

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN TRUST NZ

National Office Newsletter

www.grg.org.nz

REPORT TO: Support Group Co-ordinators, GRG Members,
Kin Carers, Community Organisations and others.

FROM: NZ National Office Convenor

SUBJECT: National Office NZ Report April 2011



Carer Data base: 4675 members.

Tena Koutou, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Malo e Lelei, Bula Vinaka, Taloha Ni, Kam Na Mauri,
Greetings to all.



From the National Office:

We ask you to read the discussion document below carefully, yes it is long but we need your feedback and it needs to be read in it's entirety to get a full overview. We ask that you supply any feed back to us at the GRG Trust.
office@grg.org.nz

Better Ways to Resource and Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Weaving the Strands Together and Moving Forward Policy discussion document prepared by GRG Trust NZ

1. Background

1.1 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Trust provides support services that help to reduce stress and promote the wellbeing of both grandparents/kin carers who are primary caregivers and the children whom they are raising. The Trust supplies a handbook dealing with all issues faced by grandparents/kin carers in their role and a "Help for Kinship Carers" brochure on financial matters which was produced with GRG Trust, Work & Income, CYF, IRD and Studylink. Plus an informative monthly newsletter which goes nationally.

1.2 A 2005 study commissioned by the GRG Trust, '*Grandparents and other Relatives Raising Kin Children in Aotearoa/New Zealand*', revealed the precarious financial status of many of the grandparents. Alarming statistics emerged in this report: total family income being less than \$20,000 p.a. for 22% of respondents and less than \$30,000 for 25% of respondents. Solo carers, who represented 38.6% of participants, were particularly financially compromised. Several described a struggle to feed themselves and their children adequately. One carer stated a wish '*not to go to bed hungry, [for] clothes that fit, money to survive and not to have to worry about work and income and the situation of my daughter*'.

Further research was undertaken in 2009 which looked at caregivers and the children caring for 4 years or longer.

1.3 In April 2009 the Unsupported Child Benefit was raised to the same base weekly payment afforded to unrelated foster carers. However, while this has assisted grandparents raising grandchildren, these kin carers are not currently eligible for the ancillary payments for clothing, health/medical and education costs that are available to foster carers. Consequently many grandparents still face extreme hardship meeting the costs associated with caring for children who need ongoing specialist medical, therapeutic or educational help as a result of the abuse and trauma they suffered before their grandparents stepped in to care for them.

2. What are the key issues?

2.1 Government agencies do not provide the resources and support required:

2.1.1 Grandparents/kin carers often feel unsupported by government agencies. Even though the state affirms that children should be placed within their family/whanau when in need of care and protection, it does not adequately supply the resources needed to provide that care. There is a lack of parity with the resources provided to foster carers.

2.1.2 While a range of financial assistance is available (in addition to UCB), the system is complex, unwieldy and often fails to take special requirements into consideration. Information is erratic and incomplete, sometimes contradictory. '*It takes a lot of persistence and energy to find a way through the maze and then you find you are not eligible for extra help anyway*'.

2.1.3 Grandparents/kin carers have diverse needs and need to be able to speak to people who can help and understand. They often feel unsupported by government agencies, eg '*CYF offer you the earth if you will take on the grandchildren but, once you have them, the department doesn't come to the party*'. And WINZ is worse: '*I just won't go near WINZ. They don't even begin to understand the emotional and*

financial complexities of caring for grandchildren, no acknowledgement of our difficulties at all. They can be very rude. The whole culture of WINZ and the ability of its staff to understand the challenges I deal with every day require huge improvement.'

