



**Welcome!** Tena koutou, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Malo e Lelei, Bula Vinaka, Taloha Ni, Kam Na Mauri Namaste, Hallo, Bonjour, Hola and Greetings this month to our **5600+** member families and all our non-member subscribers!

## Are you raising someone else's child full-time?

GRG provides support, information, advice, advocacy services and caregiver education programmes nationwide to full-time caregivers who are raising a child not born to them. Membership is free. Call us on toll free **0800 GRANDS** or visit [www.GRG.NZ](http://www.GRG.NZ) to join.

Raising resilient and healthy children and young people through empowering grandparent and whānau care families since 2001

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## Financial support for raising someone else's child...

If you are raising someone else's child because there has been a breakdown in the child's family, or their parents have died, they are missing, or they have a long-term disablement and you are likely to be their principal temporary or long-term caregiver, from the date you apply to Work and Income for this support then you are entitled to either the Unsupported Child Benefit or the Orphan's Benefit to help with the costs of raising the child.

The **Unsupported Child or Orphan's Benefits** are not taxable and is not affected by your income or assets as a caregiver. It is affected by any income the child might be

receiving (e.g. ACC) and the child must be resident and present in New Zealand.

To qualify for it you must also be over 18 years of age, resident and present in NZ and you must not be a natural parent, an adoptive parent, or a step-parent of the child.

If these circumstances apply to you and you think you have been incorrectly advised or you realise now that you should be receiving this support, please contact us tollfree on **0800 472 637** or call our National Support Office on **09 418 3753** for a referral to our advocate, Tricia Corin.

## 0800 GRANDS

Call us on our free helpline service for support, information, advice and referrals to our Outreach and Advocacy team.

**0800 472 637** or **09 418 3753**

Monday - Friday 9am to 2pm



Facebook.com/grg.org.nz



Instagram: @grg\_trust\_nz



linktree [LinkTr.ee/GRG\\_Trust\\_NZ](https://LinkTr.ee/GRG_Trust_NZ)



## Keeping it Current

Our aim is to keep you informed and of what's happening, key information and opportunities that can help you. Letting us know if you've moved or had a change to your mobile phone or email is easy.

Click on the green **Update Your Member Details** button or visit our website [www.grg.org.nz](http://www.grg.org.nz) and click on the green button there.

Or email us at [office@grg.org.nz](mailto:office@grg.org.nz) Or call us on **0800 472 637**

Update Your Member Details





## Kate's Take

Kate Bundle  
Chief Executive

First up, my apologies for the delay in getting this newsletter to you. This was intended to be an August newsletter but the impact of winter illnesses and the transition to working from home has led to some delays in finishing this edition and it has become the September issue! Thankfully it wasn't COVID-19 that laid some of us low, but it was a nervous week getting tested for COVID-19 for some of our National Support Office staff all the same. In Auckland we are still in the thick of it, confined to our homes in Level 4, with only a faint light of hope that like the rest of the country, we will begin to enjoy some of the freedoms and a semblance of

normality in the weeks to come. Secondly a warm welcome to the 97 new member families joining GRG in the past two months. July was a busy month for us with two highlights I am delighted to share.

### Honouring Shirley

Firstly, in what was her last official engagement at Government House as Governor General, Dame Patsy Reddy presented our member Shirley Afoa, with an award for her outstanding contribution as a foster carer at the Foster Care Excellence Awards.

We have been in awe of Shirley in her role as our Papakura Support Group Coordinator and her work in the community over the years, so this was a very proud moment for Lisa Braid (GRG's National Operations Manager) and me to share this grand occasion at Government House on 9 July 2021 with Shirley and her daughter, Josephina.

Over the past seven plus years, Shirley has raised six of her grandchildren, has five still in her care and she provides ongoing respite care for another grandchild who has special needs. In spite of personal tragedy losing her husband, son and daughter-in-law, all within a five month period to accident and illnesses, she has been a shining light in our community, always putting the needs of others first. I know our members in the South Auckland area who have been supported by her will agree that her kindness, support and hard work coordinating donations of food, care packs and essentials has been a godsend in times of stress and



hardship for them. Her grandchildren's success and achievements at school and in their lives to date are also a testament to her selflessness, love and commitment to their needs. She is famous for encouraging them to *"leave the past in the past, set goals for the future, and not let the past determine your future."* Congratulations Shirley, we are lucky to have you on our team!

### Thank you Zonta NZ District 16

Since July 2020, Zonta International's District 16 (Zonta NZ) has been supporting GRG through their Biennium Project. This programme of fundraising over two years through to June 2022 has been directed towards our Simply Acquired & Learned Techniques™ (SALT) Workshop programme and the further development of it.

This past year to 30 June has seen the highest number of SALT workshops held despite having to work around COVID-19 lockdowns and it would not have been possible without Zonta's

generous support and fantastic fundraising efforts raising over \$40,000 towards the costs to the end of June.

