



A message from the National Chairperson



Kia Ora everybody

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Butterfly Express.

There are many interesting things in this edition, I hope you enjoy reading it. I would like to say a warm welcome to our 2 new staff, Yi and Anne Marie. I also want to say congratulations to Glen Terry for his award from the Hamilton City Council and Zhenya Philip for winning the 2015 Card of the Year competition.

What a busy year we are having!

Kind regards, Hamish Taverner

National Committee chooses new strategic goals for 2015-2018



The goals for People First New Zealand are:



1. Keep developing leaders



2. Grow **Learn With Us**



3. Be multi-cultural



4. Have more people know about People First - nationally and internationally



5. Keep speaking up - have a say, locally, nationally and internationally



6. Keep People First a strong organisation.

At the National Committee meeting held in March, Committee Members agreed on the new strategic goals for People First New Zealand. Strategic goals are the way that an organisation plans for the future.

In all the work that People First New Zealand does over the next 3 years, we will be checking to make sure that it fits with the goals that National Committee have set. This will let us know if we are moving in the right direction.

There are some slight changes from the last set of strategic goals, with the main change being a change from a focus on being bi-cultural to being multi-cultural. People First New Zealand is committed to honouring the Treaty of Waitangi and Māori culture. People First knows New Zealand is a country of many cultures.

We think it is important that Members from all cultures feel like they are part of People First.



People First Card of the Year 2015

Started in 2014, the People First New Zealand Card of the Year competition has proved to be even bigger the second time around!

The idea for the competition was thought up by the People First National Committee, as a fun way to find artwork that could then be used on cards. These cards are given to people such as guest speakers, funders or donors throughout the year to say thank you for supporting the organisation.

Artists with learning disability are invited to enter their art for the competition and people can choose what kind of art they want to do. Some choose to take photos, others choose to paint or draw. **All of the entries have to have something to do with the logo of People First New Zealand – the butterfly.**

Three winners are chosen, each of whom receive prize money. The artist whose artwork wins first place is made into the People First Card for the year.

This year the National Committee were blown away – getting twice as many entries as the first year!

Congratulations to the following people who won the 2015 Card of the Year competition:

1st prize: Zhenya Philip, Auckland

2nd prize: Abi Rogarajah, Lower Hutt

3rd prize: Glen Griffith, Blenheim

People First New Zealand is now organising for the entries to be displayed in the foyer of the building where National Office is located. The entries will be on display for around 3 weeks.



Winner Zhenya Philip
with her winning entry

An award well deserved

Hamilton People First Member Glen Terry has been given an award by the Hamilton City Council called '30 under 30'. This award is given to 30 people who live in Hamilton, are under the age of 30, and have made an outstanding achievement.

The winners of the 30 under 30 awards were chosen by the Hamilton Youth Council Advisory Panel because they are "future leaders".

"The award means I can be an awesome leader and encourage others to be leaders as well" said Glen.

Glen was a leader involved with the People First Midland Leadership group in 2014. He is also on the Enabling Good Lives Waikato Leadership Group and is a consumer advisor to the Health and Disability Commission.

Well done Glen!



Hamilton Mayor Julie Hardaker
with Glen Terry

Speaking up on public transport

On the 19th of March, People First Members Jodie Turner and Simon Atkinson attended a one day workshop hosted by the Ministry of Transport to talk about transport in New Zealand and accessibility.

Accessibility means how easy it is to get to and use.

The New Zealand Government's Disability Action Plan is driving work like this. The part of the plan that this workshop relates to is community access.

At the meeting there were lots of people from Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), government departments and other organisations in the sector. People shared their ideas and said that some councils do better than others. One idea put forward was that maybe all public transport systems around the country should be the same. People said the Snapper card system works well.



People First National Committee Member Jodie Turner at the workshop



People First Top of the South Regional Coordinator Darlene Purdie with Members Simon Atkinson and Jodie Turner

Money Smarts Made Easy

People First NZ received funding from the Ihc Foundation to develop and trial a Money Smarts Made Easy course for people with learning disability.

People First is developing the course alongside Massey University's Westpac Massey Fin-Ed Centre. The Centre has already made a Money Smarts course so it has been really helpful to have a good baseline of information to start writing the course from.

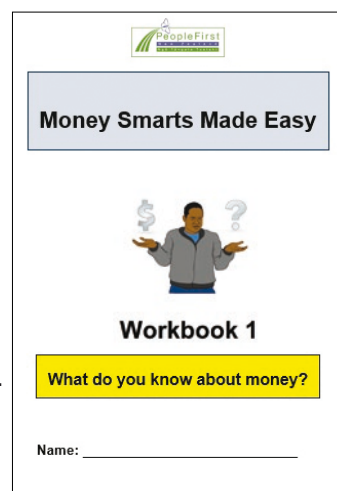
Janet Doughty, Project Coordinator, is leading the development of the course. "This is such an important subject for people with learning disability to know about and People First members have been saying they want to learn more about how their money works for a number of years. I feel the responsibility of getting this course done well. People with learning disability are getting more opportunities to have greater control over their day to day lives, so knowing about your money and all the paths it takes to get to you and out again is an important skill."

