



NEWSLETTER August-September 2018

DATABASE: 7891 WHANAU CARERS

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



Key Dates to Note:

Unsupported Child / Orphan's Benefit Recipients

Extraordinary Care Fund—Next Round

The next round for applications to be made to the Extraordinary Care Fund opens on 17 September and **closes on 19 October 2018**

The Grant notification date is **1 December 2018**. If you are a carer raising a child or children with the support of the Unsupported Child or Orphan's Benefit, we encourage you to apply for this fund for the extra costs associated with providing support for the child/ren in your care.

Please see our [website guide here](#) or for a pdf of the guidelines follow the links or [click here](#).

The [MSD website](#) also has information on eligibility for the grants and key information you need to know. [<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/extraordinary-care-fund.html#null>]

Applications can be made for up to \$2,000 per year per child. Recent changes to the grant criteria means that for grants for activities up to \$1,000 are automatically approved, provided the costs for which you are seeking assistance is covered within the criteria of the fund.

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An [application form can be downloaded here or on our website at \[www.grg.org.nz\]\(http://www.grg.org.nz\)](#) or for the digital version of this newsletter you can also click the picture below:



Kate's Take... **From the CEO's Desk this Month**

Some of you may be wondering just where your August newsletter went—and if it went missing in the post? No it didn't, I assure you.

Although at times we were so stretched these past two months (with over 160 new members joining GRG in that time bringing our total membership to just under 4,000 member families nationwide), that I sometimes despaired as to whether we would find the time to get this issue out to you! It has been all hands on deck with our National Support Office team flat out responding to new member support needs.

A special mention at this point must go to our indefatigable Tricia Corin. As our Specialist Advocate on Financial Support and Benefits entitlements, Tricia has been working extremely hard for members as always, to address the financial support needs of our new and existing clients dealing with Work and Income.

Sadly, in amongst it though, Tricia tragically lost her much loved brother [Kevin Corin, an experienced motorsport photographer who died in a freak accident at Hanmer Springs](#) earlier this month in which a rally car spun off the track.

On behalf of all of us we extend Tricia and her family our heartfelt condolences and sorrow for their loss at this very sad time for them all.

Support Group Check-in

If you are reading this email in print now, you will probably notice that although it is later than usual, it is a little thicker this time. With four extra pages this edition for August-September it gives us the opportunity to feature the many heroes in our midst and the work they do on the [GRG Support Group Check-in pages](#).

Our local volunteer Support Group Coordinators do marvellous work with our members throughout the country and they are the life-blood of GRG and its work advocating

for and empowering members in their lives, in every way they can.

They provide support, advice, friendship, laughs and compassion for what so many of you experience with the highs and lows involved in parenting your mokopuna and tamariki. Many of our Support Coordinators have also become experienced and strong advocates fronting up to the local WINZ or Oranga Tamariki office providing one-to-one support or advocacy for members when they need it most to ensure that they get the financial or professional support they are entitled to. In other circumstances it is just to be there as a support person at family group conferences or at the Family Court.

Some of our Support Groups hold regular information and educational meetings with external speakers on many and varied topics of interest. Organised whanau outings and family days are also a social extension of the group, ensuring that carers and families are not isolated and alone on their path.



If you haven't joined a Support Group in your area yet, or you haven't had the opportunity to connect with your local Coordinator even if for telephone advice; please check out pages 6, 7 and 12 for further information and get in touch with your local Support Coordinator.

If there isn't one in your area, but you would like further support, please don't hesitate to call our National Support Office on 0800 472 637 or 09 418 3753 to speak to one of our National Support Office team.

Introducing Kate Mace

This month we are delighted to welcome the newest member of our National Support team; **Kate Mace our Outreach Community Advocate.**

Kate has worked in a variety of roles as a social worker and case manager since 2002, including health, care and protection and education.

Most recently she has been working for Barnados and the Ministry of Education as a facilitator with the Intensive Wraparound service, working with children and their families with learning and behavioural needs across school, home and community.

Kate holds a Bachelor of Arts (History and Political Science) (2000) and a Graduate Diploma in Social Work with Distinction from the University of Canterbury (2002).

