



NEWSLETTER October 2018

DATABASE: 7963 WHANAU CARERS

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

Are you raising someone else's child?

Around 70% of our members are raising their grandchildren with the support of the Unsupported **Child Benefit**. But we are still coming across members, grandparents and whānau caregivers who have incorrectly been told they don't qualify or mistakenly believe they are not entitled to this support.

If you are raising someone else's child because of a family breakdown then you are entitled to apply for this support. The UCB is a **non-taxable benefit** for the support of the child and is not affected by the caregiver's personal income or assets.

If you are not receiving this support but would like to know if you qualify, please contact us on 09 418 3753 or 0800 472 637 for a referral to our Specialist Advocate, Tricia Corin to find out more.

All our services are free.

Important Changes to Extraordinary Care Fund and Social Security Legislation. See [page 4](#) for more information.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ—Board of Trustees Announcement

Diane Vivian QSO, announced her resignation from the Board of Trustees of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ, effective Monday 15 October 2018 to the Board, and on the organisation's Facebook page. She announced her resignation to pursue other opportunities.

"As a Board we would like to recognise the invaluable contribution that Di Vivian has made to those



Inside this issue

Page

Are you raising someone else's child? GRG Trust NZ - Announcement	1
Kate's Take—from the CEO's desk this month	2
• Family Justice Review—Update	3
• Kidzacoool School Holiday Camps	3
Tricia Corin—Advocating for you!	4
Grand's Reflections	5
Can We Help You?	6
Support Group Contacts and Meeting Times	7-8

grandparents and kin carers raising grandchildren in New Zealand. With her relentless passion and commitment to those grandparents, she gathered around her those who shared her vision, from the grass roots to the political heights. She educated many as to the plight of those unrecognised and often struggling but vital grandparents and kin carers of our nation's children.

Di will be missed by us all but she leaves the organisation's team knowing that the Board, Management, Service Delivery Staff and Volunteers of GRG will continue her legacy and pursue with a passion and heart, the purpose of GRG," says Trust Chair, Jo-Anne Thomas.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ provides support services, information, advocacy, advice and carer education workshops and programmes to over 4500 grandparent and whānau care families nationwide; focused on enabling them to achieve positive life outcomes for the children and young people in their care in circumstances where the children are not being raised by their parents.



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

It has been a busy month for the National Support Office including training with our wonderful team of staff and volunteer Support Group Coordinators. Diane Vivian QSO also announced her resignation from the Board of Trustees to pursue other opportunities. It is a credit to her vision that GRG is where it is today and we remain committed to embracing her vision for you all in our support services and programmes going forward. As GRG's founder, Di will of course always be special to GRG and on behalf of us all we wish her well with much gratitude and aroha.

Volunteer Coordinators and Staff Training

Over the course of two most enjoyable training days in Auckland and Wellington, we had some excellent speakers and a comprehensive programme covering a range of topical issues including grief, trauma and informed care, Oranga Tamariki and their progress towards a more child-centred and focused approach to care and tips for developing a good relationship with your grandchild/tamariki's school to ensure the best support and outcomes and income support issues and updates.

Tricia Hendry's presentation on grief and loss in the grandparent care context was exceptional. For information on Tricia Hendry see her website at www.triciahendry.com. Many of her articles and books are also published by [Skylight](http://www.skylight.co.nz), which is an excellent resource for anyone needing help coping with grief, loss and anxiety with a huge library of helpful publications and a range of counselling, programmes and workshops accessible throughout New Zealand.

A big thank you to our speakers from Barnardos, the Grief Centre and Oranga Tamariki and to Tricia Hendry, Janet Glenn from Onslow College and our very own Tricia Corin for their contribution to deepening our understanding and enhancing our learning with tools and strategies to better support our grandparent and whanau care families.

Our specialist on all things related to benefits and income support, has a column this month

on page 4, with a timely update on the rewrite of the Social Security Act and a reminder on the eligibility criteria for the UCB.

While in Wellington for training, Lisa Braid (GRG Operations Manager) and I also met with Fostering Kids' Chief Executive, Linda Surtees who is also the Chair of the Extraordinary Care Fund Panel. Following her recent meetings with the Ministry for Social Development advocating for improvements; we have some exciting news about changes and improvements to the ECF applications and grants process that have been agreed by the Ministry. This is covered in Tricia Corin's column on page 4.

Support Group Changes

Last month, for the first time, we included all the available information on meeting times and venues for our local support groups. The response to this initiative has been unanimously positive with requests to include it in each newsletter with updates (as applicable) going forward as many more of you have come along to support groups for the first time. You will see on [pages 7 and 8](#) we have reformatted the contacts list for all our groups and included our local Coffee Groups for your reference.

