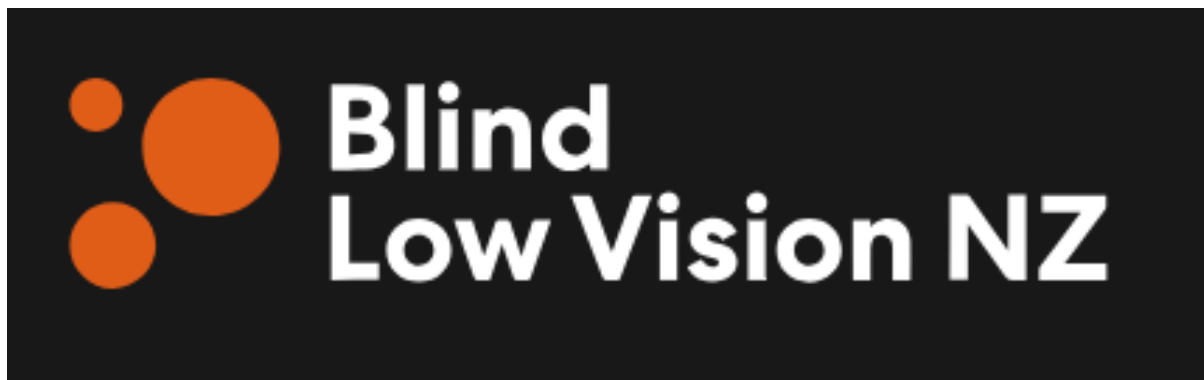


# PVI Conference & AGM

2024



Many thanks to our major sponsor for making this Conference possible:



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## Karakia

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### Karakia Timatanga (to open a meeting)

Whakataka te hau ki te uru Whakataka te hau ki te tonga Kia mākinakina ki uta Kia mātaratara ki tai E hī ake ana te atākura He tio, he huka, he hauhū Tihei mauri ora!	Get ready for the westerly and be prepared for the southerly. It will be icy cold inland, and icy cold on the shore. May the dawn rise red-tipped on ice, on snow, on frost.
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### Karakia Whakamutunga (to close a meeting)

Kia tau ngā manaakitanga a te mea ngaro Ki runga ki tēnā, ki tēnā o tātou Kia mahea te hua mākihikihi Kia toi te kupu, toi te mana, toi te aroha, toi te reo Māori Kia tūturu, ka whakamaua kia tīna! Tīna! Hui e, Tāiki e!	Let the strength and life force of our ancestors Be with each and every one of us Freeing our path from obstruction So that our words, spiritual power, love, and language are upheld; Permanently fixed, established and understood. Forward together!
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### Karakia mō te kai (to bless the food)

E te Atua Whakapainga ēnei kai Hei oranga mō ō mātou tinana Whāngaia hoki ō mātou wairua ki te taro o te ora Ko Ihu Karaiti tō mātou Ariki Ake, ake, ake Amine	Lord God Bless this food For the goodness of our bodies Feeding our spiritual needs also with the bread of life Jesus Christ, our Lord Forever and ever Amen
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## Conference Venue: Novotel Christchurch Airport

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You can find the Hotel at 30 Durey Road, Christchurch Airport, New Zealand

Telephone [+64 9 887 2750](tel:+6498872750) | Contact [emailHA542@accor.com](mailto:emailHA542@accor.com)

The Novotel Christchurch Airport Hotel is conveniently located outside the international and domestic terminals of Christchurch Airport. It offers comfortable rooms which feature modern décor, ergonomic comfort and high-end amenities.



Other features include on-site dining option, Food Exchange, featuring international cuisine with panoramic views of the Southern Alps, flexible conference options for your next meeting or event, and fitness centre.

With easy access to public transport options, you can venture to Christchurch city centre in less than 15 minutes. Our prime airport location provides a convenient post for exploring Christchurch. Less than 15 minutes from the city centre and affording access to Christchurch surrounds, scenic nature and wildlife parks including Orana Wildlife Park.

Christchurch is known for its old heritage buildings and English style charm, combining the new with the old and offering lots of expansive green spaces. Meander along the iconic Avon River or cycle along the bike paths on its banks.



# Conference Programme

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**Venue: Christchurch Airport Novotel**

**Dates: 18 – 20 October**

The conference will take place in the conference rooms at the Hotel. We will have PVI signage out, and the hotel will also know where you can find us.