As a Mum to two young children, the move to GRG combines an opportunity to work in an area she is passionate about with a role that is close to home and family orientated. Kate is excited to be part of the team providing advocacy and support to GRG's members. She works in the National Support Office in Auckland, Mon-Thurs 9am-2pm but is available by referral through the National Support Office to provide advice and/or advocacy for members nationwide.

Parenting Support and Education

Recently I caught up with Raewyn Mortensen, the Parenting Place's Toolbox and Family Coaching Manager. A few years ago the Grandparenting Toolbox DVD set and Guide was put together in a joint initiative between GRG and the Parenting Place. These DVDs are no longer being produced, but we have a box with around 70 of these still available in our office, including the Guide if you are a member interested in obtaining a copy? Email us with your name and address on Office@grg.org.nz for a copy to be sent to you.

We are planning new initiatives for you to develop your learning as a carer to complement our existing [SALT 4 Caregivers™](#) workshop programme and build upon the Grandparents Toolbox programme.

In the meantime, we encourage you to visit the [Parenting Place's website](#) for a full list of their [courses and options](#) that are also available.

[Space for you and your baby](#) (available in Auckland and Wellington) has recently joined the Parenting Place and they are encouraging any grandparents or whanau carers caring for newborns and infants in the first year to get in touch and learn about what supports and learning programmes are available.

Family Justice Law Reform Review

It is a perennial problem that has existed for at least as long as GRG as an organisation has been advocating for the needs and interests of grandparent carers.

Legal aid and equitable access to justice!

Not a day goes by in our office, that we don't learn of the extremely challenging circumstanc-

es being faced by another grandparent or whanau carer who has stepped up to provide someone else's child or several children with a safe, secure and loving home in traumatic circumstances. Most often the circumstances involve parents incapable of parenting their children because of drug abuse (76% of our members), neglect, family violence, inability to cope, alcohol abuse or mental illness.

But while those traumatic circumstances leading to the children being placed in their grandparents care ought to be the beginning of the healing process for the children especially —unfortunately so many grandparents are expected to go it alone with little support for their role as the carers of these children as parents on a benefit battle it out in the Family Court on legal aid (with no prospect of ever paying it back), while the grandparent must fund their own case. Usually they are not eligible for legal aid or if they are, they face statutory legal aid charges against their homes to repay the cost of any defence after the fact.

In many cases we also hear of grandparents paying tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees from their retirement savings or earnings.

It is always a case of competing interests, motivations and agenda when a dispute over the care of a child comes before the court. But too often there is an imbalance and there isn't an equitable and equal access to justice for all.

The **2014 reforms to the Family Court** made significant changes to the family justice system including introducing Family Dispute Resolution and removing lawyers from the early stages of some Family Court proceedings.

The Minister of Justice appointed an Independent Panel in August to review these reforms and tasked them with examining the effectiveness of the 2014 family justice reforms.

In particular the **Terms of Reference** for the Review include: considering the extent to which the family justice system: a) is child-centred and provides the services necessary to ensure the child's welfare and best interests are paramount; b) is accessible, with consideration of barriers to access including financial, disability, cultural, linguistic, geographic, and institutional (such as the lack of information about how the system works and its purpose).

To read the full [Terms of Reference please click here](#) or go to the [Ministry of Justice's website](#) and to read the background consultation paper

titled [“Have Your Say on the Family Justice System”](#) [click here](#). [Note: All of these links are also accessible from our www.GRG.org.nz home page].

The Panel **wants to hear the experiences of grandparents and caregivers** who have used the family justice system to understand **what is working** and **what can be improved** and we encourage you to take this opportunity.

To make a submission, you can submit your feedback by completing this [online submission form](#). It is an online version of the consultation paper that lets you fill in your answers as you go.

You can also share your story with the Independent Panel using the [Korero Mai \(Tell Us Your Story\) online tool](#). It does not ask any specific questions – and you can share with them whatever you want to. You can do this as well as, or instead of, responding to the questions in the consultation paper and online submission form.

Alternatively, you can write your own submission and email it to FamilyJusticeReforms@justice.govt.nz. We would recommend that you read the Terms of Reference document and look at the online submission form to help you tailor your submission to ensure that it is relevant to the scope of the Panel’s review.

The Panel have also asked GRG if we have any members who would be willing to talk to the panel on these issues at the following locations. They are limited to 1-2 members in each area so please email CEO@grg.org.nz with your name, contact details and the location below if you are interested in this opportunity.

