

June 2007



The Butterfly Express

Our News, Our Stories



People First National Office

People First National Chairperson, Susan McDonald signs the Ministry of Health National Disability Information and Advisory Service contract



Back row from left: Rhys Thomason, Simon Coe, Simon Atkinson and Morgan Smith.
Front row from left: Arapeta Amai (Kaumatua) and Susan McDonald

In February 2007 People First signed a contract with the Ministry of Health to set up a national Disability Information and Advisory Service (DIAS)



DIAS (Disability Information and Advisory Service)



The People First Disability Information and Advisory Service will give information about learning (intellectual) disability.



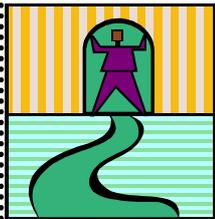
People First will be working hard at making information easy to understand. We will be using plain language information, as well as things like posters, charts and making DVDs



People First will be working hard with other DIAS to help them build their capacity to provide plain language information.



The DIAS contract gives People First the opportunity to have more members actively involved in the organisation.



The service will be a one stop shop where we can provide easy to understand information and good advice.



The People First DIAS is going to have a big focus on delivering information directly to people through face to face meetings in local areas.



People First will build strong networks in the community so that if we don't know the information we know where we can find it.



We will be training up People First members and assistant's to be delivering the information.

The contract is going to be able to provide learning and leadership opportunities for people with learning disability.



People First would like to thank the Ministry of Health for working with People First and supporting us to apply for the national contract.



Right side: Loren Glen in yellow from People First North Harbour Group

My name is Loren Glenn and I am a People First member from North Harbour in the Northern Region. I am on the SPARC National No Exceptions Advisory Group. I was selected because of my experience with Special Olympics- I play soccer and compete at swimming.

I am representing people with a learning disability on the advisory group. I enjoy being part of this group and advocating for people with learning disability to be included in sport and recreation in New Zealand.

People First Ashburton Group

Sonia Townely (Group Secretary)

We meet monthly, usually the fourth week of the month. The year 2007 started with a short meeting in February, followed by a night out at the movies to see the film Miss Potter, which we all enjoyed.

We only have eight members, so we are looking at ways to attract new members to join our group, if anyone has any suggestions please let us know.

Our AGM is going to be held on the 20th June, after our meeting we will have a member of the Fire Department speak to us and then our meeting will conclude with supper. In July we are planning a Fish n' chip night after our meeting. We also attend the Mid-South Regional meeting in Christchurch in July.

We are all going to sell lotto numbers on the Lotto weekly bonus draw to raise some funds for our group.

We have two assistants who support our group in Ashburton, these people take us to Regional meetings, Ten Pin bowling and other activities in the Community.



People First Otago Group



People First Otago Group at the meeting

We have between 24 and 35 people coming to our meetings. They are from 5 different services. We have our meeting at 6:00 on a Tuesday night. After we have had our meeting, we have tea.

At our first meeting in February, we had a lady called Lynne talking about Waitangi Day, the Treaty and other things. Jason told us what some words are in Maori. At our March meeting, we did a submission for Doug Funnell from the Ministry of Health; it was about how People are affected by staff shortages.

We discussed

this and wrote a submission to the Ministry of Health. At our April meeting we had a fireman talking to us about Safety around the home and he brought in Items that had caused Fires – Electric blanket, Saucepans, etc. At our May meeting we had a nurse from the hospital come in and talked about what we might expect if we ever have to go to hospital.



Otago Group at the workshop



Jokes by Koring & Jason

People First Central Region Greg Hook (Regional Chairperson)

Hi my name is Greg Hook.

This is my report from People First South Taranaki.

It has been a quiet 3 months but we are back to normal as of the 3rd of April. We had a great wind up dinner to close off 2006. It was well attended and enjoyed by everybody.

The big news for me personally is that with 3 of my friends in 6 weeks time I am going into supported living. It is a brand new house and I am going to have a flat all to myself but will eat and socialise with my peers.

People First Top of the South meeting at Teapot Valley

Ian Tomlinson



On Friday evening we all went with the staff from community homes and some from IDEA and Helen Fitzgibbon came out at 8.30pm plus Blenheim people arrive at 9.30. Then we went to have supper which a joker and his wife cooked. The meals included the supper and the morning and afternoon tea.

We went to bed at 9.45pm. It was a long night and someone was talking in the room when we went to sleep. Someone stayed awake all night.

The next day we wake up at

7.30am then we had breakfast at 8am. Then we brushed our teeth and organised the People First group meeting. After morning tea we went upstairs for a meeting that started at 10.30am. Other people arrived like Anja brought Heather Hay and Barry in the red van with staff support from community homes. Then we had a big meeting about who enjoyed the committee and new chair person and treasurer.

Then we had a good lunch for a while. We returned to the meeting at about 1.15pm. Each person talked about life and work as well as go outside while people voting for new committee. The meeting finished at 2.30pm and half of us played games and the other half went up the hill before afternoon tea. One of the team had a seizure on the top of the hill. Tony Luff ran down the hill to get Sharyn Boag from the dining room, she ran up the hill to fetch someone plus Wendy Keen. So we came down the hill with someone.

We had a chat about our meeting and then we played some games until we had tea at 6pm or 6.30pm. It was up to the joker to cook the meals and the supper. The red van returned at 5.15pm with a staff member and two residents which was Heather Hay and Brian and they came out to visit the others and had tea with us.

