# Disability Support Services e-newsletter

No. 53 May 2014. ISSN 2253-1386

# From Toni AtkinsonGroup Manager, Disability Support Services

In recent months, DSS has been undertaking an exercise of developing our new Strategic Plan for 2014–2018.

Developing a new Strategic Plan has provided us with an opportunity to revisit our vision for DSS and clarify our plan of work over the next four years.

The development work undertaken within the New Model framework is now being consolidated, with a view to providing a basis for the next significant change within the disability sector, which is the Enabling Good Lives demonstration in Christchurch. The elements of the New Model will feed into this demonstration which is cross-agency (Health, Education and Social Development) and is the next phase of moving to more choice, control and flexibility for disabled people.

Enabling Good Lives helps set the future direction for DSS and its principles will form the basis of our new Strategic Plan. We look forward to sharing this plan with you in the new financial year.

# Beverley Grammer – an inspirational, selfless and optimistic leader

**Ministry of Health staff were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Beverley Grammer at the end of March.**

Bev had long been a strong and inspiring leader in the disability sector and contributed over a long period of time to the Ministry’s work to support better outcomes for disabled people.

Bev provided Disability Awareness training to groups such as our NASCs and the Local Area Coordinators (LACs). Bev was an active supporter of disabled people having more choice, control and flexibility. She gave leadership in the New Model’s Local Working Group in the Bay of Plenty. She brought her wisdom and knowledge to a number of selection panels, including for the LAC Manager, Eastern Bay LACs and the members for the New Model Framework Redesign Group. At the time of her death, Bev was about to become a member of the Ministry’s procurement panel for ongoing provision of Local Area Coordination in the Bay of Plenty.

At the same time Bev was a member of the Enabling Good Lives national leadership group, supporting the work across government agencies with young people in Christchurch and in the longer term goal of change to the disability support system so that it is easier for disabled people to live life as they choose.

Bev brought honesty, intelligence, empathy, generosity and sheer hard work to her role as a panellist on the Ministerial review which led to the ‘Putting People First’ report. The Ministry is in the process of implementing the recommendations of this important report.

Beverley and her significant contribution will be missed. She knew that the way to make a difference for disabled people was to bring everyone together. She kept us honest and humble and in awe of her determination and commitment to changes needed for disabled people and the disability community.

# DSS News

## Quality Improvement Lead appointed for Putting People First

Kia Ora! My name is Pam MacNeill and I have recently begun a two-year appointment as Quality Improvement Lead with DSS, to implement the recommendations from Putting People First: the review of disability support services performance and quality management processes for purchased provider services.

My professional background includes: various social work positions and work as a probation officer in Christchurch where I was born and raised. I moved to Wellington in the early 90s to take up a long-standing appointment as Mainstream Employment Programme Manager, at the State Services Commission. My recent roles have included work for the Health and Disability Commissioner and Capital and Coast District Health Board, along with work for the Convention Coalition Monitoring Group: coordinating the 2012 and 2013 reports on the status of disabled New Zealanders.

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the late Beverley Grammer, with respect to the Putting People First review. I am enthusiastic about the implementation phase of the review and look forward to working with DSS staff, service providers and disabled people, to achieve the high quality outcomes I know we all seek. Hei konā rā

## Clarifying eligibility for people diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder

On World Autism Awareness day, 2 April 2014, Health Minister Tony Ryall and Associate Health Minister Tariana Turia announced that people diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) will now be eligible to be assessed for disability support services.

This means people diagnosed with ASD can now be considered for disability support services, regardless of whether they have a co-existing disability or not. This is consistent with the way others are supported to access disability support services which is needs based.

The needs of people with ASD are often broader than disability support services and require a joint response across the health and disability services sector. The ongoing focus for Disability Support Services is to develop a broader range of supports that are suitable for people with ASD.

People who would like to find out if they can access disability support services should contact their local NASC.