One of the highlights of their fundraising efforts was their Zonta Yellow Rose Run/Walk held in Christchurch's Hagley Park in April. This event raised \$10,700 for GRG and it was an absolute pleasure to be with the organising committee in Christchurch to accept their cheque for this donation on 6 July 2021. We are

now excited and looking forward to the 2022 Zonta Yellow Rose Run and Walk for GRG.

If you are not in Christchurch, it is an event that you can still take part in wherever you are in the world, and we were delighted to learn that there were donations to our cause from overseas. We will share more information about the 2022 event closer to the time and encourage you all to spread the word amongst your family and



friends to take part for our cause.

### Celebrating Grandparents Day and GRG's 20th Birthday!

Grandparents Day is a day for recognising and celebrating the grandparents in our lives. GRG is all about empowering and strengthening grandparent and whānau care families, raising their mokopuna and tamariki full time. But there are also people within our society who don't have that special grandparent relationship in their lives.

[GrandFriends.nz](http://GrandFriends.nz) is an organisation that brings kiwis together across the generations with the philosophy that it "takes a village to raise a family". Their mission is to be the connector of generations and builder of supported families and whanau through their programmes and initiatives to match families with "grandies" willing to be their surrogate grandparents. If you are interested in learning more about this organisation, check out their website. One of their initiatives which we think is a great idea is to promote [New Zealand's Grandparents Day](#).

This year it is being held on **Sunday 3 October 2021**.

October also happens to be Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ's birthday month and this year GRG officially turns 20 years of age as a charitable trust.

I still remember the honour of being with settlor, Jill Nerheny, Diane Vivian and fellow trustees, Debbie Gillies, Birgitt Rehbein, Jill Worrall and Samina Corbett on Tuesday 23 October 2001 when we all signed the original trust deed to establish the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ as a charitable trust to "provide support to grandparents who are the primary caregivers to grandchildren within New Zealand".

Seventeen days later on the 9 November 2001, the Trust Board was incorporated and registered and since then GRG has continued to grow and support more and more GRG families each year. It is incredible to think it was 20 years ago. It is also worth celebrating and to remember the hard work, commitment and drive shown by so many individuals and organisations who have supported GRG over the years including volunteers, support coordinators, field officers, staff and trustees, sponsors, funders and donors and not least our founder, Diane Vivian who was on the Board of Trustees for 17 years and established the very first support group in Birkenhead in 1999.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has made it difficult to celebrate milestones like this in person. However, we encourage all our members and supporters to celebrate Grandparents Day and GRG's 20th birthday and the wonderful role you all play in the lives of your grandchildren and whānau. Have your own *Grand Get Together* and mark the occasion. Some ideas might include baking a cake together, learning a TikTok dance, going for a bike ride or picnic or learning a new skill together or anything that you enjoy together and can have fun with your whānau.



We are planning a birthday issue for October and would love you to share your photos, videos and reflections on this special occasion that we can include in our newsletter and social media. You can either email us your photos, stories, reflections or Facebook or Instagram links to us at [communications@grg.org.nz](mailto:communications@grg.org.nz)

We will also have further information posted to our Facebook, Instagram and LinkTree pages in the next few weeks.





# Tricia Advocating for You

## Early Learning Payment, Best Start Payment and Paid Parental Leave

This month I want to talk about the Early Learning, Best Start and the Paid Parental Leave Payments as I have found that some of our members are eligible for these supports but don't know it.

**Tricia Corin**  
Specialist Advocate  
Income/Financial Support

**The Early Learning Payment** is a payment that helps pay the costs of Early Childhood Education for children aged 18 months to 3 years. These children need to be from families enrolled in selected Family Start or Early Start Programmes.

### Who can get it

You may be able to get the Early Learning Payment if:

- you're enrolled in a Family Start or Early Start programme
- your child is aged 18 months to 3 years.
- attend a licensed Early Childhood Education centre or service

In order to qualify for the Early Learning Payment you must:

- be the caregiver of a **dependent child**

This can be paid for your child to attend an approved early childhood service for up to 20 hours a week.

Families getting Childcare Subsidy or Guaranteed Childcare Assistance Payment (GCAP) can't get the Early Learning Payment for the same hours.

From 1 October 2017, if your family leaves Family Start or Early Start, you may be able to continue getting the payments.

Your child must be:

- the child that the Early Learning Payment was being paid for when your family left Family Start or Early Start
- aged between 18 months to 3 years
- a dependent child and
- attending an approved early childhood service.

The maximum amount payable is \$8.00 per hour (as at 1 April 2021), up to a maximum of 20 hours per week until the child is 3 years old.

### Best Start Payment

⇒ Best Start tax credit is a payment to help families with costs in a child's early years.

⇒ Best Start tax credit payments can be paid to main benefit clients by the Ministry of Social Development on behalf of Inland Revenue.

⇒ When a person is working, Inland Revenue pays the Best Start tax credit.

⇒ Best Start tax credit is not income tested until the child's first birthday. All people with an eligible child receive the same rate of payment whether they are on a main benefit or working.

