



NEWSLETTER - MAY 2014

DATABASE: 5618 WHANAU CARERS

TENA KOUTOU, TALOFA LAVA, KIA ORANA, FAKAALOFA LAHI ATU, MALO E LELEI, BULA VINAKA, TALOHA NI, KAM NA MAURI, GREETINGS TO ALL!

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ Mitre 10 Community of the Year



Your Voices:

Daniel (6 yrs) was quite happy about sharing how his class talked about 'culture'. He then said that he feels good that we speak two languages at home and "Oma, I also said that we believe in God, Jesus....and I forgot the other One!" Jaidon (7 yrs) then helped him by saying that it is the Holy Spirit. I then added that there is a name for the Three. Daniel was not able to recall, but Jaidon was quick to put his hand up on the back seat and then exclaimed "I know! They are called the Holy tronics!" Well, needless to say I almost fell out the car with laughter! Jaidon's interest in electronics is most definitely coming through!



As you realise, we have our moments, but there are so many blessings having these kids.

Marlene

CONFUSION

We have two people who work for us with similar names, which is causing some confusion:

Di (Diane) Vivian on ext. 1 based in Auckland, is the first point of contact for you to phone, she is the founding member, Members Support Manager and Chair of the Board. This is also where our National data base is held, and is also the main help/referral line.

Diana East is the Co-ordinators Manager for new and existing support group Co's, and informal coffee groups, she also designs and runs the SALT workshops, and designs the training courses for our voluntary Co's, she is based in Wellington. Ext. 4. She also attends meetings with other org's on behalf of GRG when held in Wellington and where travel constraints restrict us from attending.



SOFTBALL

I share a wee story of one my moko here this morning, just about this moko and his problem with poems/ ballads, so we both sat and googled and shared ideas. I left him for an hour and the following poem is what he came up with. He started playing softball for the first time this year, and the poem is about softball, but he says it also speaks of his life. The plate in the poem is home here, speaking of mum and dad and how they are unable to help and his feeling alone in a houseful of other kids. But given time, he will sort it out....



Soft ball poem

Alone at the plate
with his heart beating fast.
He cannot go back, the past is the past

Mum and Dad cannot help
he stands all alone.
Sweating and gasping wanting to get home.

The ball nears the plate
he swings hard but misses.
There's a groan from the crowd
with boo's and hisses.

A loud voice cries,
"Strike out the loser!"
Tears fill the boy's eyes,
But with his chin up denies the sore losers

Parents and spectators
with faces that freeze
Remember he's just a boy
who's standing alone.

Please open your heart
and give him a break.
For it's moments like this
a great man he can make.

So he stands at the plate with his heart beating
fast, he cannot go back the past is the past.

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Clarification of eligibility for Disability Support: News article 02 April 2014

People with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are now eligible to access the full range of Disability Support Services.

A nationally consistent approach for assessing people with ASD will enable access to a broader range of support services based on the person's disability related needs. This approach, which clarifies eligibility, has been developed by Disability Support Services Group (DSS) and the Mental Health Directorate. It is effective from 2 April 2014.

The needs of people with ASD are often broader than disability support services alone and will require a joined up response across the health and disability services sector.

People with ASD may be eligible for funded disability support services and can contact their local Needs Assessment and Services Co-ordination (NASC) organisation. The NASC will undertake a needs assessment to determine the person's disability related needs. The continued focus will be for DSS to develop a broader range of disability supports that are suitable for people with ASD.

People who would like to find out if they can access disability support services should [contact their local NASC](#).

More information

See [Autism Spectrum Disorder support](#) for more information about eligibility, what services are available, and the assessment process.

DUNEDIN MEMBERS

"You are invited to attend a special Dunedin GRG Support Group Planning Meeting on Tuesday 13th May 2014, 1pm – 2.45pm, at Catholic Social Services, 42 Macandrew Road, South Dunedin. The facilitator will be Diana East, GRG's Field Officer for support group development. The meeting will discuss the following:

Your hopes and fears for Dunedin GRG support group meetings. What do you want to get out of being involved? What sorts of activities would you like to see happen?

