

# VISION



"VISION" is the Official Publication of Parents of Vision Impaired (NZ) Inc.

**PVI`s Whakatauaki/Proverb:**

*Kia hora te marino, Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana, Kia tere te karohirohi,  
I mua I to haerenga, Kia tau te rangimarie.*

*May the calm be wide spread, May the sea glisten like greenstone,  
May the shimmer of summer dance across your pathways, May you always find peace.*

**Issue 94**

**November 2012**



Some of the Mad Hatters who attended the PVI AGM and Conference, October 2012

**"Children with disabilities are like butterflies with a broken wing. They are just as beautiful as all other Children, but they just need a little help to spread their wings."**

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## From your National Office

Greetings fellow Parents,

I write this issue of "Vision" knowing there are less and **less pay days to Christmas!** The very popular "I Pad" needs to come down in price before this father of 6 is genuinely interested. Other forms of tablet technology look do-able, but are met with shrieks of horror, it is not an I Pad..... I am preparing them to be disappointed!

### **What is on top for PVI:**

**Advocacy:** Currently PVI is working with the Ministry of Education at a national level concerning two formal complaints. One, a boy aged 10 who is legally blind has been excluded from a Primary School. The second, a case where the MoE failed to approve a transport assistance package for a DeafBlind student. Work is progressing well with both investigations.

PVI is noticing an almost hardening of attitude from some schools and staff as a resistance to inclusive education. It is almost as if an unconscious reaction is taking place to the upheaval in the education sector. Our advice to parents is to stand firm on your child's rights and ensure the school is working in an inclusive manner.

### **Closure of Special Schools and Special Needs Units:**

PVI is very concerned these closures are based more on balancing the books rather than what is in the best interest for the student/the students family. PVI has seen many submissions on retaining the very real need for these schools yet the very people that deserve to be listened to the most appear to have been sidelined...Parents and Family. The Commissioner for Children has almost pleaded to the Minister of Education to rethink the closures in its submission, sadly to no avail.

Changes to how we receive the **Disability Allowance medication** are to take place...more on page 12, a leaner/meaner dispensing of medication is what we expect.

**PVI/World Blind Union** and the International Council of the Educator of the Vision Impaired learner = **ICEVI**: PVI Executive Officer, Paul Manning is to chair 4 presentations from other parent networks at the first conjoint global assembly of ICEVI and WBU to be held in Bangkok 8 to 18 November 2012. Paul will attend 13-18 November. ICEVI sponsorship covers accommodation and food from 14-18 while the RNZFB sponsored the airfare. PVI is most appreciative of this support and thanks the RNZFB and ICEVI. You might ask how will this benefit parents in New Zealand? Quite simply, the rest of the world is looking at our parent model and wants to learn more!

### **Retina Youth:**

Retina Youth NZ will hold its first ever youth meet-up at Frasers Cafe, corner Mt Eden and Stokes Roads, Mt Eden, Auckland. Saturday November 10th, contact Zane on [youth@retina.org.nz](mailto:youth@retina.org.nz) Fun is on the agenda, a great way to meet young people with retinal disorders.....

### **Individualised Funding:**

Marie and I attended an Individualised Funding (I F) workshop run by Imagine Better last weekend — 3-4 November. For some time we have been stuck in the mud about trying I F with our daughter who is in a residential group home. Quite simply by attending this workshop we learned how to become un-stuck so to speak and are now planning to develop a "circle of support" around Jessica, with a view to try I F early next year. We heard from other parents using I F and how it had changed their lives, that by being able to employ the staff working with their family member was an incredible relief, that some parents hired staff as contractors and as such did not hire Manawanui incharge to look after payroll etc. We learned that by taking time to develop systems, it gave family more say and in time became very easy to manage...Marie and I are learning to be brave and are now going to give it a go. We are sure Jessica will get a better deal and this way we can better prepare for when we are no longer around. I prefer to look at it as letting Jessica and her friends/family take over so Marie and I can leave home! I will keep you updated on how we progress....

*"Your beliefs become your thoughts, your thoughts become your words, your words become your actions, your actions become your habits, your habits become your values, your values become your destiny..."*

## PVI AGM and Conference 2012

At the P.V.I. A.G.M. held on Saturday, 27th October 2012, at the Bella Vista Hotel in Auckland's Airport Oaks, Mrs Paulette Francis was welcomed on to the PVI Board as the Upper North Island Representative. A primary school teacher from West Auckland, Paulette will bring her educational background to the Board as well as the experience she has gained from raising her 14 year old son, Nicholas who has complex needs.