Day	Time	Event
Friday 18 Oct	2:30pm	Registration table opens
	3:00pm	Open Conference with Mihi Whakatau
		Address from Board Chair Draft Strategic Plan 2025-2030
		Housekeeping & introduce the PVI Board
	3:30pm	<b>Session 1 (60 minutes)</b>
		Speaker: Dr Claire Achmad, Chief Children’s Commissioner Topic: Role of the Children’s Commission and how it can help
		Speaker: Andrea Midgen from Blind Low Vision Topic: Blind Low Vision NZ strategies and services for children and parents
	4:30pm	<b>Session 2 (60 minutes)</b>
		Peer networking and informal Q&A with speakers Drinks and nibbles provided
		<b>Dinner by own arrangements</b> If you wish to eat at the hotel restaurant you will need to book in advance. There are several eateries a short distance from the hotel

## Saturday 19 Oct

<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Session 3 (90 minutes)</b>
	Whakawhanaungatanga
	EGL video: <a href="#">Videos - PVI Shared - Google Drive</a>
	PVI Parent Story: William McGrath
<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>
<b>11:00am</b>	<b>Session 4 (90 minutes)</b>
	Speaker: Rachael Wiltshire from Auckland Disability Law Topic: Cyberbullying
	Q&A
	Speaker: Rebecca Skylerman, Senior Lecturer & Clinical Psychologist/Neuropsychologist Topic: Parent perspectives and current research trends
	Q&A
<b>12:30pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:30pm</b>	<b>Session 5 (60 minutes)</b>
	Blind Sector Organisations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BLENNZ</li> <li>• Deafblind Aotearoa NZ</li> </ul>
	Speaker: Susan Jackman, Executive Manager Topic: The Hapai Access Card
<b>2:30pm</b>	<b>Session 6: Workshops (60 minutes)</b>
	Workshop 1: New Parent Induction Facilitator: Rebekah Graham, National Director, PVINZ
	Workshop 2: Transitioning from school – supports available for employment and training Facilitator: Sarah Mitchell, Head of Employment and Youth Transition, Blind Low Vision NZ
	Workshop 3: Adult children and living independently. Facilitators: Judith Hyslop & Don Fairgray
	Workshop 4: International Antarctica Centre Audio description and touch tour – 10 people only. 90mins (2:30pm to 4:00pm)
<b>3:30pm</b>	<b>Afternoon tea</b>

	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Session 7: Self-directed rejuvenation (2 hours)</b>
	<u>Hotel activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nap in your room</li> <li>• Use the Hotel Gym</li> <li>• Have a drink at the bar</li> </ul>	
	<u>External activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit the Antarctic Centre</li> <li>• Shopping at Spitfire Square</li> <li>• Catch the #8 Bus into Christchurch Central, where you can walk along the Avon, see the Cathedral, visit the Botanic Gardens, play at the Margaret Mahy Playground, visit the Memorial...</li> </ul>	
<b>Conf. Dinner</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	Pre-dinner drinks available from 6pm Conference Dinner Buffet served from 6:30pm Conference entertainment Cash bar available throughout

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Open Session
		AGM
	<b>11:00pm</b>	Close Conference



## Conference Speakers

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### Dr Claire Achmad

*Te Kaikōmihana Matua* | Chief Children's Commissioner

Dr Claire Achmad is a recognised advocate for children in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally, having worked in a wide range of areas relating to children's rights, including from legal, policy and practice perspectives. Claire took up the role of Chief Children's Commissioner on November 1, 2023.

For information on children's rights, you can phone the commission on [0800 224 453](tel:0800224453) (extension 1 to speak to the Child Rights Advisor) or email [children@manamokopuna.org.nz](mailto:children@manamokopuna.org.nz)



### Andrea Midgen

*Chief Executive Officer* | Blind Low Vision NZ

Andrea is the incoming Chief Executive of Blind Low Vision NZ. She is a proven leader with many years of extensive CEO and senior executive experience – both within and outside the not-for-profit sector. She has excelled at demonstrating a clear sense of purpose and vision throughout her career. She was Chief Executive Officer of the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) for 7 years. An alumna of Unitec Te Pūkenga with a Chartered Accountant (CA) qualification, Andrea Midgen brings a wealth of experience in organisational leadership, financial acumen, and stakeholder management.

