

Information for parents and caregivers of children with special education needs

October 2014



Support organisations and useful contacts

There is a range of organisations available to support you and your child if they have special education needs.

This information sheet provides contact details for Ministry of Education, Special Education offices and other community support organisations.

The Government funds the Ministry of Education to provide funding and services for children who have the highest needs for support.

Schools also have access to various funds and services to support children with special education needs.

Community and support organisations can provide you with:

- ▶ practical support and services
- ▶ advice
- ▶ access to resources on your child's particular disability
- ▶ advocacy and support to approach schools or Government agencies and to find the right support for your child
- ▶ a connection to other parents and people with disabilities.

We've provided contact details for the Ministry of Education, Special Education district offices and email links for other national support organisations – see your phonebook for the local offices of these organisations.

Ministry of Education, Special Education district offices

Tai Tokerau District Office

10 Awaroa River Road
PO Box 911
Whangarei 0140
Phone 09 436 8900
Fax 09 436 8901

Northwest District Office

Level 1, 102 Rosedale Road
Albany, North Shore City
PO Box 305160
Triton Plaza
North Shore City 0757
Phone 09 487 1100
Fax 09 487 1187

Manukau District Office

Unit I, 16 Bishop Dunn Place
Botany South
PO Box 217046
Botany Junction
Manukau 2164
Phone 09 265 3000
Fax 09 265 3199

Auckland City District Office

Level 3, Eden 5 Building
12–18 Normanby Road
Mt Eden
Private Bag 92 644
Symonds St
Auckland 1150
Phone 09 632 9400
Fax 09 632 9401

Waikato District Office

19 Home Straight
Te Rapa Rd
PO BOX 774
Hamilton 3240
Phone 07 850 8880
Fax 07 850 8998

Bay of Plenty East District Office

Level 3, Regency House
1 Elizabeth Street
Tauranga 3110
Phone 07 571 7800
Fax 07 571 7864

Bay of Plenty West District Office

Level 3, 1144 Pukaki Street
PO Box 701
Rotorua 3040
Phone 07 343 1371
Fax 07 349 2560

Gisborne District Office

39 Gladstone Road
PO Box 658
Gisborne 4040
Phone 06 869 1520
Fax 06 869 1521
Freephone 0508 656 565

Hawke's Bay District Office

8 A Lever Street, Ahuriri
PO Box 147
Napier 4110
Phone 06 833 6730
Fax 06 833 6731

Taranaki District Office

Level 4, PWC Centre
54 Gill Street
PO Box 8158
New Plymouth 4342
Phone 06 758 7858
Fax 06 758 4135

Central District Office

1–3 Oxford Street
(cnr of Ferguson and Oxford Street)
PO Box 1154
Palmerston North 4440
Phone 06 357 9245
Fax 06 355 0503

Greater Wellington District Office

Level 2, 19 Market Grove
PO Box 30 177
Lower Hutt 5040
Phone 04 439 4600
Fax 04 570 3667

Marlborough/Nelson/ West Coast District Office

19 Haven Road
PO Box 282, Nelson 7040
Phone 03 546 3470
Fax 03 539 1501

Canterbury District Office

39 Princess Street
PO Box 2522
Christchurch 8140
Phone 03 378 7300
Fax 03 378 7302

Otago District Office

414 Moray Place
Private Bag 1971
Dunedin 9054
Phone 03 471 5200
Fax 03 479 0541

Southland District Office

190 Forth Street
PO Box 887
Invercargill 9840
Phone 03 218 2442
Fax 03 211 8001

General

Barnardos

Provides child and family services,
early childhood care and education,
and information and advocacy.

www.barnardos.org.nz
Parent Helpline
0800 4 PARENT (727 368)

Citizens Advice Bureau

Provides information, assistance and
referral to people in our communities.

www.cab.org.nz
Freephone 0800 367 222

Kidshealth

For New Zealand parents and
caregivers. Includes A–Z of
support groups and links
to support for parents.

www.kidshealth.org.nz

Plunket

Provides support services for the development, health and wellbeing of children under the age of five.

www.plunket.org.nz
Plunketline 0800 933 922

Skylight

Helps children and young people deal with change, loss, trauma and grief.

www.skylight.org.nz
Freephone 0800 299 100

Advocacy

Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) New Zealand

An umbrella organisation representing people with disabilities, the organisations involved in advocacy on their behalf, and service providers. DPA has a network of regional assemblies who advocate on local issues.

www.dpa.org.nz

Health and Disability Commissioner

Promotes and protects the rights of health and disability services consumers and facilitates the resolution of complaints.

www.hdc.org.nz
Freephone 0800 11 22 33

Human Rights Commission

Advocates and promotes respect for human rights in New Zealand, provides information to the public about discrimination and resolves complaints about discrimination.

www.hrc.co.nz
InfoLine 0800 496 877

IHC Advocacy

The Advocacy Team promotes social change to create a just and equitable world for people with an intellectual disability.

