

PEOPLE FIRST
NEW ZEALAND

10 YEAR

ANNIVERSARY

The Butterfly Express

10 year anniversary edition

2003-2013





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Kia Ora

Welcome to the '10 Year Anniversary Edition' of the Butterfly Express. This edition is full of the history of People First over the last 10 years – from going independent in 2003 to today, 10 years on in 2013.

People First has had a 25 year history in New Zealand. Ihc New Zealand brought People First into New Zealand in 1987, thanks to J B Munro and Robert Martin, and then supported it within their organisation for the first 15 years.

In 1993 members spoke up about having their own organisation and didn't stop speaking up. In 2003, People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi was formed and became an Incorporated Society. Thank you to Ihc for enabling us to be like our butterfly logo and fly free, and thanks to all those involved in those early days.

Throughout the next 10 years People First has grown and got stronger each year. Thank you to all those who have worked for People First both as paid staff and volunteers and our Friends and funders – without you we wouldn't be where we are today.

It is now 2013 and we can say we are a strong Disabled Persons Organisation with over 30 local groups throughout New Zealand. We have around 600 members and are getting new young members all the time. We have lots of members speaking up on important issues in their lives, in communities and at national level.

I hope you enjoy this '10 Year Anniversary Butterfly Express' looking at the highlights from each year. People First looks forward to the next 10 years with excitement.

Yours truly



Hamish Taverner
National Chairperson
People First New Zealand
Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi



2003

- **National Chairperson: Michael Aldridge**
- **Chief Executive Officer: Bernadette Moses**
- **Advisors to the National Committee: Arapeta Amai; Lorna Sullivan**
- **People First New Zealand Constitution accepted. People First becomes an Incorporated Society.**
- **16 October: People First New Zealand becomes independent from Ihc New Zealand.**
- **'To Have An Ordinary Life' Report comes out.**
- **2003-2006: People First member Robert Martin involved in the drafting of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (The Disability Convention) in his role as Third Vice-President of Inclusion International.**

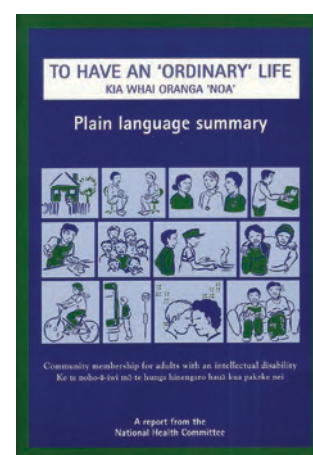
Independence for People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi

In the 1980s the self advocacy movement began in New Zealand. People with learning disability started to ask why they didn't have more choices and control over their own lives. Many people still lived in large institutions for their whole lives and worked for little or no pay in sheltered workshops.

For around 20 years the movement grew within the disability service organisation Ihc New Zealand. The self-advocacy groups were first called 'Client Committees'. This was later changed to the name People First.

Around the time of the 1993 People First national conference, members started saying that they wanted their own independent organisation. In 2003, People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi gained its independence from Ihc. It then became a Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO) and the voice of people with learning disability. Many people worked very hard to make this possible, including the People First Steering Committee and Advisors, staff at Ihc and volunteers.

Independence was celebrated on the 16th October with a formal celebration at Parliament. There were speeches and guest speakers such as the Minister of Disability Issues at the time, Honourable Ruth Dyson. There was a party afterwards.





Michael Aldridge, National Chairperson:

“A big thing when People First went independent was everyone thought that People First won’t make it, won’t make it in the community. You got some people round the regions and community, they were good and said “Oh yeah, we can support People First” and also some people on the other side saying “No, People First won’t go this far, they won’t make it”.

Graeme Parish, Steering Committee Co-Chair:

“I was part of the steering committee that was set up to see how People First could move away from Ihc, to become independent, and that went on for about a year. So I went up to Wellington and I went to all these meetings which I chaired with Josie Khoury. We were under a lot of pressure to get things in place so we could get the funding so we could become independent.”

Ruth Gerzon, Steering Committee Advisor:

“It was hugely significant at the time that this was in Parliament. And I think people coming to Parliament as a venue for that gave complete affirmation of the importance of People First by having been invited to have that in Parliament. It was a great sense of occasion, there was a great sense of excitement. Finally after all this work it had come together and here we were, with our feet firmly planted on the ground and in the right places, in the seat of power really in the country, we were recognised.”



