

# an inclusive future

*The Newsletter of the Auckland Disability Providers Network*

**A**s we draw towards the end of 2009, many organisations will breathe a sigh of relief at having survived this very difficult year. Funding is not just at the back of everyone's mind, it is very much to the forefront. To put a positive spin on things, it is when we are under pressure that we start to be innovative and create new ways of working.

A change for us is this first e-newsletter! Not a new concept, but because more people have now got the technology to receive this type of communiqué we feel it is reasonable to save trees and postage. Sorry if you don't like it, but postage is not an option this time around.

The formation of Disability Support New Zealand is steaming along. Our Chairman Chris Ross and Deputy Chair, Denis Denton, have been representing the ADPN on the Establishment Board. What this means is that eventually, we will have an even stronger voice and greater links with other organisations throughout New Zealand.

The ADPN continues to represent the viewpoint of the disability sector and has been actively lobbying both national and local body politicians to ensure we are not ignored. Our submission to the Auckland Transition

Agency resulted in a hearing with the Community Services committee; forums with Hon Tariana Turia have brought a number of issues into the open and we continue to meet with Ministry of Health officials on a regular basis to clarify 'points of order'.

Ahead we have a brand new unsullied year, so it is time to plan. I would very much like to hear what our members would like. Is there some kind of education or training we could arrange that would be useful? Let me know as it may be practical and cost effective for a number of organisations to join together, but I do need to hear from you.

Any time member organisations have an issue that needs to be brought out, discussed with other organisations or with official bodies, let us know! Sharing information can not only halve the problems, but it can also lead to a solution and networking is the name of the game.

Christmas is not far away now, so may you all have a wonderful festive season. Travel safely and we look forward to the next year with optimism and anticipation.

Kind regards,  
**Pam Antill**, Executive Officer

## Minister Turia fronts up to disability sector again

*By Sheldon Brown, Framework Trust and member of the ADPN Executive*

**Minister for Disability Issues, Tariana Turia, pulled no punches at a frank and open discussion with members of the Auckland Disability Providers' Network last month.**

Tariana Turia, also Associate Minister of Health, was answering prepared questions from ADPN members at an open forum at the Fickling Centre on October 15. The Minister had 'official' responses to the questions, which were handed out before the forum, however, she was not shy about expressing her views, both personally and as a Minister.

On the issue of NASCs, she said there was a new system working well in Western Australia, however, she felt NASCs often "rationed" resources. The Minister asked: "Where are the efficiencies going to come from if you put another layer of administration in place?"

While mentioning an official investigation, she said it was important to provide a system to support disability providers "in a better way than they were today."

"I have sent signals to the Ministerial Committee that I want some action."



In relation to the MSD sponsored 'cost of disability report' tabled in June 2008, the Minister said she had not seen this report yet and a summary of the results was still being finalized.

In response to a comment about 15 months of delay over the report, she admitted she needed to ask why the report had taken so long and would inquire with the Minister of >

- > Social Development and try to get a co-ordinated approach through the Ministerial Committee.

The Minister took some heat over her claim that pay rates for disability support workers had risen up to 50 percent in the past four to five years, and urged organizations to pass this on.



Chris Harris from Spectrum Care, said the Minister's information was "inaccurate" and there was no increase anywhere near what the Minister had stated, adding that the disability sector had been "considerably compromised in comparison with the Health and Corrections Departments."

Tariana admitted the NGO sector could not pay anywhere near what the public sector paid and that was inequitable. She said there was no evidence that the Government was "managing down" the numbers of NGOs but it certainly wanted greater collaboration in the health sector. There was nothing wrong with that expectation, she added.

In terms of the issue of payment for sleepovers, the Minister predicted some nervousness in Government circles about this issue, however speaking personally, she said: "I have a sister in Australia working in this area and she gets a flat rate and if she is woken up, she gets \$25 every time she is woken."

She said concern existed about the establishment of a National Health Board, a proposal that would require a "massive change." To have such a Board separate to the Ministry of Health would add to the bureaucracy and "the Ministry does a huge amount of work."

