



Disability Connect Newsletter

10 August 2026



**disability
connect.**

Enabling Good Lives Awards

Let's celebrate those who champion inclusion, uphold Enabling Good Lives principles, and create environments where disabled people can thrive.

Winners announced at Transition Expo
Wednesday 9th September - 10 am



Thank You For Your EGL Award Nominations

We received an overwhelming response to our inaugural Disability Connect Enabling Good Lives Awards, celebrating people and organisations who uphold EGL principles, promote inclusion, and create environments where disabled people can thrive.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to make a nomination.

We will announce the nominees later this month and the winners at our Transition Expo on Wednesday 9 September at the Auckland Netball Centre.

A huge thank you to our award sponsors for making our EGL awards possible:

- Able Axxess
- Clipboard
- IHC
- Mercury
- Northwest Pharmacy
- Swift Mortgages Limited



Understanding Disability Supports In The Community

Last week, Disability Connect partnered with Otara Health Charitable Trust to host Understanding Disability Supports In the Community in Otara. We were pleased to have speakers from Work and Income and Kaikaranga share information and updates around services and supports available.

The workshop was well-attended by families and professionals in the sector and was a valuable learning opportunity.

Thank you to Otara Health Charitable Trust for helping us to organise and host this event.

If you are interested in attending future events like this, we encourage you to sign up to our Disability Connect newsletters so you don't miss out on upcoming opportunities to engage, learn, and connect: [Subscribe to our Newsletter | Disability Connect](#)



Disability Connect's Ambassadors in Rodney

This week, Mike visited Warkworth to do an induction with Mireille and Ursula, our two new Ambassadors in Rodney. Disability Connect has built a strategic relationship with RICI - Rodney

Inclusive Communities Incorporated, to boost our presence in Rodney and Districts as this is a growing area of need. RICI will host two events, including a carers event in October this year. We are excited to see how this partnership can better serve the Rodney area.



Housing Resilience, Floods And Disabled Communities - Mike At Auckland Council Focus Group

Mike recently represented our communities at an Auckland Council Focus Group on Housing Resilience and Flood-Prone Areas. The discussion reinforced that disabled people and their families often face greater challenges during floods, including limited resources, reliance on support networks, and the need for clear, accessible communication.

It was encouraging to see Council listening closely to disabled communities as they shape future emergency plans and communications.

This is a timely reminder to check your emergency kit. If you're attending our Transition Expo on 9 September, visit our stand for information and a giveaway from Red Cross.



Housing Update

Last year, we launched our [Disability Housing Information Service](#), a free service that provides disabled people and their families with access to an advisor who offers information, guidance, and support to help people research their housing options, and navigate both their current and future housing needs. Since its launch, we have supported a number of families to better understand and pursue suitable housing opportunities.

In recent meetings with Tracey Taylor, CEO of Kāinga Ora, and Hon Chris Bishop and his advisors we have raised questions about Kainga Ora's accessibility standards and the removal of accessible housing targets. We discussed with them the housing crisis that continues to deepen for disabled people and their families and advocated for incentives to encourage the construction of more accessible, adaptable and safe homes.

Our team will continue to share the voices of disabled people and their families for meaningful change in the housing sector.

Disability Connect Services



Transition Expo - 9 September

Save The Date

Our team has been working hard behind the scenes to prepare for our upcoming Transition Expo. This event is a highlight of the year for us, and we can't wait to see you there. Be sure to save the date in your calendar now, so that you don't miss out.

□ Wednesday, 9 September 2026

□ 9:00am - 2:00pm

□ Auckland Netball Centre, St Johns

This popular in person event happens once a year and is for school leavers with a disability and their families to explore post school options and new opportunities. Entry is free.

Visit our website for more information: [Disability Connect](#)

Disability Connect Seminars and Workshops



PLANNING FOR ADULTHOOD

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK AROUND DISABILITY AND DISABILITY RIGHTS

WHO IS THIS FOR?