- 2.1.4 Given their often-disturbed backgrounds, the majority of grandchildren experience emotional, behavioural and learning problems. Specialised help for mental health, psychological and learning difficulties can be hard to access. *'My grandson can't get extra help at school until Speld test him – and that costs \$400 which I just don't have.'*
- 2.2 Legal Aid creates financial hardship and other difficulties:
 - 2.2.1 Access to reliable information about legal rights, guardianship, etc, and assistance with Legal Aid (when seeking permanent guardianship/facing ongoing legal challenges by the parents) is often a problem. This is such a big topic that it really requires its own policy paper. The issues are much wider than just legal aid funding. Just one issue is that specialist legal language is often confusing, eg the definition of what is a 'major change'.
 - 2.2.2 Grandparents, if granted Legal Aid, are required to repay legal aid payments. This causes ongoing hardship. Those that are not able to access Legal Aid are placed under heavy stress in not only raising the grandchildren but also to the point where some grandparents can lose their homes and nest eggs to pay court costs: *'We have used all our savings and had to remortgage our house. It has sucked us dry.'*
 - 2.2.3 Applying for a parenting/guardianship order can be a gruelling process. *'The family court process was not only expensive but brutal, cumbersome and dehumanising. It left us feeling more battered than before.'*
- 2.3 Difficulties in accessing information/Lack of links between government departments:
 - 2.3.1 Grandparents often don't know what to look for, may be unsure of their entitlements. Information may not be reliable, consistent or easy to obtain. There are no/very few links between the information provided by CYF, WINZ, Courts, NZ Law Society, etc.
 - 2.3.2 Accessing appropriate information from government agencies is often difficult with conflicting advice and information received from front-line staff. There is also a constant turnover of social workers and other staff in some regions.
 - 2.3.3 How much information is online? This won't reach a lot of grandparents, anyway (due to lack of internet access). There is a need to explore ways of bridging the information gaps and improving communication. Grandparents may need access to someone who can download information from the internet for them; linking with an ancillary organisation (eg Grey Power) could perhaps assist such access to internet resources.

3. What is needed?

- 3.1 A financial package deal:
 - 3.1.1 **Attach the funding to the child:** The need for all funding under all circumstances (UCB, Disability and Child Disability Allowances, Legal Aid, etc) **to be attached to the child** is frequently mentioned. Some form of a financial package deal (with all allowances being non-means and non-asset tested and non-taxable) would ensure that grandparents do not lose their nest-eggs, enabling them to feel more secure and more able to provide whatever is necessary to preserve the wellbeing of the family/whanau and maximise stability in their own lives and the lives of their grandchildren. This is also a way by which extremely vulnerable children could be tracked.
 - 3.1.2 **Grandchildren should have all the same benefits accessed by a foster child**, including medical and dental services, psychological and counselling services, special education tutoring/remedial support (for slow learners, gifted children or those who are behaviourally disturbed), clothing and school uniform allowance, accommodation advice and support, respite/day/after school care, etc. Non-receipt of all these benefits is tantamount to discrimination under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) which the NZ government has ratified.
 - 3.1.3 **Ways the financial package could be administered:** One way in which such a financial package could be administered is for WINZ payments (including clothing and uniform allowances) to be made when court papers are lodged. An ID card could be held for the child to access all health and education benefits. The family doctor would assess health needs and Education Department (at school level) tuition needs. In the case of a gifted child, an offer of an educational opportunity would be assessed (and paid for by WINZ with quarterly reviews?) This suggestion, based on ideas put forward in Australia.