2004

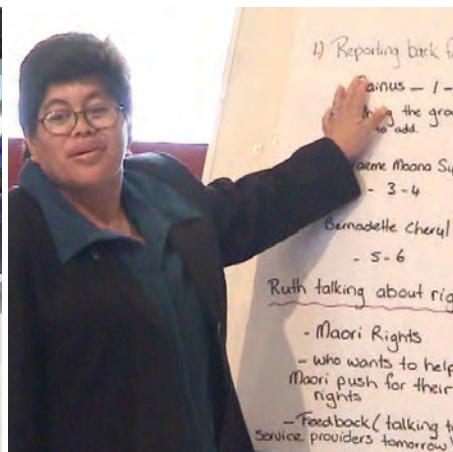
- **National Chairperson: Cheryl Wallace.**
- **People First Annual General Meeting held in Hamilton.**
- **People First National Hui held at Kokohinau Marae, Te Teko.**
- **Executive Assistant: Janet Doughty.**
- **Pathways to Inclusion national roadshow.**
- **People First New Zealand decides to use the term 'learning disability' instead of 'intellectual disability'.**

Te Teko Hui

In April 2004 at Kokohinau Marae in Te Teko, People First New Zealand hosted a 3-day Hui for Māori members to meet and talk about their lives, hopes and dreams. Over 100 people came.

The first part of the Hui was to get people talking about their thoughts and dreams. Then everyone came together as a group and shared what each smaller group had said. People said that they wanted a choice of services, including Māori ones. They wanted to learn Te Reo Māori, Kapa Haka and to spend more time on the Marae.

Finally we asked service providers and people from the Government to come and hear what we had to say.



Susan Sherrie, Hui participant:

"You cannot go on your own and beat your own drum. You need all your extended whanau with you, otherwise it's not gonna happen. So basically what I'm doing my best to say, to providers, to the Ministry, to the Crown is that we have 2 Treaties. Ono is the Treaty of Waitangi. Rua is the Treaty of Ordinary Lives and our Mana must be preserved."

‘Pathways to Inclusion’ national roadshow

‘Pathways to Inclusion’ is a Government policy that came out in 2001 on the review of vocational (day) services for people with learning disability. In 2004 People First was contracted by the Ministry of Social Development to do a roadshow and go to every sheltered workshop in the country to talk about what the policy meant. They spent time in sheltered workshops, telling people about the policy using a plain language kit and video.

Ruth Gerzon, Inclusion Aotearoa:

“At each workshop they said “What do you like here? Why do you come? What do you want to have happen?”



The most significant thing interestingly was that people came to those sheltered workshops mostly because they met their friends there. What was happening was that, in terms of residential homes, people [were] being moved around quite a lot but it was often for 20 or 30 or 40 years the same workshop they went to even if they moved to a different house. The services aren’t very good at helping people maintain friendships, the only way they could do that was by going to the workshops.”

Leading the change to use ‘Learning Disability’



Cindy Johns, Current National Manager:

“Language is very important. It can discriminate or be empowering. It changes over the years. For some time People First Members have spoken up about preferring the term learning disability rather than intellectual disability as they feel it is more respectful and easier to say and spell. People First is modelling this change in New Zealand and is encouraging others to take it on board and modify their language, including in written information. I urge Government, support services, and media to listen to the people and make this change.”

Robert Martin, People First Life Member:

“When you look at it, a lot of people actually can’t say it, so why would you have a word people can’t say? I just think we’ve got to get off our high horses and just, you know, if that’s what the people want that’s what we use. And I think that organisations need to accept it.”



2005

- **People First Annual General Meeting** held in Christchurch.
- **People First Northern Region** strengthened with help from ASB funding.
- **Repeal of the Disabled Persons Employment Promotion (DPEP) Act.**

Working together on the Repeal of the DPEP Act

The Disabled Persons Employment Promotion (DPEP) Act was a law in New Zealand. That meant that workers in sheltered workshops could be paid less than the minimum wage and did not always get the same amount of holidays as other workers.

In 2005 People First, together with Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) had a forum about disabled people having employment rights like all other workers. They said that the Act should be repealed.

This was a great example of Disabled Persons Organisations working together.



Janet Doughty, People First and Mike Gourley, DPA President (Wellington)



Gary Williams, DPA Chief Executive

Susan Bagley (née McDonald), People First Member:

“The DPEP Act meant that New Zealand people could pay not even minimum wage...I was in a sheltered workshop and I was only getting probably \$10 a week. And that’s what the DPEP Act meant, that people could get paid a very minimal amount of money to do a job that was worth more than what they were getting paid for. If they went into a normal job and did that job then they would’ve got minimum wage but because they were disabled they could get paid less. We didn’t feel like we were being respected and treated as normal and we felt that we deserved to be paid what we were worth.”

‘Colours of Inclusion, Ka Haere Tahī Tatou’: We will go forward together as one

In 2005, three videos called ‘Colours of Inclusion’ were made by People First and launched at Parliament by People First National Chairperson Cheryl Wallace and the Minister of Disability Issues, Honourable Ruth Dyson. They were blessed by the Kaumatua of People First, Arapeta Amai.