The current Board is now:

Ms Riripeti Paine, Wairoa, Tangata Whenua  
Ms Judith Hyslop, Dunedin, Lower South Island  
Mr Tim Marshall, Christchurch, Upper South Island  
Mr David Heather, Waikanae Beach, Lower North Island  
Mr Don Fairgray, Kaimai, Central North Island  
Mr Grant Davies, Torbay, Upper North Island  
Mrs Paulette Francis, Auckland West, Upper North Island  
Mrs Dionne Gilligan, Wanganui, Anywhere in New Zealand  
The second Tangata Whenua position remains vacant.



Look sweetheart, I reckon you would look stunning in this...

Mrs Kim Lewin from the Kaipara Harbour North of Auckland was farewelled from the Board. Kim, who had served as the Upper North Island Representative on the P.V.I. Board since October, 2008, brought to the PVI Board a strong voice for the children with moderate vision loss as well as a very practical perspective of life and that of a parent raising a child with vision problems.

All advertised changes to the Constitution were passed by the meeting, with just one minor change to the new "Life Membership" Proposal Clause 6.5 - that being "voted on" instead of "presented".

The membership agreed to continue the "Nil" PVI Membership fee, but was strongly in favour of asking the membership for donations to the work of PVI. This was seen as essential to the ongoing viability of the organisation.

We thank those of you who attended the Annual General Meeting and those of you who sent us proxy voting forms. This has allowed us to meet our legal obligations.

Following the A.G.M, attendees were treated to a very inspirational and light hearted presentation from Mr Rob Matthews MBE, who told his story of growing up with a deteriorating vision loss (R.P.), fully losing his sight by age 20, and how he found focus and inspiration. As a lover of all sports, he has held World records and has won many medals including "gold" in the 10,000mts Sydney Paralympics. He was entered into the BBC Hall of Fame, awarded the MBE, met royalty, migrated to New Zealand and continues to run and cycle. Read his story of his website: [robmatthewsmbe.com](http://robmatthewsmbe.com)



Rob Matthews MBE, the Gold Medal  
and Riripeti Paine, Chair of PVI

PVI Board Member, Mrs Dionne Gilligan told how IF (Individualized funding) has improved the quality of life for her and her family and in particular that of her complex needs child. She spoke of the need to be well organised in the early stages of the change over but spoke very positively on the outcome and whilst explaining that it was not available for all cases, she recommended parents investigate if it is right for them.

[www.incharge.org.nz](http://www.incharge.org.nz) for further  
information about individualised funding





## PVI AGM and Conference 2012 cont



Parents were also given plenty of time to meet each other and talk; and for most, this is what the PVI Conference is all about!

The RNZFB “PACE” programme was explained and discussed with the early risers on Sunday morning. (PACE is the current living skills RNZFB programme for vision impaired children drawing upon two specific components including parent support and education.) They introduced “Zippi”, the cartoon zebra, which will be used in the introduction of younger children to the programme. This for many was a conference highlight, well done to the PACE team. PVI looks forward to working with you for the benefit of our children.

Following the PACE presentation was a fathers account of raising a DeafBlind son shared by David Heather. This was a personal reflection of a fathers account raising his son Richard. As David told his story we realized it was more of a reflection of how times have changed and how little has changed! He had us in tears with his humour and sadness, of the pride and the hope we all share. Most of all we heard from a very proud Dad, of a Dad who has taken to tandem cycling, with or without Richard on the back! The love for wife Rhonda and daughter Kirsty was evident throughout as was his love for parent sharing.

Next Paul spoke to our children “finding their place”. Paul spoke to a presentation prepared by Judith Hyslop, who could not attend. He spoke to the real need for us as parents to, prepare for our children to leave home and enter the flatting world, of the challenge to let our children express themselves as to how and where they want to live and the need to work closely with Residential Service providers, if that is to be the option. The term “letting go” is one fashioned by the service providers. Do not buy into it. Family is even more important in our children's lives especially so once they leave home. The need to place our children in care as the effect of the workload was often too much was also explained.

The Conference closed at with Karakia. So what did parents learn?

- Parents took part on their AGM, voted changes for the constitution, = transparent governance
- Met other parents and made connections = no longer alone
- Shared with other parents = someone understands, “yes they get it like I do”
- Learnt from presentations = learning
- Time to relax = give yourself permission to relax in a supportive environment
- Newly gained confidence = confidence through strength in numbers





## PVI AGM and Conference 2012 cont



Above left are two outstanding PVI Mums, they really did steal the show at the Mad Hatters Tea Party. Above right are the Chair and Vice Chair of PVI dressed in their resplendent Japanese Funny Coats. The wine was kindly donated by Glengarry Wines for our Wine and Cheese Tasting at the end of the day. An ideal time for sharing and making connections.