⇒ After an eligible child reaches the age of 1 year, the Best Start tax credit is income tested except when the Best Start tax credit is paid to a caregiver who is getting a main benefit.

Best Start tax credit is **\$60 a week (\$3,120 a year)** until the child turns 3 years old. After the child turns 1, the rate of payment is income tested.

The Ministry of Social Development pays the maximum rate of Best Start tax credit until the child turns 3 years old if the client is getting a main benefit.

### Best Start tax credit is paid with a main benefit for children born on or after 1 July 2018 from the later of:

- 1 July 2018 or
- the commencement date of the main benefit **or**
- the commencement date of the Orphans Benefit or Unsupported Childs Benefit if the client also receives a main benefit **or**
- the day after the end of payment of paid parental leave **or**
- the date the child came into care

## Paid Parental leave

**If you are working and take on the care of a young child, you may qualify for Paid Parental leave.**

*The parental leave payment is a weekly payment for one continuous period of up to 26 weeks*

### Who can get Paid Parental leave:

*An expectant mother, the mother of a child under 1 or the new permanent primary caregiver of a child under 6.*

To be eligible for paid parental leave you must establish a **sufficient connection** between New Zealand and the employment you are relying on to qualify for payments. You must also apply before the earlier of, the date:

- your child turns 1 - for an expectant mother
- your child has been in your care for 12 months - for a
- primary carer
- you return to work.

### To Qualify for Paid Parental leave

*If you take time off work to care for your baby or a child who has come into your care, you may be able to get paid parental leave.*

#### **To qualify you must meet 1 of the following criteria:**

- be an expectant mother
- be a new mother of a child under 1
- have new permanent primary responsibility for a child under and be any of the following:
  - an adoptive parent
  - a Home for Life parent
  - a matua whāngai (whāngai carer)
  - a grandparent with full-time care
  - a permanent guardian.

You also need to have worked an average of 10 hours a week, in at least 26 of the weeks in the year before:

- your due date
- the date the child comes into your care.

It does not matter how many employers you had or if you were self-employed. However, you need to be eligible either as an employee or a self-employed person. You cannot combine the hours you worked as an employee with the hours you worked as a self-employed person. You can combine the hours from multiple employments.

*If you have any questions on any of these issues, or need assistance, please contact GRG's National Support Office on: **0800 472 637** or [office@grg.org.nz](mailto:office@grg.org.nz)*

You can get paid parental leave if you resign or stop working instead of taking time off. Resigning or stopping work once you're on paid parental leave will not affect the payment you receive.

### Transferring paid parental leave to your partner

If your spouse or partner is also taking parental leave or stopping work, you may be able to transfer some or all of your entitlement to them.

#### To transfer paid parental leave:

- You, as the mother or primary carer, must qualify for paid parental leave
- Your spouse or partner must meet the working requirements to qualify for paid parental leave
- You'll need to complete the transferring PPL information on the PPL application in myIR (found under the Entitlement section), or complete a 'Transfer my Paid Parental Leave' request in myIR if you've already completed your application.
- They base your partner's paid parental leave entitlement on their income. The amount they're eligible for may be different to yours.
- You can only transfer paid parental leave once, and it must be taken in a continuous period. This means they cannot transfer it back to you.
- Your partner's paid parental leave period must start the day after your paid parental leave period ends.

#### **Employees' weekly parental leave payments equal the greater of:**

- an applicant's ordinary weekly pay, or
- an applicant's average weekly income

Up to the maximum weekly amount of \$621.76 gross (gross means before any deductions eg income tax) per week.

### Employees with more than one job

*Some employees qualify for parental leave payments by adding together their hours from more than one job to meet the 10 hours a week criteria. For these employees, the ordinary weekly pay or average weekly income from their different employers will also be added together to work out their total ordinary weekly pay or average weekly income.*



Hannah Morris  
Community Outreach  
Advocate

# Hannah's Outreach

## Let's talk family mediation!

In this month's newsletter I wanted to discuss a process that many of our members will find themselves in, and often can be considered a very daunting process. Mediation however can be incredibly helpful in helping whānau come to an agreement whilst keeping it out of the family court – which means it is cheaper, less stressful and a much quicker process. It also means that you and your whānau are the ones making the decisions about the children and not a judge. Furthermore, you and the other parties can even make agreements that address non-legal issues or that a judge could not order.

Family Dispute Resolution is a mediation service that can assist you and your grandchildren's parents to come to an agreement about what is in the children's best interests regarding care arrangements. This is achieved by appointing an impartial mediator who will run the session/s. The mediator's role is to help you identify the issues and make sure you each get time to say your point of view. The mediator will help keep the conversation child-centred discussing what is best for the child/ren, but won't force you to agree to anything. They also won't make a decision for you. You can take a support person if everyone taking part in the mediation agrees. Ask the mediator about this before the session if this is something you feel you may need.

