



**GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN TRUST NZ
Grandparents and Kincare NZ**

National Office Newsletter: www.grg.org.nz

To: Support Group Co-ordinators, GRG Members, Kincarers, Community Organisations and others.

From: NZ National Office Convenor. November 2010

Carer Data base: 4537 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:

Informal Coffee/tea groups:

For times and venues

Coromandel/Tairua/Whitianga: Brenda 07 866 4476

Howick/Manukau: Lorraine 09 271 2900

Palmerston North: Triphena 06 355 8316

Tauranga: Colleen 07 578 5341

Wairarapa/ Greytown/ Sheryl 06 304 9957

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



The idea that no one is perfect is a view most commonly held by people with no grandchildren.

Grandparents raising children - a growing trend

By **Martin Merzer** on 11/12/2010

The U.S. Census is reporting a sharp rise in the number of children living with their grandparents.

The increase comes in at 8 percent, the second such rise in two years, according to an article in The New York Times.

Andrew Cherlin, a professor of sociology and public policy at Johns Hopkins University, told the newspaper that 6.5 percent of all U.S. children now live with their grandparents, a 20-year high and double the rate in 1970. He attributes most of the increase to the persistent economic downturn.

“Grandparents are helping out as their adult children are losing their jobs,” he said.

Of particular note: Grandparents often are bearing much or all of the responsibility of raising their grandchildren. The Census reports that, of the 7.5 million children who lived with a grandparent in 2010, more than a fifth did not have a parent present in the household.

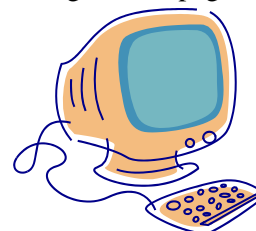


Grand's /Kin and Children's Voices:

Have you heard of ‘Trolling’

On the Internet? I was working in my files on my computer and came across 2 files with strange letters as their title which I did not recognise, upon opening them I could not believe what they contained. It appeared to be a conversation between two people one called stranger and the other called ‘me’. One of these files contained the most disgusting racial comments I have ever seen from the “me” person! The second file contained very sexual talk from the “me” person. With the stranger’s answering back in each saved file.

An investigation was about to begin as we have 2 late teen grand-daughters living here. We had made it a rule that I was to have their pass words to their Face Books, but suddenly the older girls F/B page I could not access. Alarm bells rang. But I could access it through her sisters F/B page. And horror of all horrors I found these same files had been uploaded onto her F/B where others had come in and made comments about the conversation she had posted. What I read was quite frankly beyond belief! And I am no prude! I did NOT want this sort of stuff on my computer! So in a private moment I talked to her about this! “Oh Nan” she said, “everyone does it, it is called Trolling”. Apparently they go into sites on the net and they talk to random strangers and wind them up, a game she said. It appears this is particularly done by girls, but she tells me the guys do it too. They think it is funny! We have made it very plain that we do not want this sort of stuff on our computer, the fact that she cut and pasted it to a file means it is in my computer even if I send it to the recycle bin and delete it, which I did. It was also pointed out to her that the ‘stranger’ person if a computer wiz, could very easily track where this computer is via our computers IP address number. She did initially deny that it was her that placed them on my files, until I pulled them up and showed her, then showed her them posted on her F/B. No answer to that was there. Guess who is banned for 1 month off the computer and from then on will have limited access, when we are around. She also has been told in no uncertain terms she is better than this as she was not bought up to do this sort of thing nor talk like this and to perhaps do a reality check on her own personal morals .



*Nan D**

Words mean Different things:

Between the generations: I wanted to phone my mother who is 90. Grandson 16 was on the phone, so I asked him may I use it please to phone his Great Grammy. I tried to get hold of her to no avail; she was talking to someone else. I came back into the room and said he could go back on now as she was engaged, Shock covered his face, “WHO IS SHE ENGAGED TOO” he said in an alarmed voice, I quickly explained that she was just talking to someone else on the phone, “oh you mean she is buzzzzzAE” he replied.

*Nan Di **

Grandma was having a lovely time in the garden on this first fine day in spring! Turning over the soil, digging out weeds and planting new flowers. Seven year old grandson came along and watched very quietly for some time then commented: "A man could NEVER do a woman's work!" Gran was, needless to say, speechless, with tears running down her face!