Contact: [amidgen@blindlowvision.org.nz](mailto:amidgen@blindlowvision.org.nz)



### Rachael Wiltshire

*National Community Educator* | Auckland Disability Law

Rachael Wiltshire (Pākehā) delivers legal education sessions for Deaf and disabled people and their supporters on disability-related legal issues. Rachael's interest in the disability sector comes from her own experiences as an autistic person. She has previously been heavily involved with Altogether Autism, having served as one of their autistic advisors from 2020-2023. In this role she delivered presentations on autism to whānau and professionals.

Rachael is also particularly interested in education. She regularly tutors NCEA students, and she is a current member of the Ministry of Education's Disability Voices Group.

Contact: [rachael.wiltshire@adl.org.nz](mailto:rachael.wiltshire@adl.org.nz)



## Dr Rebecca Skylerman

*Senior Lecturer & Clinical Psychologist/Neuropsychologist* | Department of Psychological Medicine, University of Auckland

Dr Rebecca Skylerman is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Neuropsychologist who works with children, young people, and their families. She is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychological Medicine at the University of Auckland. Her clinical and research work is in rehabilitation, disability, and cognitive assessment in children.

Rebecca was diagnosed in adolescence with Stargardt's Disease and lives with a progressive visual impairment. She is a parent of three daughters and lives in Auckland with her family. Following many years of work at Starship Children's Hospital, Rebecca currently works at the National Child Rehabilitation Service supporting families where a young person has disabilities, chronic illness, or a brain injury. Rebecca's clinical work with families informs her research and she directs several projects aimed at improving psychological and educational services for young people with acquired cognitive disabilities.

Rebecca's experience of growing up with a visual impairment, parenting her own children, and her clinical and research work combine to make her committed to improving services for young people that are supportive and inclusive, allowing children to reach their potential.

Contact: [r.slykerman@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:r.slykerman@auckland.ac.nz)



## Susan Jackman

*Executive Manager* | Hapai Access Card

The Hāpai Access Card aligns with the social model for disability and the UN's definition of disability. The 'Access Card' has been operating since 2013 in the UK and 2020 in Aotearoa New Zealand. It has seen over two hundred thousand of disabled people get better accessibility through participating businesses. The card scheme has nine icons that cover the most frequent barriers. By presenting their card the disabled person can expect to receive a customer experience that reflects the icons on the card. In many participating businesses the cardholder can get a discount, and where the card shows that the cardholder needs a carer, the carer will get a free entry/ticket.

Contact: [susan.jackman@hapaiaccesscard.org.nz](mailto:susan.jackman@hapaiaccesscard.org.nz) | [www.hapaiaccesscard.org.nz](http://www.hapaiaccesscard.org.nz)





## **PARENTS OF VISION IMPAIRED (NZ) Inc.**

Our Mission: "Supporting and empowering parents and whānau"

### **Rosemary Cox, PVI Parent Liaison**

Rosemary Cox has one daughter, Patricia, who has Cerebral Vision Impairment (CVI). She also has several other disabilities and health issues affecting all areas of her development but no unifying diagnosis. Patricia has started school at the BLENNZ Tamaoho Satellite Unit in Pukekohe. Rosemary knows full well how nice it is to have someone to talk to about things who actually get it. She has learned a lot about the health system over the past few years as Patricia has been in and out of Starship Children's Hospital.

Contact: [rosemary@pvi.org.nz](mailto:rosemary@pvi.org.nz)



### **Rebekah Graham, PVI National Director**

Dr Rebekah Graham (PhD, PGDipPracPsysc(Comm), MAppPsy(Comm)) is employed as the National Executive Officer for Parents of Vision Impaired NZ (PVI). PVI is a national charitable organization that provides support and advocacy for parents and whānau of a person with a vision impairment. In her role Rebekah advocates strongly and consistently for inclusion, accessibility, and support for all, with a focus on parents/whānau of a vision impaired child. She is the current co-Chair for Access Matters Aotearoa, Chair of the Parent/Family/Whānau Collective Network and contributes at a national level into relevant groups, advisory boards, and inquiries. Contact: [rgraham@pvi.org.nz](mailto:rgraham@pvi.org.nz)



### **Judith Hyslop, PVI Board Chair**

Judith has a Bachelor of Applied Management, majoring in Strategic Management. She ably uses these skills to assist the PVI Board with strategic and operational planning. Another area I am involved with is Board Policies and Procedures. This can be really 'dry' but it is an essential part of our work and keeps us focused on our vision for PVI; who we are and do. At the 2022 PVI Conference, I was honored in being awarded the first female Life Membership of our organisation. As a group of parents, we also have lots of laughter to help keep us sane! I have been involved in the disability, health, and education sector for over 30 years. Contact: [judith@pvi.org.nz](mailto:judith@pvi.org.nz)





### **Saul Taylor, BLENNZ**

Saul is the incoming Principal for Blind Low vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ). Saul is a qualified Resource Teacher Vision (RTV) and has worked with students of all ages who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision. Before this, he worked as a teacher of the Deaf at Kelston Deaf Education Centre (KDEC) across their Auckland school sites. Saul says it's a privilege to join what is perhaps only a small number of people in the country who are dual-qualified in both sensory sectors.