### “Christmas present ideas, BBQ/Kitchen attire, buy and support PVI”



Left and below is the new PVI merchandise we displayed at Conference 2012.

The lime green apron can be worn by either sex as the apron does not mind! For sale for the bargain price of \$25.00.

Below is the white t/shirt, the shirt is unisex ...\$25.00

Below left is the black polo shirt with our PVI logo on it. Best worn in summer as it is made from the cool fabric, \$50.00

Contact PVI for sales enquiries



## Regional Support Parent Updates

Our Regional Support Parents form a vital network of volunteer parents from Dargaville to Invercargill. They are parents who are available to provide support and guidance at the local and regional level, more of a signpost role. On the rear of each Vision magazine are the Regional Support contact details.

From Dargaville, we have the very experienced Gaynor Edgar. Gaynor, mother to Ming Ming who is blind and in his 20s.

From the PVI Board to Regional Support role we welcome Kim Lewin (pictured left in lime green apron). Kim is a passionate voice for the moderate needs learner. The ones that do not qualify for ORS funding. Kim lives north of Auckland but south of Wellsford, on the southern edge of the Kaipara Harbour...lucky thing!

From Auckland West we have Paulette Francis who has recently been voted onto the PVI Board. Paulette is a Primary School Teacher, when she has time to teach!

Tirzah Shepherd, from Howick, Linda Moore Carter from North Shore, and Kawaljeet Singh from South Auckland make up the remainder of the Auckland based Regional Support Parent network. Please feel free to make contact.

In the Waikato we have a paid PVI Parent Support Worker in Maxine Jeffery. Maxine has good volunteer support around her = some of the local PVI membership.

Across the Kaimai Ranges we have Don and Linda Fairgray who continue to provide support for the Western Bay of Plenty parents. Excellent knowledge around health related issues and early childhood.

From Rotorua we are blessed with Helen and Lex Craig.

Napier/East Coast we have Lou Halbert (Napier) and Riripeti Paine (Wairoa). Very experienced parents.

Wanganui and we have Dionne Gilligan who is an Early Childhood Worker, and in Fielding we have Jane Hoani whose child is blind.

From the Greater Wellington - Kapiti Coast area we have David and Rhonda Heather, founding members of PVI and still very active. From Upper Hutt we have Christine Pask and from Lower Hutt is Joanne Beaver.

From Nelson we have Adrian Secker and Trudy Perrett

Christchurch is lucky to have Andrea Lamont who is supported behind the scenes by Davena Shields.

In Oamaru, we have Pat Fox, Pat is very experienced with health related issues.

From Dunedin, we welcome Alaina Gillies, a very keen supporter of valuing parent knowledge. Pictured below is her young man Cameron. Alaina has already won a case through the Health and Disability Commissioner's Office.



From Invercargill we are lucky to have Kim Hartley.

As a PVI parent why would you ring these parents?

- Local knowledge for new parents is vital
- Parent knowledge is often preferred by parents
- Parents tend to understand better
- You can often talk/share to another parent on a deeper level than with professionals
- With this depth of knowledge, comes a perspective that is judgement free

My wife and I, according to our children are "old". Yet we are still active with our telephone support **to** and **from** other parents. For us this parent to parent support still works; to be blunt it is the only thing that has ....



## **This National Government to close Salisbury School, Nelson**

### **MEDIA RELEASE — Wednesday 31 October 2012 Salisbury School profoundly disappointed with Minister of Education's Poor decision**

The Salisbury School Board of Trustees is profoundly disappointed with the Minister of Education the Hon Hekia Parata's announcement today that she intends to close the Salisbury residential special school in Nelson.

The Minister intends to close the Salisbury by January next year, in favour of a co-educational residential facility at Halswell School located over 400 kilometres away in Christchurch.

"Parents are right to be anxious about their daughters' safety at Halswell because a co-educational residential environment is inappropriate, unreasonable and potentially dangerous. By only offering a co-educational option the Minister is removing choice for parents," says Board Chairperson Helen McDonnell. The Board is dismayed by the Minister's decision and is deeply concerned about the risks to their girl's safety and welfare. Lumping special needs boys and girls together in a residential environment could put young girls at unnecessary risk of harm.

"We are profoundly disappointed in today's announcement," says McDonnell. "Closing Salisbury School puts the safety of our girls at risk, and denies them the chance to get the specialist education they deserve and which their futures depend on."

"The welfare and education of our girls has always been our paramount concern," she says. "The Minister has clearly not taken into account the challenges that special needs girls face in coeducational environments nor the clear evidence against such an environment for our students. She has also ignored the wishes and concerns of the school, our student's hard-working and involved parents, and the wishes of the wider community."