Thank you to Aroha Rudkin, Dianah Roberts, Deb Hall, Karen Ormsby, Lise Maru and Val Brown

From time to time the circumstances of our volunteers and the local areas and groups change, and it is timely for us to acknowledge and extend a huge thank you on behalf of the Trust and members to our coordinators: **Aroha Rudkin** (SGC Taumaranui—2 yrs), **Deb Hall** (SGC Waitakere—7 years), **Karen Ormsby** (SGC Tauranga—4 years) and **Lise Maru** (SGC Porirua—4 years) who have recently retired from their roles as Support Group Coordinators and to **Dianah Roberts** (SGC Kaitia—4 years and Kaiwaka—2years) and **Val Brown** (North Shore 6 months) whose groups have recently become Coffee Groups. Please see [page 8](#) for Dianah's contact number and [page 5](#) for details on Val's North Shore Coffee Group's new meeting time and venue.

Thank you all on behalf of everyone at GRG for your hard work, commitment and compassionate support for so many our members in your local communities over the past several years and our best wishes for the future.



Family Justice

Independent Review of 2014 Reforms

Last month, I wrote about the current review of the Family Court and in particular the 2014 Reforms which introduced changes to the way in which disputes are to be resolved, including referrals to Parenting Through Separation (PTS) and mediation through the Family Dispute Resolution Service (FDS) for cases that are not urgent or need to be considered with orders made without notice first being given to the other party.

The changes also involved a removal of lawyers from the initial stages. The intent of these changes was to try to reduce costs, delays, legal costs for the parties and to promote resolution of disputes in a mediation forum instead of proceeding to a defended hearing in which the adversarial approach to cases necessarily involves a contest with parties defending positions and focused on countering the other party's claims.

Unfortunately the reforms haven't worked as expected and many of our members have raised concerns about the system not being focused on the wellbeing and best interests of the child and that there is also lack of access to justice and fairness. A number of our members have contacted the Independent Panel to share their stories and concerns and I also met with the Panel last week to advocate on the issues raised by members in recent years, and to make recommendations for changes. These submissions are on our website under the **What We Do/ Publications/ Submissions on Law and Policy** page, [or you can read them here.](#)

Among the recommendations made on behalf of GRG, was a proposal for a fairer approach to the cost of legal services for grandparents and whanau carers. i.e. in circumstances where the children would otherwise have needed to go into foster care, (or where a judge considers in their discretion) the legal costs for grandparents and whanau carers to obtain parenting and guardianship orders for the children they are raising should be paid for by the State. We believe it is inequitable and unjust for grandparents and whanau carers to be required to fund the legal costs (often out of retirement savings, charges against homes and loans) in order to secure the legal status of care for a child's placement when they can't be raised by their parents—who themselves

are often in receipt of legal aid with little or no prospect of ever repaying the cost of their legal aid. The Panel is due to report to the Government in about March 2019. We will keep you posted on any developments and recommendations. If you would like to know more about this review process or you would like to make a submission online or via email, please go to <https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/key-initiatives/family-court-rewrite/>. You will need to be quick as public submissions close online on **9 November 2018**. Their email is: FamilyJusticeReforms@justice.govt.nz



KidzaCool School Holiday Camps

Stand have provided this information about the upcoming School Holiday programmes which are held in their Children's Villages in Whangarei (21 beds), Auckland (Half Moon Bay), Christchurch (24 beds), Gisborne (21 beds) and Rotorua (28 beds).

The next KidzaCool camps are **between Monday 21 and Friday 25 January 2019**, with ***applications closing on Monday 26 November 2018.***

KidzaCool is a **FREE** programme available to grandparents who have had day to day care of their grandchildren for a period of one year or more.

Stand's website provides photographs of each site and information on KidzaCool on their [Region's pages.](#)

The application forms can be downloaded under their Referrals tab for completion and submission to each one of their sites [here](#), or at <https://www.standforchildren.org.nz/referrals>

Applications are usually about four weeks prior to the commencement date. **However, for the January Intake, allocation of places occurs in early December so that families can finalise their arrangements before Christmas.**

If you are wanting to take advantage of this opportunity for your grandchildren, please contact us now to get applications completed and submitted and contact us for a referral. **Applications need to include a referral agency.**

Note: Applications ask for information on children's behavioural and health needs. This is reviewed and screened to ensure safety and wellbeing, eg. absconding, high health needs. Should there be any concerns in this regard, Stand will contact the grandparent to discuss individual needs and assess risk.