Contact: [saul.taylor@blennz.school.nz](mailto:saul.taylor@blennz.school.nz)



### **Dr Elaine Gilmour, BLENNZ**

Elaine is the Assistant Principal of Regional services at Blind Low vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ). She has worked in the field of Vision Education for over 20 years. Elaine is passionate about access to the curriculum with Assistive Technologies. Over the past few years she had led the implementation of the refreshed Te Mātaiaho New Zealand Curriculum within BLENNZ and is on the Implementation Design Working Group with the Ministry of Education.

Contact: [elaine.gilmour@blennz.school.nz](mailto:elaine.gilmour@blennz.school.nz)



**Deafblind Association  
New Zealand**  
Taringa turi kāpo

### **Amanda Stevens, Deafblind Association NZ**

Amanda was 24 when she was registered blind. Twenty years later she experienced profound and sudden-onset hearing loss on one side. At the time she was a member of the Blind Foundation and of Blind Citizens New Zealand. She became a committee member of the Nelson Branch of Blind Citizens NZ, was Chair 2015-17, and remains active on that committee. Inspired by the need for advocacy and in support of self-determination for deafblind, blind, and vision-impaired persons, she served on the Blind Citizens NZ Board 2013-17.

Amanda is the Executive Officer for Deafblind Association NZ and is a representative on the Consumer Network Group for the Health Quality Safety Commission, Blind Sector Network Aotearoa, and the Pacific Disability Forum. She also takes a keen interest in the work of World Federation Deafblind and World Blind Union.

## Workshop Sessions

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### **Workshop 1: New Parent Induction**

**Facilitator: Rebekah Graham** National Director PVI

This year PVINZ offered a new online programme for new parents. It was well received, and we are offering it as an in-person workshop. Ideal for parents new to the blind and/or disability sector in the past 12 months, this workshop will walk you through key players in the sector – a who's who of the acronyms you will face!!

M: 0226215740 | E: [rgraham@pvi.org.nz](mailto:rgraham@pvi.org.nz)

### **Workshop 2: Transitioning from school**

**Facilitator: Sarah Mitchell from Blind Low Vision NZ**

Sarah is the head of employment and youth transition for Blind Low Vision NZ. They offer a bespoke service to families with a teenager looking to leave school and enter the workforce or undertake further training. Sarah will walk parents through the process to apply and how they work alongside families.

Sarah Mitchell | Head of Employment and Youth Transition | Blind Low Vision NZ

M: 021 212 3449 | E: [smitchell@blindlowvision.org.nz](mailto:smitchell@blindlowvision.org.nz)

### **Workshop 3: Adult children living independently.**

**A Facilitated discussion on current learnings and funding directions.**

The PVI OG's – Life members will facilitate a discussion regarding older children, living independently, navigating supports, and potential pitfalls.

Facilitators: Judith Hyslop and Don Fairgray

### **Workshop 4: Accessibility touch tour**

**International Antarctic Centre, Christchurch**

Touch tour and audio description of the International Antarctic Centre, including the Hågglund Field Trip. Limited to 10 people only. 90mins (2:30pm to 4:00pm)

<https://www.iceberg.co.nz/>

## External activities

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### **Visit the Antarctic Centre (open 9am to 4:30pm)**

The International Antarctic Centre is the world's premier Antarctic experience, and it's just a short sled-ride from Christchurch city or a quick penguin waddle from the airport. To be more precise, it is a 5-minute walk across the road from the Christchurch Airport terminal.

### **Shopping at Spitfire Square**

Spitfire Square offers a range of convenient shopping, service and entertainment options for both airport visitors and campus workers alike. Located just a few minutes walk from the terminal, you'll find a wide range of shops, services and eateries on offer.

### **Travel into Central Christchurch**

You can uber or taxi, or even catch the bus into Christchurch Central, where you can walk along the Avon, see the Cathedral, visit the Botanic Gardens, play at the Margaret Mahy Playground, visit the Memorial and more.

