



## National News

### People First Employment Advocacy Service

**People First has a contract with the Ministry of Social Development/ MSD to provide an employment advocacy service for people with learning disability.**

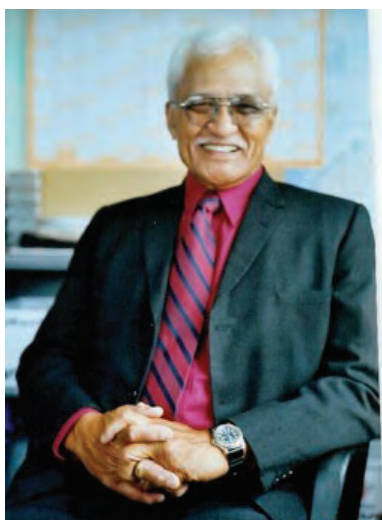
We will mostly be working with people who are working in Business Enterprises. This will be when people have to talk about their Minimum Wage Exemptions each year and at any other time where there is a problem for them at work. We may also be able to work with other people who have paid jobs.

The service will be run for the first 3 years by People First and then in the 4th year People First

will be working hard to see that unions are able to take over the work fully by the 5th year. The Employment Advocacy Service will work closely with the unions over the next four years to teach them how best to work with people with learning disability.

We are really excited about this and will make sure that we send out good clear information about the service.

**In the meantime if you want to know more you can call the People First Disability Information and Advisory Service on 04 381 3242 or 0800 20 60 70.**



### Farewell to our Kaumatua Arapeta Amai

After 5 years of being the Kaumatua for People First Arapeta has had to say "Haere Ra". We have loved having Arapeta support and guide us and are really sad to see him go. **We know that he is standing at the start of a path that leads many ways and we wish him all the best!**

## South Island



# People First Southern Office Opening, July 2008

By Hayden Stephen

**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 on Saturday 19th of July. People came from Ashburton, Rangiora, Gore, Wellington, Nelson, Dunedin and Christchurch. Janet from the People First National Office in Wellington was also there.

I really enjoyed the performance from 'Different Light' and Willy's one-man band was excellent.

I made a speech and did an awesome Advocacy Rap Song. Here are the words to my 'Self-Advocacy song':



We thank Pam for helping making all this happen.

Contact us on:

Phone: 03 366 4210

Email: [southern@peoplefirst.org.nz](mailto:southern@peoplefirst.org.nz)

Address: 41 Essex St, Christchurch.

SELF-ADVOCACY  
CHOICES  
DECISIONS  
RESPONSABILITIES  
THAT'S RIGHT – 'SPEAK UP FOR  
YOURSELF'  
GIVE IT A TRY:  
SPEAKING UP FOR WHAT YOU WANT  
SPEAKING UP FOR WHAT YOU NEED  
THAT'S THE WAY  
IF YOU KNOW WHAT I AM SAYING  
GET IT INTO ACTION  
BRING IT ON!  
DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS

## Work and Your Rights resources

**This is a plain language book about what your rights are as a worker in New Zealand.**

People First has a new resource that will make it easy for you to have all the information.

MSD has provided the funding for us to have a DVD made with the following bits and pieces on it: The Work and Your Rights book, the Power Point presentation, guidelines for presenter and guidelines for distribution.

All Vocational Services will receive a copy of the DVD and booklet from the Ministry of Social Development and schools will receive it from the Ministry of Education. They will also be available in the Ihc library, CCS Disability Action library and the Ministry of Education library.



**Call the Disability Information and Advisory Service/ DIAS (0800 20 60 70) if you want a copy.**

### Work and Income: Life Skills for Work Programme

**If you receive some form of income support (benefit) from Work and Income then you might be able to join this programme.**

Work and Income have developed a programme that will help people learn skills that will enable them to look for and get a job. Things like **"What to do on my first day at work"** and **"Personal Presentation"**.

The programme will be offered in Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Nelson, Canterbury and Dunedin/Southland.

If you live in one of these places and receive income support from Work and Income, go into your local Work and Income office and ask about the programme.



Christchurch/Local

## Canterbury District Health Board Consumer Council

Report by Robyn Rainey



**I go to the Canterbury Health Board on the third Monday of each month. I am representing people with learning disabilities.**

We all listen to what other people have to say. We have talked about the Canterbury Health Board Complaints Process. We have had two guest speakers tell us about the Canterbury Health Board Complaints Process.

The Consumer Council is also talking about end of life care.

This is Robyn!