### What to expect at mediation

Your mediator will first meet or talk with each of you separately to assess whether, your dispute is suitable for mediation or if taking part in a preparation session beforehand might help you. – for example - You may feel too angry or stressed about your relationship to think clearly about your children's needs. The mediator may offer you sessions to prepare for mediation to help you manage those feelings. This can help you focus on the best outcome for your children when you attend mediation.

The mediator will then arrange your session/s.

The mediator will try to help you make decisions that are in the best interests of the children. They will focus on:

- how each of you will look after the children
- what contact will look like for all parties involved (supervised, unsupervised, how often etc)
- working out things like how you'll pick up and drop off the children, where they will spend the holidays and how you'll handle birthdays and other celebrations
- developing your skills to resolve other disputes in the future.
- The mediator will make sure everyone has time to have their say. They won't try to resolve all your whānau's issues – this is not a family therapy session. They won't make judgements about who's right or wrong, or make decisions for you.

### Cost of mediation

You may be able to get government funding to cover

the cost of Family Dispute Resolution, including preparation for mediation. You may also qualify for free legal advice from the Family Legal Advice Service.

### Find out if you qualify for funding

This table indicates whether you're eligible for funding. It shows the most you can earn to qualify, but that maximum income varies with the number of your

Number of Dependents	Maximum annual income (before tax and any deductions) \$	Maximum fortnightly income (before tax and any deductions) \$	Maximum earnings over past 3 months (before tax and any deductions) \$
0 (you have no dependents)	23,820.00	916.15	5,955.00
1 (partner or child)	37,722.00	1450.85	9,430.50
2 (partner and/or children)	54,245.00	2086.35	13,561.25
3 (partner and/or children)	61,642.00	2370.85	15,410.50
4 (partner and/or children)	68,882.00	2649.31	17,220.50
5 (partner and/or children)	77,002.00	2961.62	19,250.50
6 (partner and/or children)	Add \$7124 for each extra dependant	Add \$274 for each extra dependant	Add \$1,781 for each extra dependent

dependants. If you don't qualify for government funding, you can still use a funded mediator. If you do, you'll pay no more than \$448.50 for your share of the cost.

*Lastly it is important to note that sometimes taking part in mediation might not be right for you. For example, if you need to apply for an urgent Parenting Order because you're experiencing family violence or the child is at risk.*

*In these cases, you don't need to take part in Family Dispute Resolution and should immediately proceed to a parenting order without notice application.*

Family mediation is ultimately a useful tool to keep whānau matters within the whānau and save everyone a lot of time, energy and resources (money!). If you would like to start the process of family mediation but are not quite sure what to do – give us a call on **0800 472 637** to discuss further. We are always more than happy to help! **Find a mediator near you** - [www.justice.govt.nz](http://www.justice.govt.nz)



# Merle's Support Group Update

## New Support Group Appointments

### Recruiting

We are very pleased to welcome two new Support Coordinators to our GRG team and nationwide network this month. We also sadly farewell Tom Kupa from Hastings who is retiring from his role after many years.

**Merle Lambert**  
National Support  
Coordinator

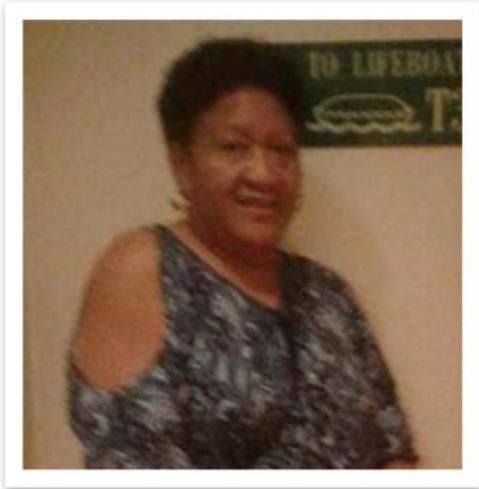
### Pam Walters, Kaitaia GRG Support Group

Pam comes with first-hand experience as a grandparent raising grandchildren and has been a GRG member for around ten years. Pam's people and organisation skills are well suited to the role of Support Group Coordinator.

She has been involved in customer care and in supporting and advocating to empower whanau to live violence free. She has wide community connections and therefore offers access to various support systems across the Far North. Pam enjoys swimming, horse riding, sewing and beach walks.

We look forward to Pam being the go-to person for grandparents raising grandchildren and kin carers in Kaitaia and surrounding areas.

Ko ngati whatua toku iwi  
Ko mahuhuitirangi toku waka  
Ko maungakiekie toku maunga  
Ko waitemata toku moana  
Ko orakei toku hapu  
Ko tumutumu whenua toku marae  
Ko te kawau toku TANGATA  
Ko Pamela Walters toku ingoa



**Pam Walters – Kaitaia**



**Nga Ngatae Heather—Napier**

### Nga Ngatae Heather, Napier GRG Support Group

We also welcome **Nga Ngatae Heather** as a Support Group Coordinator working alongside Beth Thurston in Napier. Nga is a Cook Island Maori born in Hastings. She loves spending time with her thirteen mokos and four mokomoko. She has raised five of her mokos and has lived through the challenges that drugs can bring to a whānau. Nga's work experience is diverse from working on the freezing works floor to caregiving for the elderly. She has held roles as Health and Safety Officer and Union Delegate. Nga wants to help and support other grandparents raising their grandchildren. Nga's passions include waka ama, gardening, crocheting, weaving, embroidery and block printing.