On the Disability Strategy, the Minister said it was not being implemented and there was no funding pathway despite the Strategy first being released in 2002.

"There is no-one with any teeth pushing the Disability Strategy forward. We need some sound planning otherwise we are going to stay stuck."

If a Disability Commissioner was appointed, the Minister said that position needed to have some teeth so the "sector has someone driving forward."

In relation to the Office of Disability Issues, Tariana said the budget wasn't big enough and there was no true watchdog for disability issues as the Office was not going to "bite the hand that feeds them," and that was MSD.

On the issue of carer support benefits, the Minister urged members to test eligibility at WINZ as "it is my firm view that care givers should get the same benefit. The Minister heard that the caregiver's benefit was only for people caring for children, not for disabled spouses.

The meeting ended with some humour: Thanked for her honesty, for 'fronting up,' and for giving voice to disability issues around the Cabinet table, Tariana said: "This is actually worse than sitting in the House, however, I will guarantee to take up these issues, adding that the issue of a Commissioner was a "hot" issue to address.

## Bring the barriers down, leaders challenged

*Report released by Auckland City Council, Auckland DHB, Waitakere City Council and AUT University's Institute of Public Policy*

**A new report challenges a number of leading Auckland organisations to tackle barriers that get in the way for 77,000 disabled Aucklanders.**

The report shows that disabled people could play a bigger part in the city if barriers were removed in public spaces, services and buildings, transport and communications, work and study.

About half of disabled Auckland adults have personal incomes of less than \$20,000 so increased employment and training opportunities are important for them. Reliable personal support services are also crucial.

The "Step Up Auckland: Decision-makers getting it right for disabled Aucklanders" report provides evidence about some of the key issues and aspirations of disabled Aucklanders.

The report found that disabled Aucklanders love Auckland and they want to contribute more actively to the social and

economic fabric of the city. Step Up Auckland challenges decisionmakers in key public agencies to help make that happen.

Improvements can be as simple as insisting on buildings and footpaths that work well for everyone, including the elderly and parents pushing prams. It can mean using communications processes that let everyone have their say and take part in projects to improve the wellbeing of all Aucklanders. It is often the simple things like confident, comfortable service by frontline staff.

Researchers were surprised to hear from participants that having a qualification was not enough on its own to guarantee increased income. Further research is needed, including a closer focus on particular parts of the city where improvements are being made.

The report also found:

- Getting around the city is still problematic for disabled >

- > Aucklanders because of barriers in transport, the built environment and public spaces.
- Support services play a critical and fundamental role in many disabled people's lives and the quality of those disability support services remains a significant concern. The quality and reliability of personal support services can 'make or break' securing a job, undertaking study opportunities or other necessary economic and social commitments
- Local employers need to understand that hiring disabled people will in fact attract high-calibre, loyal employees.

With a rapidly ageing population and disability on the increase, there is even more pressure on city leaders to plan for the thousands of disabled people who want to live, work and play in Auckland now and in the future.

The Hon Tariana Turia, Minister for Disability Issues, officially received the report and her speech can be read:

[www.beehive.govt.nz/speech/step+report+auckland+disability+research+group](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/speech/step+report+auckland+disability+research+group)

[www.steppingup.net.nz/resources/step-up-auckland-report](http://www.steppingup.net.nz/resources/step-up-auckland-report)

## Employers' Disability Network

**The Employers' Disability Network had its first meeting on the 3rd June 2009. The meeting was chaired by Dr Roderick Deane who is well respected both in the employer and disability world.**

Present at the meeting were either the Board Chairs, Chief Executive or Human Resource General Managers for NZ Post, Fletchers Building; Westpac; Vero; Progressive Enterprises; manpower; DLA Phillip Fox; ACC; MSD; Department of Corrections. Unable to attend but wanting to be part of the network are IBM; ANZ; Vodafone and Manukau City. Auckland University of Technology has also indicated an interest in being part of the Board.

To provide some context, outlined below is the purpose and intent of the organisation.