How GRG support groups work: How does this fit with your hopes? What is the Coordinator's role?

Sharing the load: Acknowledging that each task requires certain skills/time commitment, how can we share the load? Who will get involved and help make it all happen, IE. who will do what tasks (eg phoning people, networking, greeting new members, organising any speakers, etc?)

For more information please contact either Catherine Butson on 489 2942 or Diana on 0800 472 637 (ext.4) or email d.east13@yahoo.co.nz



OSCAR SUBSIDY

OSCAR (Out of School Care and Recreational Subsidy) is a non-taxable payment that aims to assist low income caregivers to enter and remain in employment.

It can also be used for families where the principal caregiver, or the child or children of the principal caregiver are experiencing, serious ill health or disability.

Approved OSCAR programmes

An approved OSCAR programme is one that has been approved as a community service by Child, Youth and Family.

Under **no** circumstances can we pay a subsidy for a centre that is **not approved**.

The OSCAR provider is given a letter of approval by CYF that details their current certification.

A list of approved providers by region is updated from information supplied by Child, Youth and Family. You will need to check the programme's approval status before granting a subsidy as programme approval can be revoked by Child, Youth and Family.

If a centre is not on the list, the client will need to provide you with a copy of the programme's approval letter before you can grant an OSCAR subsidy. This should only apply when there has been a delay between the programme being approved and National Office being provided with approval details.

Qualifications

A client may be able to receive an OSCAR Subsidy for up to 20 hours a week during a school term and up to 50 hours a week during school holidays if:

- they are the principal caregiver of a dependent child aged from 5 to 13 years old **or**

they are the principal caregivers of a dependent child aged more than 13 years old but less than 18 years old if the dependent child receives Child Disability Allowance **and**

- the child attends an approved OSCAR programme for a minimum of three hours a week **and**
- they meet an income test **and**
- they don't have a partner who is able to provide childcare **and**
- they are a New Zealand citizen or [permanent resident](#) (i.e. they are not in New Zealand unlawfully, here on a temporary entry class visa or temporary permit) **and**
- generally be ordinarily resident in New Zealand

Client Activities

An OSCAR subsidy for a child is available only to enable the child's principal caregiver to undertake one of the following:

- employment (whether full-time or part-time, and whether permanent, temporary, or casual)
- any employment related training (for a client with work obligations)
- an activity included in a existing Job Seeker Agreement
- an employment-related training course offered by a course-provider accredited by the New Zealand

Qualifications Authority **or**

- a course of study at a secondary school or a tertiary educational institution

The subsidy will only be paid for the hours the client is participating in an activity. This will include any travel time that is involved.

Clients with partners

If a client has a partner, they are expected to provide care for the child while the client is in employment, training, study or undertaking employment related training. However, an OSCAR Subsidy can be paid where the client has a partner if:

- the partner is undertaking employment related training (for a partner with work obligations)
- the partner is undertaking an activity and that activity is included in a existing Job Seeker Agreement
- the partner is in paid employment (including part-time, full-time, temporary or casual) **or**
- there is a good and sufficient reason why the partner cannot look after the child

As a guideline, good and sufficient reasons would include situations where the partner has an exemption from their work obligations.

Seriously disabled or ill caregivers

OSCAR Subsidy may be paid for up to 20 hours a week in term time or 50 hours a week in the school holidays if the qualifications are met (but not the additional qualifications) and the principal caregiver of a dependent child:

- has an illness or disability which results in a reduction of their independent function **and**
- that illness or disability is expected to continue for at least 6 months **and**
- that illness or disability is so serious as to warrant additional childcare **and**

- at least one of the following applies:

- the principal caregiver does not have a partner or there is a good and sufficient reason why the partner cannot provide childcare (i.e. the other partner is in employment, training or has another good reason) **or**
- the Child Disability Allowance is payable for the child

The client does not need to have been receiving OSCAR Subsidy prior to becoming seriously ill or disabled.