### Resignations

#### Tom Kupa – Hastings Support Group Coordinator

As he retires from his role this month we would like to acknowledge and thank Tom Kupa for his support over many years, particularly to the grandchildren that have been able to come through his martial art school doors with the aid of the Extraordinary Care Fund. Tom is a strong advocate for remaining active and healthy and building self-esteem in the younger generation enabling them to be stronger more resilient tamariki/rangatahi. Thank you, Tom for your contribution to GRG over the years.

## Would you be interested in volunteering your services for GRG?

If you are raising a grandchild on a full-time basis or have an understanding of the blessings and challenges that this role brings and would like to share your experience and abilities to support and empower other like-minded family/whanau, we would like to hear from you.

If you feel like you would like to volunteer your time and expertise in this way, I would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact Merle at: [Merle@grg.org.nz](mailto:Merle@grg.org.nz) or 021 246 0553

## Vacancies

Our team of Support Group Coordinators is growing enabling us to provide much needed support to more grandparents. However, there are some areas that we are still looking to cover:

**Kerikeri, Whangarei, Bream Bay, Waitakere, Hibiscus Coast, North Shore, Avondale, Central Auckland, Mangere/ Onehunga, Te Puke/Papamoa, Tauranga, Turangi, New Plymouth, Dannevirke/Tararua, Levin/ Otaki, Marlborough, Dunedin, North Otago and Otago Coastal.**

## Caregiver Education

### 'SALT' (Simply Acquired and Learned Techniques™) Training Programme

Gain practical insight and understanding of the impact of past trauma on a child or young person and learn to effectively manage and parent a child who may be exhibiting troubling or challenging behavior.

NOTE: During SALT programmes will recommence when Auckland is at Level 2.

*"Such a worthwhile programme, with lots of useful strategies. I had 4 sessions with a child psychologist who was not able to give me anything like what I got from SALT"*

#### Register your interest!

If you are interested in attending a SALT Workshop programme please email [SALT@grg.org.nz](mailto:SALT@grg.org.nz) or call us on **0800 472 637**



## Helpful Information

### COVID-19.govt.nz: <https://covid19.govt.nz>

This website has information on the up-to-date locations of interest, and links to Government announcements and links for further information.

### Need help to pay bills?

Work and Income services centres are closed but you can go online and call the office.

The wage subsidy information is now live on the MSD website and applications are open.

### COVID-19 - Work and Income

Applications are open to ALL New Zealand businesses.

### Some further links provided from IR which may also be helpful:

- o Resurgence Support Payment - COVID-19 Resurgence Support Payment (RSP) ([ird.govt.nz](http://ird.govt.nz))
- o Leave Support Scheme - COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme - Work and Income
- o Short Term Absence Payment - COVID-19 Short-Term Absence Payment - Work and Income
- o Small Business Cashflow Scheme - COVID-19 Small Business Cashflow Scheme (SBCS) ([ird.govt.nz](http://ird.govt.nz))

### You can apply for assistance via MyMSD or call one of the following numbers:

- 0800 552 002 (Seniors 65+)
- 0800 889 900 (Students)
- 0800 559 009 (General line)

### Ministry of Social Development [www.msd.govt.nz](http://www.msd.govt.nz)

### Work and Income [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)



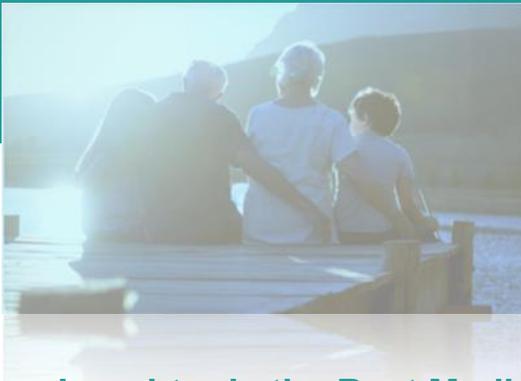
If you are sick or have symptoms, stay home

## Helplines

### Need to access other support?

- ◆ Women's Refuge 0800REFUGE
- ◆ Shine 0508 744 633
- ◆ Alcohol and Drug Helpline 0800 787 797
- ◆ CADS 09 845 1818
- ◆ Narcotics Anonymous 0800 628 632
- ◆ Alcoholics Anonymous 0800 229 6757
- ◆ Lifeline 0800 543 354 or free text 4357
- ◆ Youthline 0800 376 633
- ◆ Samaritans 0800 726 666
- ◆ Outline (LGBT) 0800 688 5463
- ◆ Depression Helpline 0800 111 757
- ◆ Suicide Prevention Helpline 0508 828 865
- ◆ The Fono West 09 837 1780 - Social Services

# Grand Reflections



## When Laughter is the Best Medicine!

It's fun to share a good laugh, but did you know that a good giggle can actually improve your health?