The Advocacy Toolkit includes information sheets on navigating the special education system and on transition.

www.ihc.org.nz/resources/advocacy-toolkit
Freephone 0800 442 442

The Office for Disability Issues (ODI)

The Office of Disability Issues works across government agencies to support progress on disability issues. The work of the ODI is underpinned by the New Zealand Disability Strategy and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

www.odi.govt.nz

The Office of the Ombudsman

The Ombudsman helps the community in its dealings with government agencies and handles any complaints against government agencies.

www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

ASD

Altogether Autism

Provides information about the services for people with autism spectrum disorders, the people who can give you expert advice and where you can find more information.

www.altogetherautism.org.nz

Autism New Zealand

Provides support, training, advocacy, resources and information on autism spectrum disorders, including asperger syndrome.

www.autismnz.org.nz
Freephone 0800 AUTISM (288 476)

Cloud 9 Children's Foundation

Information about Asperger's Syndrome.

www.withyoueverystepoftheway.com

New Zealand ASD Guideline

Guidelines for recognising and treating ASD, supporting children and adults with ASD, teaching children and young adults with ASD, employing people with ASD and living well with ASD.

www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/disabilities/autism-spectrum-disorder

'tips for autism'

'tips for autism' is a course where a team of people dedicates three days to developing interventions and plans to support their particular child with ASD.

www.tipsforautism.org.nz

Behaviour

ADHD Online (also mentions advocacy)

Provides information and support for parents of children with ADHD.

www.adhd.org.nz

Communication

Dyspraxia Support Group

Support group for parents and caregivers of children with dyspraxia that aims to help children to learn and achieve their potential.

www.dyspraxia.org.nz

New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists Association (NZSTA)

The professional association for speech-language therapists in New Zealand. Also has information for parents and families on speech-language therapy.

www.speechtherapy.org.nz

TalkLink

Links people who need help with speaking, writing, learning and environment control with the right technologies. Can offer free specialist assessment services to eligible clients.

www.talklink.org.nz

Disability

CCS Disability Action

Works in partnership with disabled people, their families and whānau to ensure equality of opportunity, quality of life and an environment that enhances full community integration and participation. Also provides the nationwide Mobility Parking Permit Scheme. Contact your local branch for services and support.

www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz
Freephone 0800 227 2255

Enable New Zealand

Delivers a range of services, including equipment and housing modification services for the health and disability sector. Similar services in Auckland/Northland are provided by Accessable.

www.enable.co.nz
Freephone 0800 17 19 81

www.accessable.co.nz
Freephone 0508 001 002
Auckland and Northland

Online information about community-based support organisations for people with disabilities.

supportoptions.co.nz

Early Intervention

Champion Centre

An early intervention service for infants and young children with developmental delay.

www.championcentre.org.nz

Conductive Education

Early childhood education for children with cerebral palsy and other motor disorders.

www.conductive-education.org.nz

McKenzie Centre

An early intervention service in the Hamilton region for young children with special needs and their families.

www.mckenziecentre.nzl.org

Ohomairangi Trust

An early intervention service in the Auckland region for young children with special needs and their families. Particular focus on services for Māori.

www.ohomairangi.org.nz

Wellington Early Intervention Trust (WEIT)

A therapy-based service for children aged 0–5 with special needs.

www.weit.org.nz

Education

Inclusive website

The hub for a number of websites that share New Zealand Curriculum resources, discussions and community interaction with a focus on accessibility and access for all.

www.inclusive.org.nz

This website eventually be redirected to a site in development called the Online Knowledge Centre.

New Zealand Council for Educational Research

Conducts research and provides research-based knowledge, advice, products and services to everyone with an interest in education.

www.nzcer.org.nz

New Zealand Education Information

Ministry of Education web pages outlining how the New Zealand education system works and the education agencies that are involved in supporting our education system.

www.education.govt.nz

Information for parents can be found on www.parents.education.govt.nz

Special Education information line 0800 622 222
special.education@minedu.govt.nz

Regional health schools

Provide teachers for children at home or in hospital so that they continue their education when they are too sick to go to their usual school.