- You worry about the long term welfare of your child with a disability when you die.
- You want to know the difference amongst welfare guardianship, power of attorney, property management and how a Trust may be useful for managing property.
- You need information about the relevance of a Will and Letter of Wishes and how these might be useful.
- You are concerned about managing and protecting assets or income of your young disabled person.
- You want to know how to manage assets through a family trust.

CONTACT US

09-636 0351
admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz
www.disabilityconnect.org.nz



SPEAKER-NAN JENSEN

Barrister and Solicitor from Quinlaw.



SEMINAR

There will be a cost for this seminar:
Per Family- \$20
Professionals- \$50 (working in disability Sector)



SEE WEBSITE FOR DATES

Please contact us for bookings and enquiries.



(Scan QR Code for Website Page)



EDUCATION LEGAL ISSUES

WHO IS THIS FOR ?

All families/whanau raising a child with a disability, whether in mainstream or special school environments, who are concerned with the support entitlement for their child in New Zealand Schools

OUR RECENT TOPICS

- Section 37 access to Special School, why is this legally required?
- Section 47 appeals to ORS decline
- Stand downs – under what conditions are they fair
- Clarifying responsibility for the student's safety and welfare during travel between school and home
- Physical aggression and use of restraint
- Issue of school requests for funding contribution from parents (to help pay for teacher aide or resources)
- School camps and extra-curricular activities – requests from the school that parents pay/provide the support person to accompany that student



SPEAKER-NAN JENSEN

Barrister and Solicitor.



SEMINAR

There will be a cost for this seminar:
Per Family- \$20
Professionals- \$50 (working in disability Sector)



SEE WEBSITE FOR DATES

CONTACT US

admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

09-636 0351

www.disabilityconnect.org.nz

Planning for Adulthood

□ Wednesday, 30 September

□ 11:00am - 2:00pm

Learn about Welfare Guardianship, Power of Attorney, Property Management, Estate Planning, Wills and how a Trust may be useful.

To register, email

admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

Education Legal Issues

Learn about enrolment rights, decision processes around special education, processes around an ORS funding decline, requests to parents for teacher aide funding contributions, requests to parents for funding for student support at extra-curricular camps and activities, stand-downs, use of restraint, and much more.

We have held the last ELI seminar for 2026. This seminar will be offered again in 2027 - please keep a look out for dates in our newsletter and on our website.

Disability Connect Support Groups

disability connect.

ZOOM SUPPORT GROUP

WHO IS THIS FOR?
Families raising disabled children are very welcome to join our Zoom Support Group. It is hosted by Rhiannon Hoffman, our former Community Disability Information Advisor. It's an online meeting up any relevant, chat, be with others that may face the same situation as you.

WHAT IT IS ABOUT?
Rhiannon would love to hear how you are all getting on - if you have questions, ideas and/or having issues that you may want to discuss with other parents. Come along and join our virtual meeting.

CONTACT US
09-636 0351
admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz
www.disabilityconnect.org.nz

FREE EVENT
Free event for disabled people, their whānau and their supports.

EVERY MONDAY @ 7-8PM

ZOOM MEETING
ID: 870 3689 3558 Password: 501844

Scan me

(Scan QR Code for Website page)

disability connect.
helping families

AUGUST PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Our Stories & Our Strengths: Learning Through Lived Experience

Wednesday 12th August 2026

Join us for a relaxed, parent-led session where we celebrate victories of parenting and supporting disabled people, hear what has worked for the families, and learn from one another's lived experiences.

Come along for genuine connection, shared wisdom, and a chance to meet the families and celebrate the amazing stories that maybe the encouragement or idea you have been looking for.