Nanny too

Ten years of Caring:

I have been caring for my two grandsons since they were orphaned ten years ago and for the most part they have been a delight. I am very proud of the way they have coped with the deal life has dealt them and they are my joy. Caring for them has also been a great help to me in coping with life without one of my sons so you could say, its been a mutual benefit. Both of my grandsons are

passionate computer users and that has pushed me to expand my own computer kills. I am a member of SeniorNet and tutor at our group here. I recommend any Grandparents who are not very computer skilled to join their local group (they are all over the country) they are very affordable. The groups are user friendly, seniors taught by seniors and at the pace set by the students. It's also a good social time. If you have younger grandchildren it's a great way to help them and keep in touch with the new technology and importantly what the young people are up to. It's no more difficult than coping with the way cars and kitchen equipment has changed over our lifetime. If you want more information about SeniorNet: ask for the group contact for your area, at your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

Grandma Mavis

Kinky:

There was some excellent reading in your October newsletter, specially liked the silent tears, so very true in so many situations and an excellent article on ecstasy. Thanks a lot. Funny how the past keeps resurfacing as one gets older. Thought you might like this little conversation recently had with granddaughter, now 16.- who now sports bleached and streaked hair and is an "aspie" (Aspergers). Went to bed late on Saturday night after long shower and hair wash, painstakingly braided her hair, and next morning equally painstakingly, undid it all and left it as it had come out. After some hours without comment she asked "do you like my hair?" I replied "I think it looks kinky" reply: granny do you know what kinky means? "Yes, it's a pun. It can mean the kinks in your hair, or it can be someone who has specific sexual preferences" Reply." well I don't understand puns and I think you are being very rude!" So much for concrete thinking GG

My Nana:

My magnificent nana's name is Bronwyn Wescott.

She has tame white chocolate skin, light marvelous brown eyes and brown, orange yellowish hair. I admire her hair .She tells me fantastic hilarious things that happened in the olden days like nana saw kids stand in cow poo for their feet to keep warm waiting for their bus to come but just before they go to school they have to go and wash their feet now ewwww!! I mean come on, why would you do that that's why you wear shoes. My nana always shares her thoughts and feelings and not many nana's have enough bravery to do that. She always gives me tactics before all of my soccer games and I love that. She has cared for me since I was 16 months. She has always got me things I have really wanted. She has had a hard life and she predicated were going to make a big move. She has taught me the most valuable lesson and that's: My story will grow and there is one thing I know and that's I am what I am and watch me grow to be a great man.

By Brandon aged 8.



Here we go again:

Hello to all Grandparents raising Grandchildren, We have a Moko we are raising he is 2 1/2 now and we have had him since he was 2 weeks old. His name is Adrian and he gets called Moko or Adrian, his father is our eldest son. We have had a lot of help raising him, from Adrian's Aunty, his Koro's sister and her immediate family which has been a God-send. We all love him to bits and he is his Koro's shadow. We uplifted him as it was the middle of winter the house had no heating, not a lot of food and was alcohol fluid and a drug dependant house. There was no hygiene at all in the place and you were to frightened to sit down anywhere.

When we first got Moko we owned a cafe which we had only had for 15mths and we used to take him there every morning after his morning feed and lucky for us he slept through our busy lunch hour and then awoke in the afternoon for a little. But sadly it got too much for us as we were working 24/7, we sold our cafe to make things easier. I got another job Monday to Friday and good hours, and Koro stays home and minds Moko through the week, but we also have another business that we do in the weekends and at events called Mussel Madness. Which is selling mussel fritters and whitebait fritters from a mobile caravan. Moko thinks he is the cat's whiskers when he is in the caravan with his Koro. Moko is a healthy little 2 1/2 year old and happy as he should be, the trouble now is the mother is pregnant again, my son said he is not the father, but what do you believe and we are going to go

through this all again because these children need protection from their own parents, how sad is that. We have no guardianship for Moko and after a year of looking after Moko and joining 'Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ' we applied for his benefit that we didn't even know about, and just last week we applied and for funding for his 2 days a day care. Your organization is very special and Koro, Moko and I thank you very much for the newsletters that are the best reading! It's nice to know you're not alone. Thank you.