The OSCAR Subsidy will cease when the child is no longer an [eligible child](#) that is when:

- the child turns 14 (or 18 if they are receiving a Child Disability Allowance) **or**
- the caregiver no longer requires childcare for their child **or**
- the qualifications are no longer met **whichever is the earliest.**

Medical evidence

Caregivers receiving Supported Living Payment - health condition, injury or disability, and some caregivers who are receiving Jobseeker Support - health condition, injury or disability, will already have sufficient medical evidence to indicate that the caregiver has a serious disability or illness.

Points to note when considering a medical certificate already held for another benefit are whether the principal caregiver of a dependent child

- has a health condition, injury or disability which results in a reduction of their independent function **and**

- that health condition, injury or disability is likely to continue for at least 6 months **and**
- that health condition, injury or disability is so serious as to warrant additional childcare

If sufficient medical evidence is not already available, a registered medical practitioner must certify that the caregiver meets the above definition. The cost of a medical examination is to be covered by the client.

Child receiving Child Disability Allowance

Children who receive a Child Disability Allowance are eligible for the OSCAR Subsidy.

OSCAR may be paid for up to 20 hours a week in term time or 50 hours a week in the school holidays if:

- the qualifications are met (but not the additional qualifications) **and**
- the child is one for whom Child Disability Allowance is paid

The other parent or partner is not required to provide childcare in these cases. The subsidy will cease when:

- the sibling can no longer receive Child Disability Allowance **or**
- the child turns 18 years of age **or**
- the qualifications are no longer met **whichever is the earliest.**

Siblings (or other dependent children) of a child receiving CDA

OSCAR Subsidy may be paid for up to 20 hours a week in term time or 50 hours a week during school holidays where:

- the qualifications are met (but not the additional qualifications) **and**
- a dependent child has a sibling (or other

dependent child) for whom a Child Disability Allowance is paid

The subsidy will cease when:

- the sibling (or other dependent child) can no longer receive Child Disability Allowance **or** the dependent child turns 14 years of age (or 18 if they are receiving a Child Disability Allowance) **or**
- the qualifications are no longer met **whichever is the earliest.**

Siblings of a child in hospital (or other dependent children)

OSCAR Subsidy may be paid for up to 20 hours a week during term time and 50 hours a week during the school holidays where:

- the qualifications are met (but not the additional qualifications) **and**
- a dependent child has siblings (or other dependent children) who have been admitted to hospital

There are further pressures on caregivers when a child is admitted to hospital. It is usually difficult for the caregiver to arrange childcare for other children so that the caregiver can visit the child in hospital. Therefore up to 20 or 50 hours OSCAR Subsidy may be granted in respect of other children in such families, regardless of how many hours the caregiver spends visiting the hospital.

The subsidy will cease when:

- the hospitalised child is discharged **or**
- the dependent child turns 14 years of age (or 18 if they are receiving a Child Disability Allowance) **or**
- the qualifications are no longer met **whichever is the earliest.**

Free Caregiver workshops:

Child Development

Exploring the importance of early brain development, recognising 'normal' milestones in order to respond to developmental deficits and acting as an advocate...

15-May-14 Pukekohe - 3:30pm
24-May-14 Kaikohe 8am-4:30pm
29-May-14 Hastings 9am-3:30pm
24-Jun-14 Whangarei 9am-3:30pm

Attachment and Resilience

Identifying types of attachment, developing secure attachments and building resilience...

20-May-14 Waitakere 9am-3:30pm
23-May-14 Kaikohe 3.30pm-8:30pm
21-Jun-14 Lower Hutt 9am-3:30pm

Understanding and Managing Behaviour

Recognising the impact of beliefs on behaviours, encouraging desirable behaviours, responding to unwanted behaviours...