Hosted by Natalija, Jessica, and other representing Parents. Available in-person and online presentations.

via Zoom Meeting
Mt. Richmond Specialist School
30 Albion Road, Ōtāhuhu
6:30 pm-8:30 pm
RSVP essential:
admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

Call Us!
09-636 0351 **For More Information**
WWW.DISABILITYCONNECT.ORG.NZ

disability connect.
August 2026

Chinese Family Disability Support Group

Music Therapy
An Introduction with Raukauri Music Therapy

Speaker: Rachel Foxell
(Clinical Services Manager, Registered Music Therapist)

20/8/2026 (Thursday) 10:00 - 12:00
Anchorage Park Community House
(16 Swan Crescent, Pakuranga, Auckland 2010)

All are welcome!
• Free event for disabled person and their families
• A charge of \$50.00 pp will apply for any disability sector professionals attending

Dear Families,
Have you ever wondered how music might open doors for your loved one – beyond enjoyment, into connection, communication, and growth?

This August, we are delighted to invite Rachel Foxell from Raukauri Music Therapy to introduce us to the world of music therapy and how it can support people on the autism spectrum.

Registration is Essential:
yky@disabilityconnect.org.nz
09-636 0351

WeChat ID:
DisabilityConnect
Scan QR code

Zoom Parents Support Group

- Every Monday
- 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Open to anyone seeking advice or support for parenting, upcoming Needs Assessments or anything in-between the Zoom Support Group is for you! [Follow the link here.](#)

Parent Support Group

- Wednesday, 12 August
- 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Topic: Our Stories & Our Strengths: Learning Through Lived Experience
Presenter: Natalija Isailovic
Location: Mt Richmond Specialist School, 30 Albion Road, Ōtāhuhu OR join online via Zoom

To register, email us at: admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

Chinese Family Disability Support Group

- Thursday, 20 August
- 10am - 12pm

Topic: Music Therapy: An Introduction with Raukauri Music Therapy
Presenter: Rachel Foxell from Raukauri
Location: Anchorage Park Community House, 16 Swan Crescent, Pakuranga

To register, email us at: admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

Did You Know...

- A new national ID card for disability assist dogs has been launched and will make it easier for disabled people with certified service dogs to access public places, businesses and public transport. [New ID card launched for disability assist dogs | Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People / Disability assist dogs - Our work - Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport](#)
- Changing Places New Zealand provide fully accessible bathroom facilities in public places throughout New Zealand. It is a place where people with multiple or complex disabilities can get changed in a safe, clean environment. It has facilities for toileting, showering, and changing for adults or children who might have more than one caregiver with them.

For more information about locations and membership costs, visit their website: [Fully Accessible Public Bathrooms | Changing Places New Zealand](#)

- [Childcare Subsidy - Work and Income](#) - Parents who are the primary caregiver of a child receiving the Child Disability Allowance may qualify for up to 50 hours per week of subsidised childcare through Work and Income for another eligible preschool-aged child. This recognises the additional care responsibilities involved in supporting a child with a significant disability. Eligibility is still subject to the Childcare Subsidy criteria, including income limits and approved childcare arrangements.

Community Courses, Programmes, Seminars and Workshops



Standards and Monitoring Services

EGL in West Auckland

West Auckland has a fresh opportunity to grow strong, community-led leadership for Enabling Good Lives. The West Auckland Leadership Initiative, supported by SAMS and National

Enabling Good Lives, brings disabled people, whānau and allies together to spark positive local change. If you live in West Auckland and want to connect, share ideas and help shape future leadership, this is your chance to get involved and make a real difference. For more information email:

waleadership@sams.org.nz



Building Bridges: Culturally Responsive Support for Migrant Families of Neurodivergent Children

Join the Migrant Neuro-Inclusion Network (MINN) for a free online webinar which will explore how culturally responsive and psychologically safe approaches can strengthen support for migrant families navigating neurodiversity and disability.

Speaker: Frian Wadia (NATINA Charitable Trust & Autism NZ)

□ Wednesday, 12 August 2026

□ 7:00–8:00 PM

□ Online via Google Meet

To register: [□ Migrant Neuro-Inclusion Network Webinar Series– Registration Form □](#)



The Disability Journey Into Adulthood - Free Online Sessions

Planning for life after school? Join the *Disability Journey into Adulthood* - a free, two-hour online information session offering practical advice on transitioning from school, living options, transport, funding, and more.