The powerful benefits of laughter through humorous memes and jokes can help relieve stress in tough COVID-19 times.

## Stress relief from laughter? It's no joke

Laughter isn't just a quick pick-me-up. It's also good for you over the long term. Laughter may:

- Improve your immune system. By contrast, positive thoughts can actually release neuropeptides that help fight stress and potentially more-serious illnesses.
- Relieve pain. Laughter may ease pain by causing the body to produce its own natural painkillers.
- Increase personal satisfaction. Laughter can also make it easier to cope with difficult situations. It also helps you connect with other people.
- Improve your mood. Many people experience depression, sometimes due to chronic illnesses. Laughter can help lessen your stress, depression and anxiety and may make you feel happier. It can also improve your self-esteem.

## And Remember.....

### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

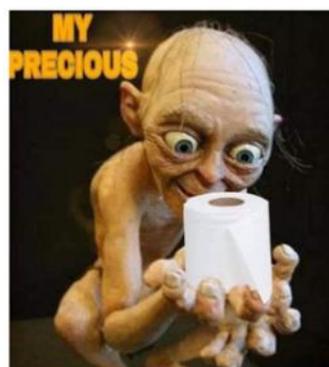


*This beautiful poster was gifted by Tania, to the Hutt Valley Support Group—one of their grandparents.*

If you have something you would like to share with us please send it in to: [communications@grg.org.nz](mailto:communications@grg.org.nz)

**Help us put a smile on the face of others 😊**

**If the Covid-19 news is dragging you down - Here are some hilarious memes to help lighten your mood and help lift your spirits:**





# GRG Support Groups Nationwide

Meetings are held during school terms - with public and school holidays excluded unless otherwise stated.

## KAITAIA

**Contact:** Pam Walters  
022 658 3443 / [Kaitaia@grg.org.nz](mailto:Kaitaia@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 10.30am.  
**Location:** Hope Christian Centre, 234 Commerce Street, Kaitaia.

## TAMAKI/EAST

**Contact:** Tess Gould-Thorpe  
09 535 6903 / [Tamaki@grg.org.nz](mailto:Tamaki@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Tess for confirmation of the next meeting.

## PAPAKURA

**Contact:** Shirley Afoa  
021 129 4151 / [Papakura@grg.org.nz](mailto:Papakura@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** Second Thursday of each month at 10am  
**Location:** Smiths Avenue Community Hall, 20 Smiths Avenue, Papakura.

## HAMILTON WEST

**Contact:** Pat Davis  
022 600 7672 / [Hamilton@grg.org.nz](mailto:Hamilton@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** Last Monday of each month at 10am  
**Location:** St Davids, Rifle Range Road, Dinsdale, Hamilton.

## TE AWAMUTU

**Contact:** Ruth Gilling  
022 045 4475 / [Teawamutu@grg.org.nz](mailto:Teawamutu@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Ruth for confirmation of the next meeting.

## TAUMARUNUI

**Contact:** Jo Wickham  
07 896 7515 / [Taumarunui@grg.org.nz](mailto:Taumarunui@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** First Monday of each month at 10am  
**Location:** Taumarunui RSA, 10 Marae Street, Taumarunui.

## KAIKOHE

**Contact:** Moengaroa Floyed  
09 401 3057 / [Kaikohe@grg.org.nz](mailto:Kaikohe@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Moengaroa for confirmation of the next meeting.

## WAITAKERE

**Contact:** Esther Price  
021 251 0690 / [Waitakere@grg.org.nz](mailto:Waitakere@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** Every third Thursday of the month at 10am (Exception- July's meeting is on the 8<sup>th</sup>)  
**Location:** Westwave Recreational Centre, 20 Alderman Drive, Henderson .

## PUKEKOHE/WAIUKU

**Contact:** Anne Doddrell  
09 237 8161 / [Pukekohe@grg.org.nz](mailto:Pukekohe@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** The last Tuesday of the month at 10am  
**Location:** St. Andrews Church, 43 Queen Street, Pukekohe.

## HAMILTON EAST

**Contact:** Maria Marsh  
**Meets:** Every last Wednesday of the month at 10am.  
**Location:** Desert Spring Community Centre, Corner Insoll Avenue and Peachgrove Road, Fairfield, Hamilton.

## TOKOROA

**Contact:** Debbie Newton  
027 284 2103 / [Tokoroa@grg.org.nz](mailto:Tokoroa@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** Last Friday of each month at 10am  
**Location:** Tokoroa Council of Social Services, Gate 1, Tokoroa Hospital (1st building on the right). Parking available at the back.