The videos had some important messages:

- That people with learning disability can take part in their communities, just as well as anyone else, provided they get the right support;
- That people with learning disability can contribute to their communities in many ways, and that there was no need for people to keep working in sheltered workshops for less than \$1 an hour;
- We do need day services, but we want them to help us to be part of our communities, and not keep us separated out;
- How staff can make sure more people are included in their communities.



Ruth Gerzon, Inclusion Aotearoa:

[National Committee] talked about how they lived, their lives and some of them were in paid work [and] their own flat and some of them were still in residential homes or not very good living situations with others and sheltered workshops.

A lot of people had choice and control in their lives and others had virtually none. And they were saying “how come some of us have good lives and choice and control and be part of communities and we can work and some of us can’t?”

And realising in the end that it was the services and the staff that determined whether you had a good life or not...how can we ensure that everyone has a really good life? And they decided that they wanted to make [these videos] to help train staff how to do things really well.”



2006

- **National Chairperson: Susan Bagley (née McDonald)**
- **People First Annual General Meeting held in Wellington.**
- **Guest speaker at Annual General Meeting: Minister for Disability Issues, Honourable Ruth Dyson.**
- **End of large-scale institutional care for people with learning disability in New Zealand with the closure of the Kimberley Centre in Levin.**



“1, 2, 3, 4, No Institutions, No More!”

In 2001 People First and friends marched on Parliament to tell the Government to close the Kimberley Centre – New Zealand’s last institution..

David Corner, People First member:

“Because the Government hadn’t made a decision to close Kimberley and we all marched that day and then they decided that they had to make a decision. People [were] saying no to institutions...”

“1, 2, 3, 4, No Institutions No More, 5, 6, 7, 8, four years too long to wait!”
...because the Government said they’d close in four years.”

Kimberley finally closed its doors in 2006 and on the 14th November a celebration was held at Parliament.

Graeme Parish, People First Member (part of his speech at Parliament):

“Even though the large institutions are closed we have to work towards people being supported to have individual lives.

We can’t have individual lives if we are living in 4-6 bedroom homes not of our choosing. The more people living in a home the less likely we are going to be supported to do individual activities in the community.

So here’s to the future when we see a person with a learning disability pumping your petrol, serving you a coffee in a café, walking down the street hand in hand with their partner with their dog.

This is ordinary – this is what we want.

Let us all work together to make this happen sooner rather than later.”





2007

- People First Annual General Meeting held in Blenheim.
- People First signs contract with the Ministry of Health to provide the only National Disability Information and Advice Service (DIAS) on learning disability.
- People First Midsouth members attend and present workshop at ASSID Conference in Perth, Australia.
- First 10 week 'Speaking-Up' course held in Christchurch.
- People First launches 'Seeking Community' book and DVD about people's life stories at Parliament.
- New Zealand signs the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (The Disability Convention).

Phyllis McPherson joins National Office staff

In 2007 Phyllis McPherson, a member of People First Dunedin took on the role of National Database Coordinator. Her role includes:

- Managing the database of members' contact information;
- Sending out the Butterfly Express national newsletter;
- Putting together and sending out New Members Packs when people join up.



"It keeps myself occupied. I've learned a few new things. It's good cause we do have some talents and people with disabilities don't realise what talents they do have until they try things. There's nothing out there for people with disabilities, well there is some work but a lot of people don't want to work in supermarkets. I'm one of them. And I don't want to be a cleaner my whole life."



People First signs contract with the Ministry of Health to provide the only National Disability Information and Advice Service (DIAS) on learning disability.

People First members present workshop in Australia

A group of Midsouth People First Members travelled to Fremantle, Australia in November 2007 to attend the Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability conference. This was the start of People First New Zealand building international relationships.

The members presented a workshop to other people with learning disability at the conference. It was called 'Loneliness and Friendship' and was about what having friendships is like for people with learning disability who live in services or out in the community.



These are some of the thoughts people said in the workshop:

- Management and staff in residential services do not seem to understand that everyone has the right to choose their own friends and interests.
- People felt pressure from staff and family members to just be happy with the people around them and not look for new friends.

Pam Shanks, People First South Island Team Leader:

"I believe it was a really, really important step for People First New Zealand to attend this conference and the members who were involved gained a lot. They had valuable experiences in networking and making contacts. They also gained more confidence in presenting and taking part in all the other presentations."

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability

Robert Martin, People First Life Member:

"I think, without a shadow of a doubt that people with a learning disability did more to change people's perspective of what this Convention meant than any other disability, I really, really do..."

Being involved in this Convention was a real eye opener for me, how other disability sectors saw us, how we had to fight tooth and nail for everything that we wanted. We need things so that we can belong to the world as well and I don't think that at the moment a lot of people are."