Upcoming sessions in August:

- ☐ Tuesday, 11 August: 10am - 12pm
- ☐ Thursday, 20 August: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
- ☐ Free to attend via Zoom

Register for a session [here](#). For updates or more details, visit their [Facebook](#) page.

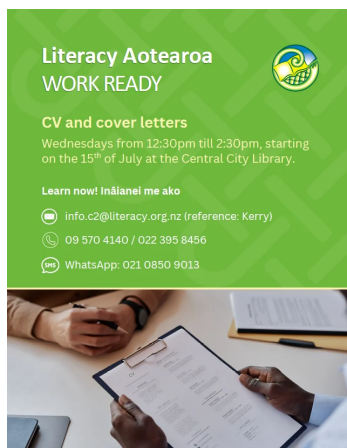


Emergency Management Workshop For People With Learning Difficulties

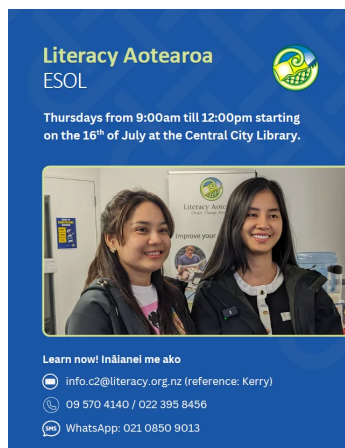
People First are running 1.5-hour Emergency Preparedness Workshops. These workshops help adults with learning disabilities build the knowledge and confidence to prepare for emergencies such as floods, storms, heatwaves, and power outages. Using Easy Read resources and interactive activities, participants create their own personalised emergency plan.

Workshops are held at various locations across Auckland on multiple dates. To find the location and date that best suits you, contact Lydia Starr. Email lydiastarr@peoplefirst.org.nz | Phone [0276788607](tel:0276788607)

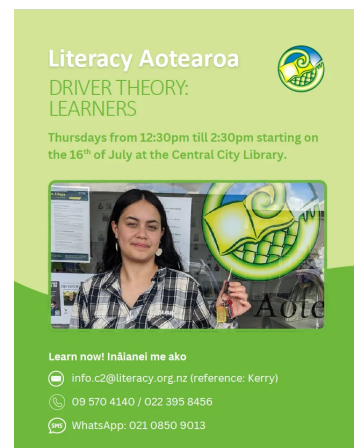
Literacy Aotearoa Classes



Work Ready



ESOL



Driver Theory:

Free class to help you prepare for work - CV and Cover Letters.

- Wednesdays
- 12:30pm to 2:30pm
- Central City Library

Flyer [here](#).

Free ESOL sessions - improve your English skills.

- Thursdays
- 9am to 12pm
- Central City Library

Flyer [here](#).

Learners

Free class to help you prepare for your Learner Driver Licence Theory test.

- Thursdays
- 12:30pm to 2:30pm
- Central City Library

Flyer [here](#).

OUTWARD BOUND ACTIVATE

COURSE DATES:
2 February 2027 to 9 February 2027

ABOUT THE COURSE

ACTIVATE is an adapted eight-day course for adults with a physical impairment or physical challenges who have left school. This is your chance to show yourself what you are truly capable of achieving. During your 8 days in the beautiful Marlborough Sounds, you'll take part in challenges as part of a team including sailing, high ropes, camping and more!

Many students who participate in Activate maybe eligible for a full scholarship from the Ministry of Social Development.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Outward Bound website:
www.outwardbound.co.nz/horizons
Andrea Smart, Disability Inclusion Specialist
Email: adapted@outwardbound.co.nz
Telephone: 027 273 1131



COME & JOIN US FOR AN ADVENTURE
"THERE IS MORE IN YOU"

"I am capable of doing hard things which has really boosted my self-esteem and how I feel about my disability" Cat.



Community Events & Notices



Sign For Change

This August, Learn 30 NZSL Signs

Sign for Change invites people across Aotearoa to learn 30 everyday New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) signs in 30 days and help raise awareness of one of our three official languages.