- Gisborne (Fri 5 October)
- Hamilton (Mon 8 October)
- Napier (Tue 9 October)
- Wellington (Thu 18 and Fri 19 October)
- Invercargill (Tue 23 October)
- Christchurch (Thu 25 October)
- Nelson (Fri 26 October)
- Kaitaia (Mon 29 October)

We will be meeting with the panel on 31 October in Auckland to make a submission on behalf of GRG. If you are an Auckland based grandparent/whanau care member of GRG and would like to talk to us about this please get in contact with me on Kate@grg.org.nz.

Flying the flag for GRG!

Women’s Suffrage is celebrating 125 years since NZ women first got the vote and on Saturday 22nd September, Shirley Afoa and Anne Doddrell, our Papakura and Pukekohe Support Coordinators took part in the Pukekohe celebrations.

Taking part in the small Expo they flew the flag for GRG with pamphlets and newsletters and answered lots of questions from those who stopped by to discuss their concerns or circumstances as carers.

At 1:00pm there was a parade down the Main Street in which together with Shirley and Anne were two of Shirley’s granddaughters and Anne and Richard’s grandson Luke (in the red shirt in the photo below) also took part.



Support Group Events Coming Up

Pukekohe/Papakura Support Group FUN DAY

3 October 2018 – St Marys Church Hall, Papakura 10.30am to 2pm

All Grandparents and Grandchildren are welcome. Bring a plate for a shared lunch please.

There’s a bouncy castle and other activities for the kids.

A great chance to meet other Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in your area.

Southland Support Group—24 October 2018 10.00am—12.00pm

The Brainwave Trust is presenting the ‘Adolescent Years’ as the group’s guest speaker at 183 Spey Street Invercargill. All members welcome. Don’t miss this vital opportunity to learn about the teenage brain and how to better understand the teens in your care.



Carers Alliance Caring about Continence

Continence issues affect 1.1 million New Zealanders.

That is one in four New Zealanders, of all ages and all walks of life affected by bladder and/or bowel problems.

The physical, emotional, and financial impact can be devastating for people living with incontinence and the World Health Organisation has recognised it as a major health issue worldwide.

The financial cost for urinary incontinence has been estimated at 3,565 US dollars per year per person.

Carers NZ want to hear from you and your families, to help put together a national strategy for action to help health agencies to formulate ways to offer better solutions for New Zealanders.

During the months of September/October, information is being gathered by Carers NZ on how it affects people and their families in New Zealand.

If incontinence issues affects you or your family, please take the time to participate in the survey by clicking the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/incontinencesurveynz>



Did you know that there are approximately, **48,669 boys aged between 7-14 years of age living in solo parent families in New Zealand?**

Around 8,030 of them have no contact at all with their father.

Big Buddy is a registered charitable organisation that “works on the simple philosophy that boys develop more courage and confidence in their lives when they have a positive male role model to learn from”, and who can support them to become well rounded men.

“**Big Buddy** believes boys learn through modelling and while there are many exceptions, in general terms, a boy without a male role model to assist his development can be inherently at risk.”

The Big Buddy mentor commits to spend 2-3 hours a week with a boy or adolescent (Little Buddy, aged 7-14) for at least a year, and the Big Buddy vision is that this will grow to a life-long relationship.

Big Buddy currently operates in Auckland, Wellington and Hamilton and they encourage any grandparents that could benefit from having a mentor for their boy to get in touch with them.

For further information on their mentor programme, criteria and selection process please see their website at www.bigbuddy.org.nz or you can also click on the link here to a [PDF information sheet](#).



Contacts:

Central Auckland: Steve Sobota—09 828 1358 ext 2 or 0274 509 729 or steve@bigbuddy.org.nz
North/West Auckland: Martin Hosking—09 828 1358 ext 4 or 027 207 8662 or martin@bigbuddy.org.nz
South/East Auckland: Nic Heywood—09 828 1358 ext 3 or 021 593 515 or nic@bigbuddy.org.nz
Waikato: Andrew McFadden—07 847 0447 or 027 575 7214 or andrew.mcfadden@bigbuddy.org.nz
Wellington: Dave Burcher—04 384 4888 or 027 573 4888 or dave@bigbuddy.org.nz

GRG Support Group Check-in

Please note: the listings for our Support Groups below is not an exhaustive list of all our groups. Please see page 12 for the full list of our GRG Support Groups and Support Coordinators throughout New Zealand.