The Board is concerned that the decision to close Salisbury School is yet another mishandled process by the Ministry of Education. The Board understands that the Ministry needs to balance competing pressures, but it considers that the right process has not been followed or complied with. "The Minister has also not seriously considered the solutions we put forward; solutions that offered safe, cost effective single-sex schools for students with complex intellectual impairment," she says.

"Both the models we presented would have saved the Government millions of dollars.

One option would have saved more than \$3 million and the other about \$7.3 million, which the Government could have reinvested into its new wrap around service. I am absolutely stunned that the Minister doesn't want to protect these vulnerable girls, while also being able to save a significant amount of money.

"We now have no choice but to consider our options including possible legal action. We have serious concerns about the process followed and wish to do everything we can to ensure that the safety, welfare and future of our girls is protected," concluded McDonnell.

Salisbury School is a residential school for girls in Nelson that provides a 24 hours a day; seven days a week living and learning environment to post-primary special needs girls from around New Zealand.

- Ends -

Media Contact: Emma Thompson, 021 190 1533

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#### **PVI Response**

Minister Parata,

A message from PVI. Why should our parents vote for you or this Government when you do not value our children and refuse to listen to common sense? We challenge you Minister to look after one of our children for a week and then you might understand the life we lead. This decision will cost you and your National Government votes, many votes.

## First Special Schools, now Special Needs Units!

Parents of children at special needs units in Auckland and Wellington delivered a petition to Parliament today calling for the Government to keep special needs units in mainstream schools open.

Children with special needs delivered the 12,600 signatures to Green MPs Mojo Mathers and Catherine Delahunty, Labour MP Chris Hipkins and New Zealand First MP Barbara Stewart.

The petition calls on the Government to reconsider the way it funds teachers in special needs units, which would allow children with special needs to remain in them.

It also calls on the Government to increase individual funding for children with special needs through the Ongoing Resource Scheme (ORS), allowing schools to be able to afford to pay a teacher in its special needs unit.

Parents' spokesman Meredydd Barrar said four special needs units in Auckland and one in Wellington faced closure.

'It's all on a very ad hoc basis and schools don't know if they can maintain their units from one year to the next.'

The Government had not said it would close down special needs units but had stripped them of their teachers.

The Ministry of Education was not immediately available to say whether any units had closed.

The Ministry of Education has restructured school clusters that specialist learning and behaviour teachers work in, requiring them to work in other schools in that cluster.

Special needs units with teachers allocated to them have been told if they want to remain open they have to fund the teachers themselves.

Jesse Rivers, 7, who has Down syndrome and autism, will be forced from his special needs classroom at Fernlea in Wainuiomata.

His mother Rhonda Rivers said he would either have to be mainstreamed at Fernlea or go to another school.

Fernlea principal Walter Gordon said the ministry was not actively supporting children in units.

Fernlea school has three children with special needs in its unit.

Dorothy Stewart has had two children who have attended Ranui Primary School's special needs unit. She said it would be impossible for her son Adon to attend a mainstream school.

"How can a child who is physically 13 but mentally 6 be taught algebra, when they are only learning their two times tables. They get picked on, it doesn't work.

Green's disability spokeswoman Mojo Mathers said she attended a special needs unit in a mainstream school as a child.

"I want all of these children to have what I had, because it makes a difference. Funding needs to be needs based and not part of contestable funds so that every child gets the best start they deserve in life.

"Our prisons are too full of people with a hearing loss or with a learning disability. We have failed them as a society," she said.

- [APNZ](#)

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### **PVI Response**

Be afraid, be very afraid. This National Government has an agenda that will see our children totally included into the mainstream environment. This is called inclusive education. Many of you will understand that inclusive education can work from a unit. That many of our children's needs will be best met from a unit....so how did we get to this position of Special Schools and now Units being closed. Be afraid, no one is listening! A thought to note, where does Homai School now stand?

Parents you need to write letters to: (See letter on page 9)

1: Minister Parata, Minister of Education, Parliament Buildings, Wellington (No stamp reqd).

2: Mr J Key, Prime Minister, Parliament Buildings, Wellington (No stamp reqd)



The Prime Minister  
The Right Honourable John Key  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington



Prime Minister,

You have approved the Minister of Education to make closures of two residential Special Schools and Special Units in various parts of the country. These closures were made without adequate consultation and with NO evidence based research. The Minister refused to meet with parents when requested. The submissions made to support the continuation of these schools have been considerable and well researched. Consultation on the crown part has not met with meaningful dialogue, this meaningful dialogue is what we recommend etc.