- 3.2 Legal Aid/Assistance:
- 3.2.1 Legal aid should be available as part of the financial package attached to the child (as outlined in Financial Needs 3.1.1 above) when grandparents need to access the court to gain custody to protect said child. Judges need to be more proactive in preventing ongoing custody challenges and courts should not be used as a weapon to cause hardship for grandparents.
- 3.2.2 When faced with legal challenges, grandparents need access to reliable information about legal rights, guardianship, day-to-day care and contact and support generally throughout the whole process.
- 3.3 Development of an Improved Communication Strategy:
- 3.3.1 Grandparents raising grandchildren need a range of information/resources to help them deal with the financial, legal, emotional, social and practical issues of raising grandchildren. Information also needs to be two-way with government and non-government organisations understanding and appreciating the issues and individual situations.
- 3.3.2 There is a need to develop an individual communication package for each child so that all appropriate people (schools, GP's, etc) have the information they require.
- 3.3.3 Grandparents want to be acknowledged with information specifically for them. They need a 'one stop shop' service that can inform them of all available financial and legal rights/supports as well as directing them to other appropriate services and supports such as support groups, early childhood services (eg Footsteps, PORSE), Barnardo's, Parentline, Speld, Skylight, etc. This is exactly what GRG Trust is doing now but the organisation needs to be better resourced to further raise its profile and provide this service.
- 3.3.4 Legal, financial and other support information is best communicated 1:1 with grandparents directed to a phone service where they can speak to a person who understands their situation and can help. While this is currently a major role of the GRG Trust, it is a role that requires further expansion and improved resourcing. When the Trust approached CYF in this regard they were told this would be considered but there has been no further response. The Trust has since instigated a Field Worker with specific Work and Income knowledge.
- 3.3.5 In September 2009, the Australian Government Department of Human Services established a cross portfolio Communication Working Group to research the communication needs of grandparent raising grandchildren, **recognising such grandparents as a customer group that needed assistance accessing government services** and making the links across different government agencies and/or departments. Their January 2010 report (which appears to be an unpublished document) makes a number of recommendations regarding internal and external communication strategies.
- 3.3.6 Ideally, GRG Trust should look at developing a full Communications Plan, the benefit being the ability to be strategic in both proactive and reactive communications.

4 Some First Steps to Weave the Strands Together and Move Forward

- 4.1 Build on GRG Trust's Efforts To Date:
- 4.1.1 The GRG Trust makes information flow a priority and has already made recommendations to government regarding some of the above issues. To date there has been virtually no response from government in this regard. However, the Trust has worked with the Families Commission to set up a panel which provided an ongoing forum for grandparents raising grandchildren to express their thoughts and needs. The Families Commission released a report on these focus meetings in February 2010.
- 4.1.2 These issues should be raised and form part of the Carers Alliance upcoming **We Care!** Campaign.
- 4.2 Look at what's happening in the Wairarapa area:
- 4.2.1 The Masterton WINZ office, in response to a need identified by Social Development Minister, Paula Bennett, recently assigned a dedicated case worker (who works one day per week out of CYF) for grandparents raising grandchildren. This worker is assigned to their Integrated Services Coordinator position. This would indicate recognition of grandparents being a **special customer group** (as referred to in 3.3.4 above). This was driven by the poverty in this region by various organisations with the local Grandparents raising Grandchildren support group taking part and having a meeting with the Minister, Paula Bennett.
- 4.2.2. For Wairarapa GRG Support Group members, who have experienced many disappointments about the service they had been getting, this move has already begun to *'dispel some of these disquiets.'*

- 4.3 Replicate the Wairarapa model in other districts:
- 4.3.1 The Wairarapa development is part of the Ministry of Social Development's (MSD) involvement and ongoing contribution to the local government Community Outcomes Process. Could one/all of their key intersectoral groups or some other intersectoral forum, such as Strengthening Families, working together with GRG Trust, look at further developing this model to improve information and services for grandparents? Strengthening Families operates at a local or regional level - the local level is overseen by Strengthening Families Local Management Groups, the regional level by Regional Governance Groups that comprise regional managers from key government agencies with MSD playing a leadership role in their establishment and running. Can this model be emulated in other districts?
- 4.3.2 MSD has also introduced a Community Response Model, an extension of their successful Community Response Fund approach, with fourteen regional forums, and a national forum, established throughout New Zealand. The forums enable the voices of families and communities to be taken into account as they assess the impact of family and community support services in their region against Government priorities. These local forums will review existing MSD family and community services funding and make recommendations to the Minister for Social Development and Employment on how funding can be better directed to improve services and make a real difference to local families. GRG has had an opportunity to feed into this process.
- 4.3.3 A recent Australian Social Policy Research Centre paper, '*Financial and Non-Financial Support to Formal and Informal Out of Home Carers (Nov 2010)*', reports that the Australian Government '*recently announced an additional four dedicated Grandparent Advisers in Centrelink offices to help grandparent carers access Centrelink payments and services to which they are entitled, and provide referrals to other relevant services. The new advisers.....build on the successful adviser position in Perth.*' The NZ equivalent of these positions would be that of a National WINZ Grandparent Adviser.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that GRG Trust advocate for:

- 5.1 A financial package deal that is attached to each grandchild (with grandchildren having all the same benefits accessed by a foster child and all allowances being non-means and non-asset tested and non-taxable);
- 5.2 A move towards a more coordinated approach to the provision of legal advice and assistance with legal aid being available as part of the financial package attached to the child;
- 5.3 Further strengthening of the Trust's information/support service. Formal recognition by WINZ of grandparents raising grandchildren as a specific customer group and the establishment of Integrated Service Coordinator positions within all WINZ regional offices comparable to the Masterton position;
- 5.4 The establishment of one WINZ 'Grandparent Advisor' at a national level.
- 5.5 The establishment of equivalent 'National Grandparent Advisor' positions within CYF and Ministry of Education. All national positions would have an overview of all their respective departmental resources that are available to the grandchild. This would not only streamline many current processes but would also lead to a far more efficient use of time, energy, information, financial and any other resources.

Diana East, Field Officer

March 2011

Diana East is employed by Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ: She completed in-depth research in 2003 for Council on the Ageing Queensland (COTAQ) regarding the support needs of grandparents raising grandchildren (including indigenous grandparents). She then had some continuing involvement with several Queensland grandparents support groups and contributed to COTAQ's ongoing policy development regarding grandparenting issues.



Your Voices:

Perseverance:

It was a couple of days before 6th Form prize giving last November when no. 2 Granddaughter informed us that she wasn't going back to school the following year, she was going flatting with her boyfriend and look for work.

We immediately got in touch with the school's Hostel Managers and her Form teacher and arranged to meet at lunch time on prize giving day between Mass and Prize giving, by that time we'd also arranged a meeting with her Counsellor where it was agreed that if she could get full time work she'd have our blessing.

By the time Prize giving arrived she informed us that she'd found full time work doing telephone marketing which we

didn't consider to be full time work, on the prize giving day she wouldn't come into the meeting but the Hostel Manager finally managed to persuade her to come in and listen to what was being offered to her, and the school really went out of their way to accommodate her, they offered to take her Term by Term so she could leave after the first Term if she wanted to with no questions asked, they offered her to be the Hostel Prefect and take the new Third Form under her wing and they also asked her to take charge of a big part of that years School production but it was all answered with a screaming I don't f f want to come back here.

I then took her to her boy friend's to pick him up as he wanted to come to the prize giving (he's well and truly history now). Of course, as soon as she saw him, she cried her eyes out so I told her boyfriend why she was crying what she'd been offered and what she'd turned down and he said to her that that was a bit of a silly thing to do. Naturally I saw a glimmer of hope, so during the prize giving I asked him to come outside and explained the whole situation to him and his reply was that he wasn't really ready to go flatting and that it was grand-daughter trying to push him, so now we had an unexpected ally.

When school started she still wasn't going back until about a week later she said she'd go back if she could do the courses that she wanted to do, we met with her former and new Form Teachers and reached a compromise for the first Term.

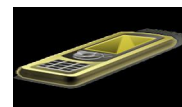
To cut a long story short she finished the year which went far too quick as far as she was concerned, graduated and had a happy year after all. She thanked us for making her go back.

She's now settled in a flat in Dunedin started Poly tech on the ninth of February doing a Hospitality course still costing Oma and Opa money as they stopped her UCB when she turned 18 and her Studylink doesn't start until she starts Polytech, so there was the Bond for the flat and Electricity Landlords are on a pigs back in this country because although she didn't need the flat until the 7th of February the Lease runs from the 1st of January until the 31st of December.