Upper half of North Island
www.nhs.school.nz

Lower half of North Island
www.centralregionalhealth.school.nz

South Island
www.srhs.school.nz

Te Kete Ipurangi

A bilingual portal and web community that provides quality assured educational material for New Zealand teachers, school managers and the wider education community. Also links to the New Zealand Curriculum, National Standards and NCEA information.

www.tki.org.nz

Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu (The Correspondence School)

Provides distance education from early childhood level to Year 13 to thousands of students every year from a wide range of backgrounds with diverse learning needs.

www.correspondence.school.nz

Employment and transition

Association of Supported Employment New Zealand (ASENZ)

Improves and expands inclusive employment opportunities and services for people with disabilities – provides a list of local supported employment providers.

www.asenz.org.nz

Careers New Zealand Mana Rapuara Aotearoa

A Government agency that aims to provide all people living in New Zealand with access to the best careers information, advice and guidance to achieve their life goals.

www.careers.govt.nz
Freephone 0800 222 733

Work and Income New Zealand

Provides financial assistance and employment services for New Zealanders needing job search support, financial assistance and in-work support.

www.workandincome.govt.nz
Freephone 0800 559 009

Workbridge

A professional employment service for people with all types of disability, including people who have lived with the long-term effects of injury and illness.

www.workbridge.co.nz

Health-related

Allergy New Zealand

Provides information, education and support to the many thousands of New Zealanders living with allergies, including those at risk of anaphylaxis.

www.allergy.org.nz

Arthritis New Zealand

Provides information, education, advice and support to people with arthritis and their families. Provides support groups and referrals to local therapy and service providers.

www.arthritis.org.nz
Freephone 0800 663 463

Arthrogyriposis Group New Zealand

Provides support and assistance to people with arthrogyriposis and their families and whānau.

www.arthrogyriposis.org.nz
Phone 06 343 3394

Asthma Foundation

Advocates to Government and raises awareness of respiratory illnesses, funds research for better treatments and educates on best practice, provides resources on its website and supports 18 affiliated asthma societies to provide education, support and advice services.

www.asthmanz.co.nz

Cerebral Palsy Society

Provides information and support for people with cerebral palsy.

www.cpsoc.org.nz
Freephone 0800 503 603

Cystic Fibrosis Association of New Zealand

Information service about cystic fibrosis (CF), promotes public awareness, provides support for people with CF and their families, provides educational opportunities for people with CF, provides a voice to Government agencies on behalf of the CF community, encourages and funds CF research.

www.cfnz.org.nz

Diabetes New Zealand

Offers support and education for people with diabetes.

www.diabetes.org.nz

Epilepsy New Zealand

Education, information and support services for people with epilepsy, their families and professionals. Provides seizure management planning advice.

www.epilepsy.org.nz
Helpline 0800 20 21 22

Face it Cleft New Zealand

Support network for people with a cleft lip and/or palate.

www.faceit.org.nz
Freephone 0800 425 338

Heart Children

Dedicated to providing support for children with heart conditions and their families and whānau.

www.heartnz.org.nz
Freephone 0800 543 943

Kidney Kids

A parent organisation set up to meet the needs of children who have kidney disorders and their families and whānau.

www.kidneykids.org.nz
Freephone 0800 215 437

Ministry of Health – Disability Support Services

DSS is responsible for planning and funding disability support services. Many of the services DSS funds are accessed through a Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC) service. NASCs work with disabled people to help identify their needs and to outline what disability support services are available. They allocate Ministry-funded support services and assist with accessing other supports.

www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf

Muscular Dystrophy Association of New Zealand

Provides support and information to people living with a neuromuscular condition.

www.mda.org.nz
Freephone 0800 800 337

New Zealand Organisation for Rare Disorders

Helps people with rare diseases and their families and whānau through providing access to support groups, clinicians and researchers.

www.nzord.org.nz

New Zealand Spinal Trust

Provides information, resources and support for everyone with spinal cord injuries, their families, friends, caregivers and health professionals.

www.nzspinaltrust.org.nz

New Zealand Williams Syndrome Association

Provides help and support for families with a child or adult with williams syndrome and resources for parents, teachers, employers and medical professionals.

www.williams-syndrome.org.nz

Prader-Willi Syndrome Association

Provides education, information and support for people with PWS and their families and whānau.