2008

- **Advisors to the National Committee: Brigit Mirfin-Veitch and Hare Arapere.**
- **People First Annual General Meeting held in Auckland.**
- **People First opens Southern Office in Christchurch.**
- **People First signs 4-year contract with the Ministry of Social Development to provide an employment advocacy service. This becomes Works4Us.**
- **First ever Leona Gitmans Award for Self Advocacy awarded to: Graeme Parish.**
- **People First takes its 'Work and Your Rights' roadshow around the country.**
- **People First works together with the Electoral Commission to make a DVD on how to vote in national elections.**
- **People First Midsouth members attend and present workshop at ASSID Conference in Melbourne, Australia.**
- **New Zealand ratifies the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**
- **People First Member Robert Martin awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit.**

People First opens Southern Office in Christchurch

Hayden Stephen, People First Member:

"A new People First southern office opened in Christchurch in July 2008 to help people with self advocacy.

A small group is learning office experience, team working and having support with planning and report writing. There are 2 computers and a fax/ printer, phone and also coffee making.

To celebrate the office opening we had a party. People came from Ashburton, Rangiora, Gore, Wellington, Nelson, Dunedin and Christchurch."



Pam Shanks, South Island Team Leader:

"It is great having a place for members to come to. We also have a meeting room in the building which is excellent. When people want to talk to us, we now have somewhere to meet. Having our own office has given us a more professional profile as an organisation in Christchurch."

Leona Gitmans Te Aranga Trust Self Advocacy Award

Leona Gitmans was a young woman who was passionate about the rights of people with learning disability.

Sadly in 2004 Leona passed away and her family asked that her friends and family give donations to People First rather than bring flowers to her funeral.

With this money People First created the 'Leona Gitmans Te Aranga Trust'. Te Aranga means the rising of the phoenix.

The Self Advocacy Award goes to a person who has been a leader in self advocacy for people with learning disability and who speaks up strongly for the rights of people with learning disability.

The award was given out for the first time in 2008 to Graeme Parish.

Graeme is a long standing member of People First and was on the steering group that brought People First into independence. Graeme spent the first 4 years of People First NZ on the National Committee and has since continued to be involved representing the organisation locally, regionally and nationally.

Over the years Graeme has been very active in his work, representing People First at:

- The Ministry of Health Consumer Consortium;
- Christchurch DPA;
- Hilmorton Hospital disability advisory board;
- Kiwiable meetings;
- The NRID organising Conference Committee.



Graeme Parish, People First Member:

"I was delighted when I was awarded the Leona Gitmans Award for what I actually did. I think it's really important to award our people because some of us doesn't get much money and it's a way to thank them very much."



2009

- **National Chairperson: Graeme Parish**
- **National Manager: Cindy Johns**
- **People First Annual General Meeting held in Dunedin.**
- **Guest Speaker at Annual General Meeting: Tania Thomas, Deputy Commissioner, Health and Disability Commission.**
- **Leona Gitmans Award for Self Advocacy awarded to: Sylvia Tai.**
- **People First South Island Hui held at Living Springs, Banks Peninsula.**
- **Works4Us Employment Advocate training held.**

People First South Island Hui

A Hui was held in Christchurch for all of the People First groups in the South Island.

At the meeting there were lots of different speakers. The Dunedin group spoke about their 'Leadership Training Project'. They played a film showing them interviewing famous Dunedin leaders. Two researchers from the Donald Beasley Institute spoke about their study on women's mental health and wellbeing.

There were also two presentations about Simon Atkinson's work on the Accessible Transport Action Group and the work of Works4Us.

It was great to bring everyone together to share what they have been doing and strengthen People First in the South Island.



People First South Island Hui
'Living Springs'
2009

People First Member Simon Atkinson travels to Japan

The Young Core Leaders of Civil Society Group Development Program is a cultural exchange for people from New Zealand, Japan, Great Britain, Denmark and Germany. In 2009 the group travelled to Japan.

People that apply must be between 23 and 40 years old, currently work for a non-governmental organisation and have worked in the areas of disability, youth or the elderly for at least 3 years.



Simon Atkinson, People First Member:

“I was selected to represent New Zealand’s disability and volunteering sector, on the Young Core Leaders of Civil Society Groups Development Program’s Japanese Mission, in January 2009.

At the forums I was part of a group of people who work with Disabled people and volunteers. The issues we talked about were: inclusive education, community involvement and accessibility.

We visited an Elementary School. I was impressed because it was a very inclusive school. They welcomed us in a very positive way.”