As I wrote at the start perseverance plus tears, heartache, and hard work, as sometimes it would be so easy to give in rather than argue with a teenager but when at the end, you get a thank you and are told that you're not so stupid after all, it does make you feel **good**. Kind regards. Aad.

Old indeed!

My grandson was having a few days with his **great** grandmother and I phoned to chat to him, my mum yells out nana is on the phone to which he replied "the old one" *Nana J*



Changing the bedding:

Young grandson aged 8 and I decided we were going to do the hugest cleaning job on our beds: Sheets, pillow slips, (as usual) mattress cover all stripped and **he** washed them, blankets and duvets all shaken and aired in the hot sunlight including the bedspreads, together we even vacuumed the mattresses and turned them over. Cleaned under beds and vacuumed too, furniture all polished we collapsed on the sofa to watch a funny DVD together. Came bed time and I slipped into my beautiful clean bed, the night was hot and a mosquito was buzzing, so I leaned over to switch on my fan, what happened next took my breath away, **literally**.



Unbeknown to me some little person, who carefully had also cleaned the fan, had turned the speed up to full blast. It was as if I was standing behind the tail wind of a Boeing 747. Any wrinkles I had on my saggy face had now shot towards the back of my head, (gosh I wish I had my mobile phone to take a picture, I would have looked 16 again!), my hair which is short was now I am sure, 3 inches longer, as for the mosquito, long gone, probably smacked against the far wall. My breath, well I just could not catch it, so I grabbed the sheet to hold it over my face to buffer the wind. At that point I knew **he** had used too much soap powder in the wash! I did not know which was worse the wind or the highly perfumed soap powder. When I asked him in the morning, did he turn up my fan, a little grin came to his gorgeous face. You have to laugh. *Nan D**

The good and the not so good of living with grandparents:

You have to repeat things over and over again cause they forget: They have trouble threading a needle, not to mention getting a prickle out of your foot: They have the TV very loud yet they are always telling us to turn down our music: They lose their glasses: I worry they will die or get sick: They get tired: They always win at scrabble or cards: They make us use our manners: People ask why I live with them: They take lots of tablets.

They will drive you anywhere no matter what time: They cook GREAT meals and can bake from scratch: They know how to iron clothes properly: They love us: They are cuddly: They know so much about the war and other stuff: If I get stuck on homework they know the answer: They do not mind reading stories or tell about when they were little. I can run faster than them: They are proud of us: They know all these funny sayings like 'mind your bee's wax': They encourage us: They can take out their teeth, how cool is that: They teach us good manners: They are our family: Poppy has this page wide magnifying thingee that he uses to read the telephone book, it is neat I also use it to look at bugs and insects, up close!



Paige aged 11 writes:

Dear Diary:

My life is so different to others. I have a mother and father but it seems as though I don't because they care more about drugs, alcohol and cigarettes. It is like they left a great big black hole in my heart.

I used to care about them and thought they were heroes, as I was growing up, but now that I am older I understand everything. People can't always love people who belong to them. Life isn't great but you've just got to believe and look a little deeper and things start to get better.

So here I am an 11 year old girl left alone with tears dropping down from my face with only one shoulder to lean on – my Nana. She has loved me since the day I was born. Could this be true that two parents couldn't love their own child?

But the baby's Nana could be proud of that baby – making things right and turning her life around – and that moment of everyday the beautiful loving grandmother is proud of with that little girl – her joy.

You know you're sick when:

You have a cold/flu: You know your really sick when you have hot and cold sweats, that go on for days and you sleep a lot, like you are only awake 3 hours per day!: You know you are really, really sick, when you go to put deodorant on your toothbrush, need grand-daughter to sit outside your shower door in case you fall over, look in the mirror and do not know who is looking back, put an answer phone message on your phone and when you go to change it days later, some strange mad person is speaking gibberish! Oh my! Get that flu jab folks, they are available now and free for us folk, but only when you are feeling really well.