More information is available on the [Ministry of Health](http://www.health.govt.nz/news-%20media/news-items/autism-spectrum-disorder-clarification-eligibility-disability-support) website.

##  New Model resources available

New resources for the New Model for Supporting Disabled People are now available.

On the Ministry of Health’s website, www.health.govt.nz, there are brochures in English and Māori to explain Enhanced Individualised Funding. There is also an Easy Read version of the brochure for anyone with learning difficulties and large print and electronic text versions for people with a vision impairment. Printed copies of the brochures have been distributed to the Local Area Coordination office in Whakatane and Support Net in Tauranga.

A pamphlet that explains Choice in Community Living is also on the Ministry of Health website [www.health.govt.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cgsucklin%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CTemp%5CnotesD0C2A2%5Cwww.health.govt.nz) This is available in Easy Read, large print and electronic text versions. Printed copies of the pamphlet will soon be available from Choice in Community Living service providers in the Waikato and Auckland.

There is also a flyer about Supported Self-Assessment that is available Easy Read, large print and electronic text versions on [www.health.govt.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cgsucklin%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CTemp%5CnotesD0C2A2%5Cwww.health.govt.nz). These have also been made available to Support Net in Tauranga.

# DSS Stories

Disabled people in Auckland and the Waikato have been sharing their experiences of Choice in Community Living (CiCL). CiCL offers disabled people in the two regions the opportunity to move out of their family home or a residential facility and into their own home. Many thanks to Raymond, Alex and Glen for their stories.’

## Raymond’s story

When 27-year-old Raymond moved into his own home in February this year, he was fulfilling a five-year dream.

Using the Ministry of Health’s Choice in Community Living (CiCL) demonstration, he left his family home in Auckland and shifted into a three-bedroom rental.

‘I see myself as the first penguin to jump into the sea – you could get eaten by sharks or whales but I’m still here.’

Since moving into his new place, he has not only avoided any ‘sharks or whales’, but thrived. ‘I finally feel like I’m living my own life,’ he says.

The ‘hope and independence’ that CiCL offers has given Raymond the confidence to start socialising again and to try new things.

‘I started talking to friends on Facebook that I hadn’t talked to for ages. I have been busy with much more interesting things and I haven’t been playing games for the last three or four months.’

It took about six months for Raymond to get set up – from choosing a service provider to finding an accessible house to selecting his support staff. But his facilitators at CCS Disability Action have always been there if he has wanted help. They assisted Raymond with hiring his five support workers and went with him to view the house he now lives in.

Raymond is studying for a Master of Finance and recently attended the 2014 Muscular Dystrophy Northern family camp. ‘I’d never been before. I got to meet and talk to people. Next week I’ll go to meet a few of those people. I’m going to do all the things that I used to miss out on.’

## Glen and Alex’s story

Glen and Alex always knew they would one day go flatting.

They achieved their dream last year, when they moved out of their family homes and into their own place through the Ministry of Health’s Choice in Community Living (CiCL) demonstration.

Glen, 23, had been waiting for his best friend to turn 21 so they could embark on their flatting adventure. His older sister had done the same, so he knew that was the next step, his Mum Linda says.

 Alex, now 22, felt the same. ‘Once he left school and started at Community Living Trust and the Transition to Employment programme, it was just the next progression to go flatting,’ his Mum Nicky says.

 The young men have been best friends for many years and are very happy with their flatting arrangement. ‘It’s been awesome flatting with Glen, doing our own cleaning chores, rosters, having a fun time and chilling out,’ Alex says. ‘We’re basically brothers because we’re awesome and have a fun time together.’

Alex and Glen rent a three-bedroom house that was built by Accessible Properties. They have weekly flat meetings to discuss their cleaning and meal rosters, talk through any issues and plan for the week ahead. Their budgets are sorted out with help from their Mums.

Their two support workers were hired with assistance from Alicia, their facilitator at Community Living. Alicia supported them in writing the advertisement, interviewing candidates, going through the hiring process and training the staff.

