



## NorthAble Information Update 09/08/2017

NorthAble receives information from our many networks, which we disseminate through this *Electronic Weekly Update*. Feel free to share and use this information. For further information or to place a notice:

Phone: 09 430 0988 / 0508 637-200.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NorthAble](http://www.facebook.com/NorthAble)

Email: [drc@northable.org.nz](mailto:drc@northable.org.nz).

Web: [www.northable.org.nz](http://www.northable.org.nz)

## Events – Seminars – Courses – Meetings

### AUGUST:

#### **Coming Up:** Whakamana Hauora: Promoting Wellness

Do you or someone you know have a long term health condition? A Free 6-week Self-Management Course.

Email: [Whakamanahauora@tttpho.co.nz](mailto:Whakamanahauora@tttpho.co.nz) or Phone 09 407 3581 and someone will be in contact with you to discuss the information available to you.

**10<sup>th</sup> August:** 9:30 to 11.30 Age Concern, Safety in the Community – handbag snatching – Fraud, Burglary & clean-up post fingerprinting, N Z Police. Sessions are Thursdays with time allowed for questions.

Enquiries: Margaret Dunn, Phone (09) 4385498 or 0272916869, or email: [northland@epilepsy.org.nz](mailto:northland@epilepsy.org.nz)

**18<sup>th</sup> August:** 1:00 to 3:00 Tiaho Meet the Candidates: Come along to hear what each candidate has to say on disability issues that are going to affect you- this is your opportunities to ask questions. Forum North, Cafler Suite.

<http://www.tiaho.org.nz/news/entry/elections-2017-whats-in-store-for-the->

**23<sup>rd</sup> August:** 9:00 to 11:30 'Money Mates Workshops'. Anglican Care Centre, Wednesdays, register with your budget advisor, registration is essential, or phone 09 4376397

**14<sup>th</sup> September:** 9:30 to 11:30 Age Concern: Alzheimer's - Managing short term memory loss and using reflective questioning techniques. Rod Coe, Alzheimer's Society Northland. Sessions are Thursdays with time allowed for questions. Enquiries: Margaret Dunn, Phone (09) 4385498 or 0272916869, or email: [northland@epilepsy.org.nz](mailto:northland@epilepsy.org.nz)

## In the News

**Disabled Focused Questions to be Added to Census:** Press Release, New Zealand Government: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017. "The Census collects important data about who we are as New Zealanders. Including a question set to identify people who are disabled will provide us with valuable information about their lives," Ms Wagner says. [2018 Census to include new disability questions](#)

**New Disability Rights Commissioner Elected:** Human Rights Commission, Press Release: 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017. "We are really excited to have Paula join our team. With her wealth of experience, enthusiasm and passion for delivering better outcomes for disabled New Zealanders, I am positive that she will be an integral part of our work going forward," Mr Rutherford says. [Commission welcomes new Disability Rights Commissioner](#)

**Joseph Parker Supports Samoan Deaf:** Bay Audiology Press Release: 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017. In Samoa there are currently around 4,000 people who have untreated hearing issues. The country has no qualified audiologists and limited access to ear nose and throat specialists, meaning many of those with hearing issues are left untreated. <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/GE1708/S00011/joseph-parker-lends-his-support-to-samoan-hearing-health.htm>

**New Funding for Mental Health:** New Zealand Government Press Release: 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017. The Mason Clinic provides services at both a regional and a national level for people with forensic mental health or intellectual disability issues who have committed criminal offences or are at high risk in the community. [New \\$14.4m specialist mental health unit](#)

**KiwiSaver and Protection of Personal Property Rights:** NZ Herald: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017. We have a son with an intellectual disability and when KiwiSaver started we opened an account for him as well as his brothers. We

contributed the \$1050 per year either from our funds or from his Supported Living payment. Last year we bought him a house, but the Family Court did not allow us to use his money to buy the place as under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act our son is not a legal entity, can't own a house and we could not settle his money into his trust. Therefore, we did not use KiwiSaver for the purchase. [Mary Holm: Doing right by disabled KiwiSaver](#)

**Eating Disorders going Untreated:** Herald On Sunday: 6<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Families struggle to get treatment for patients with eating disorders. The number of Kiwis getting medical intervention for eating disorders has increased by more than 40 per cent in the past five years. [More beds, more funding needed to curb eating disorders](#)

**New Youth Development Funding:** New Zealand Government Press Release: 6th August 2017. "These opportunities have been part of programmes with a sports, technology, environmental, rural and creative focus, as well as initiatives aimed at supporting young people with disabilities and developing future Maori leaders. [\\$1.78m for new youth development partnerships](#)

**Below are a few story links that have featured in the media over the past week or so that you may find interesting:**

Through the maze – Explore New Zealand's mental health Journey (Feature/Investigation)

<https://interactives.stuff.co.nz/2017/through-the-maze/chapterOne/>

•New Zealand has done horrific job protecting intellectually disabled in state care –

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/335902/nz-has-done-horrific-job-protecting-intellectually-disabled-in-state-care>

The place and possibilities of active participation in inclusive early childhood education -

<https://nzareblog.wordpress.com/2017/07/31/inclusive-ece/>

A life story – Bill Wrightson disability advocate dies 67 - <https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/94796136/a-life-story--bill-wrightson-disability-advocate-dies-67>

A Different Light - with Jonny Wilkinson Northern Advocate 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 "When you hit 50, it's like being trapped in a run-away bobsled to hell". <http://www.tiaho.org.nz/news/entry/real-pain-in-neck>

### **Total Mobility changes in 2017**

The Northland Regional Council is implementing the Ridewise system (electronic swipe card system), scheduled to roll out in September/October, replacing the yellow and blue vouchers. By the end of September, you should receive your personalised ID swipecard. When you receive your card, please check the card, to ensure your photograph and details are correct. You will be able to use the card as soon as you receive it. The next time you book a journey, please take your swipecard instead of your vouchers. You must present your card at the beginning of your journey. The driver will need to see your card to check your details. At the beginning of the trip the driver will swipe the card through a terminal in the vehicle. At the end of the journey the driver will stop the meter and calculate the subsidy. You will need to pay the remaining taxi fare as you currently do.

Children 11 years and over who meet the Total Mobility criteria are now eligible for the Total mobility scheme. The Whangarei urban boundary restrictions will be lifted and replaced with a maximum subsidised fare.

For more information contact: [anitac@nrc.govt.nz](mailto:anitac@nrc.govt.nz)



### **LOOK!**

### **Equipment Plus News:**

#### **Changes to Opening Hours:**

The EQ Plus team wish to advise that their opening hours have changed, effective from Tues 18<sup>th</sup> July.

Mon, Weds, Thurs, Fri 8:30am – 5:00pm

Tues 10:00am-5:00pm (This change to our opening time is to allow for staff meeting and training).

Sat 9:00am-12:00pm

Not open public holidays and long weekends.

#### **Fee Changes:**

As from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017, we have introduced a 2.75% credit card surcharge fee, to recover bank charges. We are happy to accept standard debit cards, cash, and cheques without any additional charges.

We appreciate your understanding of these changes, and thank you for your ongoing custom.