Sylvia Tai awarded the Leona Gitmans Self Advocacy Award

Sylvia Tai has worked in the disability rights movement since the 1980s and was one of the early People First Members who spoke out on the need for People First to be an independent organisation. She ensures that Māori issues are kept on the agenda and advocates for cultural rights for people with a disability.

“My work for People First and for self advocacy has been an important part of my life and the lives of many others. I pray that the movement will continue to grow and become stronger and stronger.”





2010

- **People First Annual General Meeting held in Palmerston North.**
- **Guest Speaker at Annual General Meeting: Dr Judy McGregor, Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner, Human Rights Commission.**
- **1st National Leadership Forum held.**
- **Life Membership awarded to: Robert Martin.**
- **Leona Gitmans Award for Self Advocacy awarded to: David Corner.**
- **People First 'A Place of Our Own' forums held in Hamilton and Christchurch.**
- **Launch of the first Works4Us DVD 'Peter at Work: A job just like anyone else'.**
- **New Zealand Convention Coalition Monitoring Group (of Disabled Persons Organisations) launches 'Disability Rights in Aotearoa/ New Zealand' report.**

National Leadership Forum

In 2010 People First was very pleased to get funding from the Ministry of Health and Te Pou to run leadership projects in the regions around New Zealand and to hold a National Leadership Forum.

The 2 day Leadership Forum was held in Palmerston North and was a great way to finish off the leadership work done in the regions that year.

The guest speakers were Robert Martin and Mike Gourley. They spoke about being leaders.

There were presentations on many topics: the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; how to dress for meetings and conferences; and being part of advisory committees.



A Place of Our Own

In 2010 People First finished its 'A Place of Our Own Project', the making of both a book and film about people who used to live in institutions.

Graeme Parish, People First Member:

"I was the interviewer, and I interviewed 4 people who once lived in institutions, but now live in the community.

People First wanted to know how their life is now compared to in the past. We found that life is a lot better for them living in the community, but they all agreed that they need good support so they can live a full life."



People First then held forums in Christchurch and Hamilton to launch the book and the film. Over 200 people came to the forums.

At the forums the film was shown and the stars of the film were introduced. Then there was an open space to talk about important issues. People talked about: going flatting; employment; self advocacy; safety; abuse and violence.

David Corner awarded the Leona Gitmans Self Advocacy Award



David Corner, People First Member:

"It's a reminder. I wear it nearly every day. I didn't expect anything and it was really special to get it. I get asked about it all the time. People from around the world say to me "that's a nice stone, where did you get it?" and I tell them "It's sacred. It's a pounamu. I got it for working for people with an intellectual disability."

I think it's really great to have the award for self advocacy to recognise the hard work that people have done."



2011

- **National Chairperson: Michael Aldridge**
- **People First Annual General Meeting held in Nelson.**
- **Guest Speaker at Annual General Meeting: David Rutherford, Chief Human Rights Commissioner, Human Rights Commission.**
- **2nd National Leadership Forum held.**
- **Leona Gitmans Te Aranga Trust START-UP Grant given out for the first time.**
- **Write-Mark New Zealand Plain English Award for Plain English Champion Best Project awarded to: People First New Zealand and Ministry of Social Development.**
- **Christchurch earthquakes happen. Midsouth members active in talks about rebuilding an accessible Christchurch.**
- **People First National Committee and staff attend VALID self advocacy conference in Victoria, Australia.**
- **People First Southern Members attend New Zealand ASID conference in Rotorua.**
- **People First Members present 'Who Wants a Passport to Life?' at University of Otago 'Every Body In: Disability Studies Conference'.**
- **New Zealand Human Rights Commission appoints first Disability Commissioner: Paul Gibson.**

World's first Easy Read Individual Employment Agreement

In 2011 the world's first Easy Read Individual Employment Agreement was launched by People First New Zealand and Works4Us.

Work on the Agreement was started by Cindy Johns when she worked at Ihc and was finished by a big team effort. Many people helped to finish the Agreement, including People First members and staff, union officials, human resources staff, employment lawyers and the Department of Labour.

Anne Hawker, Principal Advisor, Disability at the Ministry of Social Development took the Agreement to the United Nations in New York and Korea. She said the International Labour Organisation (ILO) told her that they had never seen an easy read employment agreement and they were very impressed.





Dave Wickham, Works4Us Manager:

“It’s enormously significant [not only] because it’s the only plain language [employment agreement] but it does cover most aspects, 90 percent at least, of what happens at work. Not just for workers with learning disability, but for all workers. It’s a valuable document.”

People First members wow audience at Disability Studies conference

In November 2011 the University of Otago hosted the ‘Every Body In: Disability Studies Conference’. Five members of the Dunedin People First group made a presentation to people at the conference called ‘Who wants a passport to life?’