Kaitaia & Kerikeri

Meets: First Friday of the month during school terms @ 10.30am-12.00pm

Contact: C/- Martha Taonui 0220507056 or jamcleaner@gmail.com for one to one support including telephone support and advice and advocacy on a range of issues including WINZ matters and accessing support for families.

Dargaville

Meets: Monthly **At:** Dargaville Boating Club—Back of the BP Service Station overlooking the Northern Wairoa River

Contact: Sandy Zimmer on 09 4394420 or sandy.zimmer@hotmail.com for support group meetings Telephone support and meeting, workshops for members, Emergency Outreach/crisis support for members, Advocacy for WINZ & Court. We have a shared lunch at noon and our meetings include sharing of information eg. counselling available, parenting courses; community events, Mini Workshop using the GRG Toolbox to instigate discussion and learning through video and worksheets.

New Lynn

Meets: 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 10am
At: 9 Binsted Road, New Lynn

Contact: Robyn Robertson on 021 309 365 or stgeorge@maxnet.co.nz for telephone support and support group meetings, whanau outings, events and workshops for members.

Papakura/Pukekohe

Meets: Alternately in Papakura and Pukekohe

Contact: Shirley Afoa on 021 129 4151 or shirleyafoa@hotmail.com or Anne Doddrell on 09 237 8161 or anne.doddrell@gmail.com for telephone support and support group meetings, whanau outings, events and workshops for members.

Waiuku

Meets: Every first and third Friday of the month @ 10.00am to 12.00pm

At: Waiuku War Memorial Town Hall, Corner Queen & Victoria Avenues, Waiuku

Contact: Marie Heta on 021 1118397 or dm.heta@xtra.co.nz for telephone support and meetings, Whanau outings and events, Emergency Outreach/crisis support for members

Whangarei

Meets: First Friday of the month during school terms @ 10.30am-12.00pm

At: Anglican Care Centre, Corner of Mill Rd and Deveron St.

Contact: C/- Janet Puriri on 09 435 0044 or Lianne on grg.whangarei@gmail.com for support group meetings. Koha for morning tea. Donations of garden produce and good used children's clothing appreciated.

West Auckland

Meets: 3rd Thursday of the month (excl Jan) @ 10am

At: 267 Glengarry Road
Glen Eden (the hall is under the Terrance Kennedy resthome) parking in the Salvation Army car park

Contact: Debbie Hall on 09 818 7828 or debron@xtra.co.nz for telephone support and support group meetings, whanau outings, events and workshops for members.

East Auckland

Meets: Last Monday of the month during school terms
At: Dunkirk Road Activity, Centre, 50 Dunkirk Road, Panmure, (09) 570 5539

Contact: Tess Gould-Thorpe Hall on 09 535 6903 or theresagouldthorpe@gmail.com for a friendly welcoming group of grandparents/kincarers sharing experiences and relevant information in a relaxed and confidential setting over morning tea with Gloria's glorious scones. Telephone support and meetings, Whanau outings and events, Emergency Outreach/crisis support for members, Clothing, furniture, and available opportunities, for members.

Hamilton

Meets: Last Monday of the month @ 10.00am
At: 58 Palmerston st (Beside Parentline)
Hamilton.

Contact: Pat Davis on 07 855 0530 or Hamilton@grg.org.nz for telephone support and meetings, Whanau outings and events, Emergency Outreach/crisis support for members. Guest speakers are often in attendance. RSVP is always required for catering purposes and facility chairs to be set out.

Coffee Groups

We also have a number of Coffee Groups throughout the country. Please see the [Local Support tab](#) on our website at www.grg.org.nz for more information.

New Support Groups

If you are interested in setting up a new Support Group in your area, please contact the GRG National Support Office on 09 418 3753 or email us at office@grg.org.nz for more information.

Te Kuiti

Meets: 3rd Wednesday of the month
@ 10am At: Tiffany's Café, Rora St, Te Kuiti
Contact: Kay Higgins on 027 430 2939 or palmdrive@xtra.co.nz for telephone support and informal support group meetings with lots of interesting chatter and laughter!

