



**August 2006**

**Newsletter**

Wellington Down Syndrome Association

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**Wellington Down Syndrome Association**

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*Frances Clarke  
Memorial Awards*

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**Nominations**

are invited for the Frances Clarke Memorial Awards, to be held  
26th October 2006 at Government House.

The awards recognize and encourage special achievements by people with  
Down Syndrome in the Wellington Region

There are two award categories, 8-16 years and 16 years and over.

Special achievements need not be spectacular or a world first.

They will have taken determination, application and perseverance. They will  
demonstrate the ability of someone with Down Syndrome to overcome their  
difficulties by completing a task or by showing, through their way of life and  
attitudes towards others, that they lead full and rewarding lives.

If you would like to nominate someone, please complete the enclosed form and  
return to:

Kate Young

11 Longfellow St

Upper Hutt

Ph: 04 970 7229 (A/H)

Email: [contact@wdsa.co.nz](mailto:contact@wdsa.co.nz)

**Entries close 31th August 2006**

## WDSA Newsletter Contents:

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Services of interest eg Parent to Parent, IEP Course, Disabled Snowsports NZ, Homeopathic Ear Clinic, Pot Luck Dinner, Demi-pairs available to provide child care services (pages 4-6)

## World Watch:

### **Teachers and principals are claiming the lack of funding originally promised to put special-needs students in mainstream classes is putting them under stress.** 24 July 2006, [www.xtra.co.nz](http://www.xtra.co.nz)

National education spokesman Bill English raised issues of teacher stress at his party's annual conference in Christchurch at the weekend, saying teachers were increasingly expected to deal with children with severe behavioural problems. "Research has shown disruptive behaviour has the biggest influence on negative learning outcomes," English said. "Teachers want alternatives to mainstreaming such students and they need more options. There is evidence not every child fits into the classroom and it is not possible to have a full-time adult supervising every special-needs student."

Principals' Federation president Pat Newman said he welcomed English highlighting teachers' concerns. The federation fully supported mainstreaming, but only if there was adequate resourcing, Newman said. Funding for teacher aides and support programmes to assist teachers with children with special needs was promised in 2000, but in many instances had not materialised. "There is no way we want the system of mainstreaming dismantled, but teachers are under stress if they do not receive sufficient backup," said Newman.

"We think there is also a need for some children to be in specialised schools, but at what stage do we take them out of class? We say, 'Give us the promised resources and we will do something to help these children'." Mainstreaming had been reasonably successful because of the huge amount of goodwill from teachers who, to the detriment of themselves, made it work, said Newman.

Post-Primary Teachers' Association (PPTA) national president Debbie Te Whaiti said that since the introduction of mainstreaming in 2000, schools had been experiencing varying levels of support for teachers and students. "It has been complicated by a tightening of the definition around students with disabilities and those who have high behaviour needs, and those who might have qualified for support four to five years ago no longer do so," said Te Whaiti. Another complication was when support staff were paid from the operations grant, she said. "They have had an increase in pay but there has been no corresponding increase in the operations grant, so some schools have had to cut back in staff or the time students can be mainstreamed."

Jacinta Grice, head of the Uplands special-needs unit at Hillmorton High School, said students in the unit received grants because most were in the high-needs group. However, it was much more difficult for other special-needs students mainstreamed in the schools to receive sufficient funding. Anyone with moderate needs often relied on funding from the school's special education grant. "If you put these students in, say, a technology class or the cooking room, you need someone there to keep them safe which can make it difficult for teachers. Because of these restraints often the students may not get into a class which would teach them valuable life skills," she said.

Secondary teachers were trained to teach their subject rather than to produce individual programmes as primary teachers did, and this could put huge strain on teachers with large classes trying to cope with wide diversity in their classrooms, said Grice.

Education Minister Steve Maharey said National was unfairly characterising all special-needs children as disruptive in the classroom. "It is true that some students with special needs can be disruptive, just as some children who don't have special needs can be disruptive," he said. "The way to deal with behavioural issues is to assess them on a case-by-case basis and ensure teachers get the support they need." Schools were getting more help to tackle disruptive behaviour, with new Budget funding of \$9.5 million over four years, said Maharey. "National is winding back the clock on progress made over the last two decades, and excluding children with special needs from a mainstream classroom is not the way to deal with isolated problems," he said.

# Noticeboard:

## WDSA Information:

### Coffee Morning / Support Group Wellington Down Syndrome Association



An invitation is extended to all parents, relatives and caregivers of children with Down syndrome to our monthly coffee mornings

**10am - 12noon**

**Venue:** Check our website [www.wdsa.co.nz](http://www.wdsa.co.nz) or ring Carmen 0800 693 724 (select 3) for venue details each month.

**Third Wednesday of each month**

#### **Coffee Morning Dates for 2006 are:**

16 August, 20 September, 18 October, 15 November

Coffee mornings are a great way for you and your children to meet new friends and for you to share your questions and experiences, they are all about getting together, sharing support and information, for families of children of all ages. A selection of books and videos on Down syndrome are available for loan.

For more information contact: Verree Henderson phone 476 7471, or Mandy Thompson (Kapiti Coast) phone 905 7775

<b>Committee Members Wellington DSA</b>			
<b>Regional Phone Contact &amp; Co-ordinator</b>		Carmen Slater	479 6337 or 0800 693 724, select 3
<b>Treasurer</b>		Carol Weston	499 0263
Sue Elworthy	232 6578	Verree Henderson	476 7471
Helen Elliot	564 6806	Mandy Thompson	(04) 905 7775
Kate Young	970 7229	Lynette Subritzky	526 2690
Steve Young	970 7229	Paul Rudkin	2359873
Ange Chamberlain	04 298 4711		

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# Noticeboard:



## **PARENT TO PARENT NEW ZEALAND INC**

### **Providing Information and Support to Families/Whanau who have a child with a disability, special need or health impairment**

Parent to Parent is a national organisation set up in 1983 to provide information and support for parents of children with special needs. Support is provided voluntarily by Trained Support Parents who have a child with the same or similar needs. We have 10 regional groups throughout New Zealand from Kaitaia through to Invercargill and network closely with other organisations both nationally and internationally. Our services to families are free.

Caring for a family member who has a special need is an experience that few parents anticipate or plan for, and one that brings strong emotional responses and challenges in day-to-day living.

Children with disabilities often need many different services to support their growth to their fullest potential, and their parents are their most important advocates. However, many parents lack information about available resources as well as the assertiveness skills needed to advocate for their child. Through contact with other parents who have children with special needs, parents gain relevant information and skills and the motivation to handle their role of parent and advocate for their child.

Parent to Parent matches parents seeking information and emotional support in one to one relationships with a trained volunteer Support Parent whose child has the same or similar disability, ongoing medical condition, or other special need, so that they are able to share experiences, strengths, and hope. Parents can be matched for general support about a condition, or for a specific event in their disabled child's life, such as transition from school/tertiary to employment or further training.

Parent to Parent matches are made based on similarities in disability and family issues. The caller is matched with a trained Support Parent from our comprehensive database of parents throughout New Zealand. Often at the time of the match, the parent has just been given the diagnosis or is just beginning a new era in the life of the child with a disability. Once matched, each relationship evolves individually depending on the needs and preferences of the requesting parent. All Support Parents undertake an 18 hour training programme.

Over the last 21 years Parent to Parent has developed a number of services in response to families needs. These include family camps, sibling workshops and camps for the brothers and sisters of children who have a disability, family/whanau carer support programme, web site, and advocacy.

If you would like to use our free service or know someone else who might, please contact

#### **Parent to Parent Wellington Region**

Telephone (04) 569 9398

Email: [wellington@parent2parent.org.nz](mailto:wellington@parent2parent.org.nz) or  
Parent to Parent National Office (Hamilton)

Toll-free on 0508 236 236

Noticeboard:

**Homeopathic Ear Clinic Launched in Our Region**

Glue Ear? Recurrent Ear-ache? Hearing or Learning Problems? The **Kids' Ear Clinic** gives parents another option for the effective treatment of these painful and persistent ear disorders.