The Employers' Disability Network will be a membership network of employers, run by employers for employers. Membership of the network will be open to employers from the private, state and voluntary sectors.

The aim is that employers will become "disability confident", thereby accessing the talent pool of disabled people and more effectively meeting the needs of their disabled customers including many older New Zealanders.

Innovation and lasting change are possible when employers and disabled people work together. Both employers and disabled people will benefit by creating inclusive and enabling workplaces and businesses.

**Disability confident employers will benefit from:**

- Skilled workers
- Smarter recruitment
- Lower staff turnover
- Maximised productivity
- Great customer service
- Positive social impact

### What will the network do?

To achieve its purpose, the organisation will deliver enabling products and services across three main areas:

- **Engage** – Bring senior business leaders together with disabled people. Provide employers and other organisations with information on the business case for employing disabled people and promoting inclusion.

Share learning on what works and best practice.

- **Equip** – Provide employers with the information, knowledge and competencies needed to create inclusive, barrier-free organisations. Direct employers to existing information and bring employers and disabled people together to agree new guidance and standards.
- **Deliver** – Tools, projects and partnerships which enable employers to implement change within their organisations and across the system.

The meeting identified that all those present support the initiative and want to sponsor the Employer Disability Network's development. Initial services to be developed will include:

- Resources produced by the UK Disability Employer Forum
- Helpline
- Web based newsletter
- Web portal for employers
- Graduate Programme

The meeting agreed that the Steering Committee comprising of EEO Trust, DPA (NZ) Workbridge, Business NZ, Chamber of Commerce; CTU; Department of Labour; Mainstream, Ministry of Social Development, Office of Disability Issues and ACC will be asked to continue as an Advisory Group to the Board.

The meeting elected John Allen (ex NZ Post; newly appointed Chief Executive and Secretary for Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to be the ongoing Chair of the Board.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on the 12th November, 2009. Prior to that meeting a revised vision; a membership structure and strategy and a communication plan will be developed; Trust Deeds for the Board will be developed for sign off and first set of services will be ready for launching.

*Anne Hawker*

[Anne.Hawker011@msd.govt.nz](mailto:Anne.Hawker011@msd.govt.nz)

*Ministry of Social Development, July 2009*

ADPN member

## Epilepsy Association of New Zealand Incorporated Auckland Branch

The Epilepsy Association of New Zealand was formed in 1956, and has a National Support Centre located in Hamilton, 17 Branches and a network of Field officers nationwide. We are the only not-for-profit service provider solely dedicated to supporting people with epilepsy – our primary role is to support the well-being and interests of people with epilepsy, and to promote greater awareness of Epilepsy throughout the community.

Auckland Branch of Epilepsy New Zealand operates out of three locations in Auckland:

1. Counties/Manukau Field Officer Sasha Clarkson works from an office at the Manukau City Medical Centre, 18 Wiri Station Road, Manukau City, Ph: (09) 263 5454, email: [sasha.akl@epilepsy.org.nz](mailto:sasha.akl@epilepsy.org.nz)
2. Western Districts Field Officer Joan O’Keeffe works from an office at the Integrated Neurological Rehabilitation Foundation, The Tui Glen Centre, 2 Claude Brookes Drive, Henderson, Ph (09) 837 2530, email: [joan.akl@epilepsy.org.nz](mailto:joan.akl@epilepsy.org.nz)
3. Central Auckland Field Officer (position currently vacant) is located at the Neurological Support Centre, 7a Taylors Road, Morningside, together with the Auckland Branch office, Ph (09) 373 4312, email: [auckland@epilepsy.org.nz](mailto:auckland@epilepsy.org.nz)

We provide the following free services via our field officers:

- Children and people with epilepsy: Liaising with Paediatricians and Neurologists
- Adolescents: Facilitating with social interaction and assisting to accept their epilepsy
- Women: Support in coping with epilepsy and pregnancy
- Families: Interaction between home, school, employers, etc
- Education and Training: At schools, workplaces and in the general community
- Support Groups: For all people who are affected by epilepsy
- Information Resources: Literature, DVDs, etc related to epilepsy

Epilepsy is the most common neurological disorder, and affects approximately 2% of the population (or 80,000 New Zealanders).