**Bus Route 8 Port to Port/Airport to Lyttelton:** This high-frequency route connects Christchurch Airport with Central Christchurch and Lyttelton. On weekends, the service runs every 30 minutes and will have you arriving in the city in 30 minutes for \$4 ( or \$2 if you have a Metro card!). Buses depart frequently from the northern end of the International Arrivals Hall, next to the Novotel Hotel. View the timetable here: <https://www.metroinfo.co.nz/timetables/8-port-to-port/>

## Draft Strategic Plan 2025-2030

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The PVI Board has reviewed the strategic plan for the next five years and invites your input and responses.

Previous years strategic goals:

Strategic Goals 2014-2019	Strategic Goals 2020-2025	Strategic Goals 2025-2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting &amp; Encouraging Parents</li> <li>• Information sharing</li> <li>• To Grow PVI</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Building a Healthy Community</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> <li>• Moving Forward together</li> <li>• Consultation</li> </ul>	<p>PVI families lead interdependent, fulfilled lives, and realise their respective goals as parents, siblings, and vision-impaired persons.</p> <p>PVI families are connected to each other and to wider community supports.</p> <p>PVI builds collaborative networks and continues to foster positive working relationships with external organisations.</p> <p>PVI is a future-focused organisation that is adaptive and responsive to relevant changes.</p>	<p><b>Goal 1:</b> PVI supports whaanau to connect with each other, and fosters positive relationships with communities and external organisations</p> <p><b>Goal 2:</b> PVI supports families to understand the EGL principles and the live their best life</p> <p><b>Goal 3:</b> PVI builds collaborative networks, increases PVI’s visibility, and leads advocacy</p> <p><b>Goal 4:</b> PVI is a dynamic and innovative organisation, now and into the future</p>

## Proposed draft strategic plan 2025-2030

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS	OPERATIONAL PLAN	MEASUREABLES
<b>Goal 1: PVI supports whanau to connect with each other, and fosters positive relationships with communities and external organisations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parent Zoom in Term 2</li> <li>2. Annual Conference</li> <li>3. E Vision by email x3 calendar year</li> <li>4. Monthly email updates</li> <li>5. New Parent Liaison worker (Akld)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Zoom Parent Session</li> <li>• Undertake scoping to see if 2025 face to face conference is fiscally possible. If, not investigate online option</li> <li>• E Vision by email completed x 3 a year</li> <li>• Explore all options to fund Parent Liaison worker</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 2: PVI supports families to understand the EGL principles and the live their best life</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parent Zoom in Term 2</li> <li>2. Annual Conference.</li> <li>3. EGL Principals included in at least 3 email updates and x1 eVision</li> <li>4. Provide links to information via Facebook</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One parent educational Zoom undertaken</li> <li>• Keep parents informed on EGL status via email updates and 1 e Vision</li> <li>• Provide at least one information link to parent Facebook page a month</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 3: PVI builds collaborative networks, increases PVI's visibility, and leads advocacy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National clinical network for children's eye health - member and contributor</li> <li>2. Continue with membership of BSNA and attendance at meetings</li> <li>3. Production of updated brochures, flyers, and signage. Send out brochures and flyers to board and others.</li> <li>4. Continue with National level Parent/Family/Whaanau Collective Network</li> <li>5. Contributions to national-level conversations, advisory boards, and media as appropriate/requested</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage at least three/year with the Clinical Network</li> <li>• Membership of BSNA at attendance twice a year</li> <li>• Updated resources are available to Board Members and wider community</li> <li>• Engage with National level network at least four times a year</li> <li>• Demonstrate contributions by PVINZ at a national level, advisory boards and media.</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 4: PVI is a dynamic and innovative organisation, now and into the future</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to pivot to meet the changing disability sector for parents</li> <li>2. Funding applications to at least 4 new organisations submitted</li> <li>3. PVI Board meets x3/year face to face</li> <li>4. PVI Board continues to represent a balance of parents and skills as needed within the socio-political climate</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate innovation in the changing disability climate 2025</li> <li>• Meet funding application target as in operational plan</li> <li>• Organise 3 Face to Face Board meetings</li> </ul>



## PVI Conference Feedback

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Your feedback is used to show funders the impact of our work and to ensure that each year we organise a conference that is delivering what our families want. Please answer honestly and constructively, we really appreciate your feedback.

To provide your feedback online please follow the below link

[www.fpls.in/-vwdq0se66](http://www.fpls.in/-vwdq0se66)

OR you can scan this QR code using your device:

