



Works4Us launch new resources

Our long awaited Easy Read Individual Employment Agreement was launched by People First and Works4Us in June, along with other new resources. Work on the Agreement was started by Cindy Johns when she worked at IHC and was finished by big team effort. Many people have helped to develop the Agreement, including People First members and staff, union officials, human resources staff, employment lawyers and the Department of Labour (DOL).

In the final stages Works4Us worked hard with Annie Newman, Principal Advisor, Labour Relations (DOL) to complete the Agreement and we were delighted that Annie and Craig Smith, Principal Advisor, Workplace Relationships (DOL) attended the launch.

Other guests included Trish Grant, IHC Director of Advocacy; Grant Cleland, CEO of Workbridge; representatives from several employment agencies; People First members and Council of Trade Unions (CTU) officials.

Anne Hawker, Principal Advisor, Disability, at the Ministry of Social Development recently took the Agreement to the United Nations in New York and to Korea. She said the International Labour

Organisation (ILO) told her that they had never seen an example of an easy read employment Agreement and they were very impressed. We have been saying it is a first in the world and now we know it is!

People First and Works4Us thanks all those who have been involved in making the Agreement. It took a while but was well worth the wait.

Another resource launched was the third edition of the booklet, 'Work and Your Rights in New Zealand.' In this edition, the booklet has been divided into four parts that can be presented as a course to groups of Disabled workers and those looking for work or in transition classes.

We also launched an updated version of the CD, 'Work and Your Rights in New Zealand', which contains the booklet, a PowerPoint presentation of the booklet, presenter notes and a PDF version of the new Easy Read Individual Employment Agreement.

All these resources are available from the People First office and are free to the disability sector. The documents also be downloaded from the People First website.



Advocates trained to present courses

Works4Us has been busy training the trainers. Advocates across New Zealand are being trained to present the four-part course, 'Work and Your Rights in New Zealand'. So far training has taken place in the Bay of Plenty (Midland region), Wellington, Christchurch, Nelson and Dunedin.

This course is freely available to Disabled people, and advocates can come to worksites or services, such as business enterprises, supported employment agencies, transition classes,

vocational services and to other groups working in the disability sector. Ideally the course is delivered to a group of 8 to 12 participants over four sessions, but courses can be tailored to particular situations.

Courses have already started in the Bay of Plenty and Wellington regions. If you are interested in hosting a course, please contact Dave Wickham at Works4Us to discuss.



Christchurch Works4Us advocates Stewart, Kayla and Caroline are hard at work at the Christchurch training for presenters. They will present the four-part course, 'Work and Your Rights in New Zealand' in the Mid South region.



Works4Us advocate Alexia Garbutt (People First Central Region Coordinator) and Duncan Armstrong present Part 2 of 'Work and Your Rights in New Zealand' to transition students at Hutt Valley High School.

From National Chairperson, Michael Aldridge

Kia ora, hello

On Monday 26 September it was three years since New Zealand signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It was great that on this same day I attended a function in Parliament to welcome Paul Gibson, the first ever Disability Rights Commissioner into his role. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Paul all the best for his new role and I know he will continue to be a great supporter of People First.

This Butterfly Express has a lot of articles about the work that has been happening in the People First employment advocacy service Works4Us.

I was very proud to launch the Easy Read Individual Employment Agreement at a recent People First function. A lot of people were part of the making of the Agreement, including People First members and staff, employment lawyers, union officials and the Department of Labour. Thanks to all those who helped to make a great resource.

I think the Agreement will really help people when they get a job. Having an employment agreement in easy read will help people understand what they are signing. People First is letting employers and the disability sector know that the Agreement is available so that it gets used widely.

People First was really pleased to hear that the Agreement was recently shown at a United Nations meeting in New York and received lots of praise.

I am looking forward to the National Leadership forum in Nelson. It will be great to have 30 members from all over New Zealand in one place. This year's theme is 'Leading People First – past, present and future'. Presentations and discussion from members will assist the National Committee with strategic planning for the next three years.

This year's Annual General Meeting will also be held in Nelson and everyone is welcome. We are looking forward to having the new Chief Human Rights Commissioner David Rutherford as guest speaker.

Keep up all the good work in your local groups and regions.

Nothing about us without us.

Michael Aldridge
National Chairperson



People First at ASID Conference 2011



People First attended the recent ASID conference in Rotorua. We had an information stall and spoke about the making of the Easy Read Individual Employment Agreement. People First members Carolyn Thomas and Jean Baty, Cindy Johns, National Manager, and Mary Barnett, Midland Region Coordinator, told delegates how easy read information helps people, how the Agreement was developed and encouraged people to promote its use. First time presenter Carolyn Thomas said, "I felt nervous to be speaking in front of people and some of the speakers were interesting."

asid
research to practice

People First at Upper Hutt Carers Information Expo

In August, People First had an information stall at the first Upper Hutt City Council Information Expo for Carers – people who support Disabled people and the elderly.