Someone got a tape recorder and played some music and it started at 7.30pm and finished at 8.15pm. The staff member from community homes area went back home at 8.30pm plus some of the Blenheim people went back.

We decided to go to bed at 9.30pm

We woke and had a shower before breakfast at 8am then we pack our gear like sleeping bags. We helped clear the tables and after the breakfast we took turns doing the vacuum cleaners on the floor and clean the windows.

Anja came out with three residents and then we had a meeting and thanked the Blenheim people and also Helen Fitzgibbon came out to see me. I ring Bruce to see he pick me up after the jobs got done. Then we had the photos taken with the People First group. Then we had lunch at 11.55am.

I would like to thank Sharyn Boag and Wendy Keen and Helen Fitzgibbon who organised the transport to and from Teapot Valley Brightwater. She also thanked Steve Marshal staff like Anja and Barbie who came out support the residents at the Teapot Valley and Heather Hay. Barry came out support the residents. We leave at 1.15pm from Teapot Valley Brightwater to home.

It was a good weekend

A day with People First

Keith Mepham from DPA Palmerston North

Prior to Christmas I had a phone call from Angela Milsted, Assistant for People First Central region.

She asked me if I would like to take a couple of workshops at their weekend conference in Waikanae in February. I said "Yes, I would love to help out whatever way I could".

The first workshop on Saturday morning was about Human Rights. I felt that the members were surprised about what rights they had. Human Rights cover a large range of topics such as work, sex, race, religion and many many more.

After lunch we had a workshop about being on a committee. Angela took some notes and then we had a talk about it. It was a bit of a learning curve

as some of the information was quite new to some members.

We talked about delegating and how important it is!! Delegating helps take the pressure of the Chairperson and the Assistants!!

I believe the weekend went really well and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Congratulations to Angela and the team for a well run conference.



Letter to the Editor of the Weekend Herald

Response to
Saturday 10/2/2007
Page 3
Section: review
Region: Auckland Circulation

People First New Zealand is a national self advocacy organisation that is lead and directed by people with learning (intellectual) disability.

The DPEP Act must be repealed.

I attended a sheltered workshop at 16 – now I'm 27. I have worked at a supermarket. Now I run my own child care business from home.

Attending a sheltered workshop, doing mundane work I felt valueless, different, that I wasn't good enough for anything else. Being employed, I am seen differently because I have a socially valued role.

I attend a community participation service that was a sheltered workshop. The service is supporting me to become a valued community member, instead of keeping us segregated.

Sheltered workshops have had 6 years to make changes to their services provision since Pathways to Inclusion was launched in 2001.

We deserve ordinary lives in the community. This will never happen if we are kept segregated from the community, working in sheltered workshops.

Ask yourself: Would you like to go to work everyday to work with the same people you live, socialise, and holiday with, and then at the end of the week after working 40 hours get paid just \$50. It sounds like a Tui advertisement- yeah right!

Susan McDonald
National Chairperson
People First New Zealand

People First New Role Database Coordinator – Phyllis McPherson training in Dunedin



From left to right: Lynetter Williams (Dunedin Group Assistant), Crystal Fang (National Finance & Office), Phyllis McPherson (Database Coordinator)



From left to right: Phyllis McPherson is talking to Peter (Former Dunedin group president)

Jokes from Jason Bailey and Korina Sigvertsen

Why did the banana go to the doctor???
Because he wasn't peeling very well!!

What does a cloud wear under it's coat on a wet and windy day?
Thunderwear!

How did the farmer fix his jeans?
With a cabbage patch!

What did the police man say to the ice block?
Freeze!

What flies around everywhere but never goes anywhere?
A flag!

What vegetable does a plumber hate the most?
A leek!

What do you call a cow with a saddle on its back?
A people moo-ver!!

What did the rainbow say when it answered the phone?
Yellow!



People First Midsouth Region



In Christchurch we are now running a 'SPEAKING UP GROUP'. We invited people with a learning disability to come along and attend 10 sessions throughout the year

We meet on every 2nd Tuesday of the month

Three of our People First Christchurch Committee Members - Graeme Parish, Simon Atkinson and Robyn Rainey, are co-tutoring the group

It is going very well and everyone is enjoying learning about their rights and how to speak up for themselves

Next year we would like to offer another 'Speaking Up Group - part 1 and part 2

If any other regional groups would like to start a 'Speaking Up Group' in their area please contact the Mid-south Assistant in Christchurch, Pam Shanks - pam.shanks@gmail.com

We are happy to share any of our ideas, information, tools and resources

SO FAR THIS YEAR WE HAVE BEEN:

- To a workshop about Service User's Rights with the local Advocacy arm of the Health and Disabilities Commission



- Forging closer links with Ngai Tahu - our local Iwi
- Forging closer links with our city council

- Forging closer links with Hillmorton Hospital's Intellectual Disability Team



- Representing People First at the Partners and Policy Making Training in Wellington – 8 sessions in Wellington throughout 2007

- Representing People First on the 'Community Integration of ex-Kimberly Service Users Group' in Wellington



- We have been invited to give a presentation about People First to several Residential Service Providers, Information Services and the Life Skills Course at the Polytech
- We are planning a 1.5 hour presentation at the next * ASSID Conference in Australia in November – 'Friendships and Loneliness in the Community' (* Australasian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disabilities)

- We have also been busy going to meetings and forums about disabilities in Christchurch



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