



Waitemata DHB Child Disability CALD Project

Issue 8, October 2011

Welcome to the Waitemata DHB Child Disability CALD Project newsletter. CALD stands for **C**ulturally and **L**inguistically **D**iverse. We're one of several projects funded by the Ministry of Health to help the three Auckland DHBs implement the Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy.

Seminar for parents from refugee backgrounds

In June, we hosted a *Navigating Disability Support Services* seminar for parents of children with impairments who are from a refugee background.

The ground-breaking seminar is thought to be the first time a disability information workshop has been organised and held for refugee families from diverse ethnic and language communities.

Around 25 family members and 10 preschool children from 11 nationalities and nine different language groups attended.

The seminar revealed that more needs to be done to ensure that disability support services work for these families and others in the refugee community.

There are language barriers, both with agencies and with disability support workers, and access to information and services is difficult for many.

One father commented: "I thought I was underground. I knew nothing, and now I know that there are services there who can help me."

Further education about how the disability support system works is needed, particularly relating to assessment and reassessment.

Advocacy is also a very important role for disability agencies working with refugee families.

The Waitemata DHB

Child Development Service worked with the Umma Trust, CCS Disability Action, the Ministry of Social Development *Settling In* programme and Auckland DHB's Community Child Health and Disability Service to plan and deliver the seminar.

Parents and community members were ably supported by interpreters during the day, which included a young person sharing his story, presentations, small group discussions and visits to the information tables. Presentations included the social model of disability, Child Development Service, CCS Disability Action, Taikura Trust and Ministry of Education Special Education Service.



Sharing his story:

*Siraj Salarzi
introduces Liban
Farah*



Small group discussion:

*Interpreter Marguerite
Ntawe gives parent
feedback to the group*



Seminar planning (L-R): Siraj Salarzi, Susan Peters, Hashem Slaimankhel, Im Soo Kim, Jenny Janif, Sandy Latimer, Issa Yusuf, Faiza Joshua.
Missing: Abdi Musse, Mahad Warsame

CALD8: CALD Families and Disability Awareness Work is progressing well on this new CALD training module and it is expected to be completed in November. We've seen some of the material already, and we're very excited! This training module will include face-to-face and on-line training options plus a web-based supplementary resource of additional culture-specific information. Prerequisites will be CALD1 – Culture and cultural competency and CALD2 – Working with Migrants (Asian). Staff can access these course at www.caldresources.org.nz.



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Autism Support Group for Asian parents

The Asian Family Autism Support Group has recently been established by CALD Cultural Caseworker Im Soo Kim. The group provides mutual support to members and shares information. There is usually a guest speaker invited to the monthly meeting and, at a recent meeting, the group brought their children and shared a pot luck lunch. For its August meeting the group attended a Family/Whanau Carers Course held by Standards and Monitoring Services (SAMS – see below) at the Wilson Centre. In September, the guest speaker was Lisa Martin of the Parent and Family Resource Centre.

The group meets at 10.30 on the last Wednesday of the month at the Wilson Centre, 1 St Leonards Road, Takapuna. The meetings are in English and parents are of Korean, Chinese, Filipino and Japanese ethnicities. One parent, Karen Phang, has taken on the role of group leader. New members are welcome. For more information, contact Im Soo Kim, or group leader Karen Phang on 410-9503 or email: karenphang@gmail.com.



Support for families: *Members of the Autism Support Group with Lisa Martin, Parent and Family Resource Centre*

Standards and Monitoring Services (SAMS)

Standards and Monitoring Services (SAMS) is an independent Trust established by family members of people with disabilities. It provides a range of services and offers carer workshops covering topics such as the roles and responsibilities of Ministries and other agencies, identifying what disability services are available, and how individualised funding works. Its objective is to help carers obtain the information and skills they need to survive the disability sector. www.sams.org.nz or contact Gabrielle Venz on free phone 0508 726 769.

The new Health Passport can aid staff/patient communication



Imagine if every patient was able to tell staff their name, personal likes and dislikes, their dietary needs and more, even while they were sleeping. If even those patients who are usually unable to communicate, could be understood.

The new 'Health Passport' helps to make this possible. Designed to be filled in by the patient, their family, or caregivers - and kept with the patient - it can include information on ongoing medical conditions, preferred communication methods, known stressors, movement abilities, and more.

The passport can be used by anyone who would benefit from a communication tool, from older adults to people with English as a second language or disabilities.

Where a patient may benefit from a Health Passport but doesn't have one, staff can suggest the patient or their caregivers fill one out. The information will be readily available for staff to read, making it far easier for them to know exactly who they are treating.

Disability Strategy Coordinator Samantha Dalwood says: "A quick look through the passport will allow staff to get a feeling for the patient's abilities and expectations, and what they like and need. As a picture-based document, its simple layout and style will make it quick and easy to read.

"It's designed to make communication with the patient easier, not to make more work for the staff. It includes information they need to make caring for their patient easier."

The passport can be downloaded from the Health & Disability Commission website www.hdc.org.nz.

For more information contact Samantha on 442-3289 or email samantha.dalwood@waitemataadhb.govt.nz.

For project information contact the project team:

- Im Soo Kim, Cultural Case Worker – 447 0115
- Issa Yusuf, Cultural Case Worker – 837 6624 ext. 6199
- Sandy Latimer, Project Leader – 021 245 7785

Next issue:

Learn about the interpreted seminar on individualised funding.