www.pws.org.nz
Freephone 0800 479 743

Hearing

Deaf Aotearoa New Zealand

Provides access to information and services, offers awareness training, facilitates ongoing research, lobbies for better access to opportunities and services, promotes New Zealand Sign Language.

www.deaf.org.nz

Kelston Deaf Education Centre

A residential special school that provides services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, their families and professionals throughout Auckland, Northland, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty. New Zealand Sign Language resources available to all families across New Zealand are available.

www.kdec.school.nz

New Zealand Audiological Society

Promotes excellence in hearing care by advancing the profession of audiology through leadership, advocacy and education.

www.audiology.org.nz

New Zealand Federation for Deaf Children

Provides members with information, assistive equipment subsidies, tutor fee assistance, scholarships for tertiary students and subsidies for Deaf Youth Camp.

www.deafchildren.org.nz

Van Asch Deaf Education Centre

Provides a residential school in Christchurch, as well as services and support for mainstream students and their teachers. Provides educational programmes and special related services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students and their families, in the lower half of the North Island and the South Island.

www.vanasch.school.nz

Information and library services

Allan Bean Centre Library

New Zealand Spinal Trust library based at Burwood Hospital in Christchurch. A comprehensive collection of resources on disability and rehabilitation.

www.nzspinaltrust.org.nz/library.asp

CCS Disability Action – Information Service

A national library and information service based in Wellington.

Freephone 0800 227 200

Family Advice – Information Sheets

Barnardos provides information sheets on a range of issues affecting families.

www.barnardos.ie/resources-advice/publications/free-publications.html

IHC Library

The IHC Library has information on all aspects of intellectual disability.

ihc.infospecs.co.nz

New Zealand Federation of Disability Information Centres

A national network of community-based disability information and referral services.

www.nzfdic.org.nz

Freephone 0800 693 343

People First Disability Information and Advisory Service

Information for people with learning disabilities, their families, whānau and for people interested in self advocacy for people with a learning disability.

www.peoplefirst.org.nz
Freephone 0800 206 070

Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind Library and Information Services

BLINK– national library service for students who are blind or have low vision

blindfoundation.org.nz/members/library/homai-special-formats-library

Weka

Disability information website for disabled people, their families, whānau and caregivers, health professionals and disability information providers.

www.weka.net.nz
Freephone 0800 171 981

Intellectual disabilities

Hohepa

Establishes and maintains homes, schools, organic farms and day services throughout New Zealand for the care, support and education of intellectually disabled young people and adults.

www.hohepa.com

IHC and IDEA Services

IHC, through IDEA Services and Timata Hou, offers a range of services across New Zealand that support people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Services focus on supporting people with intellectual disabilities to live, learn, work and enjoy life as part of the community.

www.ihc.org.nz/our-services
Freephone 0800 442 442

Learning difficulties

Dyslexia Foundation

Provides a voice for, and services to, New Zealanders with dyslexia as well as to those supporting them.

www.dyslexiafoundation.org.nz

SPELD

Provides information, assessment and tuition to families, whānau, schools and individuals living with dyslexia and other specific learning disabilities.

www.speld.org.nz

Freephone 0800 773 536

Māori

There are a number of local Māori organisations around the country that can provide you and your child with support. Ask the kaitakawaenga at your local Special Education office for contacts in your area.

Below are details of some national organisations.

Ngā Kura ā Iwi

Ngā Kura ā Iwi is the organisation that supports Kura ā Iwi. Ask your kaitakawaenga for contact details.

Kotahi Mano Kāika

Website to support families and whānau who want to start using Te Reo Māori in their daily lives.

www.kmk.maori.nz

Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust

The governing body for Kōhanga Reo, providing the support needed by Kōhanga Reo.

www.kohanga.ac.nz

Te Rūnanga Nui o

Ngā Kura Kaupapa

Te Rūnanga Nui is the organisation that supports, protects and gives direction to the development of Kura Kaupapa Māori.

www.runanga.co.nz

Migrants and refugees

Immigration New Zealand

Information for people who are thinking about moving to New Zealand – includes information about education.

www.immigration.govt.nz

Language Line

A telephone interpreting service that offers clients of participating agencies free interpretation in 40 different languages.

www.language.govt.nz

Freephone 0800 656 656

New Zealand Now

An Immigration New Zealand website describing life in New Zealand.

www.newzealandnow.govt.nz

Refugee Council of New Zealand

A national organisation that provides advice, information and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees in New Zealand.

www.rc.org.nz

Refugee Services Aotearoa New Zealand

Helping refugees to settle and adjust within their new communities.

