



NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2016

DATABASE: 6250 WHANAU CARERS

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

From the National Office

School Year Start up Fund is Open NOW

If you are getting the Unsupported Child Benefit, or the Orphans Benefit from Work & Income you can apply now. Open 11 January and closes 29 February 2016.

This needs to be applied for online, the application form can be found at <http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/online-services/kin-carers-payment/index.html> If you do not have a computer you can visit a W & I office and they will assist you. It is very simple and will only take a few minutes and payment will be in your bank a/c within 3 days.

The School and Year Start-up Payment is available to people who are caring for someone else's child and helps with the costs that mostly happen at the beginning of the year, in particular pre-school and school-related costs such as clothing, school fees and stationery.

The amount paid is based on the age of the child at the end of February.

Age of child (at end of February) 2016 and on-going

0 - 4 years	\$400
5 - 9 years	\$450
10 - 13 years	\$500



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14 years and over \$550

If you do not have a computer and need us to do this for you, please phone Di on 09 480 6530 or if a toll call 0800472637 ext 1 between 8am and 2pm, and she will do this for you online. Please have your W & I client number ready.



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Winner

Extraordinary Care Fund

Opening date for first round this year,

Application dates

18 January - 19 February 2016

When you'll find out and the grant will be paid

1 April 2016

If you have applied for and received a grant in this fiscal year you cannot apply again this time. If you were unsuccessful you can try again. This is more complicated and a full explanation and examples are on our web site www.grg.org.nz under financial assistance.

What is not covered

The fund doesn't cover:

- costs that are covered by either:
 - ◇ the Establishment Grant
 - ◇ School and Year Start-up Payment
 - ◇ other agencies
- health and medical costs (eg treatment or medication)
- everyday costs (eg school trips, vehicles, legal costs)
- overseas travel.

The Extraordinary Care Fund is a grant of up to \$2,000, designed to support children who are:

- experiencing difficulties that are significantly impacting on their development
- showing promise in a particular area.

Who can get it

You need to be getting either the Orphan's Benefit or the Unsupported Child's Benefit.

Grants that are awarded are **based on the needs of the child** rather than their family's financial situation.

How much can you get

You can apply for a grant of up to \$2,000 each financial year (1 July to 30 June). If the cost is over \$2,000 you'll have to show how you're going to pay the extra. If you're caring for more than one child, you can apply for a grant for each child. See our website page on the Extraordinary Care Fund under the financial support tab for more information.

Application forms are available from W & I. You can also download a form from:

<http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/documents/forms/extraordinary-care-application.pdf>

We strongly advise you to apply for a full year of fees for sports/tuition etc. You DO need to make an appointment with W & I to submit this form and quotes. If you meet a blank wall where staff, don't know anything about this please ask them to check their computer. Also get copies of all your documents and get W & I to stamp them and keep in a safe place. Make your appointment with W & I ASAP after the opening date of January 18th 2016.

Giving Thanks to GRG

Kia ora! Just recently we have had another mokopuna come into our care, thankfully with the parent's consent and support. However when it came to getting some financial support from WINZ, I was treated with disrespect and told my application would be put on hold until they had more proof of a family breakdown. I was beside myself, when you are connected to children and their parents by blood it is quite an emotional rollercoaster. Well I sought help from the big guns at GRG and lo and behold I had financial support within 2 days of GRG advocating for me and my whanau and mostly the little wee 6yr mokopuna who has joined our whanau.

I must admit, it has not been easy, but moving forward with constant strides sometimes daily, a whanau hui with our new addition and our immediate whanau and of course support from school, GP, wider whanau and Lots of unconditional love we are moving forward.

So thank you to the team at GRG. Life has been made a little easier for our little mokopuna and whanau, we appreciate your help and boundless knowledge and expertise. God bless you all over the summer holiday's :-)



To all other GRG folks that need help please seek help for whatever your need is, Do contact our head office, they are wonderful advocates for us and our little mokopuna,

Grateful and humbled whanau, from Hastings/ Kahungunu.

Message for Tauranga Members

The Tauranga meetings will resume on Tuesday 1st of March at 10am. The meetings are held at St Peters in the City, corner of Cameron Road and Spring Street.

Different Ways of Learning in Life

Having recently celebrated (or not) my 66th birthday, I have had time to reflect on my journey. On many stages of this journey I frequently thought I knew it all, only to be proved over and over again there is so much more to learn and I am very sure more to come yet. And it is OK to change your mind. I guess we keep on learning until we die. Even the passage to our death has many learning curves also of different thoughts or experiences. So from our first breath until our last, our journey begins, constantly learning, constantly changing.

Learning comes in many forms, books, television, education, religion, human nature, the world is our oyster and most importantly we find out about ourselves, our values, morals, every minute we learn something new which makes us the unique human being we are. Changes of circumstances bring new learnings and experiences; a chance encounter can change our thought patterns and make us think in a different way, and to explore things from another's point of view. They can infiltrate you from many varied avenues, which make you think, hang on is this right, or change your thoughts totally.