Advocating for you!

Tricia Corin, GRG Specialist Advocate on Benefits and Income Support

Coming up later this month it's out with the old and in with the new. Well...almost!

The 50+ years old Social Security Act 1964 has been re-written.

The rewrite is **policy neutral and**

won't change the amount and conditions of anyone's benefits and entitlements, but it is intended to make the legislation clearer and simpler to follow. It also splits the social security legislation into three new Acts:

- the [Social Security Act 2018](#)
- the [Artificial Limb Service Act 2018](#); and
- the [Residential Care and Disability Support Services Act 2018](#).

The new Social Security Act 2018 comes into effect on 26 November 2018.

What will change is the numbering of the legislation and some detail will now be found in new regulations. Some "out-dated terms will be replaced with more inclusive language and plain English."

We have been advised by the Ministry for Social Development that under the new legislation Nurse Practitioners will be able to complete a wider range of medical and disability certificates and medical examinations for MSD. This should make things easier for clients, especially for anyone living in rural or remote areas.

There is also publicly available information to help with the new legislation. The new Act includes a [Comparative table](#) of the old and new legislation, which will help anyone find the new provisions. A Glossary of new terms is on the [MSD site](#). In the next two weeks they have advised that they will also publish a table of numbering changes on the MSD website.

These changes won't affect you as a caregiver much, but I will have to start referring to sections 46 and 47 when I talk about the **Unsupported Child Benefit (UCB)**.

Speaking of which, in my role as an Advocate for GRG members, I am still shocked at the number of grandparent and whanau caregivers who have been incorrectly advised that they are not entitled to receive the UCB, or because they are working or they have assets, they mistakenly believe that they are not entitled to receive this support for the children in their care.

If this is you, please take note:

If you are raising someone else's child because there has been a breakdown in the child's family 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 this support to help with the costs of raising the child.

The UCB is 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 NZ. 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 me on Tricia@grg.org.nz or our helpline on **0800 472 637** or call our National Support Office on 09 418 3753 for a referral to me.

UCB and Orphan's Benefit recipients are entitled to:

Weekly support payments for the child depending on their age (up to \$229.83 per week, per child), an additional weekly clothing allowance (of up to \$33.84 per week, per child), a one-off establishment grant of \$350 per child, the school and year start up payment (for all children, not just school children) payable in January each year (up to \$550 per child) and eligibility to apply for the Extraordinary Care Fund.

Changes to the Extraordinary Care Fund Criteria

The Extraordinary Care Fund provides grants of up to \$2,000 for a child showing promise in a particular area (e.g. sports or arts) or experiencing difficulties that are significantly impacting on their development and they can't get access to financial support for their needs elsewhere.

The process to apply for this assistance for this has not been easy for busy carers to manage and the Ministry have been working on some exciting improvements as follows:

1. When applying for the ECF you will no longer need to have an appointment with a Case Manager at Work and Income. You will simply be able to drop off the completed application at your local Work and Income office or post it to them.
2. You will be able to apply at any time throughout the year so that if you miss one Panel meeting your application will automatically be presented at the next meeting.
3. In some circumstances you may not be required to provide as much supporting evidence as previously required.

MSD are working toward further improvements to make the application process as user-friendly as possible and we will keep you informed. For further information please visit the Website on <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/extraordinary-care-fund.html>

Grand's reflections...

Rocking in Invercargill, Christchurch and other areas is the painted rock craze for the kids. One of our Southland Grands, Reba reports that people are painting rocks and hiding them at Queens park in the stumpery and other places around the playground for kids, nanas, mums and dads to go hunting for them. "It's so much fun. Join Invers rocks on Facebook— some people put up pics of rocks they have found



and the kids that painted them get a real thrill. I found one in the bird aviary that had come from Christchurch that got dropped in Wanaka and brought down to Invercargill. A well travelled rock! It's a good cheap wee interest and they're hidden all over Invercargill. Paint them seal them drop them!"



Grandparents bestow upon their grandchildren the strength and wisdom that time and experience have given them.

Grandchildren bless their Grandparents with a youthful vitality and innocence that help them stay young at heart forever.

Together they create a chain of love, linking the past with the future. The chain may lengthen, but it will never part..."

Author Unknown

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

North Shore GRG Members— GRG Coffee Group Update

The North Shore GRG Coffee Group is meeting up at a **NEW VENUE at Phab Clubhouse, 8 Auburn Street, Takapuna**. Best parking will be at Shore City Mall carpark. Takapuna main bus stop is nearby. Phab has a lounge area, games for pre-schoolers to play with and a kitchen.

