

HEAVY DEMANDS

People with an intellectual disability place huge demands on their caregivers. Often intellectual disability may be accompanied by physical problems that may require carers to –

- ☹ Administer specialised medications or physiotherapy.
- ☹ Lift, wash, dress, and feed them.
- ☹ Clean bodily fluids or faeces.
- ☹ Have their sleep disturbed.
- ☹ Face being hit or bitten.
- ☹ See their special items or furniture destroyed.
- ☹ Physically restrain the person.
- ☹ Forego social events

Naturally, with all that a permanent part of their lives, carers and family members get stressed, so stressed they may not know what to do to relieve the stress.

The risk with such intolerable stress is that the caregiver may abuse/harm/kill the person they care for. At this point caregivers need someone they can turn to for help,

Rescare is often that 'somewhere'

VISIBILITY

In the past, when many people with an intellectual disability lived their adult lives in a government-run institution, issues of care were challenged openly. The group was visible.

Now most people with an intellectual disability are cared for in the community. Their care is the responsibility of their family members for many more years. There is also a large group in community housing looked after by paid caregivers. These groups are less visible.

- ☹ Families/caregivers may be isolated from contact with others.
- ☹ The risk of stress is higher
- ☹ The risk of abuse/neglect rises

RescareNZ

Families involved with people with an intellectual disability formed Rescare New Zealand Inc. in 1987 adopting its current name in 1992.

Its aim – to assist families to get the best choices of care and support they need for their relative with an intellectual disability, and to advocate for them to Government.

RescareNZ PROVIDES

- ☺ A listening ear
- ☺ Good contacts to go to for help
- ☺ Pamphlets to help families negotiate the best care for their relative.
- ☺ An informative newsletter on issues to do with intellectual disability.
- ☺ A web page with similar information – www.rescarenz.com
- ☺ A national office staffed part-time for direct contact and advice.
- ☺ A database of care services
- ☺ Input into Government policy and legislation.
- ☺ A watchdog role on paid caregivers and other service providers.

RescareNZ does NOT provide care, nor ever intends to. As a family advocate, Rescare New Zealand Inc will remain totally independent.

ORGANISATION

Rescare employs a co-ordinator part time (10 hrs pw). All other work is done by volunteers. The membership consists of four regional groups, plus over 100 associate members. An AGM and a volunteer executive provide for policy and governance issues.

Like all voluntary groups *RescareNZ* constantly needs money to maintain and expand its services. Currently the organisation survives on a budget between \$14,000 to \$16,000 per year. To provide more help we need more money.

HELP US NOW

By belonging to *RescareNZ* you support society's most vulnerable members

Contact us now at

Rescare New Zealand Inc

P O Box 477

LEVIN 5540

Phone 06 368 3122

Email: rescarenz@paradise.net.nz

President: Judy Keall

National Co-ordinator: Lena Berger

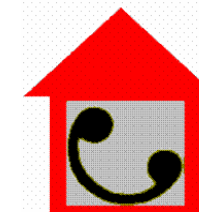
WHY SHOULD YOU HELP

By supporting *RescareNZ* you can play a role in building *RescareNZ's* ability to help families and caregivers of people with an intellectual disability and to be a strong voice for them.

It's more than just good corporate or personal citizenship; it's about personal satisfaction that comes from playing a small but vital role for this special part of our community

HOW CAN YOU HELP

- ☹ **Become a member of *RescareNZ***
- ☹ **Tell people about *RescareNZ* and its work.**
- ☹ **Write a bequest for *RescareNZ* into your will**
- ☹ **Offer PR opportunities such as links on your website to *RescareNZ's* web page.**
- ☹ **Provide *RescareNZ* with funding ideas.**
- ☹ **Corporate donation and sponsorship**



New Zealand

RescareNZ

Families speaking for people with an intellectual disability

Why do we need your support ?

Families supporting a person with an intellectual disability face difficulties and stress with which few people have to cope in so-called 'normal' families.

***Rescare NZ* exists to help such families and to give them a voice. We need the help of volunteers and sponsorship to achieve this.**

We need YOUR help.

Patron:

Professor Michael Cooper