Two People First members, Michael Gregory and John Inglis and Alexia Garbutt, Central Region Coordinator, spent the day telling people about the People First Hutt Valley group, the Disability Information and Advisory Service (DIAS) that People First provides and Works4Us.

President of Hutt Valley People First John Inglis thought it was a good experience. "I liked talking to the people about People First. I think the people liked what we had to say."

Vice-President Michael Gregory said, "We put the banners up. We had a good time. We gave the pamphlets to the people to have a look"

People First looks forward to the next year's EXPO where we can have another stall and tell even more people about People First!



Works4US People First's Employment Advocacy Service

<p>People First The People's Choice</p> <p>Works4Us Employment Advocacy Service</p> <p>Contents</p> <p>Included in this CD are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy Read Individual Employment Agreement • Work and Your Rights in New Zealand - Booklet - Powerpoint Presentation - Presenter Notes <p>For more copies phone: Works4Us, 0800 40 40 49 or People First New Zealand on 0800 20 60 70.</p>	<p>People First The People's Choice</p> <p>Works4Us Employment Advocacy Service</p>  <p>Work and Your Rights in New Zealand</p>
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Works4Us
Employment Advocacy Service

To order Works4Us resources, talk about having a course run in your area or talk about your rights at work contact Dave Wickham, Works4Us **0800 40 40 49** email **dave@peoplefirst.org.nz**



Launch of the 'Get Ready and Vote' DVD

On 26 November this year there will be a general election to choose the next Government of New Zealand. The Government makes the rules for our country and it is very important for people to have their say – by voting in the general election.

The Electoral Commission and IDEA Services have made a DVD to show people how to vote and, in September, held an event on the waterfront in Wellington to show the new DVD.

The DVD was very good and had some Wellington People First members in it. Well done to Adam Gibbs, Maria Garland, Karin Clayden and Tracey Tse.

A group of Wellington and Hutt Valley People First members and staff came to the launch and really enjoyed the DVD and the afternoon tea. It was great to see people with learning disabilities as the presenters at the launch and the stars of the film!

Copies of the DVD and booklets to help people learn how to vote in the general election and the referendum have been sent out to all People First groups to watch at local group meetings and discuss. More copies are available.

New DVD, booklet and poster for general election are available from People First New Zealand, If you need one or more copies, please contact us:

0800 20 60 70,
or email: mail@peoplefirst.org.nz

Cindy Johns: 04 381 3242,
cindy@peoplefirst.org.nz

Crystal Fang: 09 529 1488,
crystalfang@peoplefirst.org.nz



Notice of Annual General Meeting



When: on Saturday 3 December 2011
9am followed by lunch 1pm to 2.30pm



Where: Trailways Hotel,
66 Trafalgar Street
Nelson



RSVP: For catering purposes, please let Cindy Johns or Crystal Fang know you are coming, by phoning 04 381 3242 or email mail@peoplefirst.org.nz

Be a Friend of People First NZ

People First would like to acknowledge and thank all its Friends. There is a lot of support happening by Friends of People First, nationally and in regions and groups, which helps to keep People First strong. Friends receive the newsletter, the Butterfly Express, and can also provide support by way of financial or in kind donations.

What is People First?

People First New Zealand is a self advocacy organisation run by and for people with learning/intellectual disability. People First New Zealand is part of an international self advocacy movement. There are People First groups in Canada, USA, England, Australia and other countries.

People First was set up in New Zealand in the 1980's and has been an independent Incorporated Society for over 5 years.

There are over 25 local groups around New Zealand that are split into 6 regions. Each regional group votes for a Regional Chairperson. The 6 Regional Chairpersons make up the People First National Committee.

People First NZ provides information and advice about rights and supports for people with learning/intellectual disability. We also run courses for people with learning disability and deliver educational presentations to the wider community.

To find out more about People First NZ or to get information about learning/intellectual disability contact us by:

☎ 0800 20 60 70

@ mail@peoplefirst.org.nz

💻 www.peoplefirst.org.nz

✉ Po Box 9199
Marion Square
Wellington 6141

**nothing
about us
without us**



**People
First**
New Zealand

**Friends of
People First**

Support People First New Zealand

If you would like to have a Friend pamphlet sent to you or want to know more about being a Friend ring **0800 20 60 70** or email mail@peoplefirst.org.nz

PEOPLE FIRST NEW ZEALAND



Contacts

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Southern Region

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Works4Us

Employment Advocacy Service

To find out more call Dave on

Wellington: **381 3244**

Free phone: **0800 40 40 49**

Email: **dave@peoplefirst.org.nz**

Disability Information Advisory Service

DIAS



If you have any questions or concerns about learning disability call People First New Zealand. We can advise you where to go to get help or give you information that you need.

Call us on Wellington

04 381 3242 or free phone

0800 20 60 70

Email: **mail@peoplefirst.org.nz**

People First NZ want to thank the organisations below for their financial support

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Social Development

NZ Lottery Grants Board

Telecom

Community Organisation Grant Scheme

Frozen Funds Trust

Te Pou o Te Whakaaro Nui

IHC Foundation