Alicia says Alex and Glen are more outgoing and more involved with community events and groups since being part of CiCL.

# Recent Disability Events

## KiwiChat success!

TalkLink’s KiwiChat Camp was more than just a great opportunity for students with complex communication needs to engage in exciting new experiences.

Maximising communication throughout the activities and in everyday life was the underlying purpose.

KiwiChat Camp brought 17 children aged 6–18 and their families to Totara Springs in Matamata during February 2014. Parent responses highlight the benefits.

‘The benefits from camp were as good as three years’ therapy. ‘He gained confidence and a sense of normality when interacting and communicating with others using their devices.’

KiwiChat lets students with a wide range of disabilities and their families participate in activities they would not normally do including abseiling, hydro-slides, catching eels, archery, a camp show and disco. But the overall purpose was gained by the students using a wide range of communication devices to engage over the five full days.

Siblings and parents did not miss out and could also engage in Totara Springs’ wide range of exciting activities. Speakers and mentors were able to educate and motivate the families. TalkLink clients MacKenzie Kench and Geneva Tino, who are both successfully studying at university, shared some of their experiences and knowledge.

‘Listening and talking to MacKenzie and Geneva showed me that hard work will pay off.’ The camp success was due to months of fundraising and planning by TalkLink staff, excellent support from Totara Springs and volunteers, including 12 4th year Massey University Speech- Language Therapy students.

A big thanks to KiwiChat sponsors: Ministry of Health, Wilson Home Trust, Cerebral Palsy Society, COLENSOBBDO, DRAFTFCB, Boccia New Zealand, Accessable, Massey University, and donations through the givealittle website. Ongoing Ministry of Health funding for KiwiChat Camp will almost certainly guarantee more Camps in the future.

Some final comments from the families attending: ‘Camp was so well organised, structured, planned and implemented. You should all be so proud. There was not one thing I did not like or wanted to attend. We need this every year as this is our child’s only freedom to be normal.’

## DSS Consumer Consortium meeting

**The DSS Consumer Consortium met for three days in April 2014 and was chaired by Heather Dawson of the Hearing Association.**

The Consortium includes 31 members, two thirds of whom have experience of a disability, and one third of whom are support people for a person with a disability.

The meeting opened on a sombre note as we reflected on the very sad recent death of Patrick Thompson QSM. Patrick represented Ngati Turi on the Consortium and made a significant contribution to our understanding of the needs of Māori with deafness. Patrick worked with the Deaf Māori community for more than 20 years in a range of positions including educator, social worker and advocate.

He was awarded the Queen’s Service Medal for his services to Māori and the Deaf community. We will greatly miss his indepth knowledge and passion for improving the lives of people with a disability as well as his active promotion of the use of NZ Sign Language.

The meeting agenda included: DSS work stream updates; a presentation on how the Ministry develops disability policy; an opportunity to meet with the Ministry of Health Chief Medical Officer and Chief Nurse to discuss how the health status of people with a disability can be improved; a presentation on the draft Demographic Report of DSS Service Users; an update on the Cross Agency Disability Action Plan 2014–18 developed collaboratively by Disabled People’s Organisations and multiple government departments facilitated by the Office of Disability Issues; an opportunity to review and have input into the draft DSS Strategic Plan 2014–18; introduction to Inia Eruera, DSS’ new Senior Advisor Māori; presentations from two disabled people currently using the services of a Local Area Coordinator in the Bay of Plenty where Consortium members could ask find out about how LAC works; an update from the Deputy Health and Disability Commissioner Rose Wall, and HDC’s new Disability Senior Advisor Dr Esther Woodbury; and an update from Gordon Boxall on the Enabling Good Lives project in Christchurch.

# Disability Sector Strategic Reference Group meeting

The Disability Sector Strategic Reference Group met in March 2014. This group includes five people with disabilities, four provider representatives, one carers’ representative and four Ministry of Health representatives.

The meeting agenda included: DSS work stream updates; a presentation on the draft Demographic Report of DSS Service Users; an update on the Cross Agency Disability Action Plan 2014–18 developed collaboratively by Disabled People’s Organisations and multiple government departments facilitated by the Office of Disability Issues; an opportunity to review and have input into the draft DSS Strategic Plan 2014–18; introduction to Inia Eruera, DSS’ new Senior Advisor Māori.

# Māori Disability Monitoring and Advisory Group meeting

This group was established to assist the Ministry to develop Whaia te Ao Marama, the Māori Disability Action Plan.

It continues to meet to monitor implementation of that plan. Members represent Māori with deafness, blindness, intellectual and/or physical disabilities. The meeting was an opportunity to meet with Inia Eruera, DSS’ new Senior Advisor Māori and discuss improving outcomes for Māori with disabilities through implementation of Whaia te Ao Marama. Amongst other things, the meeting agenda included an update on the New Model programme and how it is working for Māori.

# Value of meetings with people with disabilities

Each of the consumer and stakeholder meetings hosted by the Ministry is highly valued for its expert advice on the great breadth and depth of issues facing people living with a disability.

This advice informs the Ministry’s planning and implementation of its work programmes, and ensures that the Ministry’s priorities for action reflect the priorities for disabled people.

# NGO Forum

This year’s Ministry-NGO Health and Disability Sector Forum, held on Friday 14 March, was a celebration of success.

The theme ‘Showcasing our Sector’ allowed attendees to reflect on some of the great things NGOs are doing. The crowd of over 300 people was treated to six 20 minute presentations about successful initiatives under way in the health and disability sector.

These were:

• Dr Prudence Stone from the Smokefree Coalition – how collaboration can shape political and community agenda.

• Brenda Burnett and Patience Stirling from Haemophilia Foundation of NZ Inc and Piri Toto –shared the journey of how they ensured the needs of Māori were met.

• Jackie Edmond, CEO Family Planning – visions require buy in from all parties including funders. Family Planning had embarked on an ambitious three year IT upgrade so that access to their services was easier. It is now starting to roll out phone and skype consultations for young people particularly in areas where there are no clinics.

• Noel Matthews and Rosalie Eilering, NorthAble – a Needs Assessment Service Coordination organisation which has thought outside the square to deliver services in a different way to benefit their clients. They shared key themes and concepts which they believe can be used throughout the NGO sector.

• Karen Covell, Progress to Health CEO, Karen Covell – how they have challenged themselves against other organisations in the Westpac Business Awards to clarify their vision and improve services.

• Richard Coad, General Manager, Switched On – NGOs need to be innovative and not necessarily rely on funding from government agencies. Using the resource and employees they already had has allowed them to develop a social enterprise business outside of their umbrella organisation.

To read more about the NGO Forum and see some of the presentations, go to the [NGO Council](http://ngo.health.govt.nz/node/94) website

# Upcoming Disability Events

## NZDSN Forums

A Living Options Forum that focuses on ASD – 28 May in Auckland, when the Ministry will talk about the policy clarification recently announced where people with ASD are now eligible to have their disability support needs assessed through the Disability NASCs, there will be a number of other discussions regarding ASD also that will be of interest to providers.

For more information see the [NZDSN](http://www.nzdsn.org.nz/Blogs/121/60/nzdsn-issue-forum-living-options/) website.

## Supporting Change, Moving Forward

### The Next Generation of Disability Supports

An exciting two-day National Conference in Auckland on 4 and 5 June 2014 at the Waipuna Hotel.

### What you can expect:

• To be inspired, motivated and upskilled.

• Inspirational speakers, expert trainers delivering dynamic and interactive workshops.

• Disabled people and families that will share their experiences, their skills and their challenges, as they navigate their way through the ‘New Model’ of funding and service provision.

• You will come away from the conference with an extensive range of quality resources and practical tools:

– updates on key note speakers and presenters

– download printable registration form

– download printable conference programme.

## Making a Difference Fund – now open

The fifth round of the Making a Difference Fund is now open. The application form is available here. Applications will be open until 4 pm, Tuesday 3 June 2014.

Through the Making a Difference Fund, Think Differently have supported individuals, organisations and businesses to make their communities more inclusive of disabled people. Thousands of New Zealanders have attended concerts and workshops, seen posters and exhibitions, or explored accessibility in their workplace or social environment – all organised by people who just thought that attitudes and behaviours towards disabled people needed to change.

Think Differently want to reach more people around the country. They want to reach your community.

They are looking for projects that:

• promote change within organisations and businesses

• influence media and popular culture

• change the beliefs of non-disabled people

• build the capacity of disabled and non-disabled people to be change makers.

Read more about the fund, and funded projects at the [Think Differently](http://thinkdifferently.org.nz/getting-funded) website.

## How do we all raise the volume of the unheard voice?

### The 4th National Disability Conference, Wednesday, 2 July 2014 – Alexandra Park, Auckland

Explore how to support consumers, family members, friends and others to speak up.

• Learn about supported decision making and advocacy.

• Share ideas about fostering disabled people’s choice and control when receiving services. Registrations opened 6 May 2014 on [www.hdc.org.nz](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cgsucklin%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CTemp%5CnotesD0C2A2%5Cwww.hdc.org.nz)

For more information or if you are interested in being an exhibitor or a sponsor, please contact

Esther Woodbury – Ph: (04) 494 7905 or email: conference@hdc.org.nz

## New Zealand Population Health Congress

Registrations are now open.

The New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine, the Public Health Association and the Health Promotion Forum warmly welcome your registration for the inaugural New Zealand Population Health Congress being held 6–8 October 2014 at the Aotea Centre, Auckland.

The Congress will be a major event in New Zealand’s population health calendar this year. It is a chance for you to learn, discuss and debate advances in population health thinking and practice in areas such as child health, housing, nutrition, indigenous health and climate change.

The overarching Congress theme is ‘Connecting Communities, Science and Policy’ and the programme provides multiple opportunities to achieve this goal.

Please visit the [Congress website](http://www.pophealthcongress.org.nz) to learn about registering, submitting abstracts, keynote speakers and more.

## Disability Provider Forums

The 2014 DSS Provider Forums will be held in October 2014. These regular forums provide updates to disability support service providers about DSS’ strategic direction, projects and improvement initiatives. An agenda will be available closer to the time. Details and dates are given below so you can put it in your diary. To register please contact nikki\_ joyce@moh.govt.nz

**DSS Provider Forum schedule**

| Location | Date | Venue Details |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Auckland | Tuesday 14 October | Novotel Auckland Airport Beside Auckland International terminal |
| Hamilton | Wednesday 15 October | Hamilton Airport Hotel Beside Hamilton International Airport terminal |
| Wellington | Friday 17 October | Kingsgate Hotel24 Hawkestone Street, Thorndon, Wellington |
| Dunedin | Monday 20 October | Dunedin Public Art Gallery30 The Octagon, Dunedin |
| Christchurch | Tuesday 21 October | Venue to be confirmed |
| New Plymouth | Thursday 23 October | Venue to be confirmed |

# DSS Project Updates

## The New Model for Supporting Disabled People

Local Area Coordination (LAC)

Positive stories continue to be told by people working with an LAC. Two disabled people, who attended DSS’ Consumer Consortium on 10 April, spoke openly of their experiences and the role of the LAC in supporting things they had been able to achieve. There was good dialogue and positive feedback from the Consortium.

To date Local Area Coordinators in the Bay of Plenty have worked with more than 494 people. Of these, 115 have had an ongoing relationship with an LAC. There have been 5100 contacts recorded including contact with disabled people, family and/or whānau members and community members.