Lorna Hurihanganui

Changes?

The family is working on a "gran phase out, mum and partner phase in" programme, which involved 16yr old granddaughter moving in with mum and partner for a week over the holidays. Tearful phone call late one night- "Granny come and get me, they are being horrible to me and I've run away, please come and get me and bring me home" We spent an hour in the car listening to the story, which went something like this - "my dad in Australia (left NZ when she was 2) rang me and asked why I hadn't sent him a fathers day card", the new partner had refused to drive her somewhere while he was in the middle of dinner, and mum didn't know how to intervene. The final question after an hour of tears "why do people have children if they don't want to look after them"? The lesson for me was that no matter how trying things may be, we are the rock for our grandchildren. A listening ear and reassuring words are sometimes all that's needed to help with a tricky moment.

GG. Wellington

Unfair!

My step grandson will be 7 in January 2011. I have had him since he was 4 months old.

For the last 3 - 4 yrs I have been on my own. This is why I'm on the DPB in which I hate it been called as we are not a single parent. I look at myself as a single GRG/DPB. I wish they would do this at WINZ.

I can't understand why the HELL I only get the family assistance of about \$79.00. Then I see the UCB is for his age is \$159.72. I'm trying to find a part time job but they are not around in my rural area.

With the price of everything, why can I not stop the Family Assistance and get the UCB for my boy. Why should we be branded for doing the best for a child? Why should we go without because we can't get the UCB.

If we had gone through Child Youth family system look at all the help you get.

I do not want a hand out and my boy is very lucky to be with me and have the best home ever. He has none of that bad stuff around him.

I bet there are a lot of us living with that extra from Family assistance when we should be getting the UCB with our benefit.

Legislation was changed some 4 years ago which enabled people caring for someone else's child and being single and over 50 to get the DPB. Along with this you can get hardship/accommodation allowances etc (if entitled). W & I believe that with these extra add-ons it equals the UCB, but then what happens once you turn 65 you have to apply for the UCB all over again alongside your super. GRG Trust.

AND:

Just to let you know also I am on invalids benefit and my grandson is included in this so therefore I don't get unsupported Childs benefit or any allowances for clothes etc. I was also told by CYFS if I had got my grandson through the CYFS process I would have had more support financially. It's so unfair.

Modernising Gran:

17 year old grand-daughter decided that gran's old track pants needed upgrading. At her insistence we set off to the Mall. Must say here, I was more than a little nervous, a sense of foreboding descended upon me. Much talk of Skinny jeans was tossed about with gay abandon, silly me; I should have turned the car around and gone home right then! Skinny jeans, what on earth are those, yes I did have skinny legs but that could not be said for the rest of me.

Something happened to this child once we were in a store that had clothing from the floor to the ceiling; she took total control and firmly deposited me in the changing room. Not a changing room I was used to I might add, a largish room with no lock on the door and mirrors on all walls. One is not alone in these rooms either; it seemed to me the whole Mall had decided to go in there!

"Gran" she said in a commanding voice, "try these on" at my feet lay a pile of jeans in many colours. I said a silent thank you that I had put on decent knickers and had a long top on. The first pair I tried would not even go on over my heels. Finally she found a pair which managed to find their way up to my thighs. Thank goodness for skinny legs, I thought. But the next part of my anatomy was a much different story. I struggled, strained, pulled and jumped up and down, all to no avail. She rolled her eyes at this point!

She was down on her knees searching for larger sizes and jeans were flying everywhere. What happened to folding clothes neatly I wondered. Finally she found a pair that she thought would do the job. Again the struggle began, yes easy pulling them up the skinny legs, up over the saggy bottom and then began what I can only describe as 'pushing dough into a small bowl' The more I pushed and squeezed the more things popped out.

Finally parts of my body seemed to move.....elsewhere! The zip was up and the dome (stud) snapped shut. Now I had heard of the 'muffin' and I do not mean the one you eat either! But someone had added too much yeast to my muffin and it had exploded everywhere. The muffin hung there, it hung everywhere. Meantime I am standing in what seemed like a free concert of Lady Gaga and every teenage girl was in there! The music was beating and so was my heart, but not for the same reason the teen girl's hearts were along with the song! ... Passing out comes to mind! ... Darling grand-daughter at this point had decided that I also needed a new top, within a heart beat she had whipped off my long top, if the ground had opened up; you know where I would be!