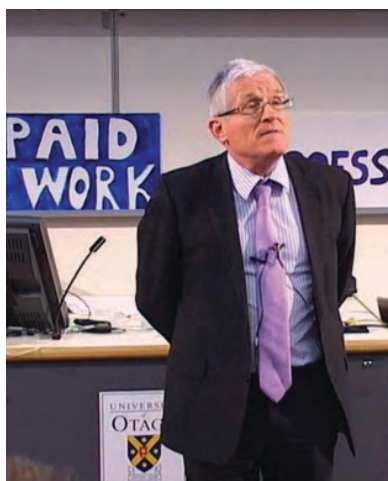
The presentation was similar to the TV gameshow: ‘Who wants to be a Millionaire?’ but instead it asked people questions about the rights of disabled people. All of the questions were based on articles of The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Sue Gates, Donald Beasley Institute:

“I think they got their message across very, very effectively because they made it fun and really topical. They just really got into it. I think it was a good way of conveying information about people’s rights. I thought it was one of the most innovative things that I have seen in a very long time.”

Gill Rutherford, University of Otago College of Education – Education and Disability Studies:

“Absolutely brilliant. It was the highlight of the conference as far as I’m concerned. Very powerful teachers really.”





2012

- People First Annual General Meeting held in Rotorua.
- Guest Speaker at Annual General Meeting: Paul Gibson, Disability Commissioner, Human Rights Commission.
- 3rd National Leadership Forum held.
- Leona Gitmans Award for Self Advocacy awarded to: Rosemary Scully.
- People First Member Rainus Baker awarded the Queens Service Medal.
- Launch of the second Works4Us DVD 'Fiona at Work: a job just like anyone else'.
- People First trip to meet with self advocates from the Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU) in Melbourne, Australia.
- 2-day training weekend held for Local Assistants in the Central Region.
- People First members run and present 'Let's Talk' self advocacy forum at the Australasian ASID Conference in Wellington.
- Launch of Whāia Te Ao Mārama – The New Zealand Māori Disability Action Plan.
- New Zealand Convention Coalition Monitoring Group (of Disabled Persons Organisations) launch the 2012 'Article 33' report on the rights of disabled people in New Zealand.

People First accepted as Associate Member of Inclusion International

Inclusion International is a group of disability organisations from around the world. Together, these groups speak up about the rights of people with learning disability.

In October 2012 National Chairperson, Michael Aldridge, and National Manager, Cindy Johns, went to Washington D.C. in the United States of America to go to the Inclusion International Conference.

The conference was looking at Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. At the conference People First New Zealand was accepted to be an Associate Member.



Cindy Johns, National Manager:

"It's great that People First New Zealand is now a member of an international organisation working in human rights for people with learning disability".

Michael Aldridge, National Chairperson:

"It got you thinking and kept you busy and I really enjoyed it."

‘Keeping Safe, Feeling Safe’ pilot in Auckland

In 2011-2012 People First ‘Keeping Safe, Feeling Safe’ Coordinators, Sue Hobbs and Kaeti Rigarslsford carried out 4 focus groups in Auckland with people with learning disabilities to find out their experiences of bullying, harassment and abuse.

The project aims to increase confidence to report to the police, provide accessible awareness training to local police officers/ staff and other services, provide information and advice about the Criminal Justice System, and promote public safety.

This is an on-going project nationwide. The aim of the programme is to provide keeping safe advice to adults with learning disabilities from transition into adult care services.

Leona Gitmans Trust Self Advocacy Award presented to Rosemary Scully

Rosemary has been very involved in research about people with learning disability – being part of many research advisory groups for over 20 years. Rosemary is passionate about women's health issues and she was involved as a co-researcher on an action research project called ‘Identifying and Addressing General Life Concerns of Women with Intellectual Disabilities’.

She has been the Southern President and been a valued member of the People First National Committee. She has represented People First locally, regionally and nationally in many roles such as the People First representative on Workbridge NZ’s Council of Disabled people.

Her work with People First, DPA, Workbridge, Idea services and with researchers has had a profound influence on many people; giving talks to staff, students, teachers, service providers and the wider disability community.



Rosemary Scully, People First Member:

“There’s lots of people in People First, they’ve done lots of things but they don’t get mentioned and that way they can get rewarded.”