8-May-14 Takapuna 9am-3:30pm
17-May-14 Auckland Central 9am-3:30pm
25-May-14 Kaikohe 8am-3pm
11-Jun-14 Pahiatua 9am-3:30pm
17-Jun-14 Pukekohe 9am-3:30pm
25-Jun-14 Rotorua 9am-3:30pm
1-Jul-14 Christchurch 9am-3:30pm

Health and Wellbeing

Discussing basic nutrition, hygiene & childhood illness and identifying factors that may indicate a mental health disorder...

15-Apr-14 Waitakere 9am-3:30pm
28-May-14 Levin 9am-3:30pm
1-Jul-14 Manurewa 9am-3:30pm

Safety and Prevention

Identifying risky situations, exploring actions to keep yourselves safe and record keeping...

21-May-14 Christchurch 9am-3:30pm
21-May-14 Tauranga 9am-3:30pm
27-May-14 Greymouth 9am-3:30pm
28-May-14 Dunedin 9am-3:30pm
17-Jun-14 Nelson 9am-3:30pm

Maltreatment and Family Violence

Recognising indicators of maltreatment and family violence, dealing with a disclosure of abuse and addressing effects of maltreatment and family violence...

20-May-14 Porirua 9am-3:30pm
27-May-14 Whangarei 9am-3:30pm
7-Jun-14 Christchurch 9am-3:30pm
14-Jun-14 Manurewa 9am-3:30pm
17-Jun-14 Napier 9am-3:30pm

Identity and Belonging

Helping a child feel they belong in both a 'new culture' and their birth family, exploring the impact of grief & loss and saying goodbye...

4-Jun-14 Grey Lynn 9am-3:30pm
5-Jun-14 Paeroa 9am-3:30pm
19-Jun-14 Gisborne 9am-3:30pm

Legal Issues

Exploring the laws covering children in care, discussing how children come into care and the impact of these laws in relation to Guardianship & Custody, Home for Life and Family Group Conferences...

9-Apr-14 Whangarei 9am-3:30pm
17-May-14 Masterton 9am-3:30pm
22-May-14 Manurewa 9am-3:30pm

29-May-14 Timaru 9am-3:30pm
10-Jun-14 Kaitaia 9am-3:30pm
11-Jun-14 Taupo 9am-3:30pm
25-Jun-14 New Plymouth 9am-3:30pm

To Register:

Email: caregivertraining@fosteringkids.org.nz or
phone toll free number 0800 100849

People can also register online via our website following the link: <http://schedule.fosteringkids.net/schedule.php> You just need to follow the prompts.



The Footsteps 'Learn' programme

At Footsteps, we believe every tamaiti (child) is different and so are we. Our kaiako (teachers) deliver the highest quality educational programme in the home in partnership with a caregiver to inspire life-long learning. By offering a one-on-one experience, we are able to tailor the learning to help every tamaiti reach their full potential. **This is a Nation-wide service.**

What does Footsteps 'Learn' programme include?

Outstanding one-on-one support

What sets Footsteps apart from other home-based services is the quality of our educational support. By providing fun, one-on-one advice, information and resources, our early childhood kaiako create a

personalised learning journey for every tamaiti.

Fully funded

Footsteps is licensed and funded by the Ministry of Education, which means we are able to provide our programme at no cost to tamariki (children), caregivers and whānau who qualify. We can also help you access childcare subsidies including [Work and Income and 20 Hours ECE](#).

Regular home visits

We know that tamariki learn best in a safe, familiar and nurturing environment. That's why we make regular home visits for up to 75% longer than other providers. Click here to discover more about the [benefits of in-home learning](#).

Learning Experiences

We personalise all learning experiences such as books, puzzles and educational toys around a child's interests and abilities. Click here to see some of the amazing [free learning experiences](#) we create from everyday items around the home.

Learning journal, photo stories and WOW moments

We create a folder to capture a child's achievements and memories. Unlike other home-based services, we write our learning stories so the caregiver can focus on the job they love - caring for tamariki/



Who is eligible for the Footsteps 'Learn' programme?