Thankfully with her lightening speed, she was back in with a top. Dignity restored! "Cool" she screeched over the loud Lady Gaga song, "Aleandro!" She shouted ??????

To me I looked like a lollipop on a thin stick.

Then began the task of unpeeling those Skinny jeans and that was no mean feat either. We duly paid and left the store, my body ached from all the pushing and squeezing. I knew I could not do this on a regular basis; I would have to get up an hour early to get

dressed! Not to mention the pain.

Being a Gran from old days I knew that one should always wash new clothes before wearing, what I 'sort' of forgot about is, 'if you wash jeans in really hot water, they shrink'oh my.

Guess who looks really 'cool' in **her** new Skinny jeans; and at least I can breathe in my tracks.

By *Diane Vivian*.

Temper Tantrums:

Ignore them:

Your toddler is jumping on your brand-new couch, throwing pillows onto the floor, screaming at the top his lungs and basically creating utter chaos. You tell him to stop; he ignores you. You pick him up and put him on the floor; he begins kicking you and screaming louder. How to handle it? Easy -- just walk way and go to another room. Some experts and moms swear by this and say tantrums are simply attention-getting strategies. Pay your child no attention, and the tantrum will eventually stop. "There's no point in putting on a play when there's no audience,"

Talk like a Child:

Bath time is over, but your daughter insists on staying in the tub until her fingertips are wrinkly as prunes. She starts screaming as you wrestle her out of the tub. Now she's crying hysterically, and you are soaking wet. How to handle it: 1. Squat down to her level. 2. Listen to her and repeat back what she says verbatim. For example, saying "No! No! I don't want to get out, I don't want to get out." 3. Then say, "I know you don't want to get out, but it's time to go" or "I hear you. I feel you." Keep sentences simple and use terms they'll understand



Distract them:

You and your son are cutting fun shapes out of play dough. You make a few hearts, but he screams that he wants circles. He throws the heart-shaped cut-out on the floor and yells, "Circles, circles!" then starts crying. Solution: Say something totally unrelated to what you were doing, like "Let's see how fast we can run up the stairs while holding hands!"

Wonder why this works? You're including him in this "distraction action," as Nault calls it, and neither of you is mad anymore because you've moved on to another activity.

Make them feel safe:

Your toddler is playing alongside her baby brother in the living room. Suddenly, she grabs his rattle, poking him in the process. The baby cries, and you tell her to give the rattle back. She refuses, bursts into tears and begins screaming that you like the baby more than her. What should you do? Pick her up so she's facing you and tell her you love her always, baby loves her too .

Whisper something Special:

Your kid won't get into her car seat, and you're late for an appointment. She's thrashing around and won't sit still. Whisper in her ear something like, "Want me to tell you a secret?" She'll nod, then quietly whisper something special about where you're going, like "Did you know there are new stickers at the doctor's office?" By keeping your voice soft and conspiratorial, she'll think she's part of a fun game.

Make them laugh:

It's time to brush her teeth, and she doesn't like the new fruit-flavored toothpaste you bought. After you put it on the toothbrush, she throws the brush against the bathroom mirror, smearing toothpaste everywhere. You tell her she has to brush her teeth and she proceeds to have a full-fledge meltdown. The last thing you feel like doing is making her laugh, but this is exactly what you should do. Make a funny sound or a weird face, blow on her tummy, start brushing your own teeth using exaggerated motions -- anything to get her to start giggling. Laughing works especially when a child is being stubborn. Once she starts giggling, you've won the battle

Stop, pause, redirect:

You're at a restaurant, and your kid starts banging his fork and knife on the table. Everyone is glaring at you. You tell him to stop, but he continues to "drum" even louder so you take away the silverware. He throws a fit. What now, Mom? Tell him to put his head down on the table, then take a deep breath (this is the pause part). Once he becomes quiet and settled, let him stay that way for a minute. Then, in a calm voice, tell him why you stopped him, and redirect his actions. In this case, ask him to continue eating quietly. If he doesn't listen, start the process over.

