



Message from the National Chairperson

Hello everyone

Welcome to the winter edition of the Butterfly Express.

As you can see, we're doing a lot of work around New Zealand, with a lot of different organisations. I'm really pleased with how things are moving along.



I would like to point out the article about the workshops that we had in Tauranga and Dunedin that were about doing tests on people without their consent. The article is on page 8. This is a very important topic. Thank you to the members who took part.

The general election is coming up on 23 September. We will be choosing the next Government for New Zealand. You need to vote and have your say. It's very important. There is Easy Read information coming out soon and the "I am a citizen too" questions will help you think about what to ask any MPs you meet!

David King



Congratulations to People First Christchurch member Shane McInroe (second from left) who got the 'Youth with Disability award' at the 2017 New Zealand Youth awards.



Midland hui to plan the year ahead

On 31st March and 1st April 2017 People First Midland Region had a two-day hui.

The hui was held at Paengaroa and Maketu — two small towns between Tauranga and Whakatāne.

On the first day members began the meeting with a karakia and the New Zealand national anthem — in Te Reo Māori, English and New Zealand Sign Language!

Members looked at the six national goals for People First New Zealand and decided to set some goals for the Midland region for 2017.

On the second day the hui was held at the Whakaue Marae.

Members learned about the history of the iwi.

They also heard how a local whānau with a disabled family member had helped the marae to become more accessible — easier for disabled people to get in and use.



Group activity — looking at the rights in the UN Convention.



People First Midland members and assistants at Whakaue Marae.

Update on Robert Martin (MNZM)

In 2016 People First New Zealand life member Robert Martin was elected onto the Committee for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Robert is the first person with learning disability that has ever been elected onto a United Nations Committee.

In March Robert had his first committee meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

The meeting lasted for four weeks.

He was assisted in his role by People First National Manager Cindy Johns.

Together they worked very hard to make sure Robert was ready for each part of the meeting.

Robert said of the meeting, “I think you could say I was a bit apprehensive. I knew it was going to be hard and I knew I was going to have to work hard as well.

The other people on the Committee were really supportive. They accepted me as a committee member and an equal and I made lots of new friends.”

Robert’s next meeting in Geneva is in August.



Robert Martin (left) with assistants Wubeshet Tiruneh and Cindy Johns at the United Nations in Geneva.



Members getting Money SMART all over the country

The new Money SMARTS Made Easy course has been run for the first time in Christchurch with funding from the Christchurch City Council and the Rata Foundation.

The students on the course all had different experiences dealing with money.

There were:

- people who live in residential services
- people who live in the community with support
- people who live in the community without support
- people who live with their parents
- people who have part-time work.

The people who live in residential services had no idea about:

- where their income came from
- how much their Supported Living Payment was
- how much of their benefit went to their support service provider
- how much of their benefit went into their RIBA (resident's individual bank account).

The other participants were more aware of how much income they had and where their money went.

By the end of the course everyone had learned how to make a **Money SMART Goal** and how to save for it.

The students also learned a lot about the danger of credit cards and how if something seemed too good to be true it probably had hidden costs or penalties.

Update: A big thank you to the IHC Foundation who have just given People First New Zealand funding to run the Money Smarts Made Easy course in every region! That is just amazing!

IHC FOUNDATION



Kayla le Gros, Shane McInroe, Marg Matheson, Tyler Lamont, Tasha Eyles, Julie Rangihuna, Caroline Quick, Andrew Cameron, and Benjamin Morris.

Making international connections in South Korea

From the 14-20th of May Robert Martin (MNZM), national committee member Jodie Turner and Funding Manager Janet Doughty travelled to South Korea.

People First New Zealand was invited to come over by two organisations:

- The Korean Parents Network for People with Disabilities
- Korean Council on Independent Living.

These organisations support People First Korea — which is a brand new organisation that only started in October 2016!

During the visit, Members of People First Korea spoke about:

- people with learning disability still living in large institutions
- wanting a job
- people with learning disability dying as there is not enough funding for people to have the personal support they need
- being the victims of abuse
- wanting to live independently in the community
- having information in Easy Read.

Robert spoke about his life experiences and about how important it is for all institutions to close. Robert also spoke about his journey to being on the UN Committee for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Robert, Jodie and Janet with People First Daegu, Jangjigong and parents.



Jodie spoke about People First New Zealand and how her life has changed since becoming a member.

Janet spoke about being an assistant and the importance of people with learning disability speaking up with their own voice.

It was a very successful trip.

Reena Lee from the Korean Parents Network said, “Your visit absolutely proved your statement that nothing else can be as strong as a person's authentic life and experience.”



A protest site in the subway in Seoul, South Korea. The protest is about disabled people dying because there is not enough funding for people to have the personal support they need. The protest has been going for five years.

Co-design: making a new disability support system for New Zealand

The New Zealand Government is going to make big changes to the way it gives disability funding and support to disabled people.

The first part of New Zealand to try the new changes will be the Mid-Central region — Palmerston North, Horowhenua, Manawatu, Otaki and Tararua districts.

The new system will use the ideas of Enabling Good Lives – a system that has been tried in Christchurch, Waikato, and the Bay of Plenty over the last few years.

The Government has been planning what the new system will be like, together with disabled people, their families / whānau and disability service providers.

Working together like this is called co-design.

People First New Zealand was represented on the **co-design working group** by Christchurch member Shane McInroe.

Shane went to eight workshops in Wellington from April–June to do this work.

He was assisted by People First meeting assistant and Midland regional coordinator Marg Matheson.

Thank you very much to Shane and Marg for doing such a great job, representing the voice of people with learning disability on such an important project.