Registration ensures that you receive the relevant resources and that the videos are emailed to you once the campaign starts.

For more information or to register, visit their website here: [Sign for Change - NFDHH](#)

Free PHAB Online Club



Can't make it to a face-to-face club? PHAB's free Online Club is a great way to stay connected, enjoy games, meet new people, and have the chance to win prizes—all from the comfort of home.

- Every second Tuesday
- 6:00–8:00 pm
- Free to attend

Click the Zoom link below to join the fun:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89949193099>



The Rockit Crew Is Coming To Auckland

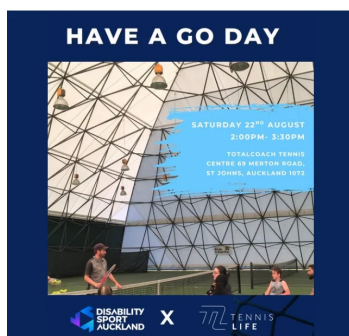
Workshops For Young Adults With Additional Needs

The Rockit Crew is a weekly social and life skills programme for young adults (16-30) with special needs, designed to build confidence, independence and meaningful friendships.

Central Auckland workshops launch in 2027, with Wednesday evening workshops during school terms. Venue details are coming soon.

[Flyer here.](#)

If you are interested in joining or would like more information, visit the website: www.therockitcrew.co.nz



Adaptive Tennis Have-a-Go Day

Disability Sport Auckland

Join Disability Sport Auckland and Tennis Life St Johns for a fun, all-inclusive tennis session — no experience needed!

- Saturday, 22 August
- 1:30pm – 3:30pm

□ TotalCoach Tennis Centre 69 Merton Road, St Johns, Auckland 1072

For more information: [□ Adaptive Tennis Have-a-Go... - Disability Sport Auckland | Facebook](#)

No Limits Netball



No Limits Netball is a programme designed for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities to try netball in an adaptive and inclusive environment. All abilities are welcome.

Held at Auckland Netball Centre, they a range of adaptive equipment available for various needs, including different size and texture of balls, as well as adjustable hoop heights and bell balls.

These sessions are held indoors, at a wheelchair accessible venue.

Session dates:

- ☐ Friday, 21 August, 4pm – 6pm
- ☐ Sunday, 27 September, 10am – 12pm
- ☐ Friday, 16 October, 4pm – 6pm
- ☐ Sunday, 22 November, 10am – 12pm

Sign up to let them know your individual needs, so they can accommodate you: <https://bit.ly/4e7okcB>



Sensory Screenings At EVENT Cinemas

Sensory Screenings allow families to enjoy their favourite films in a safe and accepting environment where kids are free to get up, move around, shout or sing.

Upcoming sessions:

- Toy Story 5 - Sunday, 30 August
- Moana - Sunday, 20 September

Visit their website for more information or to book a session: [Sensory Screenings - Event Cinemas](#)



Regional Sports Day

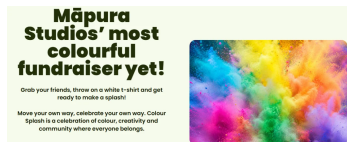
Special Olympics

Looking for a fun, welcoming way to get active and meet new people?

Join Special Olympics for their Regional Sports Day in Auckland.

- ☐ Sunday, 6 September
- ☐ 11am - 1pm
- ☐ Drury Sports Park, Papakura

For more information: [Join Us for our Regional... - Special Olympics New Zealand | Facebook](#)



Colour Splash

Māpura Studios is excited to invite the community to **Colour Splash** – a colourful day of creativity,

connection and community!

Join friends, whānau or a team, create a fundraising page and help raise funds for more opportunities for artists to create, connect and thrive.

Every splash makes a difference, whether it's \$10 or \$1,000.

- Saturday, 26 September
- Fowlds Park, Morningside

[Register online and start fundraising](#)



InterAct Festival 2026: Magical Moments

Interacting invites disabled artists, actors, singers, dancers, comedians, music and cultural groups, film-makers, volunteers and sponsors to be part of their 16th Annual InterAct Disability Arts Festival:

- 21-23 October
- Corbans Estate Arts Centre, Henderson

For more information or to get involved, visit their website: [Interact - Community classes for people with special needs based in Auckland](#)



Power In The Park - Register Now

Join Permobil for a day of connection, innovation and inspiration.