Taranaki

Meets: We are a new group and look forward to welcoming members in the area, so please get in touch for more information on venue and times.
Contact: Lorraine McLaren on 027 520 1144 or mclarenclan7@gmail.com for telephone and support meetings, Whanau outings, events and workshops for members.

Tauranga

Meets: We are currently without a venue for meetings, but please get in touch if you are a member in the Tauranga area and would like to meet up.
Contact: Karen Ormsby on 0212255108 or jewelzs@hotmail.com for telephone support and advice.

Opotiki

Meets: We are a relatively new group and look forward to welcoming members in the area, so please get in touch for more information on meeting opportunities or for support.
Contact: Sophie Wilson-Kahika on 07 262 5136 or wsophie71@yahoo.co.nz for telephone support, advice and support meetings, as needed in Opotiki and the Kawerau area.

Whanganui

Meets: On the 3rd Saturday of the month @1-4pm
At: Venues change so please contact Jenny.
Contact: Jenny Morton on 06 344 3656 or 027 443 7780 or jenidee65@gmail.com for telephone support and support group meetings, whanau outings, events and workshops for members.

Wellington & Kapiti

Meets: Usually on the 3rd Friday of the month
At: Johnsonville Community Centre or the Kapiti Community Centre
Contact: Cecilee Donovan on 04 477 0632 or cecileed@gmail.com for meeting times and venue or for telephone support, Whanau outings and events, Workshops for members and Emergency Outreach/crisis support

Waimate

Meets: We are a new group and look forward to welcoming members in the area; so please get in touch for more information on venue and times.
Contact: Margaret Pink on 03 434 7233 or B.Pink@xtra.co.nz for telephone and support meetings, Whanau outings, events and workshops for members.

Te Awamutu

Meets: 2nd Monday of the month @ 9.30-11.30am
At: TA or Kihikihi—contact Ruth for venue
Contact: Ruth Gilling on TeAwamutu@grg.org.nz or 022 045 4475 for telephone support, assistance with WINZ, Schools etc and support group meetings, whanau outings, events and workshops for members.

Rotorua

Meets: Monthly
Contact: Anne Donnell 020 402 22910 or rotoruagrg@gmail.com for support group meetings Telephone support and meeting, workshops for members, Emergency Outreach/crisis support for members and support on WINZ and Court matters.

Papamoa/Te Puke

Meets: First Monday of the month @ 10.30-11.30am (or longer as required)
At: The Empowerment Centre, Jocelyn Street, Te Puke
Contact: Rawinia Macredie on 07 562 2850 or jnmacredie@kinect.co.nz for telephone support and meetings.

Napier

Meets: First Friday of the month @10:30am
At: the Napier RSA Dining Room
Contact: Rozane Duncan on 06 8340905 or charleez06@xtra.co.nz for telephone support and informal get together support group meetings and Watties staff sales.

Manawatu

Meets: First Tuesday of the first month @10:00am or First Thursday at 6pm in alternate months.
At: Old Public Trust office, next to the Library entrance, The Square Palmerston North.
Contact: Jacqui Phillips on 021 299 0455 or jacqui@vraservices.co.nz for telephone support and support group meetings, whanau outings, events and workshops for members.

Motueka

Meets: Fortnightly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month
At: St Andrew's church lounge, 64 High Street, Motueka.
Contact: Rankeilor Arnott on 03 528 5089 or motuekaarnotts@gmail.com for Telephone support and meetings, Whanau outings and events Workshops for members and Emergency Outreach/crisis support for members. Some meetings we have organised speakers and other meetings are sharing and caring among the Grandparents.

Southland / Invercargill

Meets: Fortnightly on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month @ 10.00
At: 183 Spey Street (FamilyWorks)
Contact: Lynette Nielsen on 03 216 0411 or invercargillgrg@gmail.com for telephone support and meetings, whanau outings and events, workshops for members and emergency outreach/crisis support for members.



I've been thinking...

Diane Vivian, Founding Trustee

Knock, knock, can I come in?

So lovely to visit you today, yes you. Pop on the kettle and let's have a cuppa. I am visiting you today for a very special reason, I just want to say how wonderful you are, yes YOU.

You may say why? I'm not special, but indeed you are! I know just how special and wonderful you are as I have known you for a long time. 'Pass the milk please...'