Di

Conference for us in November 2011: For GRG Members.

Advanced warning that this is happening again and we will have heavily reduced fees for a certain number of our members, so watch this space.....it will be, first in first served. Note your diaries: November 16 and 17th 2011 at the Ellerslie Convention Centre in Auckland. For our members we are hoping to supply child care whilst you are there!

Scabies:

These appear to be prevalent at present, they are highly contagious. A very itchy spot pops up then more will appear they are worse when you are warm. A small blister forms: surrounded by a red patch. If one has them it is important the whole family is treated. From the Chemist you can get Benhex Cream at a reasonable cost. The whole body must be treated avoiding the eyes and face. Leave for 8-12 hours then shower off with warm soapy water. All bedding, towels and clothes should be washed in hot water. The itching may continue for up to 4 weeks. Do not send children to school for 24 hours after treatment. A second application may be needed in 2 weeks.

Forgotten victims of drugs underworld

Record number of children found in drug dens

ANDREA VANCE



Stricken kids: A grandmother woman holds the hands of her grandchildren after their parents were arrested in a Christchurch P-lab raid in 2008. The woman said the children were exposed to toxic chemicals while living at the house and had constantly numb mouths and fingers.

Children are the forgotten victims of New Zealand's drug misery, with record numbers being found in illicit drug dens raided by police.

Police Minister Judith Collins is worried by reports from officers about rising numbers of young children growing up in clandestine P-labs and tinnie houses.

Last year more than 460 children were found in 37 per cent of all clan labs and 73 per cent of all drug-dealing houses identified by police. This is up from 26 per cent and 65 per cent in 2009.

One former drugs squad detective said children under five were especially vulnerable to dangerous, cancer-causing chemicals, which soaked into their soft toys.

Ms Collins said: "There is little doubt that a home where the kitchen is used to cook P, or a drug house with its endless parade of criminals, is not a good place to raise children.

"Even hardened police officers are shocked when they find children in houses where their parents or caregivers – I use that term very loosely – are making or selling drugs. These children ... deserve better. Their parents should be cooking tea, not cooking P."

Detective Inspector Stuart Mills, who runs the National Drug Intelligence Bureau, said dealers were not just cooking and peddling P, but dealing ecstasy and other pills, stolen property and firearms.

"You've got strangers and associates coming to and from a house all the time; it's not an environment for young people and children to develop."

Police could now test hair to see if children had been exposed to drugs, he said.

Dale Kirk, managing director of drug consultancy MethCon and a former drugs squad officer, said children in P labs were exposed to acids, solvents and a gas called phosphine, which was "highly poisonous". "It's very similar in its nature to cyanide gas." And there was a risk of fire or explosion.

"There is also the harm from the behaviour of occupants, particularly if they are using the drug. They are very unstable, aggressive, unpredictable. The children are at the bottom of the food chain when it comes to their priorities."

Younger children were most at risk because they did not attend school, so remained in the house for longer periods.

"Toddlers or children who are still crawling, they are putting things in their mouth all the time. They are at high risk of exposure. Soft furnishing and soft toys soak up the chemicals really well."

There was also a risk of children becoming addicted, he said. "Because meth is generally smoked, it's just like passive smoking. Kids ingest that; it's a highly addictive environment."

Otago University Law Faculty dean Professor Mark Henaghan said the law allowed for parents to be charged with failing to provide the necessities of life but this generally required demonstrable injury or neglect. He suggested the law be "tinkered" with to allow charges for other long-term effects, such as addiction or psychological trauma.