## ROTORUA

**Contact:** Anne Donnell  
022 059 5107 / [Rotorua@grg.org.nz](mailto:Rotorua@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** Third Monday of each month at 9:30am  
**Location:** Linton Park Community Centre, 16 Kaimahi Place, Pukehangi, Rotorua.

## DARGAVILLE

**Contact:** Sandy Zimmer  
09 439 4420 / [Dargaville@grg.org.nz](mailto:Dargaville@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** First Tuesday of each month at 12pm  
**Location:** Whanau Focus, Victoria Street, Dargaville—Next to the Bakehouse

## NEW LYNN

**Contact:** Robyn Robertson  
021 309 365 / [Newlynn@grg.org.nz](mailto:Newlynn@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** Third Tuesday of each month at 10am  
**Location:** House of Prayer, 9B Binsted Road, New Lynn.

## NGARUAWAHIA/HUNTLY

**Contact:** Trevor Don  
027 229 2041 / [Ngaruawahia@grg.org.nz](mailto:Ngaruawahia@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** The last Monday of the month at 10:30am  
**Location:** Ngaruawahia Community House, 13 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia.

## TE KUITI

**Contact:** Kay Higgins  
027 430 2939 / [Tekuiti@grg.org.nz](mailto:Tekuiti@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** Third Wednesday of each month at 10am  
**Location:** Te Kuiti Community House, 28 Taupiri Street , Te Kuiti

## TAUPO/TURANGI

**Contact:** Lesley-Anne Wells  
07 377 3539 / [Taupo@grg.org.nz](mailto:Taupo@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 1pm  
**Location:** St Andrews Hall, Titiraupenga Street, Taupo

## KATIKATI

**Contact:** Cathie Kenyon  
021 088 78686 / [Katikati@grg.org.nz](mailto:Katikati@grg.org.nz)  
**Meets:** Last Wednesday of the month at 10am  
**Location:** St. Pius Catholic Church, 89 Beach Road, Katikati.

## WHAKATANE

**Contact:** Karlene McCormick

021 022 20328 / [Whakatane@grg.org.nz](mailto:Whakatane@grg.org.nz)

**Meets:** Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Karlene for confirmation of the next meeting.

## PALMERSTON NORTH

**Contact:** Jacqui Phillips

021 229 0455 / [Palmerstonnorth@grg.org.nz](mailto:Palmerstonnorth@grg.org.nz)

**Meets:** Two meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 1:15-2:45pm and 6-7:30pm

**Location:** Crossroads Childcare Centre, 220 Church Street, Palmerston North.

## PORIRUA

**Contact:** Roma Paull

022 050 4761 / [Porirua@grg.org.nz](mailto:Porirua@grg.org.nz)

**Meets:** Every second Wednesday of each month at 10am

**Location:** Porirua RSA, 5-7 McKillop Street, Ranui.

## NELSON

**Contact:** Sharon Norriss

03 548 6710 / [Nelson@grg.org.nz](mailto:Nelson@grg.org.nz)

**Meets:** Every second Friday of the month

**Location:** Varies – please get in touch with Sharon for confirmation of the next meeting.

## SOUTH CHRISTCHURCH

**Contact:** Anna Clare

021 085 77404 /

[Southchristchurch@grg.org.nz](mailto:Southchristchurch@grg.org.nz)

**Meets:** Every first Friday of the month at 10am

**Location:** 168 Stanmore Road, Linwood.

## COFFEE GROUPS

Whangarei	Janet 09 435 0044
Warkworth	Shirley 09 423 7052
Waitakere	Waiora 022 647 3032
South Auckland	Virginia 09 277 7514
Morrinsville	Jennifer 027 683 6207
Whitianga	Gillian 027 454 0314
Cambridge	Brenda 027 438 5401
Napier	Beth 06 843 9385
Porirua	Roma Paull 022 050 761
Upper Hutt	Margaret 04 976 9475
Gisborne	Caroline 021 198 3057
Greymouth	Donna 0274 840 688

## OPOTIKI/KAWERAU

**Contact:** Sophie Wilson-Kahika

07 262 5136 / [Opotiki@grg.org.nz](mailto:Opotiki@grg.org.nz)

**Meets:** Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Sophie for confirmation of the next meeting.

## WHANGANUI

**Contact:** Bob Wilson 027 268 7678 /

[Whanganui@grg.org.nz](mailto:Whanganui@grg.org.nz)

**Meets:** Every Thursday at 10am

**Location:** 48 Alma Road, Whanganui.

## HUTT VALLEY

**Contact:** Serenah Nicholson

021 743 414 / [Huttvalley@grg.org.nz](mailto:Huttvalley@grg.org.nz)

**Meets:** First Friday of the month at 9:30am

**Location:** Pomare Community House, 55 Farmer Crescent, Taita, Lower Hutt.

## MOTUEKA

**Contact:** Rankeilor Arnott

03 528 5089 / [Motueka@grg.org.nz](mailto:Motueka@grg.org.nz)

**Meets:** Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00pm

**Location:** St Andrews Church, 64 High Street, Motueka.

## ASHBURTON

**Contact:** Karen Kilgour

027 741 2039 / [Ashburton@grg.org.nz](mailto:Ashburton@grg.org.nz)