Have you heard the saying, love can overcome all? Well you epitomise that and I just want to acknowledge how powerful that is particularly in our raising circumstances. It can take one to the depths of despair and raise one to the highest heights. Not award winning stuff, (although God knows you deserve it) but a deep soul touching height. But in reality it just does not quite cut the mustard. Yes it will give our wee ones grounding and values and make them feel accepted and loved . BUT.....

Some of you have experienced life changing situations that would challenge the strongest of characters, many of which would throw their hands in the air and say, 'I give up' BUT not you. 'What do you mean'? (I see your quizical look) I shall explain.

When this raising situation comes knocking at your door, many are shocked, some expecting it and some not surprised, but from there you enter unsheltered waters, often knowing not what to expect, where to turn. You may have Social Workers involved, many do not. Your whole world is turned upside down, but you have a thinking, rational adult brain. Not so the children who need you. Your nurturing nature comes into play, they are your main focus now, as it should be....but....

Very quickly comes reality. Traumatized children, access visits, financial worries, Lawyers, Court, harassment, threats in some cases, Social Workers dictating what you can

and cannot do with the wee ones. Family dynamics can spiral out of control (not just from the parents of these children either), one becomes tired and unsure of where to turn, and others judge you, but help is there. One just needs to know that the help is right, factual and concise. One is beginning to spin with the enormity of all of this. And it is enormous!

Then happens the cold hard facts, it comes at a time when one is struggling with it all. Some sell their homes and downgrade so they have money to pay legal fees as they were not able to access Legal Aid. Others can, but they either have caveats put on their homes or are required to pay this back with interest. Some cannot access anything and go into huge debt. Many use the new system to represent themselves and we stand in awe, but for many this is just too much. We understand. Some are uprooted to move to another area for safety reasons. Some have been evicted from their rentals, due to overcrowding with extra children and having to rent bigger residences at an astronomical cost. Others are unjustly turned down for financial help from MSD. Some partners leave due to the stress of the situation and sadly some die. Ongoing stress from birth parents trying to take you back to Court time and time again or threatening to do so. Rampant drug issues with the parents are frightening. Many stealing from the family home and the wee ones at access visits. To appear in Court against your own child you gave birth to and loved is an extremely hard thing to do.

May I give some solace to settle your soul? "They are the adult. They have a voice and a choice. The wee children have no voice or no choice, so you must be their voice."

What an emotional roller coaster.

Dealing with wee and not so wee children/ young people who are volatile, violent, stealing, acting out, showing sexualised behaviours, ADHD. RAD, PTSD and many other

conditions, which lead to expensive therapy, or if one is lucky free via Community (hard to find). Some are dealing with special needs children and others with severe special needs, blind, deaf, tube fed, paraplegic, loss of limb's and severely mentally unwell children. Children who are suffering the effects of substance abuse either before birth or after. Police are often involved in our lives and indeed the children's lives.

Many of you have lost all your savings, retirement savings and indeed some; their jobs, but you do this, you do all of this for the children who need you so desperately.

Grief is also an important part of this whole equation. Death of your child via medical, accident, murder or suicide also plays a part. Grief of what one expected of their own child to become, a great Mum or Dad to their child. To be a normal grand/whanau with all the joys. But sadly in our circumstances this was not to be. Grief of your past life and what was to be all play an important part. Not only must you take care of your grief issues but also the grief for the children you raise.

Now let's filter this down to the children we care for under all of the above pressures. So many of these children due to past experiences have issues, some are excluded/stood down from school. Yes even in primary school, carers have to fight the school system for teachers' aides and other speciality services or help. For medical treatment, hospital visits, therapy visits, not to mention all the extracurricular activities. No wonder we think you are just wonderful.

So whatever you see in my thinking to a lesser or greater degree, please know we are in awe of you for all you do. You are simply wonderful and indeed our hero's. We salute you and honour you. Well done YOU! I awhi you and wrap my arms around you and whisper, you are

just so special. Thank you for letting me visit and you make fabulous scones!