Everyone who has epilepsy experiences it in a slightly different way. There are people who have just one type of seizure while others have several types. Some people may have additional medical problems that make adjustment to everyday living more of a challenge. Accordingly ease of access to Auckland Branch services is considered vital – hence the reason our services are provided free-of-charge.

Anyone wishing to contact their nearest Epilepsy Field Officer service should call free 0800 20 21 22 or one of the previously detailed contacts.

**Colin Reive, Branch Manager, Epilepsy New Zealand Auckland Branch, PO Box 8679, Symonds Street, Auckland 1150, Ph (09) 373.4312, Fax (09) 845.2276, email: [auckland@epilepsy.org.nz](mailto:auckland@epilepsy.org.nz) website: [www.epilepsy.org.nz](http://www.epilepsy.org.nz)**

## websites of interest

Ministerial Review Group Report released

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/ministerial+review+group+report+released>

Practical ideas to help community groups do things differently during the downturn

<http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/work-programme/building-capacity/help-through-the-downturn.html>

How might the economic downturn impact on the community sector?

<http://www.community.net.nz/communitycentre/news/national/downturn.htm>

Review of the H & D Act and Code by Commissioner Ron Paterson

[www.hdc.org.nz/publications/review.act-code-09](http://www.hdc.org.nz/publications/review.act-code-09)

Overcoming policy barriers (Office of the Community & Voluntary Sector)

<http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/work-programme/overcoming-policy-barriers/index.html>

Award-winning NZ Scientist Sheds New Light On Knee Injuries

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/award-winning-nz-scientist-sheds-new-light-knee-injuries/5/27019>

Tight times in the NFP sector

<http://www.hayesknight.co.nz/voola/Services/FileStream.ashx?id=1fc133f8-fc9d-4036-b2e4-f09526029c94>

ADPN member

## Manukau Institute of Technology

Manukau Institute of Technology offers a range of programmes for students to study, from Business Administration to Horticulture, Vehicle Technology to Tourism and Plumbing to Social Services.

Across Manukau Institute of Technology there are students with varying disabilities who are encouraged to study. Some require and receive support from Disability Support Services. Our goal at Disability Support Services is to increase the participation and achievement of students with impairments at Manukau Institute of Technology. However students must meet the entry criteria for the programme they apply for.

At Disability Support Services we meet with prospective students and encourage them to bring with them their support people, eg family or friends and/or community support workers. Students are required to bring with them a copy of their disability diagnosis (evidence of disability). We discuss the programme for which they are applying and their support needs. For us this is the beginning to organising supports, some of which require time to arrange prior to the course starting, eg Sign Language Interpreters, Electronic textbooks, liaison with tutors.

Some students require note taker support. Some require exam support. Some students request regular contact. Other students we refer to other services, eg Learning Support Centre, Maori & Pacifica Advisors or the Manukau Institute of Technology Careers Centre.

It is essential that the student takes responsibility for their study and progress throughout their course at Manukau Institute of Technology.

Students are often surprised at the amount of theory they must study in their course. Even the practical based training requires students to complete theory studies. Students who

have computer or keyboard skills prior to studying have an advantage over their peers.

Recent graduate Martha completed a Bachelor of Applied Social Work. She began with the Certificate of Social Services, worked her way through the Diploma of Social Work and has recently completed and graduated with a Degree in Applied Social Work.

Martha remembered when she first applied to study Social Work her application challenged the staff and their preconceptions as they had never worked with a Blind student. Martha needed a note taker, text books in electronic format and library assistance, all of which she appreciated.



Martha, her husband and grandson at Manukau Institute of Technology graduation

Manukau Institute of Technology Disability Support Services are staffed by a Disability Co-ordinator and a Student Advisor – Disability.

