



Citizen Advocacy Auckland Inc.

When One Person Can Make a Difference

Newsletter - March 2008

Chairperson's message

Greetings to all involved in Citizen Advocacy! I hope you are all enjoying the stunning summer weather we have had over several months and that you have been able to enjoy the many activities available in our beautiful city of Auckland. Citizen Advocacy comes of age in 2008 as we turn 18. We are proud of how we have managed to keep going and very proud of the advocacy relationships that we have fostered over these years. We are a small programme yet we have managed to achieve a great deal in making a difference in people's lives. This is because of the commitment of everyone in the programme and the hard work of our Coordinators over the years.

I am really sad to report that advocate Veranaisi Ole passed away suddenly before Christmas. Veranaisi was a

woman who showed us all what is important in life: love and support of those around us. We will sadly miss Vera and our sympathy goes to her family and Vera's protégé Jean.

The Board will meet soon and map out our Strategic Plan for the year. We were thrilled to receive a generous donation from the Lion Foundation and will put this to good use. Welcome to new Board member Debbie Espiner, from the University of Auckland and welcome back to Yvonne O'Reilly one of our founding board members. Sadly Sue Robertson resigned as chairperson last year. Thank you very much Sue for your excellent contribution and the skills and wisdom you brought to C.A. Sue continues in the role of advocate.

Do drop in and see Ana Maria in her new office. There's much more room and we will be noticed by



Fran Hartnett

many more people passing by. I look forward to meeting you at future C.A. events. Thanks for your continuing involvement.

Fran Hartnett

Coordinator's Up-dates

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2008. It's hard to believe that we are already in the third month of the New Year!! I hope you managed to get some relaxation during the holiday season and are now looking forward to a great year.

A few changes have occurred for Citizen Advocacy.

The CA office moved to Newcall Tower, Suite 3 Grand Floor, 44 Khyber Pass Road in Grafton on 12th February 2008. After working at Grafton Plaza for four years, it is taking time for me to get used to the new location. The new CA telephone number is (09) 358 41 41 and fax number (09) 358 31 31.

Fiona Spencer has been enhancing our website with more options and

interesting links for you to view. You will be able to see these changes and more very soon. We thank Fiona for supporting us.

One of the ways that we keep in touch is through the CA Newsletter. This newsletter asks for referrals for new volunteer advocates, congratulates the new matches, lists those matches with anniversaries falling in the next three months, have stories about advocates and protégés sharing their friendship and advocacy and information, events and networking that may interest you.

Enjoy reading this newsletter and write down any dates, events and addresses that interest you and then please pass it on to people who might be interested in Citizen Advocacy.

The next newsletter will be published around the last week of July 2008.

As the coordinator for CA, I aim to do my best to support you.

Ana Maria de Vos
Coordinator



Ana Maria de Vos

Citizen Advocacy Auckland Inc.

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Update on:

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Government is committed to following through on ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as soon as possible. However, the Government first needs to know if New Zealand legislation, and policy and practice, is consistent with the Convention. Traditionally, there is a high standard required by the Government before international treaties like the Convention are ratified.

Government agencies are currently checking their legislation, policy and practice for consistency with the Convention. A report is expected to go to Cabinet in May with the next step to ratification.

The Office for Disability Issues is continuing its partnerships with the disability sector to ensure continuing progress on the Convention.

(Participate Number 29 March 2008)

Policy Updates:

Improving Disability Supports and Maintaining Momentum

Background

Government funds a wide range of disability supports across many different agencies. Some examples of these supports includes equipment for moving round or communicating, modifications to the home or work place, help finding and keeping a job, assistance for moving around the community, help at home, personal care and New Zealand Sign Language interpreters.

Providing access to these supports is a key part of what government does to help disabled people to participate in a fully inclusive society with ordinary choices, opportunities and responsibilities as outlined in the New Zealand Disability Strategy. Therefore, it is a priority to fix the problems that we know many disabled people and their families have had accessing the right support across a number of government agencies. To advise on how best to improve support systems, an interagency review of long-term disability supports was established in 2004.

When the review team consulted with disabled people and their families they were told about the difficulties people had trying to find and access the

supports they need. It seemed that at times the system was overly complex, inconsistent and hard work.

To ensure improvements to the supports system were all moving in the same direction and overall creating a fairer and simpler system, the review team developed an outcomes framework, based on the New Zealand Disability Strategy and the results of consultation.