The **Kids' Ear Clinic** is a specialist homeopathic centre for children with glue ear, recurrent ear ache and other ear-related problems. Located at the Manuka Health Centre in Petone, your child will be given individualised care from our professional team of qualified Homeopaths.

Give the friendly team at Kids' Ear Clinic a Call to make an appointment: 569 6165.

**IEP  
MINI SEMINAR**

Parent to Parent NZ & Parents of Vision Impaired (NZ) are offering a **free** IEP Seminar for parents who have children with disabilities, health impairments and special needs.

**The course will cover:**

- An overview of SE2000 ▪ The IEP process ▪ The IEP meeting and document ▪ The Parents' role

Date: **17<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

Time: **7.00 – 9.30 pm**

Place: **Royal NZ Foundation of the Blind, 121 Adelaide Road, Newtown, Wellington**

To register please complete and return the Registration Form to: IEP Mini Seminar, Parent to Parent NZ, P.O. Box 234, Waikato Mail Centre. If you would like to know more please phone on freephone 0508 236 236 or email: national@parent2parent.org.nz

**REGISTRATION FORM, IEP - MINI SEMINAR**

Name .....  
Address .....  
Phone..... Email .....  
Child's/ren's condition/disability.....

**DISCLAIMER:**

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the WDSA. The Association does not promote or recommend any products or services mentioned in this newsletter.

## Noticeboard:

### Do You ...

- want help with childcare?
- want help with the housework?
- have a spare room?
- have an interest in other cultures?

#### Have you considered a demi-pair?

Astrid is a demi-pair from Germany. She is 21, has a drivers licence, can cook meals, is a trained physiotherapist, has experience babysitting, and working with intellectually & physically disabled primary school students and would like a 6 month placement.

Au-Pair NZ is looking for host families for demi-pairs like Astrid starting in **September 2006**.

**Families offer free room and board, pocket money of \$25 per week and some help with school transport costs** as their contribution. In return **demi-pairs work for up to 20 hours per week** doing childcare and light housework

If you would like more information or to offer someone like Astrid a place in your home please contact:

Emma Kim  
20 Raroa Road  
Lower Hutt

Au-Pair NZ (part of WBS)  
[emma.kim@aupairnz.com](mailto:emma.kim@aupairnz.com)  
Ph 939 7615

The Wellington Down  
Syndrome Association  
invites all parents and  
caregivers to a

**BYO Pot Luck Dinner**  
(bring a plate to share)

**Saturday 30 September**  
7pm onwards

at

26 Kaponga Street  
Parkway  
Wainuiomata

Please call to let us  
know if you can make it:

Helen 04 564 6806 or  
Sue 04 232 6578

## **DISABLED SNOWSPORTS NEW ZEALAND**

*Disabled Snowsports NZ (DSNZ) is a national charitable organisation that helps to remove participation barriers and encourages people with physical or intellectual disabilities to get involved in Snowsports.*

*DSNZ is the national advocate for Adaptive Snowsports, supporting programs run by its seven regional branches and New Zealand's alpine resorts. Support includes promotion, adaptive training for instructors and volunteers, fundraising for new equipment and hosting national fun and competitive events.*

*Can DSNZ help put a smile on the face of anyone you know this winter?*

*For more information see our website  
[www.disabledsnowsports.org.nz](http://www.disabledsnowsports.org.nz)*

# The Frances Clarke Memorial Awards 2006

Do you know someone who fits the bill?

Please nominate them for the Frances Clarke Memorial Awards by completing the nomination form over leaf.

Nominations are being invited for the Frances Clarke Memorial Awards, to be held in the later part of 2006 at Government House. The awards recognise and encourage special achievements by people with Down syndrome in the Wellington Region. There are two award categories, 8 to 16 years and 16 years and over.

