



A note from our National Vice Chairperson

Hello everybody, my name is Kris Roguski and I'm the National Vice Chairperson of People First New Zealand, President of the Midland Region and the President of Rotorua People First.

I hope you are all keeping healthy and well, and nice and warm.

Welcome to the Butterfly Express. There are some very good articles in this edition. There are some stories about regional meetings from around the country, some new groups starting up and a great story about People First Dunedin helping out the members of People First Oamaru.



We have a lot of things coming up over the next few months.

In November National Committee member Cheryl Wallace, Regional Coordinator Yi Small and I are flying to Adelaide for the ASID conference. I think it will be a great opportunity. For me, it will be the first time going overseas and that makes me feel really excited.

On behalf of the National Committee I am happy to tell you that we have got some funding from Te Pou to run a forum about the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the South Island and three UN Convention courses in the North Island instead. This is good because it will mean members will know more about what the UN Convention is about and how to use it in their own lives.

Thank you.

Kris Roguski

National Vice Chairperson



Transition Expo

The Disability Connect Transition Expo was held in Auckland on 3 September 2019.

Northern region members worked hard at the Expo, telling people all about People First New Zealand.



Northern region President Ronnie Sione talking to people at the Transition Expo.

Thank you

Thank you to Te Pou for funding the North Island courses and South Island forum on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Te Pou o te
Whakaaro Nui**

New People First groups

Invercargill

This year has been an exciting time for the Invercargill Region. It has been many years since Invercargill has had a People First group but a new group is now up and running. Local Assistant Barbara Davis-Ross has been working hard to get the word out and it has paid off with a great group that is currently 8 members strong.



Invercargill group office holders (from Left) Carla Harrison (Vice –President), Teresa Hammond (President), Roseanne Zyskowski (Secretary), Tamati Kotera (Treasurer).

Masterton

Hi my name is Peter Knighton. I am the President of the People First Masterton group. We started our group in April 2019 and now we have 5 members.

We've talked about how to make driveways more safe, and roads. We've discussed the rights of people with disabilities and human rights. We have our meetings at the Community Centre and we are looking forward to the UN Convention course in Wellington that is coming up.



(from Left) Vanessa Maxwell, Peter Knighton, Local Assistant Yvonne Davy, Millie Ogg, Maria Hook and Cindy Brannagan.



Regional updates

Midland region

Midland members had 2 guest speakers at their mid-year regional meeting – Cheryll Graham from the Ministry of Health and Peter Northcote from the Reserve Bank.

Cheryll came to talk to the group because they raised concerns about the right to make a complaint about services. Members enjoyed the session and were not afraid of speaking up. They talked about some of their own experiences and asked some hard questions about why their complaints sometimes get dropped.

Cheryll was very pleased that the members knew how to make a complaint and said that the members had given her a lot of useful and powerful concerns to take back to the Ministry of Health.

Peter Northcote came to the meeting to talk to members about a very interesting topic – what the future might be like for people with learning disability if there was no cash.

This was the first time the members had spoken to someone about money from the Reserve Bank. Peter made it very easy for people to understand and talk about the topic and the members spoke up about what they thought their lives would look like and what would be harder to do if there was no cash.



Central region

The Central region had a great regional meeting in Palmerston North on the 8th June.

The guest speakers were Wendy and Rose from Mana Whaikaha – the new way of getting disability support that is being trialled in the region. They talked about having a plan for a good life.



New Easy Read information

Our Make It Easy service is always busy making new Easy Read information.

Have you been keeping an eye out for any new Easy Read on our website?

It is all free to download and share.

Check it out at:

<https://www.peoplefirst.org.nz/news-and-resources/easy-read-resources/>





Pātai? Have a question or need some help?

Did you know that People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi has a free Disability Information and Advisory Service?

That means you can ask us about:

- living how and where you want
- doing what you want when you want
- what is available for people with learning disability
- getting a job
- anything else you want to know.

We can also give you advice to help you make decisions on:

- where to live, work and things to do
- who to get support from
- how to get involved in things that you want to
- anything else you might want or need.

If you have any questions, concerns or need information about learning disability call People First New Zealand. We can advise you where to go to get help or give you the information that you need.

Call us on Wellington **(04) 381 3242** or free phone **0800 20 60 70**

Email us on:

ask@peoplefirst.org.nz



Hard work, determination and team work pay off for Oamaru

This has been a busy year for a small group of Dunedin People First members: Phil Windle, Corrina and Peter Wilson-Winterburn, William Luskie, Cheryl Wallace, Blair Herbert and David King. At the start of the year a plan was put together to get the Oamaru People First group up and running after it had been in recession for several years.



(from left): William Luskie,
Phil Windle, David King,
Peter Wilson-Winterburn,
Cheryl Wallace

(front) Corrina Wilson-
Winterburn

(inset) Blair Herbert

The members worked together with Regional Coordinator Lee-ann Wightman to come up with a 5 month plan which included meeting with local service providers, holding an information afternoon to recruit members and beginning to get the local group meetings up and running again.

The group came up with a monthly schedule where 2 members would travel the 1 and a ½ hour trip up to Oamaru each month with Lee-ann.



The schedule was discussed and agreed on by all the group and allowed everyone an opportunity to take part and be involved. For the members that were involved, many enjoyed the chance to do something different and the opportunity to work together in a team. William said “I enjoyed the day trip ... it was good being paired up and working things out between the 2 of us.”