Say what they are feeling:

Your kid is reaching for the candy dish on the counter. You say no, and she has a tantrum. What to do? Look her in the eye and speak her mind for her. Say, "You're mad that Mommy won't let you have candy." Then give her a hug. This works because "teaching them language [to express their emotions] equips them to handle moments of frustration and strong feelings," says expert Dr. William Sears. "Children just need to blow off steam. You can help your child by verbalizing for him what he can't say himself."

Be empathetic:

You're at the grocery store, about to pay, and your son wants a chocolate bar. (Why do they keep candy at kid level while you're in line, anyway?). You say no, and he attempts to get out of the grocery cart, making lots of noise in the process. How to handle? Calmly say, "I know you want that chocolate bar. I know you're feeling upset." You're voicing his feelings. Then say, "You can't have it now. You can have a chocolate bar on Saturday because that's your day to have a treat." By reasoning with your child, you're giving him a sense of feeling heard

Read More <http://www.ivillage.com/12-expert-tips-taming-temper-tantrums-0/6-b-286829#ixzz12jt0elyh>

5 Quick tips for you:

Grandparents raising grandchildren is on the rise. It can be an emotional roller-coaster in the beginning but it does get better. These kids keep you young and engaged in current events. You get to enjoy their childhood and the opportunity to watch them grow into successful, well-adjusted adults.

Accept That There Will Be Anger and Grief

You may be angry at your child and grieve for the loss that your grandchild has suffered. This is normal. Work towards accepting the change in the family dynamics. There are some things that you can't change and this is one of them. Accepting the situation and moving on makes it better for everyone.

Loss of Grandparent Role

If you are the grandparent raising your grandchild, you have lost the grandparent role. You can't send them to grandma's. They are already there. Fortunately, raising a grandchild is generally more fun than it was raising their parent. You have wisdom on your side.

Learn About the Internet

If you are not Internet savvy, you need to learn. Children live in a different world where computer access is necessary. If you do not own a computer, it is time to get one. Internet safety is important and you need to be able to monitor what they do.

Engage Children in Other Activities

Get comfortable clothes. Football practice is outside. Children need to be engaged in more than just school. Sports and other activities help them grown into successful adults. You might find that you have the talent to coach a soccer team.

Seek Help If Necessary

There are many Internet site to help when you feel overwhelmed. There are community support groups. Raising a grandchild is sometimes stressful and if you feel that it is too much, reach out for help. There are many wonderful people waiting to give you the boost you need.

Guess who the Coach is.

At one point during a game, the coach called one of his 9-year-old baseball players aside and asked, 'Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?' The little boy nodded in the affirmative.

'Do you understand that what matters is whether we win or lose together as a team?' The little boy nodded 'yes'.

'So,' the coach continued, 'I'm sure you know, when an out is called, you shouldn't argue, curse, attack the umpire, or call him a pecker-head. Do you understand all that?' The little boy nodded 'yes' again.

He continued, 'And when I take you out of the game so another boy gets a chance to play, it's not good sportsmanship to call your coach 'a dumb ass' is it?' The little boy shook his head 'NO'.

'GOOD', said the coach.

'Now go over there and explain all that to your grandmother.'



*How would I recognise a 'P' user?
I just don't know what signs to look for.....*

You may not even recognise a 'P' user, as there are various patterns and levels of use as there are with any other drug. Some use recreationally with few obvious ongoing signs. Signs and symptoms do become increasingly apparent as use increases or intensifies. Being aware of the various effects of 'P' use will help you to identify if someone is using 'P' and will make the 'red flags' more apparent.

Methamphetamine has three patterns of use: low intensity, binge, and high intensity.

- **Low-intensity** use describes a user who is not psychologically addicted to the drug and who administers the drug by swallowing or snorting it.
- **Binge** users are psychologically addicted and prefer to smoke or inject meth to achieve a faster and stronger high.
- **High-intensity** users are also psychologically addicted and prefer to smoke or inject methamphetamine to achieve a faster and stronger high. The difference between binge and high-intensity patterns of use is the frequency with which the drug is used.

While the binge pattern of abuse has seven stages within its cycle: rush, high, binge, tweaking*, crash, normal and withdrawal, the high-intensity abuse pattern usually does not include a state of normalcy or withdrawal.