**Meets:** Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Karen for confirmation of the next meeting.

## CURRENTLY VACANT

### Would you be interested in volunteering your services for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren?

With over 5500 members across the country Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ rely on volunteer Support Group Coordinators to provide hands on support, information and advocacy in addition to running regular support groups for members to get that peer support that is so valuable when sharing their experiences and accumulated knowledge. Currently we are seeking Support Group Coordinators in the following areas:

**Kerikeri, Whangarei, Bream Bay, Hibiscus Coast, Waitakere, North Shore, Avondale, Central Auckland, Mangere/ Onehunga, Te Puke/Papamoa, Tauranga, Turangi, New Plymouth, Dannevirke/Tararua, Levin/Otaki, Marlborough, Dunedin, North Otago and Otago Coastal.**

**Contact:** Merle 021 246 0553 (9am to 2pm, Monday–Thursday) / [Merle@grg.org.nz](mailto:Merle@grg.org.nz)

## NAPIER

**Contact:** Beth Thurston

022 073 9900 / [Napier@grg.org.nz](mailto:Napier@grg.org.nz)

or Nga 022 341 7789

**Meets:** Date varies, please contact Beth/Nga for confirmation of meeting times.

**Location:** The Octagon Room, All Saints Church, Cnr Meeanee and Church Roads, Taradale.

## WAIRARAPA

**Contact:** Tere Lenihan

021 509 493 / [Wairarapa@grg.org.nz](mailto:Wairarapa@grg.org.nz)

**Meets:** Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Tere for confirmation of the next meeting.

## WELLINGTON

**Contact:** Cecilee Donovan

021 158 6643 / [Wellington@grg.org.nz](mailto:Wellington@grg.org.nz)

**Meets:** Date and location varies. Please get in touch with Cecilee for confirmation of the next meeting.

## EAST CHRISTCHURCH

**Contact:** Sandra Murphy

021 025 52415 / [Eastchristchurch@grg.org.nz](mailto:Eastchristchurch@grg.org.nz)

**Meets:** Every first Friday of the month at 10am

**Location:** 168 Stanmore Road, Linwood.

## SOUTHLAND

**Contact:** Colleen Saunders

03 216 4173 / [Southland@grg.org.nz](mailto:Southland@grg.org.nz)

**Meets:** Second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 10am

**Location:** Family Works, 183 Spey Street, Invercargill.



## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ

Established in 2001 as a registered charitable trust (CC20205), GRG supports over 5500 grandparent and whanau care families nationwide, representing around 9,000 caregivers and over 14,000 children. Our vision and kaupapa is to empower grandparent and other whanau care families to achieve positive life outcomes, through providing support, information, advice, advocacy services and caregiver education programmes.

For more information about GRG please contact us at [office@grg.org.nz](mailto:office@grg.org.nz) or +64 9 418 3753 | 0800 472637

## Other Handy Helpline Numbers

**111** for emergency services, fire, ambulance or police

**0800 933 922 PlunketLine** for advice on child health or parenting from a registered Plunket Nurse

**0800 611 116 Healthline** for health triage and advice from a registered nurse.

**COVID-19 Healthline** concerns call **0800 358 5453**

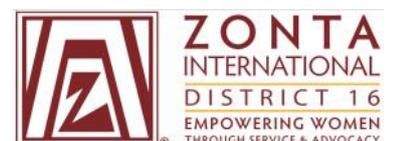
**Text 1737 'Need to Talk?'** Get help from a counsellor

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

**0800 376 633 Youthline**, helping families and youth  
**0508 Carers (0508 227 377)** a 24/7 Caregivers Guidance and Advice Line.

**0800 WHATS UP (0800 942 8787)** - a free counselling helpline for teenagers and children run by Barnardos.  
**Depression.org.nz** – Free text number 4202

Thank you to our Funders for their support for our newsletter



## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ

Suite C, Chelsea Business Park  
162 Mokoia Road  
Birkenhead  
Auckland 0626

PO Box 34892  
Birkenhead  
Auckland 0746

Phone: 09 418 3753

Email: [office@grg.org.nz](mailto:office@grg.org.nz)

## Can we help you?

Members ONLY services are available free of charge nationwide  
New members and existing members please call our Helpline 0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637) or 09 418 3753

Heoi ano, na. *E te Atua, aroha mai..... O God shower us with love. Ka kite Ka Whangaia ka tupu, ka puawai* - That which is nurtured, blossoms and grows. *He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ake o mātou* —We are respectful, we listen, we learn.

Please pass this newsletter on to other grandparents and whanau caregivers who need support

## Join GRG

Join GRG or subscribe to our newsletter via our website at [GRG.NZ](http://GRG.NZ)

Or click the red Join GRG button below

## Have your circumstances changed?

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or you have changed address please update your details by clicking the green **Update Your Member Details** below or contact the GRG Trust NZ National Support Office

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