## Welcome to some new members to the National Committee

**Dale Richards** from Nelson joined us earlier in the year. Dale is the Chairperson for the Top of the South region.

**Brigit Mirfin-Veitch** has joined as an advisor to the Committee. Brigit works for the Donald Beasley Institute.

**Hare Arapere** has stepped in as our Cultural Advisor. Hare works for Enable New Zealand.

**Welcome aboard  
the People First  
team to you  
all!!!**

## Northern Region

# Jennifer Johnston

**Jennifer was a People First member from the Northern Region. Sadly Jennifer passed away July. We all really miss her.**

A Tribute to Jennifer Johnston from Kaeti Rigarlsford

"I don't know where to start Jennifer, you made such an impact on my life from the moment I met you. You had a twinkle in your eye and a spring in your step. You loved life, lived it to the full and you were always up for any challenge. You would break out into song whenever the mood took you, in the taxi, café or just walking along a street. No matter how your disability could have affected you in your life you just did not let it. I admired your courage, determination, and zest for life. Jennifer you are sadly missed and thought of often.



## Local Group

# Poems

**by Paul Blick from People First Nelson**



### Rain

When I hear the rain  
I hear the water on the roof  
If I don't hear the rain I don't know it's there on the roof  
The rain maybe there but I may not see it falling down  
If it's not falling down, it's not falling down  
And I don't know it's there

### Dawn

When I awake its light dawn  
Its daylight when I see the morning  
I see day  
If I didn't see day I wouldn't see dawn  
Dawn is the day  
Every day dawn awakes me  
Without dawn there is no day



## Local Group

# News from People First Ashburton

People First Ashburton is only a small group but is very active and as a group we have lots of fun!

We have been doing lots of social things: BBQ at Kath's house and have been to the movies and had fish and chips.

We meet every 6 weeks. Adair from IDEA services came to our last meeting- she said she can help us find volunteers.



One of our members David Parkin went on a cruise to the Lifou Loyalty Island and to Vila Vanuatu- the weather was warm and he enjoyed shopping at the craft stalls on the beach.

## Don't forget to vote!!

The general elections are on the 8th of November so don't forget to vote!

The Chief Electoral Office has made a DVD and some plain language information about how to vote.

If you want this information contact the People First DIAS  
0800 20 60 70.



## People First National AGM in Auckland

The People First National Committee will be holding the National AGM

**When:** Auckland on Friday 28th November

**Where:** The Auckland Disability Resource Centre, 14 Erson Ave, Royal Oak.

**Time:** 1.45pm

We can have a maximum of 50 people attend because of the size of the room.

We would love for people to come along to the AGM and then have afternoon tea with the Committee afterwards.

If you want to come along please call Janet on 0800 20 60 70 and we will put your name on the list!



### Special thanks go out to:

Ministry of Health



Ministry of Social Development



NZ Lottery Grants Board



J.R.McKenzie Trust



Telecom



Office for Disability Issues



ASB Community Trust



Community Organisation Grant Scheme



DPA





## Contacts

### NATIONAL OFFICE

<b>Address:</b> Level 4 173-175 Victoria Street Wellington 6011		<b>Mailing Address:</b> 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
<b>Janet Doughty</b>	National Committee Manager	(04) 381 3242	janetdoughty@peoplefirst.org.nz
<b>Crystal Fang</b>	National Finance & Office Manager	(04) 381 3242	crystalfang@peoplefirst.org.nz

### REGIONAL CHAIRPERSONS

<b>Simon Coe</b>	Northern Region	(09) 265 0536 (H) (021)102 2801(C)	kayvee@xtra.co.nz
<b>Susan McDonald</b> National Chairperson	Midland Region	(07) 3157725 (021)2595644(C)	susan@peoplefirst.org.nz
<b>Morgan Smith</b>	Central Region	(04) 904 0196 (H) (021) 0489670	
<b>Dale Richards</b>	Top of South Region	(03) 356 2286	
<b>Simon Atkinson</b>	Mid South Region	(03) 356 2286	simonatkinson2003@yahoo.com.au
<b>Rosemary Scully</b>	Southern Region	(03) 4551 323 (H) (03) 4557418 (W)	

### REGIONAL COORDINATORS

<b>Kirsty Linnell</b>	Midland Region	(06) 759 0946 (027) 697 2663	Kirsty@peoplefirst.org.nz
<b>Kaeti Rigarlsford</b> North Island Team Leader	Northern Region Central Region	(04) 381 4588 (027) 575 4000	kaeti@peoplefirst.org.nz
<b>Rosemarie Cavaney</b>	Top of South Region	(027) 246 1073	rosemarie@peoplefirst.org.nz
<b>Pam Shanks</b> South Island Team Leader	Mid South Region	03 366 4210 027 4400279	pam@peoplefirst.org.nz
<b>Gerry O'Farrell</b>	Southern Region	03 456 1345 027 242 4916	gerry@peoplefirst.org.nz