- Thursday, 22 October
- 10am - 4:30pm
- Eden Park

Register NOW to receive free food vouchers on arrival as well as going in the draw to win some incredible event tickets: [Power in the Park Tickets, Thursday, October 22 • 10 AM - 4:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

For more information, visit the Permobil website: [Power In The Park](#)



Accessible Homes in Pukekohe

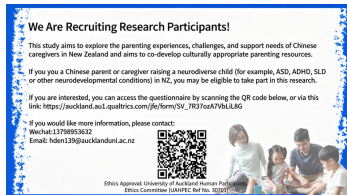
Notre Dame Living has 23 freehold, single-level homes for sale in Pukekohe. The homes have been designed around universal design principles and are Lifemark® 4-Star

certified, supporting people with a range of mobility and accessibility needs as those needs change over time. Close to the town centre, bus routes and the Catholic church For more information see <https://notredameliving.co.nz/>

Your Voice Matters

Make your voices count - participate in important research and surveys.

To have your say, you can also write to your local MP or email us at:
admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz



Parenting Experiences of Chinese Caregivers of Neurodiverse Children in New Zealand - Online Survey

A PhD candidate in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, at the University of Auckland is looking for Chinese parents or caregivers aged 18 years or older who currently live in New Zealand and are raising a child with a suspected or diagnosed neurodevelopmental condition (e.g., autism, ADHD, specific learning disorders, dyslexia, developmental delay, or another neurodevelopmental condition) to participate in an online survey.

Participants who complete the survey can enter a prize draw to win one of five NZD100 supermarket vouchers. They can also choose to take part in a 60-90 minute interview and receive a NZD50 supermarket voucher.

For more information:

- Click here for the [English flyer](#). English survey: https://auckland.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7R37ozA7VbLiL8G
- Click here for the [Chinese flyer](#). Chinese survey: https://auckland.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_24ZUkEzqpQJxW8S

If you have questions, please contact Hongjuan Deng: hongjuan.deng@auckland.ac.nz

Great information on our website!

- [Newsletters from other disability organisations](#)
 - [Useful links page](#)
 - [Disability Support Guides - English, Chinese, Korean and Arabic](#)
 - [View all news and updates on our information pages on our website.](#)
-

NORTH+WEST 7 DAY PHARMACY

98 Hobsonville Rd
Hobsonville, Auckland

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
8AM - 8PM

www.northwestpharmacy.co.nz

FREE SAME-DAY DELIVERY | FREE MEDICATION
PACKAGING | OPEN EVERYDAY

Emergency continuity: we're open every
day

Fewer gaps during weekends / holidays

Save our number for after-hour needs

☎ Call us: 09 416 0405

🌐 <https://northwestpharmacy.co.nz/>

✉ Email: info@northwestpharmacy.co.nz



Make tablets easier to swallow... Try Gloup!

Gloup® is a slippery gel that makes tablets easier to swallow, reduces the need to crush tablets, and has little or no impact on absorption of medication.*

[Available to purchase from Life and Unichem Pharmacies](#)

*clinical evidence available upon request

disability connect.

We are available Monday-Friday 9am-4.30pm

admin@disabilityconnect.org.nz

Phone [09 636 0351](tel:096360351)

We are here to help you with the best information, advice and support for living
the best life possible.

Disability Connect can now receive online donations via credit card. We
appreciate any donation from you!

Donate now



Disability Connect

3b Olive Road, Penrose, Auckland
New Zealand

You received this email from Disability Connect because you signed up on our website or have attended one of our events.

If someone has forwarded this email to you, please **do not** unsubscribe. This link will unsubscribe the originhttps://unsubscribe.mailerlite...al email recipient from the Disability Connect mailing list.

[Unsubscribe](#)