The Oamaru People first group is now up and running with 6 members, and have already held 3 group meetings all of which have been facilitated by the committee members. The Oamaru members have enjoyed having the committee members coming up helping them with their meetings. Oamaru member Russell Paul said “It’s quite good for us to learn things.” Neil Parker agreed, saying “I reckon, it’s good, it’s good having the members like Dave and Cheryl here.”

For the Dunedin Committee members this has been a rewarding experience, “Seeing another group gradually getting bigger and being part of that, is really good” said David King. Many of the committee members shared a similar view, with William saying this about his experience “I enjoyed connecting with people outside our group, seeing another group expanding and having oxygen and seeing the region grow made me proud.”

The members are now in the process of recruiting a Local Assistant for the group.

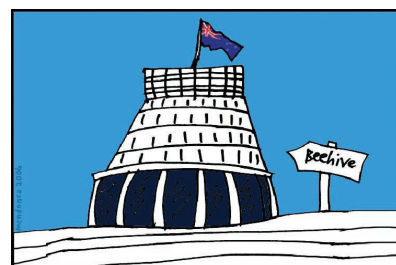


The Oamaru group and Dunedin Committee Members (Back) David King, Russell Paul, Neil Parker, Russell Mathieson, Nikolai Menkes (Front) Cheryl Wallace and Elaine Robertson

Speaking up to the Government

Making submissions

Did you know that People First New Zealand makes submissions to the Government when they are thinking about making new laws? Knowing what people think helps the Government choose what to do and we think it is important that the Government hears from Disabled people!



In the last few months People First has made submissions on:

- Housing New Zealand's housing accessibility policy
- The Healthy Homes standards
- The Education Legislation Consultation
- The strengthening the Criminal Justice System for Victims Survey
- The Arms Amendment Bill
- Wage Supplement as an alternative to Minimum Wage
- The reform of the Residential Tenancies Act 1986 (RTA)

If you want to see what we said about these topics please contact our National Office on **ask@peoplefirst.org.nz** or **0800 20 60 70**.

DPO Coalition work

People First New Zealand is part of a group called the DPO Coalition. DPO stands for Disabled People's Organisation and Coalition means a group that works together.

Every month the DPO Coalition meets in Wellington to make the rights in the Disability Convention real in New Zealand.

People First is represented at these meetings by National Chairperson Penelope Banfield and National Manager Cindy Johns.

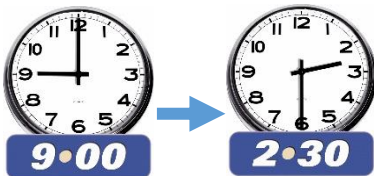




Notice of Annual General Meeting 2019



When: Wednesday 13th November 2019



Time: Meeting starts at 9am
Meetings ends at 2.30pm



Where: **Quality Hotel Elms**
456 Papanui Road
Christchurch



What you need to know:

Lunch will be provided.

There is no cost.



There will be New Zealand Sign Language interpreters.

What you need to do:

Let us know you are coming by:

- **email:** admin@peoplefirst.org.nz
or
- **phone:** (0800) 20 60 70



facebook

You can also watch the AGM on the People First New Zealand Facebook page on the day from 9am – midday.

People First New Zealand Inc. Regional Presidents and Coordinators 2019

Northern

President
Ronnie Sione

Coordinator
Kaeti Rigarsford

Midland

President
Kris Roguski

Coordinator
Yi Liang Small

Central

President
Jason Donovan

Coordinator
Sandy Ryan

Top of the South

President
Penelope Banfield

Coordinator
Patrick Doherty

Mid South

President
Shane McInroe

Coordinator
Marg Matheson

Southern

President
Cheryl Wallace

Coordinator
Lee-ann Wightman



Contacts

National Office Address

Level 4, 173-175 Victoria Street,
Wellington 6011

Mail Address: PO Box 9199,
Marion Square, Wellington 6141
(04) 381 3242

Fax: (04) 381 3242

National Manager

Cindy Johns
(027) 6841 061
cindyjohns@peoplefirst.org.nz

National Finance Manager

Crystal Fang
(09) 579 1588
(027) 688 8048
crystalfang@peoplefirst.org.nz

Communications Manager

Alexia Black
(04) 381 3242
(027) 428 9747
alexia@peoplefirst.org.nz

Make It Easy Translation service

Alexia Black
(04) 381 3242
(027) 428 9747
makeiteasy@peoplefirst.org.nz

Funding Manager

Sandy Ryan
(027) 205 5582
funding@peoplefirst.org.nz

North Island Team Leader, Northern Region Coordinator

Kaeti Rigarsford
(027) 575 4000
kaeti@peoplefirst.org.nz

Northern Region President

Ronnie Sione

Midland Region Coordinator

Yi Liang Small
(027) 526 3387
yi@peoplefirst.org.nz

Midland Region President

Kris Roguski

Central Region Coordinator

Sandy Ryan
(027) 205 5582
central@peoplefirst.org.nz

Central Region President

Jason Donovan

South Island Team Leader

Pam Shanks
(027) 440 0279
pam@peoplefirst.org.nz

Top of the South Region Coordinator

Patrick Doherty
(027) 559 4277
tos@peoplefirst.org.nz

Top of South Region President

Penelope Banfield
(National Chairperson)

MidSouth Region Coordinator

Margaret Matheson
(03) 366 4210
(021) 931 715
marg@peoplefirst.org.nz

MidSouth Region President

Shane McInroe

Southern Region Coordinator

Lee-ann Wightman
(027) 575 4002
southern@peoplefirst.org.nz

Southern Region President

Cheryl Wallace



0800 20 60 70



ask@peoplefirst.org.nz



www.peoplefirst.org.nz



www.facebook.com/peoplefirstnz