Many agencies have undertaken significant work to improve disability support systems which are consistent with this framework. This includes:

- expanding supported independent living
- increasing access to individualised funding
- making moves to outcome focused funding
- cross-government initiatives to improve and align assessment improving support for disabled people entering paid employment

“Working together to remove barriers for disabled people”

(Participate Number 29 March 2008)
Hon. Ruth Dyson
Minister for Disability Issues

Sharing our lives

When I first became an advocate to Lynette I felt tremendously humbled by the way in which she coped with the constant change of carers in her home.

She would learn to trust and have faith in her carers, only to find that they would soon move on.

After speaking with one of the only remaining staff member's I have come to know, it was soon explained to me that the rate of pay for the staff is very low. This is not good and doesn't create an equal environment in how we treat the residents who live in a home like this. Despite this fact Lynette continues to adapt well to the new staff in her life.

I am pleased to say that she knows that whilst I am always able, I will remain a constant friend in her life. I make a weekly phone call to her and on special occasions like Easter, Christmas and birthdays, I go and visit her at her home in Torbay.

Graeme also lives at the same house as Lynette and two years ago I asked him if he would like me to become his friend. He was happy for me to ring him once a week and visit on special occasions such as his birthday, Easter and at Christmas.



Mary



Lynette

Both Lynette and Graeme are great friends to me and I sincerely hope I have made a little difference in their lives. I always encourage them to speak up if they are unhappy and remind them that they too, have rights in this big wide world that sometimes can be a harsh place to live in.

Mary Gales-Mitchell
Advocate for Lynette and Graeme

Lynette: Mary is a very good friend to me. She rings me regularly to find out how I am and takes a real interest in my well being. She asks after my family and my day to day life. On special occasions such as birthdays and Christmas. She always ring me, wish me well and give me a gift, which is lovely. I do appreciate her many kindnesses. I enjoy the Christmas Party she takes me to each year, put on by Citizen Advocacy. The singing is lovely and the food superb. Thank you Mary for being such a special friend to me.

Workshops

New and Existing Advocates

- Saturday
- 5 April
- 2 Aug
- 1 Nov

Venue: Newcall Tower
Suite 3
44 Khyber Pass Rd,
Grafton
Auckland

Time: 9:30 – 12:30

Events 2008



If you are interested, call

Ana Maria

358 41 41

ca.akld@ihug.co.nz

Christmas Party

Sunday

30 November 2008

Venue: To be confirmed in October



Fundraising

Karaoke & Disco



Sunday 31 August 2008

Time: 5:00 to 8:30pm

Venue: War Memorial Hall
489 Dominion Rd
Mt. Eden



Alison & China

Since 2005 Alison has been living independently. One of the new challenges that she has to face is that sometimes she feels lonely. Alison is an extraordinarily proactive person and she came up with a solution. Alison called me in September with exciting news. She decided to adopt a cat. Before her decision she talked about all the needs, expenses and responsibilities that involve having a cat. On a visit to her local SPCA center, one cat, named China, caught Alison's eye and her heart.

Many memories returned to Alison on that visit because 53 years ago she had a cat that she adored just like China. Alison and China bonded straight away. Her heart rejoiced with happiness when

she knew that she could adopt China and signed the adoption document. China has been under Alison's care for the last three months. Alison asked me to write and share her happiness with you because she never thought that 60 years later she would be able to have a cat just as she did when she was 6 years old.

(Ana Maria de Vos)

Thank you, Alison, for sharing your happiness with us.



Matches Anniversaries

Congratulations!

March		June
Jackie & Lee.....9 years		Jenny & Lyn.....8 years
Willie & Margaret.....7 years		Frances & Karen.....12 years
May		July
Annette & Fran 18 year		Barbara & Alison.....18 years
Kevin & Fran..... 18 year		Hamish & Maureen.....18 years
Scott & Teresa.....5 years		Marie & Tanzi.....7years
Clare & Bhama.....1 years		Christina & Chrissy.....4years
Edward & Sara.....1 years		Sacha & Anasein.....3years
Andre & Sara.....1 years		

WELCOME NEW MATCHES

Peter & Viola Peter & Max Patricia & Jayashree Heather & Mangala

LOOKING FOR ADVOCATES

In Avondale, Balmoral, Devonport, Ellerslie, Greenlane, Glen Innes, Howick, Northcote, Manukau, Mt. Roskill, Onehunga, Oratia, Papakura, Pakuranga, Point Chevalier and Takanini.