Our programme is available to all parents/guardians with a caregiver looking after a tamaiti aged 0-6 years for the following:

A whānau caregiver - such as a grandparent, relative or friend



Click here to make an enquiry or
call us on 0800 366 878 to speak
to Marion, Mon-Fri 8.30-4.30

Crossing the Bridge of Enough:

Many times I have approached this bridge, many times I have taken steps on to it, sometimes I have reached half way and turned back, but there comes a time when one actually crosses the 'bridge of enough'. What makes us take this final journey perhaps one of the hardest journeys of our lives? What is this bridge? Why do we sometimes need to be brave enough to cross it?

Now 2 generations have pushed me to this bridge, the drama's the heart ache never seemed to stop, history was repeating itself all over again in the second generation. Both nurture and nature for these two generations and there I was, always there to pick up the pieces, to try and heal and clean up the mess.

I began to look at the wider damage which was affecting other members of the family and other grandchildren who did not live with us. I had read an article a while ago in this newsletter about enabling and it dawned on me that by me always being there to pick up the pieces these family members would never know the consequences nor attempt to make change. Yes I know the young grandchildren need us and this is why we do this. But we need to be careful not to over compensate. Being older I also took into consideration the affect this constant stress was having on me, my health and indeed my mental health. I was not a happy camper and the stress was out of control! The 'mother' was now 48 and for years (she was 12 when she came to live with us) and years of hell she had descended upon us, now it was the turn of her daughter (22 going on 14) the child we raised from 3, we avoided that bridge whilst she was growing up, but now the history repeats itself, the drama is constantly high end as are the demands and threats.

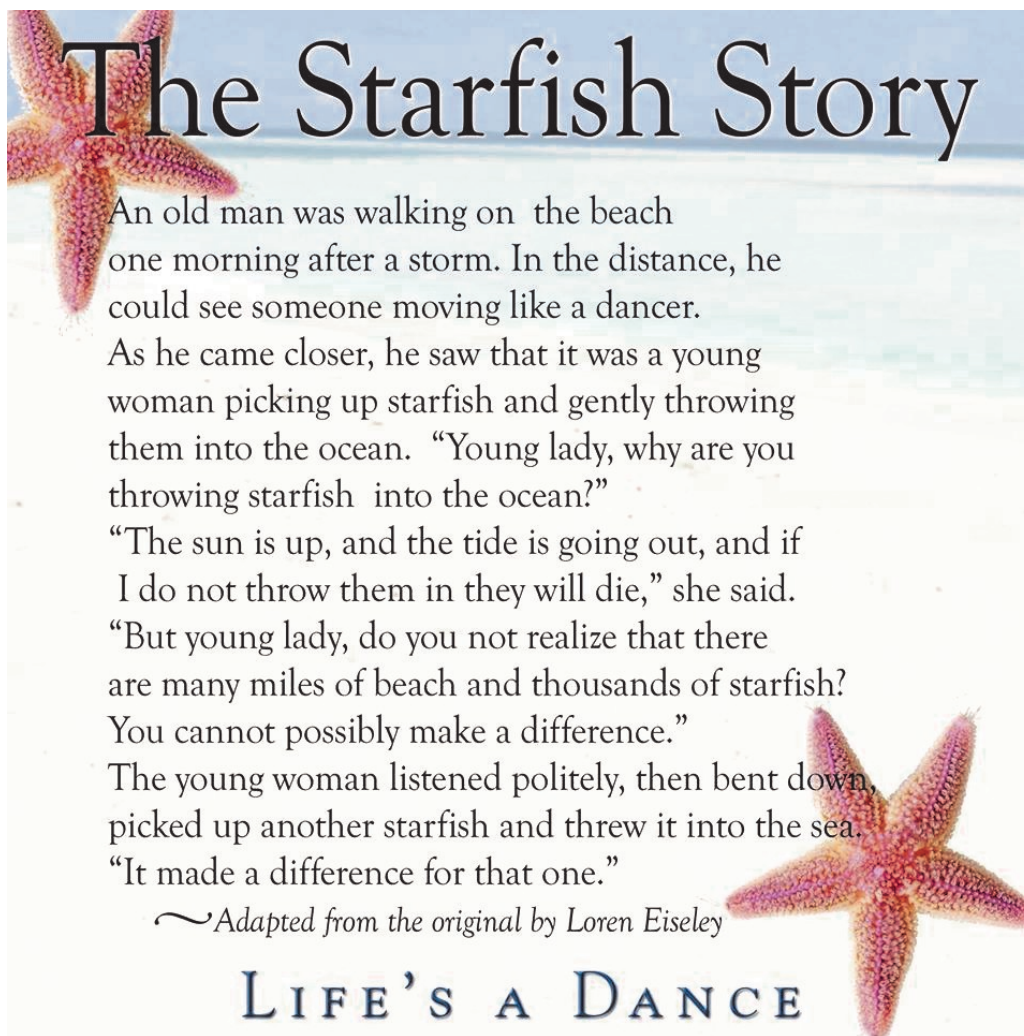
I cannot say I danced across this bridge I have crossed with great trepidation, I know the dramas will continue but I have to learn to deal with them in a