People First representative on the co-design working group Shane McInroe (left)

If you want to read about the plans for the new disability support system, you can find them in Easy Read on the People First website:

<http://www.peoplefirst.org.nz/making-a-new-disability-support-system-for-nz/>

I am a citizen too

On 23 September 2017 there will be a national election.

The people of New Zealand will be voting for the next Government.



People First groups around the country are busy inviting Members of Parliament (MPs) and political parties to their meetings, to ask them what they will do for disabled people if they get into the next Government.

People First New Zealand has made some questions for you to ask politicians.

We are calling this campaign “I am a citizen too”.

If you want to see the questions you can get them from your regional coordinator or download them from the People First website:

<http://www.peoplefirst.org.nz/getting-ready-for-the-national-election-i-am-a-citizen-too/>



Making sure our voices are heard

The Office of the Health and Disability Commissioner (HDC) has been looking at the rules around doing health or disability research.

Health or disability research means trying to find answers to questions about health or disability.

Some people think:

- the law in New Zealand makes it too hard to do research on people who cannot give informed consent
- we could learn a lot about how to help people if we do research using people who cannot give informed consent.

To give informed consent to be in research you:

- get information about the research
- understand the information about the research
- agree to be in the research
- sign your name to say yes.



People First Tauranga members at one of the Health and Disability Commission workshops.

People First New Zealand worked together with HDC to make Easy Read information so that people with learning disability could have their say.

Workshops for People First members were held around the country.

Members went through the information and had their say.

People First Tauranga member Sharyn Newton said, “My ideas can be part of making some changes for better. I feel good and I love to come to People First meetings.”

Staff from HDC were very impressed with how the workshops went, and how freely everyone shared their views and ideas.

They said, “It was great to see self-advocacy in action, and People First’s role in encouraging members to take part in important conversations.

Thank you for the work you do.”

Easy Read information about voting on its way

People First New Zealand has been working together with the Electoral Commission to make new Easy Read information about voting for the upcoming general election.

The information will be given out at People First meetings across the country in August.



Good in the Hood

People First Whakatāne have been given \$810 from their local Z service station, as part of their fundraiser 'Good in the Hood'.

People First Whakatāne was one of three community organisations chosen to get donations through the month of May.

Whakatāne Vice President Alex Peni gave a speech at the cheque ceremony and thanked the Whakatāne community for their support.

Alex spoke about People First and for many people it was the first time they had heard about us!

Thank you Z for supporting people with learning disability to speak up in their local community.



People First Whakatāne Vice President Alex Peni getting the cheque for \$810.





Winners of the 2017 Card of the Year competition!

People First New Zealand is proud to announce the winners of the 2017 Card of the Year competition!

It was another hard job for the National Committee — with 75 entries!

All of the entries had to:

- be by artists with learning disability
- use a butterfly — like the People First New Zealand logo.

The winner gets \$300 and their art will be made into the People First New Zealand Card of the Year.

There are also prizes for the artists who came second and third.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all of the artists who sent in an entry — we will be organising an exhibition in Wellington soon!



1st place: Harley Rudolph



2nd place: Reuben Kerr



3rd place: Chris Grant Tilley



National Committee with all of the entries

People First New Zealand Inc. Regional Presidents and Coordinators 2017

Northern

President
Alex Snedden

Coordinator
Kaeti Rigarfsford

Midland

President
Kris Roguski

Coordinator
Yi Liang Small

Central

President
Penelope Banfield

Coordinator
Patrick Doherty

Top of the South

President
James Carr

Coordinator
Anne Marie Kirkpatrick

Midsouth

President
Shane McInroe

Coordinator
Margaret Matheson

Southern

President
David King

Coordinator
Gerry O'Farrell



Contacts

National Office Address

Level 4, 173-175 Victoria Street,
Wellington 6011

Mail Address: PO Box 9199,
Marion Square, Wellington 6141
Phone: 0800 20 60 70,
(04) 381 3242
Fax: (04) 381 3242
mail@peoplefirst.org.nz
www.peoplefirst.org.nz
www.facebook.com/peoplefirstnz

National Manager

Cindy Johns
(04) 381 3242
(027) 6841 061
cindyjohns@peoplefirst.org.nz

National Finance Manager

Crystal Fang
(09) 579 1588
(027) 688 8048
crystalfang@peoplefirst.org.nz

Communications Manager, Easy Read Translation Service

Alexia Black
(027) 428 9747
alexia@peoplefirst.org.nz

Funding Manager

Janet Doughty
(027) 869 9790
janetdoughty@peoplefirst.org.nz

North Island Team Leader, Northern Region Coordinator

Kaeti Rigarsford
(027) 575 4000
kaeti@peoplefirst.org.nz

Northern Region President

Alex Snedden

Midland Region Coordinator

Yi Liang Small
(027) 526 3387
yi@peoplefirst.org.nz

Midland Region President

Kris Roguski

Central Region Coordinator

Anne Marie Kirkpatrick
(027) 856 2230
annemarie@peoplefirst.org.nz

Central Region President

James Carr

South Island Team Leader

Pam Shanks
(027) 440 0279
pam@peoplefirst.org.nz

Top of the South Region Coordinator

Patrick Doherty
(027) 559 4277
tos@peoplefirst.org.nz

Top of South Region President

Penelope Banfield

MidSouth Region Coordinator

Margaret Matheson
(03) 366 4210
(021) 931 715
marg@peoplefirst.org.nz

MidSouth Region President

Shane McInroe

Southern Region Coordinator

Gerry O'Farrell
(027) 542 4916
gerry@peoplefirst.org.nz

Southern Region President

David King



0800 20 60 70



mail@peoplefirst.org.nz



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