Special achievements need not be spectacular or a world first. They will have taken determination, application and perseverance. They will demonstrate the ability of someone with Down syndrome to overcome their difficulties by completing a task or by showing, through their way of life and attitudes towards others, that they lead full and rewarding lives.

While the awards acknowledge the achievements of people with Down syndrome, they honour all those who have contributed in that person's life.

The awards also provide an opportunity to draw public attention to the very worthwhile achievements and contributions that people with Down syndrome can make in the community.

These awards are organised by the **Wellington Down Syndrome Association** and have been instituted in memory of Frances Clarke, who was born in 1985 with Down syndrome and died in May 1989 from leukaemia.

## **Nomination Requirements:**

- ◆ Any person over the age of 8 years with Down syndrome who lives in the Greater Wellington Region is eligible for nomination. The region is that area covered by the Wellington Regional Council and extends to both the Wairarapa and the Kapiti/Horowhenua areas.
- ◆ Separate awards will be made to people 8 to 16 years and those 16 years and over.
- ◆ Nominations may be made by anyone having a personal knowledge of the nominee.
- ◆ Nominations may be made for any achievements considered to be outstanding.
- ◆ A previous award recipient may be nominated again after 5 years of obtaining the award, if they have demonstrated new achievements.

## **Nominations should be posted to:**

Frances Clarke Memorial Awards  
Wellington Down Syndrome Association  
C/- 11 Longfellow Street  
Upper Hutt

**Nominations must be received by 31 August 2006.**

**Please note we do not have a fax facility; if you wish to nominate some one, please action now, via the post!**

For more information contact: Phone Kate Young (04) 970-7229

# The Frances Clarke Memorial Awards 2006

## Nomination Form

Please describe on a separate sheet, (preferably typed) achievements of the nominated person.

Also attach any relevant testimonials (i.e. from past teachers, coaches etc), photos and descriptions of major interests and activities (This helps to create an "all round picture" of the nominee).

Post this with the completed nomination form to Frances Clarke Memorial Awards, WDSA, C/- 11 Longfellow Street Upper Hutt, no later than 31 August 2006

<b><u>Nominee Details</u></b>	
Name	
D.O.B	
Age at October 2006	
Current Address of Nominee	
Parent/Guardians Name	
Parent/Guardians Address (if different from Child's)	
Parent/Guardians Telephone Number	
School or Work place Of Nominee	
<b><u>Nominator Details</u></b>	
Name	
Address of Nominator	
Telephone Number	Home <span style="margin-left: 150px;">Work</span>
Relationship to Nominee	
Signature	Date

**Please get Parents/Guardians of children under the age of 20 years or of those adults whom are under Welfare Guardianship to sign the following statement:**

I/we the Parents/Guardians of ..... agree to his/her nomination for the Frances Clarke Memorial Award. We also agree to his/her name and achievements to be used in media publications relating to the Frances Clarke Memorial Awards.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**Please get adult nominee over the age of 20 years to sign the following statement:**

I ..... agree to my nomination for the Frances Clarke Memorial Award. I also agree to my name and achievements to be used in media publications relating to the Frances Clarke Memorial Awards.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

# **Frances Clarke Memorial Awards**

**His Excellency The Governor-General, The Hon Anand Satyanand has kindly agreed to host the 2006 Awards at Government House, Wellington on Thursday 26 October 2006 at 10.00am.**

The Wellington Down Syndrome Association invites all interested members to attend these Awards

Please complete the form below and post to Kate Young at  
**11 Longfellow Street, Upper Hutt**

Alternatively you may phone her on (04) 970 7229 (evenings) with details.

**Please reply by 22 September 2006**

Frances Clarke Memorial Award

Yes I/we would like to attend the awards.

Please note information sheet from Government House will be sent out as confirmations to the people who accept

*(Please remember you must name every individual separately – this includes any child.)*

Last Name	
First Name	
Adult or Child?	
Address	
Last Name	
First Name	
Adult or Child?	
Address	
Last Name	
First Name	
Adult or Child?	
Address	
Last Name	
First Name	
Adult or Child?	
Address	