2013

- **National Chairperson: Hamish Taverner**
- **People First Annual General Meeting held in Wellington.**
- **Guest Speaker at Annual General Meeting: Dame Beverley Wakem, Ombudsman, Office of the Ombudsman.**
- **4th National Leadership Forum.**
- **People First educational arm named 'LearnWithUs'.**
- **People First National Committee identify six strategic goals to guide the organisation in 2013-2015.**
- **People First's Easy-Read Individual Employment Agreement chosen to be in the ESSL Foundation's 'Innovative Practice Zero Project Report 2013'.**
- **Launch of new People First website.**
- **Launch of new People First logo.**
- **Launch of new People First Facebook page.**
- **Opening Speaker at Health and Disability Commission 3rd National Disability Conference: People First Life Member, Robert Martin.**
- **People First runs plenary session 'How's your service doing?' at the New Zealand Disability Support Network Conference.**
- **2013-2023 named the Asia-Pacific 'Decade of Disability'.**
- **New Zealand Convention Coalition Monitoring Group (of Disabled Persons Organisations) launch 2013 'Article 33' report on the rights of disabled people in New Zealand.**

A fresh new look for People First New Zealand Inc.

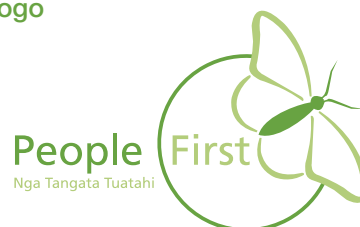
In 2013, People First New Zealand will have been a Disabled Persons' Organisation for 10 years. Along with a formal event at Parliament in Wellington, People First will also be launching its new look for the first time.

The People First logo has a lot of meaning and history attached to it. The old logo was important for People First because it symbolised a butterfly coming out of the cocoon and flying free. The new logo stays true to the original image and shows the butterfly looking like it has risen and is now flying high.

New logo 2013



Old logo



Mao Vaireka from the Ihc Communications team designed the new logo and listened well to what the National Committee members said was important for the new design. We are all looking forward to seeing the new logo being launched.

People First New Zealand will also be launching the 'People First New Zealand Facebook Page'. This will be a great way for members and Friends of People First to find out more about what exciting new projects are happening around the country. Facebook is a good link to the new website and will help develop a social media community for People First. This will help People First connect more with youth, the People First leaders of tomorrow.

You can find the People First Facebook Page here: <https://www.facebook.com/peoplefirstnz>

The most exciting change for People First New Zealand in 2013 will be the launch of its new website! With the generous support of Ihc and the Ihc Foundation, a brand new website will go live on the 16th October. The website has been developed and designed by Mao Vaireka from the Ihc Communications team. Mao worked with a People First website advisory group right at the start of the process to find out what members said was important for the new website. It will be one of the new "go to" places to find our up-to-date information for People First and the disability sector in New Zealand.

Thank you Mao, Janet and team for all of your hard work.

You can find the People First website here: www.peoplefirst.org.nz



National Committee: Hamish Taverner; Jodie Turner; Caroline Quick; Raymond Thoumine; Cheryl Wallace; Michael Aldridge



Messages of support for People First New Zealand, Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi



Cindy Johns, People First National Manager

“10 years – a great milestone. It has been a great privilege to serve the members of People First NZ as the National Manager for the past 4 years. I am very proud of all the members, volunteers and staff who all work hard to improve the lives of people with learning disability in New Zealand and globally. As a Disabled Persons Organisation, our role is to speak up on rights, issues and solutions and the members do this in many, many ways. People First has a strong future. The members have much more they want to do and there are still many issues still to address. Congratulations People First NZ.”



Janet Doughty, People First Project Coordinator/ Easy-Read Translator:

I am so proud of what People First has achieved over the last 10 years and the fact that the organisation is still running strong is a testament to the members and staff who have put so much time and energy into getting it to where it is today. When I left my last job to come to work for People First after it became independent one of my past managers said to me “People First will never survive on its own”, and here we are in 2013 with 32 local groups, a respected ear to government, wide networks and allies, and for the last 3 years have held an annual Leadership Forum with 30 People First leaders attending each time. 10 years ago People First only had a very small number of leaders to call on to represent the organisation, now there are more than we can use!



Josie Khoury, People First Member:

“The way People First has grown over the years, I think it’s great. I reckon the way we’re going at the moment...it’s good to have a celebration. That we’ve done the last 10 years, I think we’ve done really well. We should pat ourselves on the back.”



Graeme Parish, People First Member:

“We could keep on growing, we need to get out into the community more and be seen more. I’m quite sure we will be a real big network.”



Robert Martin, People First Member:

"I think that's the incredible story of People First going independent. I think it was always going to be hard, it was always going to be a battle, but the battle's been won, and I think the battle's been won as we fought so hard to close institutions but now there's other things that we need to keep doing: a better education for all and people having a choice with whom they live with. It's about people. You know it's that famous Māori proverb, it's about people, people, people."



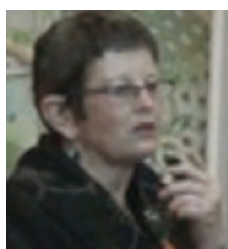
Brigit Mirfin-Veitch, Donald Beasley Institute:

"I think the role of People First is not to be responsible for bringing about all of the change because that takes everyone. It takes the education sector and the employment sector and business sector and everyone working together. But I think People First's really important role ongoing is to continue to highlight and to signpost and to advocate the issues that we know affect the lives of people with learning disabilities."