### Enhanced Individualised Funding / Individualised Funding

A total of 147 people are using Enhanced Individualised Funding (EIF) within the Bay of Plenty. Work has begun on reviewing the progress of people who have been using EIF for 12 months.

### Supported Self-Assessment and Funding Allocation Tool

The demonstration of Supported Self-Assessment and the new Funding Allocation Tool continues at Support Net NASC in the Bay of Plenty. More than 50 people have experienced Supported Self- Assessment and have had their indicative allocation of funding calculated by the new Funding Allocation Tool.

### Choice in Community Living

Sixty-three people have now chosen to live independently in the community through the Choice in Community Living demonstration in Auckland and the Waikato.

## Environmental support services

Sue Primrose, Development Manager, Service Access Team

### Equipment and Modification Services (EMS) Prioritisation Tool

The EMS Prioritisation Tool has now been in use in the northern DHB region (the three Auckland DHBs and Northland DHB) for three months and EMS Assessors in the region have been very supportive of its introduction. The Ministry’s project manager, Clare Kirk, has been available to provide support and advice to EMS Assessors and Accessable, the Ministry’s contracted provider for the management of Equipment and Modification Services in this region. This support, plus the enthusiastic contribution from the many EMS Assessor ‘champions’ across the region, has meant that the transition to the new system for accessing more complex equipment, housing modifications and vehicle purchase and modifications has been relatively smooth. In addition, Enigma, the organisation that developed the web-based system for the Prioritisation Tool, has quickly and competently accommodated the various minor ‘tweaks’ that have been identified during the initial weeks.

The first stage of implementation will be reviewed during June and July and work is now underway to prepare the rest of the country (with services administered by Enable New Zealand) for national rollout of the Prioritisation Tool in August.

# DSS pricing models review

**Barbara Crawford, Manager Strategy and Contracts Team**

The aim of the Pricing Model Review Project is to create pricing models that are nationally consistent and fair for service users and providers. Work has continued with KPMG to finalise the new pricing models for Community Residential Services, Respite, Supported Living and Home and Community Support Services. The results of the carer survey regarding use of the Carer Support Subsidy have also been reviewed.

Sector forums were held in May to present the new pricing models and the proposed timeframes for implementing these. An update on the Carer Support Subsidy was also provided.

Copies of the presentations made at the sector forums will be available on the [Ministry of Health](http://www.health.govt.nz/news-%20media/news-items/autism-spectrum-disorder-clarification-eligibility-disability-support) website by the end of May.

# Disability workforce development

Feala Afoa, Development Manager, Strategy and Contracts Team

## Disability workforce reference group

In February, the workforce reference group met to provide a progress report on the new workforce action plan 2013–2016. At this meeting, the group also had a workshop to identify issues relating to migrants employed in the disability workforce and the challenges these currently pose for disability support services. To address these issues, the group identified a number of strategies which will be put into place.

Also at this meeting, Yvonne Bruorton from Employment Relations in the Ministry of Health updated the group on the legislation requiring providers to do staff safety checks, formerly known as the vetting and screening guidelines. More information can be found on the [New Zealand Parliament](http://www.parliament.nz) website.

## Disability workforce development grants – Te Pou

Te Pou is currently adapting the ‘Let’s Get Real Framework’, originally developed for the mental health sector, to be used in the disability sector. The framework includes tools, learning modules and workshops for leaders, managers and staff which would support organisations to build knowledge and skills in their workforce. Consultation with disability services and disabled people indicates that there is support for this framework in the disability sector. This work is scheduled to be completed in June.

Te Pou is also working with Manawanui in Charge, one of the Individualised Funding hosts, to trial access to the disability workforce grants for support workers employed by disabled people under the Individualised Funding scheme. After this three month trial, it is intended that this will roll out nationally to other Individualised Funding hosts.

To address the varying grant access rates for Māori disability workers and consumers, Te Pou will present at the Te Piringa national hui in May to promote the disability workforce grants, and obtain feedback on how it can improve grant uptake for Māori.