The course will cover topics such as:

- **setting goals**
- **understanding where your money comes from and where it goes**
- **budgeting and saving**
- **tips and cautions about being safe with your money.**

We look forward to telling you more in the next edition of the Butterfly Express.

The Ihc Foundation is a long-time supporter of People First projects and we thank the Foundation for their ongoing support.





Welcome to our new staff!



Yi Liang Small **Midland Region Coordinator**

After two years of being a Local Assistant for the Tauranga, Whakatane and Rotorua People First groups, I became the Midland Region Coordinator in April 2015. I enjoy my work with the Members in the monthly meetings and seeing them grow in speaking up for themselves and their leadership skills.

As a Regional Coordinator, I will use my skills to work with the Members and build the strength of the Midland Region. I will work hard to provide Members a safe environment to learn and grow.

I came from China 11 years ago after I had been an Accountant for 13 years in a big hotel chain company. I married my kiwi husband and we have a lovely daughter. We live in a small village called Paengaroa in the sunny western Bay of Plenty.

I like to travel and meet different people and experience cultural diversity. Believe it or not, I am an adventurer. My dream career is to be a war journalist and help people suffering in wars.



Anne Marie Kirkpatrick **Central Region Coordinator and National Office Administrator**

On 20th July I joined People First as the new Central Region Coordinator and the Office Administrator for National Office.

In the past I have worked for Wairarapa DHB in various roles within the hospital for nearly 10 years; in IT for 3 years on the helpdesk; and doing technical writing. After an accident and then being made redundant, I began volunteering at the Disability Information & Equipment Centre in Kapiti. This led to permanent paid work and my first experience of working for an NGO. I learned a lot about the not-for-profit sector, disability equipment, availability and services available on the Coast for people with disabilities and generally for people over 65 years.

In September 2013 the Disability Information & Equipment Centre was approached by the then-Central Region Coordinator Alexia Garbutt to see if anyone would be interested in helping out the local Kapiti People First group. I went along to have a look and loved what I saw. The Members made me feel very welcome and I learned a lot about the group, what they do, how meetings were run and about People First as an organisation. After a few meetings I was asked by the group to be their Local Assistant. I then started to help out at the Wellington group and became their Local Assistant at the beginning of this year.

It has been a very busy first two weeks as I learn about my roles and what People First and our members are doing locally, nationally and internationally. These are very exciting busy times!

Conference of State Parties, New York

People First New Zealand Life Member and New Zealand's nomination to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Robert Martin, travelled with People First National Manager Cindy Johns to New York, USA in June. The purpose of this trip was to attend the 8th Conference of State Parties at the United Nations. The conference was all about the United Nations Disability Convention and Robert gave several speeches while they were there.

Robert and Cindy travelled to New York together with the Minister for Disability Issues, Nicky Wagner and Megan McCoy, Director – Office for Disability Issues. It was a great chance for them to talk to people from around the world about Robert's nomination for the next UN Committee that will be responsible for checking how well countries are doing on disability issues.

Some of the messages Robert Martin spoke up about while at the UN are:

- "Disabled children should grow up in a caring family"
- "the right to live and be involved in a community is very important"
- "negative attitudes towards disabled people are a barrier to community living."

At an event where people were talking about institutions, he said:

- "the things you take for granted, I do not."
- "my life in institutions meant I had nothing and my life was not my own."
- "Institutions are from yesteryear and they should all be shut down."

People First New Zealand wishes Robert all the best for the elections for the United Nations Committee which will be held in June 2016 in New York. If Robert is elected, he will be the first person with a learning disability ever to be on a UN Committee.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is also known as the UNCRPD or the 'Disability Convention'.





People First Members show how it's done in latest HDC film

People First New Zealand has worked together with the Health and Disability Commissioner to make a new short film. The film was launched in June and many people came, including Health and Disability Commissioner Anthony Hill, Deputy Commissioner for Disability Rose Wall and staff from the Ministry of Health.

In the film, People First Members ask questions such as "Why should I complain?" and teach the audience through role play about the Code of Health and Disability Rights and the Nationwide Health and Disability Advocacy Service.

Ben Leslie, Secretary of the People First Top of the South Region and one of the actors in the film, said "it was a lot of fun actually, I enjoyed it. I did quite well – in quite a few of those videos I only needed to do one shot – I nailed it!"

People First Communications Manager Alexia Garbutt said that "Nelson was chosen as the location for the film in order to build on the learning of local People First Members. In 2014, the Blenheim and Nelson groups had focussed on 'The right to make a complaint when people are not happy with a service' for their annual leadership project. This tied in nicely with the purpose of the film and meant actors were perfectly placed to talk about these topics and help others to understand them."

The film will be another tool available to make sure disabled people in New Zealand know about their rights. People First groups around the country will look at the resource and talk about the issues that it raises.

The film is now on both the Health and Disability Commission (www.hdc.org.nz) and People First New Zealand (www.peoplefirst.org.nz) websites.

At the film launch

Back row, left to right Anthony Hill (Health and Disability Commissioner); Rose Wall (Deputy Commissioner, Disability) and Ben Leslie (People First Blenheim)

Front row, left to right Clare Ladd (People First Nelson); Te Aroha Roberts (People First Nelson) and Penelope Banfield (People First Blenheim)



People First Regional Coordinators and Presidents 2015





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