As a parent of a disabled child we are very nervous that these closures are the tip of the iceberg and that many more are planned. As parents we need to be convinced that our children have a right to the best education the government can provide. It is our contention that inclusive education can occur within a unit environment, and within a special school environment; reverse integration springs to mind.

Be assured Prime Minister, we parents and associated whanau need convincing our children are going to be placed in the most beneficial learning environment within our schools. Often this is not the mainstream classroom.

How many votes are these education issues costing your Government?

Signed:

Dated:



The Education Minister  
The Honourable Mrs H Parata  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington



Minister Parata,

Recently you announced the closure of two residential special schools and recently several special units. Very little consultation has occurred by yourself or the Ministry. Both decisions have not been support by any evidence based New Zealand research, and against an overwhelming opposition from parents and across the education sector.

You have approved as Minister of Education to make closes to some Special Schools and Special Units in various parts of the country. These closures have not met with meaningful consultation on the crowns part; more meaningful consultation is what we recommend etc.

As a parent of a disabled child I am very nervous that these closures are the tip of the iceberg, and that many more are planned. As parents, we need to be convinced that our children have a right to the best education the government can provide. The presently quoted ' Wrap Around Support ' clearly was not able to support a young disabled child of 10 expelled from his local school, and in the very region you are closing a special residential facility. It is our contention that inclusive education can occur within a unit environment, and within a special school environment; reverse integration springs to mind.

We believe Minister, we parents and associated whanau need an assurance that transparent consultation accountable honesty needs to be practiced by the Secretary of Education and her departmental colleagues. We need convincing our children are going to be placed in the most beneficial learning environment within our schools. Often this is not the mainstream classroom all the time!

This is the third occasion you as a Minister have been publicly embarrassed by the actions of your Ministry. These will no doubt be taken into account at the ballot box.

The decisions affecting Salisbury and Mackenzie we trust will be challenged in the court.

How many votes are these education issues costing your Government?

Signed

Dated:



## Key Points from BLENNZ BoT's Oct Meeting

The Blind & Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ)  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
26 October 2012

### Key Points:

1. The Board received a presentation on the Immersion Course programme from Ruth Wedde, Immersion Coordinator. Board members acknowledged the key role of this BLENNZ service and congratulated Ruth on the high quality of the programme.
2. Karen Stobbs, Senior Manager Assessment and Teaching Services, spoke about the successful launch of the BLENNZ Learning Library, and its significance for families/whānau and educators.
3. The Board authorized the release of funds from the Homai Special Funds for the upcoming Blundell Award.
4. The Board received a report that BLENNZ had won two awards for the Homai Campus redevelopment at the Auckland branch, NZ Institute of Architects Awards.
5. The Board received a report that two Radio NZ programmes have been made about BLENNZ. The first focussed on the history and current services of BLENNZ, and went to air on 30<sup>th</sup> September. The second, which is yet to be broadcast, will focus on music programmes at BLENNZ Homai Campus.
6. In a recent review, the work of the therapists in the Homai Campus School was reviewed against the Specialist Service Standards. Feedback was given to the Board on the very positive verbal feedback received from the reviewers. A written report is due soon.
7. The Board received a progress report on the BLENNZ Infrastructure review under Goal 2 of the Annual Plan.
8. The Board Strategy Day planned for the 27<sup>th</sup> October will now be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November.
9. The Board agreed to a schedule of BOT meetings for 2013.
10. The Board approved the policy on Conflicts of Interest.

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### Don't Pick On Me by Susan Eikov Green

~~\$39.90~~ **\$29.90**

It's impossible to protect a child from the reality of bullying, as all children experience it at some point in their lives. A child may be the target of a bully, bully others, or be a witness to the bullying behavior of their classmates. Adding to the problem, bullying has moved beyond face-to-face confrontations and into the online realm, where supervision by parents and teachers is limited.

#### Family Coach Jenny Jackson says:

"The activities in *Don't Pick on Me* are designed to help children learn strategies they can use to avoid being victimised by bullies and stand up for themselves when they become a bully's target. This book includes more than forty ten-minute activities children can do with their parents to learn how to effectively handle emotional and physical bullying and how to help others if they witness this behaviour. It also features advice for handling cyber-bullying, harassment, and gossip."