Through our lives we gather in our kete bag many learnings and indeed mistakes that add to this rich mix. It is how we use these that make



the difference or not. None of us are perfect, it is how we verbally and physically express our 'learnings' that can open the mind of another, to another way of thinking, or shut it down. Words and thoughts need to be spoken gently and leaving room for someone else to think about it and develop their learnings; actions can also have the same effect.

I guess it is how we use our learnings not only for ourselves but for humanity in general.

Embrace these new teachings they open one's mind into what can truly be amazing, they can settle one's soul in a time which may have been very much needed and you may not even be aware of it. They can share a gift, a gift of knowledge at a particular time, or even sage advice which can change and shift a direction. Unless said with kindness this could be the making of a good decision or a bad one.

Listening is also a very important part of our learning, to acknowledge another's feelings and thoughts is very powerful.

At the end of the day we are unique individuals and leave foot prints upon the hearts of those you may have moved on from. Make sure they are considered, kind and leave value, passion, wisdom and the world in a hopefully better place, which we share either like raindrops, or warm rays of the sun that touch others along our path, fleetingly, emotionally, or familiarly.

Di Vivian writes a regular blog for Kiwi families.

Great Things to Come

I would like to share about my two grand kids. They are so awesome. Our granddaughter's last year at school next year and our grandson got picked to do Academy Service next year. We are stoked our granddaughter sang on Homai te Pakepake 31 July this year and was the last singer of the night. The attitude and the confidence they have is so over whelming, it just keeps going. I asked her what was her goal in life? She says she wants to be a midwife. My grandson says he is going to be a cop and 'gonna make a difference.' So proud of them, they never ask for anything they know nana and papa struggle financially and yet they rather be at home with us cooking chocolate and dipping marshmallows. They are 17 and 16.

Have your say!

GRG 2016 Research Project

Commencing in February 2016, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ is conducting a major research study into the economic and social issues that impact on the lives of full-time grandparent and whanau carers in New Zealand.

This exciting research project, which is being funded by the Lotteries Community Sector Research Fund will be conducted by Pukeko Research Ltd and led by Dr Liz Gordon.

It will be open to all members of GRG Trust NZ and **we really need you to take part, tell us your stories and have your say** on the social, family, health, court, justice and economic issues that affect you, your families and the children you are raising.

This study will be broader in scope than our 2005 and 2009 surveys and will also engage the views of key stakeholders and external agencies from community organizations and the government sector who interact with carer families on the various issues or make decisions that affect the lives of families in general.

Building on the knowledge we gained from our previous surveys, our aim is to **provide current demographic data and substantive information about the full-time grandparent/whanau carer phenomenon in New Zealand** and use that as a tool to promote better informed policy, legislation, service delivery and outcomes for our grandparent and whanau care families in future.

Participation is voluntary and all the data and information will be, collated and stored confidentially and independently by Pukeko Research Ltd. No published or reported results will identify any of the survey participants and neither GRG or any other participating agency will have any access to any identifying information emerging from the study.

The survey will be conducted online so **please make sure GRG has your current email address**. Email office2@grg.org.nz

If you don't have an email address but would like to take part by telephone please contact us as soon as possible with your contact phone number.

The survey will take approximately one hour to complete.

Phone Kelly on 09 418 3753 or if you live outside Auckland call 0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637) and dial Ext 2 as soon as possible between 9am and 2pm weekdays.

The survey will be conducted from February to May 2016.

Happy New Year

On behalf of the GRG Board: David, Des, Di, Jo Anne, Judith and Sharon and our staff, Diana, Lisa, Kate, Kelly, Margaret and Trica, we would like to wish you a happy and prosperous 2016 and look forward to working with you all.



Grand's reflections...

The ripple down effect

Whatever happens in our families has a ripple down effect and affects different people in different ways, intentionally or not. Ages of the family come into play as well. We understand and evaluate in different ways, due to our age and indeed value's and it has been one of those days...

Grandie watched a film on captive killer whales and was so stricken by their plight that she got on-line to Greenpeace and has become our newest, resident 'Rainbow Warrior'. Grandson brought the class pet home to look after over the school holidays (a mouse), much to our cat's delight (all their Christmas's come at once) thus, for the next 6 weeks I will battle to keep them from consuming the little critter and Grandie from storming the local 'picket fence' of anglers demanding that they put those trout back! Going to make for an interesting sort of Christmas holiday....She, when her dander is up, is positively dangerous! Oh yes we are all unique.

Nighty night

Sunday night 9.30pm, so tired I just finished tucking my 9 yr old granddaughter in bed, read story and prayers till fall asleep. That's what she likes she said, going to sleep with my voice. Now I know why her friends' parents call me to pick her up when she 'supposed to have a sleep over'

Oh when do I get a break? I say a little grumpy. Then I go to my room to bed and find a little brown empty pill bottle covered with paper and hearts she drew and written on it 'friend box' hanging from my door handle. I opened it and on a little piece of 2 sided paper she wrote these precious words of love and appreciation to me her nana. Awe it is all worth it. God bless our precious grandchildren.