** Note: Many of these signs are equally relevant to use of other drugs – particularly cannabis. Many of the warning signs for drug use can also be the same as those for the 'ups and downs' of being a teenager- or even depression. There's also the possibility of a physical or emotional problem.*

To read more go to: www.stellartrust.co.nz

The most dangerous stage of use for users, Police and others is "Tweaking".

This meth user probably has not slept in 3-15 days and consequently, the symptoms would be irritability and paranoia. A 'tweaker' needs no provocation to behave or react violently and confrontation increases the chances of a violent reaction. If the 'tweaker' is also using alcohol, negative feelings and associated dangers intensify.

Several hours after the last meth use, the individual experiences a drastic drop in mood and energy levels. Sleep begins and may last for a long period and, upon awakening, severe depression may last for days, during which time, suicide can be a major concern. These symptoms may be reversed by taking another dose of methamphetamine, thereby fitting the definition for a withdrawal syndrome.

When coming off meth use or "crashing", users are likely to experience withdrawal symptoms such as, severe cravings, insomnia, restlessness, mental confusion or depression, as the meth is exiting their system.

Meth use also has psychological effects: disturbed sleep, excessive excitement, excessive talking, panic, anxiousness, nervousness, moodiness and irritability, false sense of confidence and power, delusions of grandeur, aggressive and violent behaviour, uninterested in old friends, food, and severe depression.

Excessive meth use can also cause long term effects such as fatal kidney and lung disorders, possible brain damage, depression, hallucinations, disorganised lifestyle, permanent psychological problems, violent and aggressive behaviour, weight loss, insomnia, behaviour resembling paranoid schizophrenia, decreased social life, malnutrition, poor coping abilities, disturbance of personality development, lowered resistance to illnesses, liver damage, stroke and the inevitable, death.

Recognising a 'P' user : signs and symptoms

Short Term Use Can Result in:

- **Increase in borrowing money or trading of possessions**
- **Unexplained sources of money from dealing? Stealing? Prostitution?**
- **Noticeable change in values, lying, stealing, etc**
- **Problems at work, withdrawal from family, friends**
- **Subtle changes in conversations and behaviour with friends**
- **Dry, itchy skin (a sense of bugs crawling under skin)**
- **Dilated pupils, dark circles or bags under their eyes, chronic red eyes**
- **Sore throat or dry cough**
- **Increased sensitivity to noise and light**
- **False sense of control/confidence - can lead to dangerous behaviour**
- **“Wired” - Restless, excitable and anxious**
- **Noticeable change in sleeping patterns**
- **Weight loss (rapid, extreme)**
- **Irritability or aggressiveness, drastic mood swings**
- **Dizziness or confusion, disconnected chatter**
- **Complaints of chest pain, rapid breathing**
- **Excessive sweating and body odour**
- **Bad breath, poor dental hygiene and teeth grinding**
- **Hanging out with a different group of friends**
- **Negative change in appearance, greasy hair, skin sores**
- **Change in attire, clothes that highlight/advertise/ portray drug use**
- **Noticeable mood swings, hostility or abusive behaviour**
- **Chronic fatigue, loss of interest in favourite activities, hobbies, sports**
- **Presence of paraphernalia (Broken light bulbs, hollowed out pens, tin foil, pop cans often with hole in the side, charred bottle tops, needles)**

The possible results of long term use include:

- **Dependence, even after using just one or two times**
- **Hallucinations, paranoia, mood disturbances, repetitive motor activities (twitches)**
- **Severe anorexia**
- **Memory loss**
- **Stroke, liver or heart failure**

Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.

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

Field Officers:

Alison Cuthbert:

Alison was a Social worker for over 40yrs, 26 of those as a senior social worker for the Royal N.Z Navy. She is able and confident to attend CYF Family Group Conferences (where practicable) to act as a support person for GRG's. I am 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. Ph 09 445 9671 Toll call, use 0800 345 671(landline use only)

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 Toll call, use 0508 367474 (landline use only)

Diana East:

In depth knowledge on issues impacting on grandparents raising grandchildren. She 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. Diana can be contacted on ph 04 970 8177 Toll call, use 0508 323435 or email d.east13@yahoo.co.nz

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.

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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 Grandchildren

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

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We are a Charitable Trust



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