[read more »](http://www.theparentingplace.com) www.theparentingplace.com



## Changes to Disability Allowance by this National Government

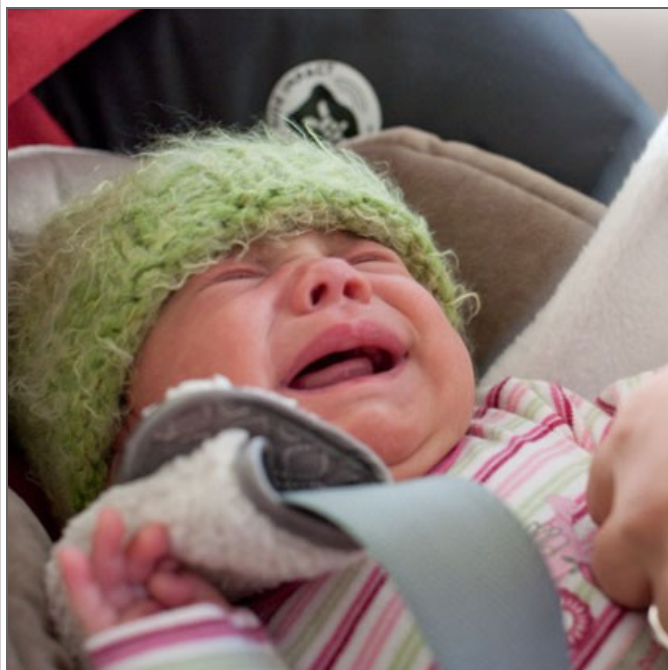
### **Disability Allowance:**

Changes as to how and who will dispense medications and other goods and services under the Disability Allowance are to occur. The National Government has introduced changes that will allow better control on disability expenditure. The National Government believe these changes will allow for improved value for money!

Work and Income will now provide a list of suppliers they have approved to meet the needs of disability. This is inclusive of prescriptions etc. We will on our children's behalf go to the chemist that Work and Income have approved...no one else. The very important relationships you have developed with your local chemist will probably change as a result of this. Apparently, we cannot appeal the decision Work and Income make as to where we get our medications from .....

- Will we be able to maintain the current level of medication?
- One hopes that the doctors who prescribe our children's medication are not being managed by Work and Income!
- The level of accessibility of dispensing chemists approved by Work and Income will no doubt be wide spread and no one will be disadvantaged? Concern exists for people with disabilities inclusive of children that live in rural communities.

The **Sickness Benefit has been abolished** with a new benefit of “**Jobseeker Support**” now incorporating sickness and disability issues. “Work and Income” will now determine eligibility for entitlement to job seeker support on the grounds of disability sickness or injury. There is an appeal process, in a new section 10B of clause 56 and Part 1 of Schedule 2.



Above are some images that possibly capture our frustration and angst regarding these changes. With this lack of choice, our relationships with our chemists are likely to suffer. Is it little wonder that many parents choose not to have anything to do with Work and Income. The process is becoming more and more dehumanising.



This image is where we want to be. That our children are valued and not seen as a cost to the state. Through no fault of their own our children are disabled, yet are treated like second class citizens and as such we as parents feel the same....

## Trekker Breeze handheld talking GPS

- The easy all-in-one handheld talking GPS for people who are blind or low vision
- Verbally announces names of streets, intersections and landmarks as you walk
- Always know where you are and where you are going on foot or in a vehicle
- Know what is around in your location (public services and businesses)
- Get the step-by-step instructions from start to end

Please contact us at **0508 225 5734** if you have any questions about this product.



## SmartView Graduate video magnifier

The SmartView Graduate is the perfect companion for any student or travelling professional.

The Graduate splits into three main components that easily fit in your computer bag.

Please contact us at **0508 225 5734** or use the [Sales query form](#) if you have any questions about this product.

## SmartView Versa + handheld electronic magnifier

- Easy to use electronic handheld magnifier
- Magnify images up to 15X
- Multimedia support for music, recordings, movies
- Large, simple to use buttons, large color LCD display
- Autofocus for optimal viewing distance
- Writing stand or flip out the handle for optimal viewing



Please contact us at **0508 225 5734** or use the [Sales query form](#) if you have any questions about this product.

## ZoomText Keyboard

The ZoomText Large-Print Keyboard is the perfect solution for anyone who has difficulty seeing the lettering on their keyboard.

Please contact us at **0508 225 5734** or use the [Sales query form](#) if you have any questions about this product.

### Overview

The ZoomText Large-Print Keyboard is the perfect solution for anyone who has difficulty seeing the lettering on their keyboard.

### Key Features:

- Large, high-contrast lettering that's easy to see, even in low light conditions
- Choice of high-contrast color schemes - Black on Yellow or White on Black
- 16 dedicated buttons to access important features, change magnification levels, toggle screen enhancements, launch AppReader, DocReader and more
- Feature keys can be assigned to your choice of ZoomText commands, internet and multimedia commands, open an application, document or web page.

Used together with ZoomText Magnifier or ZoomText Magnifier/Reader, your low-vision computer workstation is complete.

