 0 - 4 years	\$21.06
Child 5 - 9 years	\$23.88
Child 10 - 13 years	\$29.49
Child 14+ years	\$35.38

The Establishment Grant

Is a **one-off payment** paid for the support of each child when they are first granted the UCB. It is for all the initial costs when a child comes into a caregiver's care and this is automatically paid. It **does not have to be paid back** and it is a non-Taxable payment. It is currently paid at the rate of \$350 per child.

School and Year Start Up Payment: This is a lump-sum payment payable at the beginning of each year (January-February) to help cover the costs that caregivers often face at the beginning of the year. You have to apply for the payment online and the link is available in mid-January-

mid-February. We post information about this closer to the time with reminders and a link on our website.

Category	Rate
Child 0 - 4 years	\$400.00
Child 5 - 9 years	\$450.00
Child 10 - 13 years	\$500.00
Child 14+ years	\$550.00

Extraordinary Care Fund: This is a discretionary fund which is available to children in receipt of the UCB or Orphan's Benefit who "show promise in a particular area, or are experiencing difficulties that are impacting on their development.

You can apply for costs of up to \$2,000 per year from 1 July to 30 June. The **types of costs you can apply for** are set out on the Work and Income's [website](#).

There is also a guide on how to apply and the supporting documents you need to provide.

Internet Devices

You can also apply to the fund to help cover the cost of devices: e.g. tablets/iPads/laptops. Except in exceptional circumstances, funding for devices is limited to every two years.

The following sets out the current cost type and guide for devices.

Laptop/Tablets	Cost Guide
Secondary School Level	Up to \$1,400
Intermediate School Level	Up to \$1,200
Primary School Level	Up to \$750

You can apply at any time for a device and currently our understanding is that **payment can be expected within 3 weeks**.

A Letter of Support from an **independent** person (eg, a teacher) is not necessary **unless the cost of the device is more than the cost guide** BUT you will need to provide documentation from the school outlining their recommended item, especially if they have a **'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD)** programme along with a quote or recent receipt for the cost of the device.

You can apply at any time, however the closing dates for applications and when you can expect to hear a decision 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

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

Grand Reflections



A Morning at Eden Park with The Cookie Project Baking Crew!

I would say being world famous in New Zealand is an amazing feat! Well, for this awesome crew of bakers it is not hard. They are just as amazing in person as when I first came across a story '**My Perfect Family: The Cookie Project**' one Sunday morning on an amazing TVNZ show called Attitude.



GRG's Karla Macdonald (centre) with the Cookie Project Bakers

The story behind **The Cookie Project** will not only melt your heart (*just like one of their delicious cookies – a MUST try by the way!*) but give you a glance into a family – not only the family of bakers but that of the lovely Ngā Hou, her brothers Tony and Tyson (who were born with a cocktail of disabilities including fetal alcohol syndrome and autism) and their dads Graeme and Chris (Chris sadly passed away in 2016).

To 'The Cookie Project' team of bakers I met - Ngā Hou, Lawrence, Stacey and Parveen. Thank you – you are all doing an incredible job! I feel blessed to have met you all!

We wish The Cookie Project and its team all the best and look forward to connecting in the future.

If you want to find out more, please go to: www.thecookieprojectnz.com or if you would like to watch **My Perfect Family: The Cookie Project** (which featured Sunday 25th October 2020) go to: <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/attitude>



www.thecookieprojectnz.com

The Cookie Project is a social enterprise that provides paid work experience for people with disabilities. According to Stats NZ, 1 in 4 Kiwis are disabled, and the employment rate for the disabled people is only 22% compared to 70% for those who are non-disabled.

You can help support this initiative and SAVE!

The code below has been specially created for us here **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ**:

Use the code "**WHANAUFUN**" at thecookieprojectnz.com store and get **\$10 off** all orders over **\$49**.
Expires end of June 2021.

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 (Exception- July's meeting is on the 8th)

Location: Westwave Recreational Centre, 20 Alderman Drive, Henderson .

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: Te Kuiti Community House, 28 Taupiri Street , Te Kuiti

TAUPO

Contact: Lesley-Anne Wells
07 377 3539 / Taupo@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: The last Monday of the month at 10:30am

Location: Ngaruawahia Community House, 13 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia.

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: Pam Downing
027 224 9169 / Tauranga@grg.org.nz

Meets: Every fourth Thursday of the month at 10am

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: Tom Kupa

022 150 5196 / Hastings@grg.org.nz

Meets: Every fourth Friday of the month

Location: First floor, 105 Pakowhai Road, Stortford Lodge, Hastings.

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 Friday 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: Every first Friday of the month at 10am

Location: 168 Stanmore Road, Linwood.

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: 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

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

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/Stratford, 186a Tukapa Street, Westown, 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: Every first Friday of the month at 10am

Location: 168 Stanmore Road, Linwood.

NORTH OTAGO

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

CURRENTLY VACANT

Kaitia, Kerikeri, Whangarei, Bream Bay, Hibiscus Coast, Mangere/Onehunga, Morrinsville/Te Aroha, Te Puke/Papamoa, Dannevirke/Tararua, Levin/Otaki, Marlborough, 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 5500 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

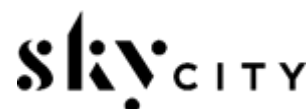
0800 543 354 or **Text 4357** for **Lifeline** - 24/7 confidential support from qualified counsellors and trained volunteers

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

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162 Mokoia Road
Birkenhead
Auckland 0626

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Email: office@grg.org.nz

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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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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

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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