Contact details: Ph: (09) 968 7668 to book an appointment. Fax: (09) 968 7667, email: [disability@manukau.ac.nz](mailto:disability@manukau.ac.nz)

## Research

### 1. Stroke – that’s an old person’s disease, isn’t it?

Wrong! One in four people who suffer strokes in New Zealand is under 65: that is 25 percent are people of working age. New Zealand is also said to have a higher rate of head injury than many other countries in the world. But we don’t really know how many that is. Estimates range between 18,000 and 26,000 a year.

The National Stroke Research Centre at AUT, headed by Professor Valery Feigin, has been funded to find out just how many there are. (Extract from *Scoop, Independent News 19th July 09*)

2. In a study by Prof. Valery L Feigin et. al, of AUT, published in the NZ Medical Journal (Vol 121 No 1268 ISSN 1175 8716 – Jan 08) entitled “Applied brain injury research in NZ: can we do better?”, Stroke and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) are considered leading causes of morbidity, disability and mortality in NZ.

3. In another study “Burden of stroke in Maori and Pacific peoples of New Zealand” by Valery Feigin et al, published in the International Journal of Stroke Vol 2, August 2007, the figures make interesting reading. An extract from the summary of that report is printed with permission from the authors:

**Summary:** There have been three population-based stroke incidence and outcome studies in Auckland, all funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand. One of the unexpected findings of these studies was the striking difference in the mean age of patients at stroke onset and stroke incidence trends between Maori and Pacific Islanders compared with New Zealand Europeans. While the age adjusted stroke incidence (first-ever stroke events) rates in New Zealand Europeans declined by 19% from 1981–1982 to 2002–2003, these rates increased by 21% in Pacific people and by almost 16% in Maori people. There >

> have been even more striking ethnic disparities in the age-adjusted total stroke attack (first-ever and recurrent stroke events combined) incidence rates, especially in Pacific peoples: 19% decrease in New Zealand Europeans, 66% increase in Pacific and 2% in Maori peoples. While the mean age at stroke onset in New Zealand Europeans was 76 years, in Pacific peoples it was 65 years and in Maori peoples it was 61 years. Over the 3 study periods the mean age at stroke onset has significantly increased in New Zealand Europeans (73, 75 and 76 years) and Pacific peoples (56, 60 and 65 years) but it was not statistically significantly changed in Maori (57, 55 and 61 years). These differences are also observable when looking at the impact of stroke on women across different ethnic populations. The reasons for the difference in the mean age of stroke across the different ethnic groups have been defined in terms of differences in lifestyle, the limitations of health promotion programmes,

especially those promoting no smoking being effective for Maori and access to and delivery of health services for different ethnic populations.

**Correspondence:** Professor Valery Feigin, Clinical trials Research Unit, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand. Ph: 164 9 373 7599 x 84728; Fax: 164 9 373 1710; email: [v.feigin@ctr.u.auckland.ac.nz](mailto:v.feigin@ctr.u.auckland.ac.nz)

A new DVD produced by Prof. Valery Feigin and Associates at AUT entitled "Stroke Recovery: the ultimate video guide for stroke survivors and their families" will be available soon from [www.stroke-education.com](http://www.stroke-education.com)

This DVD has been endorsed by several stroke education agencies in the USA, Australia and NZ, and would be a valuable guide for anyone caring for a person recovering from stroke.

## Thailand's Invisible Population

*I was lucky enough to have a great holiday in Thailand this year. It was the monsoon season which meant grey skies, but oh! It was warm!*

*Everywhere I went the standard of physical accessibility hit me in the face. Sadly, I should say 'inaccessibility'. Pavements are appalling with lumps and bumps and holes everywhere. Not only are they very narrow, they are high off the road in many places with few ramps and there are obstructions of*

*all descriptions. Everywhere there are crowds of people and the Thais are delightful and always ready to help, but people with disabilities are invisible!*

*If mobility is an issue, think twice before going to Thailand. Hong Kong and China would be far easier places to travel around.*

*Does anyone else have any travel information or advice to pass on? Pam Antill*



Mobility car park Bangkok airport



Typical pavement

We are grateful to the following for their support:  
NZ Lotteries Grants Board, Lion Foundation, COGS Manukau & Auckland, DIAS Collective, Auckland City Council