## Recreation — Auckland

Goal ball introductory sessions at the Allan Brewster Rec Centre over November/December and was wondering if you could filter this information below either out to your networks and/or in the late October one. The BLENNZ students will be attending from Homai Campus and James Cook High School but I am keen and want to open it up to anyone with a vision impairment and then if it successful, they might hold a regular session.

**Participants:** 8-13 students (x8 James Cook / x5 Kickstart) and all Vision Impaired people  
**Venue:** Allan Brewster Recreation Centre, Papatoetoe, Auckland  
**Contact(s):** Jude Shelley (Kickstart Teacher)  
Marie Price (James Cook Teacher)  
**Annette Reilly 09 262 5965**  
**Cost:** \$3.00 per participant per session  
**When:** Every Monday in November/December 1-2pm

**Coaches – Jason and Charles (Auckland Goalball Club)**

Cheers **Maia Lewis**

**Disability Sport Coordinator – Counties-Manukau/Northland**

Honouring sporting excellence and linking people with a disability to sport and active leisure

**P** 09 579 9931, **C** 021 995 951, **E** [maia@halberg.co.nz](mailto:maia@halberg.co.nz), **W** [www.halberg.co.nz](http://www.halberg.co.nz)



## Perkins Products Mini Braille Display NOW WORKS WITH APPLE DEVICES!!

The Mini will provide braille input and output for PCs and Apple devices (iPad, iPhone, Mac). *Android coming soon.*



### Features

- 16 braille cells with cursor routing keys
- 10 braille input keys
- Two panning keys and two small joy sticks provide access to basic notetaking functions including:
  - Note pad
  - Book Reader
  - Clock
  - Calculator
- Connects through either bluetooth or USB
- Files can be moved to or from your computer with a mini SD card or thumb drive

**Includes:** Carrying case with shoulder strap,

USB to Bluetooth adapter and Thumb drive

All Perkins Products Braille Displays come with a standard 2 year warranty. A 1 year service agreement extension is available upon purchase.



## Websites and Info

**www.pvi.org.nz** This is our website, so use it....

**www.blennz.school.nz** The new BLENNZ website, take a look, well worth the effort!

**www.kapomaori.com** The official website of Ngati Kapo Aotearoa Inc

**www.abcnz.org.nz** The largest Blind Consumer group in N.Z. An excellent website.

**www.humanware.com** Excellent products for both Vision Impaired and Blind users.

**www.pacificvision.org.nz** This website has links to many international providers of Low Vision aids.

**www.biopicdriving.org** This website explains how some vision impaired people can gain extra vision by using biopic lens that in some cases enables them to drive legally!

**www.aniridia.net:** Anidiria Foundation International.

**www.aniridia.org:** Anidiria support

**www.albinism.org.nz** New Zealand's website for those wishing to know more about Albinism.

**www.nzord.org.nz** This website has links to many international sites containing information concerning rare disorders. This site is the New Zealand link.

**www.rnzfb.org.nz** The website of the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind.

**www.quantech.com.au** This website has good info new Mountbatten training resources. Worth visiting if your child uses braille.

**www.tsbvi.edu** The Texas School for the Blind and Vision is a leading educational facility. Excellent information and links to other places.

**www.minedu.govt.nz** The official Ministry of Education website. Good information, easy to use.

**www.varietyclub.org.nz** The Variety Club may be able to provide financial assistance for children with special needs. I have found them most supportive and helpful in the past **09 522 3743**.

**www.parent2parent.org.nz** Parent 2 Parent is a nationwide support group of parents who have children with special needs.

**www.carers.net.nz** This is the official website of Carers NZ. This website has excellent information on a range of carers needs. They produce an excellent magazine called "Family Care". This magazine is free to all carers, just ring Sara at 09 406 0412 or email: info@carers.net.nz

**www.napvi.org** The National Association of Parents of Vision Impaired USA. Good website, note the section re parent matching.

**www.cpsociety.org.nz** NZ's Cerebral Palsy site an excellent website, very informative and easy to use.

**www.wrightslaw.com** An excellent website for tips on IEP's, it is USA based where laws are different, the tips and ideas are very similar though.

**www.zabonne.com** Zabonne's website hosted by Ivan Pivac, much information regarding blind and low vision aids, plus technology aids for children with additional disabilities.

**www.maparentsupport.com:** - a web site for parents to find support from others who have children with Microphthalmia Anophthalmia.

X, iPod, iPhone and Apple Users

[www.parentsvoice.org.nz](http://www.parentsvoice.org.nz) and/ or 'like' Parents Voice on Facebook .