I See You

I see you running your child to therapy, when the others are off to football practice or ballet;

I see you slipping out of the conversation when your friends are all chiming in about their child's milestones and grades;

I see you constantly juggling appointments and meetings;

I see you sitting at your computer for hours, researching what you can do to help your child;

I see you cringe when you hear people moan about what seems like petty trivial things;

I see you spread thin, but still going the extra mile for your family, day after day;

I see you digging for depths of strength you never thought you had;

I see you showing appreciation to the teachers, therapists and medical professionals who serve your child, and support you;

I see you rising early in the morning to do it all again after another hectic

night;

I see you hanging onto the end of your rope for dear life;

I know you feel invisible like no one notices any of it, but I want you to know I notice you;

I see you relentlessly pushing onwards, even when it seems impossible;

I see you keep choosing to do everything in your power to give this child everything you can, always;

What you're doing matters, it's worth it;

On those days where you wonder if you can do it another minute, I want you to know I see you, and you're beautiful!

I want you to know you aren't alone, I want you to know love is what matters most, and you have that nailed!

And on those days you have breakthroughs, those times when the hard work pays off and success is yours to cherish, I see you then too, and I'm proud of you!

Whichever day today is, you're worthy, you're good and I see you!

- Author unknown



A 5yr Old Recognizes her Personality Problem!

Miss 5, our very active, impulsive and volatile granddaughter, has from a very early age been prone to fly into rages and become physical to say the least.

We used time-out to cool off as the strategy to help her work on her problem. She got to the stage where when she felt rage coming on she would go to the bottom step of the stairs and work on calming down.

When she had calmed down we found she easily escalated again so we had a timer there marked at the two minute mark so that she could further cool off.

We found that a further cooling down period made the remedy last and there was no further escalation once she left time out. This is not a time-out lesson.

She now tells us when she feels angry and she certainly looks it but in general she doesn't tantramise or hit us anymore.

The other day she overheard mention of personality problems as part of adult conversation.

As per usual she put in her two cents worth and it was funny. "I have a personality problem," she said. "I get angry." Wow. Both awareness and humility!

- GRG member

Quotable Quotes on Grandparenting

Perfect love sometimes does not come until the first grandchild.

Welsh Proverb

Becoming a grandmother is wonderful. One moment you're just a mother. The next you are all-wise and prehistoric.

Pam Brown



God couldn't be everywhere, so he made grandparents!

Anon

[Grand]parenting is a constant battle between going to bed to catch up on some sleep or staying awake to finally get some alone time.

Anon

This one, we know is definitely one you can relate to if you are a GRG!

On the seventh day God rested. His grandchildren must have been out of town!

Gene Perret

If you have a story from your grandparenting/kin care journey you'd like to share in our Grand's Reflection, please email us at Admin@grg.org.nz.



Please be alert if not for the children you raise but others who visit. A member writes:

"I left him at home aged 16 and allowed one mate then another arrived, he raided my medicine cupboard and took 6 co-deine tabs and drank all the cough mixture.

Found him on floor vomiting and towels covered in red vomit. DEAR GOD HE COULD HAVE DIED!!! Please be cautious about any medication being left around, we do not know who our charges associate with. With this illegal drugs epidemic, one must be very alert. Lock them away. Needless to say, this kid of 16 will be banned from our home."

Give a little to GRG via our secure DPS payment system on our website at www.grg.org.nz or at <https://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/grg>



Thank you for your support for GRG!

Can we help you?

Members ONLY services are available nationwide
Caregivers Toll free helpline
0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637)

New members and general information please call
0800 472 637 or 09 418 3753
or join via our [website at www.grg.org.nz](http://www.grg.org.nz)

Office Administrator:
09 418 3753
Email: Dana@grg.org.nz
Or office@grg.org.nz

GRG Trust NZ
PO Box 34892
Birkenhead
Auckland 0746

National Support Office
Unit C
Chelsea Business Park
162 Mokoia Road
Birkenhead Auckland 0626

Chief Executive:
Kate Bundle 027 2446763
Email: kate@grg.org.nz

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or you have changed address please update your details by contacting the GRG Trust Office as this is where the total mail out membership is kept.

Moved home or planning to? Be sure to let us know.

Disclaimer: Opinions or views expressed in this newsletter shall be understood as reflecting those of the author as quoted and are not to be taken as given or endorsed by GRG.

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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

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

www.grg.org.nz



Thank you to our Community Partner— Suncorp and to our generous Sponsors, Funders and private donors supporting GRG's Support Services, Information Resources and Carer Education programmes throughout New Zealand, including this newsletter.





GRG Support Group Contact Details

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Waitakere**	Debbie Hall	Palmerston North**	Jacqui Phillips
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