www.refugeeservices.org.nz

Mental health and support

Depression

Aims to help New Zealanders recognise and understand depression.

www.depression.org.nz

Freephone 0800 111 757

Headspace

Information for young people, families and schools about mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety and stress. Some of this website is specific to the Auckland region.

www.headspace.org.nz

Lifeline

Freephone 0800 543 354

Mental Health Foundation

Promotes wellbeing and mental health for all ages. Provides a resource and information service.

www.mentalhealth.org.nz

Samaritans

Freephone 0800 726 666

The Lowdown

This website is aimed at helping young New Zealanders understand and deal with depression.

www.thelowdown.co.nz

Free text 5626 for help

What's Up

A national free phone counselling service for five- to 18-year-olds.

www.whatsup.co.nz

Freephone 0800 942 8787

Youthline

Freephone 0800 376 633

Parent support groups

Carers New Zealand

Provides information, advice, learning and support for families of people with health and disability needs.

www.carers.org.nz

New Zealand Down Syndrome Association

Informs and supports families/whānau whose lives have been changed by Down syndrome, promotes and advocates for positive attitudes and inclusion.

www.nzdsa.org.nz

Freephone 0800 693 724

Parent and Family Resource Centre

An Auckland-based centre supporting parents and families of disabled children and young people.

www.parentandfamily.org.nz

Phone 09 636 0351

Parent Helpline

A free telephone service for parents and caregivers who are finding parenting stressful and need someone to talk to.

Freephone 0800 4 727 368

Parent to Parent

A support and information network for parents of children with special needs – support is provided voluntarily by trained support parents who have a child with the same or similar needs.

www.parent2parent.org.nz

SKIP

A positive parenting programme supporting parents and caregivers of children under five to have loving and healthy relationships with their children.

www.skip.org.nz

Pasifika

Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs

Information for Pacific peoples on a range of issues and access to Government services in New Zealand.

www.mpia.govt.nz/for-pacific-peoples

Vaka Tautua

Jointly owned by PIASS and Malologa Trusts, provides disability, mental health, older peoples and other support services for Pacific peoples.

www.vakatautua.co.nz
Freephone 0800 825 282

Sports and recreation

Blind Sport New Zealand

Promotes opportunities for blind athletes to participate in national, international events and the Paralympics.

www.blindsport.org.nz

Halberg Disability

Sport Foundation

Halberg Disability Sport Foundation aims to enhance the lives of physically disabled New Zealanders by enabling them to participate in sport and recreation. Sport opportunity advisers are based at regional sports trusts nationwide.

www.halberg.co.nz

Paralympics New Zealand

Supports and encourages opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in sports from regional, national and international levels.

www.paralympics.org.nz

Riding for the Disabled

Confidence, independence and wellbeing for people with disabilities, through therapeutic horse riding and horse care.

www.rda.org.nz

Special Olympics New Zealand

Year-round programme of sports training and competition for young people and adults with an intellectual disability. Athletes can be as young as five and there is no upper age limit.

www.specialolympics.org.nz

Vision

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand

Advocates on behalf of its members and blind and vision impaired New Zealanders to Government. Provides blindness and disability-specific services.

www.abcnz.org.nz

Blind and Low Vision Education Network New Zealand (BLENNZ)

A school that is made up of a national network of educational services for blind and low vision children and young people.

Provides a variety of educational options both on campus and at local mainstream schools for learners aged 5 to 21. Also provides assessment services for blind and low vision students throughout New Zealand.

www.inclusive.org.nz/blennz

Blind Foundation (legal name Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind)

The Blind Foundation provides sight loss habilitation and rehabilitation services to New Zealanders who are blind or have low vision.

blindfoundation.org.nz
Freephone 0800 24 33 33

Blind Sport New Zealand

Promotes opportunities for blind athletes to participate in national, international events and the Paralympics.

www.blindsport.org.nz

Deafblind (NZ) Incorporated

A not for profit organisation who advocate on behalf of deafblind people. Support groups can be found in Auckland, Waikato and Canterbury.

www.deafblind.org.nz

Ngāti Kāpo O Aotearoa

A national consumer-driven Māori service provider offering kaupapa Māori-based disability support services to blind and visually impaired Māori and their whānau.

www.kapomaori.com
Phone 06 878 9440

Parents of Vision Impaired New Zealand

Supporting and empowering parents who have blind or vision impaired children.

www.pvi.org.nz

New Zealand Government

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