Nanny R



They Are Not Unknowing

I'm legal guardian/
nana to 7 grandchildren.
Aged between 15-2 years old, had them for going on 4 years now.
Parents going away Thursday and tell children they be back following Tuesday.
That was two Tuesdays ago. Excuse van broke down. I try my best not to say anything nasty of course but I know it's a lie.
The oldest one says, 'we are used to them not keeping their word, but its OK MUM' (That's what they call me)
'We know you will always be here for us'.
So I know within myself I'm doing a great job with them.

New GRG Appointment—Lisa Braid

Lisa is responsible for the delivery of GRG's support services and operations which includes the supervision, coaching and training of its Field Officers.

She has extensive experience over 15 years working in the social services and health sector for both public and private providers in roles that include in-the-field work in palliative care, mental health services, caregiver training and assessment of foster carers, service delivery management, staff management, training and policy development.

Before joining GRG in November 2015, Lisa lectured for two years with NTEC an NZQA accredited training provider on Managing Service Delivery, Finance in a Health Care Setting, Health Promotion, and Health Economics. Lisa holds a double major degree in Social Work and Education and a Post Graduate Diploma in Health Sciences majoring in Biomedical Ethics. Lisa and her partner have a young son.

We warmly welcome Lisa to our family and are thrilled she has joined us.



Can we help you?

Members ONLY services are available nationwide
Caregivers Toll free helpline
0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637)
For landline caregivers only please
New members and general information please dial ext. 1

Members' Support Manager:

Di Vivian
Auckland/free callers:
(09) 480 6530
Email Di at: office@grg.org.nz

GRG Trust NZ
PO Box 34892
Birkenhead
Auckland 0746

Suite 4 (Ground floor)
Rawene Chambers
15 Rawene Rd
Birkenhead Auckland 0626

Office Manager:
Kelly Vivian 09 418 3753
Email office2@grg.org.nz or
kelly@grg.org.nz

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or you have changed address please update your details by contacting Kelly at 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.

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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

We are respectful, we listen, we learn

He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ako mātou

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

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

We are a Charitable Trust



[Anti-bullying](#)



0800 456 450



Give a Little for GRG

<https://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/grg>

www.powertoprotect.net.nz



SUPPORT GROUP CONTACT NUMBERS

Locality	Name	Phone	E-mail Address
Ashburton **	Margaret Mason	03 308 0190	margaretmason1010@gmail.com
Auckland East **	Tess Gould-Thorpe	09 535 6903	pan@xnet.co.nz
Auckland North **	Bonnie Williams	09 473 9055	willingclan@xtra.co.nz
Auckland South **	Virginia Peebles	09 277 7514	
Auckland West **	Debbie Hall	09 818 7828	debron@xtra.co.nz
Auckland Papakura/ Pukekohe** **	Sharon Warne	0274194777	warneysvision@hotmail.com
Canterbury **	Veronica Brunt	03 942 5935	r.v.brunt@paradise.net.nz
Dannevirke**	Malcolm Johnson	06 3740407	
Dargaville **	Sandy Zimmer	09 439 4420	sandy.zimmer@hotmail.com
Gisborne **			
Hamilton **	Pat Davis	0226007672	hamilton111.grg@gmail.com
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Nelson **	Paula Eggers	03 544 5714	paulaeggers2000@yahoo.com.au
Otago Est/Nth *	Aad & Leonie	03 465 1764	omaandopa@xtra.co.nz
Palmerston North*	Martha Taonui-Andrews	0272662653	marthataonuians@xtra.co.nz
Papamoa *	Rawinia Macredie	07 562 2850	jnmacredie@kinect.co.nz
Porirua Wellington **	Lise Maru	04 477 9445	lise.maru@clear.net.nz
Rotorua **	Sheree McKenzie	020 402 22910	rotoruagrg@gmail.com
Taumarunui **	Ruth Sandiford Phelan	027 757 8097	ruthsp@email.com
Taupo *	Viv Needham	07 378 1811	viv.maree@gmail.com
Tauranga	Karen Ormsby	07 579 3571	jewelzs@hotmail.com
Te Kuiti **	Kay Higgins	027 430 2939	palmdrive@xtra.co.nz
Tokoroa *	Jo Gregory	027 862 5538	tokoroagrg@gmail.com
Upper Hutt **	Margaret Pearson	04 976 9475	maggiemagpie@paradise.net.nz
Wairarapa **	Tere Lenihan	06 379 5407	terel@swscc.org.nz
Wanganui **	Jenny Morton	027 443 7780	jaydeez@clear.net.nz
Wellington **	Cecilee Donovan	04 477 0632	cecileed@gmail.com
Whakatane **	Shirley Faulkner	07 308 8524	shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz
Whangarei **	Janet Puriri	09 435 0044	

For the most up to date contact details please go to our website www.grg.org.nz

If you are a grandparent or whanau caregiver and need a referral to one of our Field Officers please call 0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637) or if you are in Auckland please call 09 480 6530