

## Individualised Funding

As a result of a review of the Individualised Funding Scheme (IF) completed in 2008, and endorsed by the Government Response to the Report of the Social Services Select Committee on its Inquiry into the Quality of Care and Services Provision for People with Disabilities (2009), the Ministry of Health is now working to:

- extend eligibility for Individualised Funding to more disabled people who may not fit existing criteria
- increase the number of providers who wish to offer Individualised Funding.

We are committed to expanding Individualised Funding during 2010, beginning with Home and Community Support Service (HCSS) allocations, and HCSS providers. HCSS has been chosen because it has had a recent review, a new service specification has been introduced with a flexibility component, and reporting frameworks are in place. The benefits to disabled people will be that they are able to manage their own supports, choose their own staff, and design their own HCSS services.

Currently we contract an agency, Manawanui-In-Charge (MIC), to help manage payment arrangements and support for people on the Individualised Funding scheme. We are in the process of expanding the number of providers who will be able to offer Individualised Funding. In December 2009 all contracted HCSS providers were invited to complete the Preliminary Application (PA) for the provision of the Individualised Funding Scheme. We are currently assessing 23 applications and will begin the next stages with the Individualised Funding expansion programme which is aimed at increasing the number of providers who can offer Individualised Funding. Subject to meeting the specified criteria in the application, providers will enter into negotiations with the Ministry from April with a view to offer Individualised Funding to HCSS consumers from May 2010.

Key things to mention about the Individualised Funding scheme at this stage:

- The same processes for determining need and coordinating a support packages will apply to Individualised Funding.
- Eligibility for Individualised Funding is extended to those who are assessed by the NASC as eligible for HCSS.
- It is anticipated that a further intake of Individualised Funding provider hosts will occur at a later stage in 2010, allowing other providers an opportunity to be considered.

Guidelines, training and further information updates are being planned for NASCs, providers and consumers to ensure increased awareness and understanding of HCSS and how Individualised Funding can be used as a way of buying support services.

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# Update from the GM

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Most of us are now back from leave. Although it's the start of the calendar year we are actually half way through our financial year and over the next few months we will be working on budgets for the 2010/11 financial year. This is a time when we look at what we fund, how we fund it, and what money is available. The draft report on the DSS Purchasing Framework was completed at the end of January and I will have more information about this when it is finalised.

I would like to let you know what we are working on at the moment:

**Residential Services** - disabled people in aged care facilities project. Stage 2: Information gathering has been completed and an options paper developed. Stage 3: Development of approved options/short term solutions are to be completed by June 2010.

**Individualised Funding** - A National Framework will be in place by May 2010. More information is on page 1 of this newsletter.

**Supported Living** - a new service specification is now completed along with a plan on how to implement it.

**Investigation of Local Area Coordination role** - a further report on next steps related to a service model is being developed for the Ministerial Committee for March.

**NASC Budget Management** - Management tools to help NASC to help improve the way they allocate and manage expenditure will be available for NASCs soon. Jan White has been appointed to the role of NASC National

Reviewer - more information on page 3 of this newsletter.

**ESS Budget Management** - EMS Improvements Project report was completed in December 2009. It has a number of recommendations in it, which are currently being looked into. Information about some of the changes is available online at [www.moh.govt.nz/disability](http://www.moh.govt.nz/disability).

**Workforce Development** - There are three new initiatives underway: National Training Coordination Services, Funding for disability support leadership initiatives and data gathering about the disability workforce with DHBNZ.

**Pacific Development** - National Pasifika Plan has been developed, a Lu'i Ola awareness campaign will start soon along with the launch of a new toolkit for churches.

**Whanau Ora** - principles of whanau ora to be included in disability service planning and funding - a five year action plan is under development.

While we have a number of milestones to achieve by 30 June we are also starting to plan for 2010/11. We need to ensure we maintain effective relationships with the sector, manage contracts well, and work with disabled people, their families and service providers to make the system work efficiently and effectively in what will continue to be a challenging financial environment over the coming year.

## NASC National Reviewer

Working with NASCs, DSS has developed a key new position of Needs Assessment & Service Coordination (NASC) National Reviewer. We are pleased to announce that Jan White has been appointed to the position and will be employed by NASCA; the NASC peak body. Many will know Jan from her time as Manager of Disability Support Links NASC in Waikato, and we look forward to continuing to work with her to improve outcomes for people with disabilities.