<http://www.health.govt.nz/publications/subsidy-glasses-and-vision-tests-spectacles-subsidy>

### Needs Assessment and Coordination:

[www.disabilityinfo.co.nz](http://www.disabilityinfo.co.nz)

**RNZFB Holiday Home:** The RNZFB have one Holiday Home available to rent for members. Located in Tauranga at \$50.00 per night. For further information contact Karen at the Tauranga RNZFB Office between 9.00am and 12.00noon on **07 578 2376**.

**The Koru Care:** This charity is linked to Air N Z. They specialise in taking children with Special Needs to Disneyland/Gold Coast Australia. Contact **09 523 2456** to see if your child qualifies. There are also contacts at Wellington and Christchurch offices of Air New Zealand.

[www.yesdisability.org.nz](http://www.yesdisability.org.nz): Yes Disability Resource Centre in Albany. Note the Mothers support group known as Mum's @ Yes" Information Swap Network Group Meetings.

**A CD called "A Family Affair"**, available from **BLENNZ** Homai Campus, **09 2667109** it gives good information re the National Assessment Services available at BLENNZ.

**Pacific Vision:** email Barry at barryb@pvi.co excellent low vision equipment.

**Parents:** - Feel free to write to the following Members of Parliament **the good news (Positive Advocacy) or bad news concerning either your child's needs or yours as a parent!**

**Prime Minister:** pm@ministers.govt.nz

**Minister of Education:** hparata@ministers.govt.nz

**Minister of Disability Issues and Lead Minister of the Carers Strategy:** tturia@ministers.govt.nz

**Minister Maori & Assoc Min Education:** psharples@ministers.govt.nz

### PVI Regional Support Vacancies:

We need more parents to volunteer as Regional Representatives in the following areas: -

- Northland
- Sth Auckland
- Waikato
- Taranaki

We need more parents acting as signposts to support other parents in your community. We wish to create teams within your own community hence sharing the workload. Training is provided FREE normally in a community near you. If you have a little time to give and wish to further support us please contact

**Paul: 0800 312 019**



## Your PVI Board

### Northern N. I. Representatives:

Mr. Grant Davies: 09 473 4013 dandgdavies@xtra.co.nz  
Mrs Paulette Francis 09 835 1232  
paulette.francis@xtra.co.nz

### Central N.I. Representative & PVI Treasurer:

Mr. D Fairgray: 027 286 7798

### Southern N. I. Representative: PVI Vice Chair

Mr David Heather: heatherdavid1945@gmail.com

### Northern S.I. Representative:

Mr Tim Marshall tim4jenny@paradise.net.nz

### Southern S. I. Representative:

Ms. Judith Hyslop: 03 476 6666 judithhyslop@xtra.co.nz

### Anywhere in N.Z. Representative:

Mrs. Dionne Gilligan: 06 344 7755 dionnesg@gmail.com

### Tangata Whenua Representatives: PVI Chair

Ms. Riripeti Paine: 06 838 3949

1 Position Vacant please contact Riripeti

### Return Address:

Parents of Vision Impaired NZ Inc  
PO Box 366  
Waikato Mail Centre  
Hamilton 3240



## Regional Support Parent Contacts

**Dargaville:** Gaynor Edgar 09 439 4439  
**Wellsford:** Kim Lewin 09 422 1012  
**North Harbour:** Linda Moore Carter 09 442 1330  
**Auck. Central:** **Vacancy please apply**  
**Auck. South:** Kawaljeet Singh 09 299 8028  
**Auck. West:** Paulette & Rodney Francis 09 835 1232  
**Auck. East:** Kawaljeet Singh 09 299 8028  
Tirzah Shepherd 09 530 9539  
**Hamilton:** Maxine Jeffery 07 853 7006  
**Tauranga:** Linda & Don Fairgray 027 286 7798  
**Rotorua:** Lex & Helen Craig 07 349 3191  
**Wairoa:** Riripeti Paine 06 838 3949  
**Napier:** Lou Halbert 06 845 4706

**Taranaki:** **Vacancy please Apply**  
**Wanganui:** Amanda & Rex Van Elswijk 06 345 0327  
**Manawatu:** Jane Hoani 027 878 8441  
**Wellington:** Christine Pask 04 527 7585  
Joanne Beaver 04 589 3719  
**Kapiti** David & Rhonda Heather 04 293 6539  
**Nelson:** Adrian Secker 027 201 1028  
Trudy Perrett 03 544 6641  
**Christchurch:** Andrea Lamont 03 980 1566  
**Oamaru:** Pat Fox 03 434 3499  
**Alexandra:** Sarah Hinton 03 449 2414  
**Dunedin:** Alaina Gillies 03 484 7433  
**Invercargill:** Kim Hartley 03 217 1906