- The Dominion Post

An Interesting Quote:

Forgiveness is unlocking the door to set someone free and realising you were the prisoner – Max Lucado



Support Group Coordinators at the 2011 Support Group Coordinators Training Days held in Wellington March 2011

Di & Team (you as a caregiver are part of our team)

National Convenor

heoi ano, na

E te Atua, aroha mai..... O God shower us with love. Ka kite

Can we help you? Members Services Nationwide Toll free line 0800 472 637

Field Officers:

Alison Cuthbert:

Was a Social worker for over 40yrs. Confident to attend CYF Family Group Conferences (where practicable) to act as a support person for GRG's: An Independent Adoption Counsellor: A Family Court Counsellor working with those who have relationship issues and is familiar with the Family Court procedures related to general counselling and court procedures when applications are being made for who will assume the Primary Care Role for children. Hours 9am – 3pm
Ph 09 445 9671

Nola Adams:

Telephone advice can be given on the following topics Justice and Prison system, including Youth Court Family Court applications: for persons wishing to self-represent: Child Youth and Family representation where practicable/advice. Disability advice and the Schooling system. Nola can be contacted on ph 06 845 3141

Diana East:

In depth knowledge on issues impacting on grandparents raising grandchildren; has many years working with mental health consumers and carers. This gives her a very good understanding of a wide range of mental health issues and issues effecting grandparents raising. Hours 9am – 5pm 04 970 8177

Tricia Corin:

Is a Beneficiaries Advocate, If you are having problems with your Benefits from Work and Income / Inland Revenue or are unsure if you are on the right Benefit, needing advice on UCB or DPB, Disabilities Allowance or recoverable and non recoverable advances . Hours 11am 5pm 07 8685490

Please note that our Field Officers are Part Time

Very Informal Coffee groups: For times and venues:

Auckland Central: June 09 630 2409

Coromandel/Tairua/Whitianga: Brenda 07 866 4476

Christchurch (New Brighton) Annie 03 388 0928

Hamilton: Yvonne 07 829 8246

Howick/Manukau: Lorraine 09 271 2900

New Plymouth: Sue 06 756 7542 /027 8569242/txt

Palmerston North: Triphena 06 355 8316

Tauranga: Colleen 07 578 5341

Te Kawhata: Denise 07 826 3779

Wairarapa: Sheryl 06 304 9957

If you would like to start an informal coffee group in your area please contact Di at Head Office



Together we will and do make a difference in a child's life.

Please feel free to send/email this report on to others whom you think may be interested:

Please pass this on to other grandparents/kin carers you know of.

Disclaimer: Views expressed in this newsletter may not be the views of the GRG Trust.

Copyright covers this newsletter.

GRG Trust Head Office hours are 9am-3pm daily. (We raise grandchildren too)

We are a voluntary organisation.

All donations to the GRG Trust are tax deductible.

Abbreviations: GRG – Grandparents Raising Times New Roman

H/O – Head Office

H/B – Handbook

BOT – Board of Trustees

CYF – Child Youth & Family Services

Co's – Co-ordinator/s

UCB – Unsupported Child Benefit.

WINZ – Work & Income NZ now DWI – Department of Work & Income

Grands – Grandparents

G/c – grandchild/ren

Kin – Kinship Carers

BPS – Business Professional Services. Our out Secretarial Service.

Are your children under CYF?

Do you have trouble getting hold of your Social Worker?

If this is the case then you can call 0508 CARER 0508 227 377 they will then make sure you are spoken to by your Social Worker and if they are not available then someone else will talk to you.

www.grg.org.nz or www.kin.org.nz or www.raisinggrandchildren.org.nz or www.raisinggrandchildren.net

Email office@grg.org.nz

National Convenor: Di Vivian

Free Phone 0800 GRANDS or 0800 472637 (not for use for Auckland callers) Landline users only.

Telephone: (09) 480 6530

Postal Add: PO Box 34 892 Birkenhead. Auckland 0742

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please contact the Trust Office as this is where the total mail out membership is kept. Moved home or planning to? Be sure to let us know.

We are a Charitable Trust