Sue Gates, Donald Beasley Institute:

"I think that People First has a huge role ahead of it to ensure that the gains they've made thus far are sustained and even better. The Government acknowledges them now, they certainly didn't years ago. I think there's been amazing progress."



Lorna Sullivan, Former Chief Executive of Imagine Better:

"People First New Zealand has [had] a remarkable ten years. It has grown and developed in strength and influence in ways that many Disabled People's Organisations have struggled to do. Its work today is comparable with and indeed surpasses that of much longer established People First movements that I have been privileged to engage with internationally."

The issues I believe continue to be that people's lives [need] to be taken seriously. [People] continue to live with very low or no expectations... people's lives continue to suffer from paternalism and charity rather than citizenship and contribution and that services continue to define and determine where, how and with whom people can live their lives."



Simon Atkinson, People First Member:

"I think in 10 years it will continue to grow and grow and I can visualise a day when every area will have a People First group."



Paul Gibson, Disability Rights Commissioner, Human Rights Commission:

[The independence of People First] followed the release of the 'To Have an Ordinary Life' Report which had strong involvement by people with learning disabilities and that set a model for the way forward. Unfortunately things didn't move forward from that point as fast as what we'd hoped and there has been less optimism around the community about the way Government and the community has responded to what people with learning disabilities are saying. But I think that's slowly changing now and everybody wants to hear what People First are saying on the issues that affect people with learning disabilities."



Elana Brock, People First Member:

"I think it's gotten more bigger and People First has been in there for a long time. I think we've still got things in front of us that need to be challenged. People still call people retarded which is not a good thing. I think it sucks."



Brendon Murray, President Elect, Disabled Persons Assembly New Zealand:

Well done. You have created a vibrant organisation that serves many important roles for people with learning disabilities, their whanau and every New Zealander. People First helps you decide what is good for you. It gives you a voice in your communities and even in Government, and teaches all New Zealand about living with learning impairment. I am proud to call many of you friends and love what you do and the inclusive way you do it and am extremely proud to be a supporter. Happy 10th Anniversary, enjoy it and keep it up.



A BIG THANK YOU

Over the last 10 years People First NZ has been generously supported by many people and organisations, too many to list. All the members of People First want to thank everyone that has been involved. We want to thank all our volunteers and Friends. Thanks too to our donors and funders. Finally, to the staff and all the people and organisations we have worked with over the years – your support is greatly appreciated and has helped to keep us strong.

A big thank you to Ihc Foundation for funding to make this 10 year anniversary edition of Butterfly Express.

Snapshots of the last 10 years



2007: Seeking Community book & DVD launch.



2007: DIAS Memorandum of Understanding signed.



November 2008: ASSID Conference In Melbourne.



2009: People First
Ashburton BBQ.



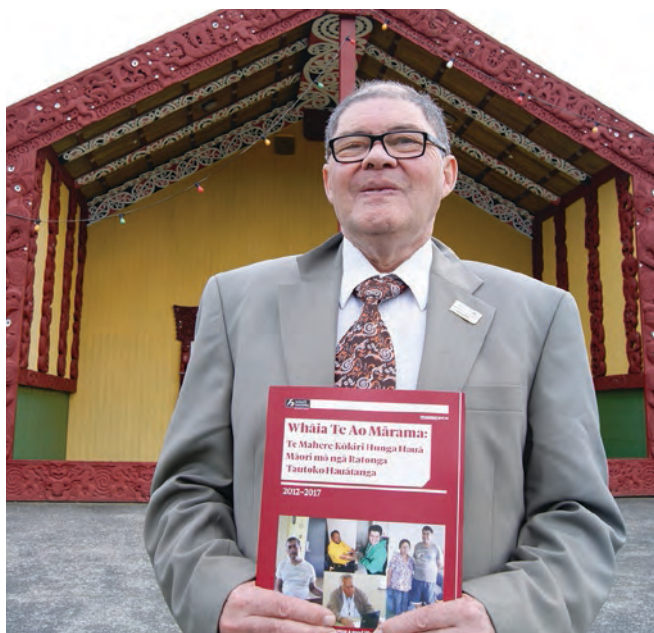
2010: People First AGM.



2011 AGM: Members of the Top of the south region interviewing Chief Human Rights Commissioner David Rutherford.



2011: VALID Conference, Geelong, Australia



2012: Māori Disability Action Plan launch.



2013: People First Leadership Forum, Rotorua.



**PEOPLE FIRST
NEW ZEALAND**

10 YEAR

ANNIVERSARY