

Talking can help

It helps to talk about your situation and how you are feeling with someone you trust and respect. You may want to talk to parents who have gone through something similar or professional counsellors with knowledge about vision loss

The Blind Foundation Counselling service:

The Blind Foundation offers an Independent Life Skills service for children 0-21yrs that aims to join in partnership with you. They will work alongside you, so that as your child grows, they learn all the self-help strategies they need to mature into confident, self-assured and independent young adults. From learning to move and get around as a pre-schooler to learning to getting dressed, doing chores, to using a bank card we can give you the ideas and strategies to help teach your child.

A free, nationwide counselling service to children and their families from fully qualified counsellors:

See: www.blindfoundation.org.nz

Freephone 0800 243 333

Blind and low vision education Network NZ (BLENNZ)

BLENNZ is an education service provider for children from birth until they are 21. BLENNZ employs resource teachers vision (RTVs) and developmental orientation and mobility (DOM) specialists who work across New Zealand from a main campus (HOMAI), in Auckland and regional visual resource centres throughout New Zealand. They offer children and their families and whanau throughout New Zealand a wide range of services information and support:

See: www.blennz.school.nz

Phone 09-266-7109

Ministry of Education, Special education

Employs a wide range of education specialists who visit families and whanau at home in the early years and who work with children throughout early childhood and school as a child develops and grows older:

See: www.minedu.govt.nz

Freephone 0800 622 222

Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health funds a range of disability services for children and their families and whanau who meet specific eligibility criteria and are assessed as needing such services. Needs assessment and service coordination (NASCO) organisations coordinate access to Ministry of Health funded support and respite services while District Health Boards provide access to developmental and therapy support for children through child developmental teams.

See: www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/disability-services

Freephone 0800-373 664

The Ministry of Health's Well child Programme is a series of 13 health checks offered free to all New Zealand families and whanau for children from birth to five years. The programme includes a GP check at six weeks, as well as a health check before a child starts school.

See: www.wellchild.org.nz

Freephone 0800 933 922 (PlunketLine)

CONTACT US

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Supported by the Blind Foundation



PVI Mission Statement

“Supporting and Empowering
Parents and Whanau.”

Parents of Vision Impaired (P.V.I.N.Z.) is a non profit organisation of parents committed to providing support to parents of children who are blind or vision impaired: often with additional disabilities

PVINZ had its beginnings in the early 1980's to fill a gap in advocacy and parent networking. It has developed a significant network throughout New Zealand and internationally and presents an advocacy voice for parents supporting their children. PVINZ have been active partners in the development of major education reforms and continues to have an active voice in parent concerns around health and welfare.

The heart and vitality of any parents support network revolves around the exchanges of experiences, challenges, successes and failures with our disabled children.

To begin the journey – we begin to ask questions, to search for information about disabled kids. Confusion and frustration were common feelings as we were advised by the professionals, be they medical, educational, social, rehabilitation, as well as our friends and family.

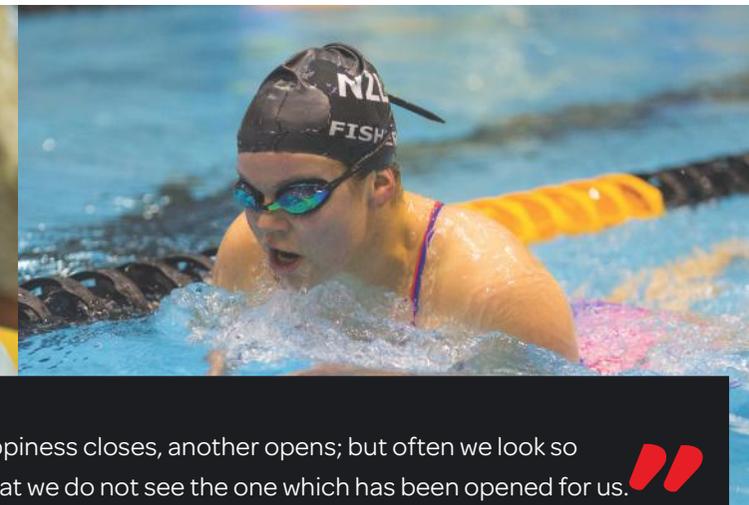
From this background emerged our parent support network. We found other parents and families and the sharing began. We suddenly had an instant engagement with another mother or father, who knew instantly our emotions, our predicament or our space. We found families who had solutions to problems we had agonised over, we found families who could advocate, who could climb the odd bureaucratic mountain, or understand some of the professional environment we were now part of.

Some of the advice failed to address specifically the day to day realities of caring for ourselves and our new arrivals, emotionally or physically.

PVINZ Inc is a national organisation who advocate on your behalf. We have created parent networks where you can discuss issues with other families. We operate a closed Facebook for such matters.

We also have an active website and an open Facebook as information sources for parents and families.

“Na te aroha te kaupapa tuturi”
“The gift of love is the greatest gift of all”



“When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.”

Helen Keller