Please bring your own coffee cup. Tea and coffee will be provided. We will be meeting on the **3rd Monday** of each month at **10.30am**.

NOVEMBER coffee group is Monday 19th November at 10:30am. Don't forget to bring your own coffee cup. Please contact **Val** on **022 0802368** for more information and for details planned for the group's Christmas party in December.



Our Annual Report 2018 has been published and is available to read online on our website on our Who We Are/Annual Policies tab along with our previous reports or you can access the PDF of it [here](#).

Give a little to GRG via our secure DPS payment system on our website at www.grg.org.nz



Thank you for your support for GRG!

or at <https://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/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.

This newsletter is subject to copyright.©

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 & Coffee Groups Nationwide

Kaitaia & Kerikeri

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

Kaikohe

Contact: Moengaroa Floyed on 09 401 3057 or floyedz@xtra.co.nz for meeting times and support.

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 telephone support, parenting and GRG Toolbox workshops for members, Emergency Outreach/crisis support for members, Advocacy for WINZ & Court.

Whangarei

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

Ruakaka

Contact: Tauser Kingi on 09 432 8611 or tauserkingi@outlook.com for meeting times and support.

West Auckland/Waitakere

Meets: 3rd Thursday of the month (exl Jan) @ 10am at: 267 Glengarry Road, Glen Eden (the hall is under the Terrance Kennedy resthome) parking in the Salvation Army car park **Contact:** Esther Price on 0212510690 or Waitakere@grg.org.nz for telephone

support and support group meetings, whanau outings, events and workshops for members.

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.

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/kinerers 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.

South Auckland

Contact: Virginia Peebles on 09 277 7514 or SouthAuckland@grg.org.nz for support.

Papakura/Pukekohe/Waiuku

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.

Hamilton & Huntly

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.

Te Awamutu

Meets: 2nd Monday of the month @ 9.30-11.30am at TA or Kihikihi **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.

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.

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.

Rotorua

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

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!

Taumaranui

Contact: Jo Wickham on 07 896 7515 or wickhamsplace@xtra.co.nz for support and meetings.

Taupo

Contact: Lesley-Anne Wells on 07 377 3539 or lesley-anne@xtra.co.nz for support and meetings.

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

Napier

Meets: First Friday of the month @10:30am at the Napier RSA Dining Room **Contact:** Rozane Duncan on 027 901 2021 charleez06@xtra.co.nz for telephone support and informal get together support group meetings and Watties staff sales

Hastings

Contact: Tom Kupa on 06 879 4302 or kupakarate@outlook.com for support and meetings.

Whanganui

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

Coffee Groups

Matakana & Warkworth	Anita	021 08205563
North Shore Auckland	Val	022 0802368
Auckland Central	Jane	021 029 54802
Hamilton	Carol	027 361 1929
Cambridge	Bev	021 02720902
Raetihi	Angel	06 385 3404
Kapiti	Margaret	04 293 4728
Upper Hutt	Margaret	04 976 9475
Blenheim	Juliet	03 571 6222
Christchurch	Elaine	021 025 08834
Ashburton	Deborah	027 626 4866
Dunedin	Nanette	03 455 2016

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 PalmerstonNorth@grg.org.nz for telephone support and support group meetings, whanau outings, events and workshops for members.

Levin

Contact: Ann Waddell on 06 362 7269 or ann.hen@xtra.co.nz for support and meetings.

Hutt Valley

Contact: Serenah Nicholson on 021 743 414 or manager.whanau.group@xtra.co.nz for support and meetings.

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.

Nelson

Contact: Paula Eggers on 021 062 6583 or paulaeggers2000@yandex.com for meetings and support.

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.

Canterbury

Contact: Veronica Brunt on 03 942 5935 or r.v.brunt@paradise.net.nz for 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.

Otago Coastal/Dunedin

Contact: Aad & Leonie on 03 465 1764 or omaandopa@xtra.co.nz for support.

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.

New Support & Coffee Groups

If you are interested in setting up a new Support Group or a Coffee 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. As part of the Support Group establishment and support we offer regular training on a range of issues affecting grandparent and whanau carers to assist with your roles and where possible for both GRG Support Groups and Coffee Groups we offer our highly rated and helpful **SALT Workshops** for cohorts of new and existing groups of grandparent and whanau carers. See our website under the [What We Do/Education and Training Tab](#) for more information or email us at SALT@grg.org.nz.