Citizen Advocacy promotes and defends the rights of people with intellectual disability.

Citizen Advocacy Auckland Inc. provides advocacy and friendship (since 1990) through volunteers who are prepared to support a person with intellectual disability as if they were themselves.

- We provide support, training and assistance to gain further knowledge
- We cover all of Auckland

We need volunteer advocates now

You can make a difference in a person's life

Give us a call: 358 41 41

ca.akld@ihug.co.nz



WHO CAN BE AN ADVOCATE?

Any person who cares, we believe that a person who cares enough to volunteer to be in someone's life will have the right motivation and no conflict of interest when it comes to defending the rights and interests of a person with an intellectual disability.

Any person who believes that a person with a disability has the right to have quality of life. A person with a disability has the same dreams and hopes as a person without a disability.

A person that believes that everyone can achieve their full potential with support.

Any person, who wants to make a difference in another person's life.

Visit and Support

Mondays to Friday
10am to 3:45pm



St. Georges Church

Jutland Rd.
Takapuna

St. Georges Church has an opportunity shop run by volunteers where they sell clothing, small furniture pieces, utensils etc.

The profits are distributed to assist organizations in the community.

Friendship

Friends are an important part of our lives.

Can you imagine what it must be like to be without friends?

For some people with an intellectual disability this is a reality.

Do you want to make a difference in one person's life?

Contact us:

366 45 45

ca.akld@ihug.co.nz

Information & Networking

Ministry for Disability Issues
Ph: (04) 470 6570 Fax (04) 470 6784

New Degree Majoring in Disability Studies

At the Faculty of Education, University of Auckland. For more information contact Debbie Espiner:

d.espiner@auckland.ac.nz
Phone: 623 8899 Extension 48 716

Modern Dance Class Mixed Abilities in North Shore. Contact Linda Parker on (09) 817 3051 or 021 048 2894

Recreate Auckland

Provides holistic recreational opportunities that enhance the social, emotional and physical development of young people with disabilities while also providing support and respite for their parents and families.

info@recreate-auckland.org.nz
Phone: 09-636 0351 Ext.224
www.recreate-auckland.org.nz

Father & Child supports all fathers
Phone: 525 1690
www.fatherandchild.net.nz
www.myspace.com/teendads

You can read all **New Zealand Bills, Acts** at Regulations free of charge at www.legislation.govt.nz

Ihc Library & information
www.ihc.org.nz
E-mail: librarian@ihc.org.nz

Auckland Society for Music Therapy
Phone: (09) 634 7300

Swimming Classes in Takapuna
Contact Sandra Blewett on (09) 534 3240

New disability.rec
Sports programs, music lessons, lifestyle skills and a range of respite care to choose from in different destinations around New Zealand.
Contact (09) 532 8310
disabilityrec@xtra.co.nz

People First Nga Tangata Tuatahi
"People with an intellectual / learning disability speaking up for ourselves"
Meet 3rd Wednesday of each month at: 193 Campbell Road, Saint Oswalds Church, Greenlane, Auckland.
Phone: 265 0536 or 021-1022 801

Parent & Family

The one-stop information centre for parents
Phone: 636 0351 Fax: 636 0354
Cnr. Spring & Princes Sts., Onehunga, Auckland

Conference: Trusting Partnerships: Establishing 'right relationships'

Rotorua 31 October-2 November 2008

The purpose of the conference is to promote a deeper understanding of:

- the need for and impact of authentic partnerships in professional / client relationships
 - the impact of power differential on effective service
 - the potential abuse when relationships go wrong

Papers and Presentations are now being called for.

Interested parties are invited to submit a proposal by 9 May 2008. Registrations will be available in June 2008.

For more information:

Phone: 09 262 5374 Auckland

Fax: 09 262 5371 Auckland

Email: StandardsPlus@imaginebetter.co.nz

Website: <http://www.imaginebetter.co.nz>

CA Board Members 2007-2008

Fran Hartnett Chairperson
Citizen Advocacy
Auckland founder



Fran Hartnett

Liz McAneny Secretary

Fred Yuen Treasurer

Annette Rogers

David Hughes

Debbie Espiner

Jee-ho Rodriguez

Kevin Rogers

Yonne Riley

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEVIN ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY!



Christmas photos 2007





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Telecom

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CA Fundraising Sub-Committee

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