# Kaiawhina Health and Disability Workforce Action Plan

Health Workforce New Zealand and Careerforce are leading the development of a 20 year strategy for the non-regulated workforce across the disability, aged care, mental health, public health and health sectors. The strategy working group, comprised of Ministry and Careerforce representatives, met in March to discuss the priority areas obtained from sector consultation during February.

The Health Workforce New Zealand board has approved the priority outcomes of the 20-year Kaiāwhina Plan. These are consumer focus, career development, workforce intelligence, access, quality and safety, workforce recognition and sustainability. The plan will be presented at the Careerforce conference in May 2014. A five year implementation plan will be developed thereafter to address the priority areas. More information can be found on the [Career Force](http://www.careerforce.org.nz/kaiawhina/) website.

## Pacific development

**Feala Afoa, Development Manager, Strategy and Contracts Team**

### Faiva Ora – National Pasifika Disability Plan 2014–2016

Le Va has completed the revision of the English version of the disability support information guide for Pasifika people. Le Va is currently translating the English version into six Pacific languages.

Le Va has also finalised the Disability Support Service good practice guidelines for Pasifika responsiveness. This resource guides disability services on their Pasifika responsiveness and showcases existing approaches which have been proven effective for achieving good outcomes for Pasifika disabled people. This resource is scheduled to be available on Le Va’s website once approved by the Ministry in May 2014.

### Evaluation of Faiva Ora 2010–13

The Ministry will be engaging an external, independent organisation to undertake an evaluation of the Faiva Ora Pasifika Disability Plan 2010–2013. This organisation will be identified through a request for quote process. The evaluation work is planned to start in July 2014.

### Growing Pasifika Solutions (GPS) Conference 2014

On 4/5 March, Le Va hosted the GPS conference in Auckland. This national Pasifika fono brought together over 300 leaders and representatives from the Pacific health, disability, mental health and addictions sectors, to share innovative and best practice solutions on issues facing Pasifika people in Aotearoa.

In the fono disability workstream, the Ministry presented its new Faiva Ora Plan 2014–16 followed by Le Va’s presentation outlining its approaches to implementing the new Faiva Ora plan. Te Pou also presented their work on improving access to training opportunities for the Pacific disability workforce and Pacific consumers using the disability workforce grants. The University of Auckland presented their research on Pasifika disabled children, youth and their families and students from Auckland University Technology presented their research on issues facing Pasifika people with brain and spinal cord injuries.

## Faiva Ora Leadership Group

On 2 March, the Faiva Ora Leadership Group met in Auckland to advise on the new draft Ministry DSS Strategic Plan 2014–18. The group also provided guidance and advice to the Home Health Association on Pacific people’s issues specific to home and community support services. The group meets every six months and is due to meet again in September 2014.

## Talanga Project – Research on Pasifika disabled children, youth and their children

Over the last few months, the University of Auckland conducted group workshops and interviews with Pasifika disabled youth, their families and caregivers in the Auckland, Tokoroa, Hamilton and Christchurch regions. Interviews are planned in the Wellington area in May. Analysis of the information collected from the interviews has begun and a draft report is due to the Ministry on 15 May before it is distributed to stakeholders in the disability sector for comment. This report will also include the findings from the Pasifika disability literature stocktake.

The focus from June will be on collection and analysis of quantitative data to be supplied by DHBs, the Ministry of Health and further interviews. The Talanga Project is due to be completed in

December 2014.

# Contact Disability Support Services

Email: disability@moh.govt.nz

Phone: 0800 DSD MOH (0800 373 664)

Web: [www.health.govt.nz/disability](http://www.health.govt.nz/disability)

If you do not wish to receive any further email updates, please send an email to

disability@moh.govt.nzwith ‘unsubscribe to newsletter’ in the subject line.

To be added to the email list, send an email to: disability@moh.govt.nz requesting that your name be added to our mailing list.