different way, remove all emotion from my words, ignore all the vile texts and not respond to them nor to the face book comments. Some people thrive on high drama and they know how to project this drama onto us. They are also very good at blaming everyone else for their problems. I have to find a calm sheltered bay to put down my anchor for the sake of myself and indeed the rest of the family. For these situations we find ourselves in have wider ramifications with ripples which spread from a pebble skipped onto a lake. Everyone feels the effect. I have a new mantra 'it is not my problem' and are using words like 'what are you going to do about this' with no emotion in my voice.

It is harder the second time to cross this bridge, oh yes it is, I had crossed this bridge once before with the 'mother' I honestly did not expect to have to do this again, but alas nurture and nature have played a huge part in this young woman's life, we are a 'heart family' our blood relationship is love. *

The gate to this bridge is never really shut behind us once we have crossed, some of us have to deal with things in different ways, for others we may never hear from the 'parent' again, but we all carry a deep sadness and pain in our hearts, if not for the parent then for the children who ultimately have the fall out. These bridges can be varied and for many different reasons, may God guide you well. You have done and are doing your very best, bless you. I acknowledge those who have lost a child due to death, they, you and children concerned had no choice. May God be with one and all.



Taonga o toku ngakau (The greatest treasure of my heart) Ko taku mokopuna e (Is my little grandchild)

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

Please feel free to send/email this report on to others whom you think may be interested.

Please pass this on to other grandparents/kin carers you know of.

GRG Trust Head Office hours are 9am – 2pm daily. (We raise grandchildren too)

Views expressed in this newsletter may not be the views of the GRG Trust.

We are a voluntary not-for-profit organisation.

All donations to the GRG Trust are tax deductible.

Abbreviations:

GRG – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust

BOT – Board of Trustees

CYF – Child Youth and Family Services

Co's – Co-ordinator/s

UCB – Unsupported Child Benefit

WINZ – Work and Income NZ now DWI – Department of Work and Income

BPS – Business Professional Services Limited. Our secretarial service.

Are your children under CYF?

Do you have trouble getting hold of your Social Worker? If this is the case then you can call 0508 CARER (0508 227 377) and they will then make sure you are spoken to by your Social Worker and if they are not available then someone else will talk to you.

www.grg.org.nz or www.kin.org.nz or

www.raisinggrandchildren.org.nz Email office@grg.org.nz

Member Support Manager: Di Vivian

Free Phone 0800 GRANDS or 0800 472637 ext. 1 (not for use for Auckland callers) Landline users only. Auckland callers (09) 480 6530

Postal Add: PO Box 34 892 Birkenhead. Auckland 0742

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