### Purpose of Role:

The NASC National Reviewer will help NASCs:

- to use funding tools consistently and correctly (e.g: SPA, TPM, ART).
- with the processes used by NASCs and Disability Support Services (DSS) such as the Individual Review Panel, HCN.
- to understand and apply the Ministry's operational policy.

The NASC National Reviewer will ensure consistency with DSS's strategic plan and support the development of NASC budget management, as a key role of this service is to support NASCs in developing cost effective support packages.

The NASC National Reviewer will also:

- Support and train the DSS-funded NASC workforce to ensure support packages are applied consistently across the country in a cost-effective way.
- Work with NASC and DSS Contract Managers to ensure that applications for high cost support packages that need Ministry approval are of a high quality.
- Help identify gaps or issues in operational policy and work with the Ministry and NASCs to address these.
- Help identify gaps or issues with disability service coverage and work with DSS to find appropriate and cost effective solutions.
- Help convey the training needs of the NASC workforce, through NASCA, to organisations designing or delivering formal training and graduate education programmes (for example, Auckland UniServices Ltd, Careerforce and the DSS National Training Coordination Service).

The NASC National Reviewer does not deal directly with providers or consumers about individual packages but rather supports NASCs to achieve good outcomes for everyone.

## Contact Us

You can contact the Disability Support Services Group on:

0800 373 664

[disability@moh.govt.nz](mailto:disability@moh.govt.nz)

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

## Upcoming Events

### Provider Forums

Date	Location	Venue
April 13	Auckland	Jet Park Hotel Conference Centre Conference Room One 63 Westney Road Mangere Auckland
April 15	Rotorua	Rotorua Convention Centre West Room 1170 Fenton Street Rotorua
April 21	Palmerston North	The Convention Centre Seminar Room 354 Main Street Palmerston North
April 27	Christchurch	Copthorne Hotel Victoria Room 776 Colombo Street Christchurch
April 28	Dunedin	Mercure Hotel The Bracken Room 310 Princess Street Dunedin

### Consumer Consortium

The next meeting of the Consumer Consortium is on March 18/19 in Wellington.

### NZ Federation of Disability Information Centres

The 2010 Training Conference is in Queenstown on 17/18 May

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## PARAFED AUCKLAND REGIONAL GAMES 2010

The Parafed Auckland Regional Games will be held throughout March this year. The Parafed Auckland Regional Games is a unique event focused on bringing elite, developing and junior athletes together to compete in a friendly and enjoyable environment.

Last year they found that several people were keen to participate in certain sports but couldn't because they were scheduled at the same time, which is why this year Parafed Auckland is pleased to announce that they will be holding the event throughout the month of March ensuring there will be fewer timetable clashes.

The 2010 Parafed Auckland Regional Games will feature 10 sports including all 2009 events: archery, lawn bowls, power lifting, sailing, shooting, table tennis, wheelchair

basketball, wheelchair tennis. Plus this year there will be 2 new events introduced: boccia, track & field (60m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 5000m, discus, shot put, javelin, long jump).

They have extended the invitation to athletes from the North Island and around New Zealand to come to Auckland to compete.

If anyone is interested in helping as a volunteer in any of these events please contact them as they have many positions to fill.

More information is available by going to [www.parafedauckland.co.nz](http://www.parafedauckland.co.nz), emailing [paraauckland@xtra.co.nz](mailto:paraauckland@xtra.co.nz) or contacting Glenn McDonald on (09) 270 2503.



## Arts For All: Opening doors to disabled people

One of the New Zealand Disability Strategy's action points is to "provide opportunities for disabled people to create, perform and develop their own arts, and to access arts activities".

As you may know, Australia's National Arts and Disability Strategy was released late last year - the result of several years work by Arts Access Australia, in consultation with individuals and organisations working across the arts, disability and mental health.

One of their tools to promote access is the publication Arts For All: Opening doors to disabled people. In the first half of 2010, Creative New Zealand and Arts Access Aotearoa will be working with local authorities to run workshops, based on the book and supporting arts organisations to develop and implement disability action plans.

Please contact Laura on [community@artsaccess.org.nz](mailto:community@artsaccess.org.nz) if you wish to go on a mailing list to find out more about these workshops.