



Waitemata DHB Child Disability CALD Project

Issue 1, April 2010

Better access to child disability services on the way

Better access to child disability services for children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds is on the way at Waitemata DHB thanks to a recent funding injection.

The funding, awarded by the Ministry of Health to support implementation of the Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy, has enabled the DHB to establish the *Child Disability CALD Project*. A key component of this project is two CALD cultural case worker positions.

Project leader Sandy Latimer says such case workers are a relatively new development in New Zealand.

"They will provide community and hospital-based cultural support services to children and families," she says. "That might involve helping parents understand the New Zealand health system or helping them to access the support available to children with disabilities or developmental needs."

The cultural case workers are also available to provide advice and support to other Child Health team members.

Sandy says that understanding the New Zealand health and disability systems can be challenging for people from CALD populations.

"And they may have cultural understandings of health and wellbeing that differ from mainstream New Zealand," she says.

The project will also look at what Child Health Service information should be available in other languages and promote the CALD training offered to DHB staff by Learning and Development and Asian Health Support Services.

The project runs until June 2011.



PROJECT TEAM (L-R): *Cultural case worker Abdi Musse, project leader Sandy Latimer, Child Development Service operations manager Ronelle Baker and cultural case worker Im Soo Kim.*

What does culturally and linguistically diverse mean?

Culturally and linguistically diverse people include immigrants, migrants and refugees as well as people who are born in New Zealand and are from diverse cultural backgrounds.

What challenges do families from CALD backgrounds face?

Families from CALD backgrounds may need support to access disability services in the same way as other groups in New Zealand. Difficulties can include limited understanding of the Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC) agencies; trouble accessing interpreter services; and different expectations and understanding of disability. In some cultures, the stigma attached to disability also makes it difficult for people to use assessment and support services*.

* Findings of consultation with communities during the development of the Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy.



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Which children and families will the cultural caseworkers see?

Children and families referred to the cultural caseworkers must be eligible for publicly funded health services.

They must be current users of child health services and meet the Ministry of Health criteria for disability, or be under five-years-old and have a development concern. They may also be users of the Child Rehabilitation Service or the Out of Home Respite Service.

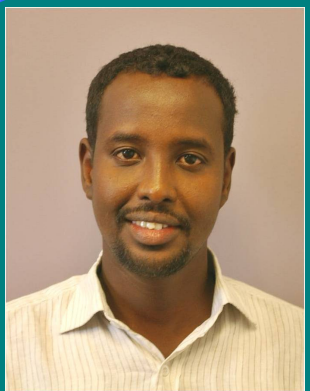
The cultural case workers will work mainly with children and families who use the Child Development Service (a community-based service), and the Child Rehabilitation and Out of Home Respite Services, based at Takapuna's Wilson Centre. Referrals for the cultural case workers should be sent to the Child Development Team.

Meet the CALD cultural caseworkers



Im Soo Kim

Im Soo Kim is a Korean New Zealander. He graduated from Massey University in 2009 with a Master of Social Work degree. He is familiar with the disability sector as a parent, and has a special interest in providing support for families and children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Im Soo is also very active as a volunteer within the Korean community. He is based in Albany with the Child Development team North.



Abdiaziz (Abdi) Musse

Abdi has a Somali and Muslim background. He is studying for a Bachelor of Social Work degree at Te Wananga o Aotearoa. A member of the Somali community, he is one of the founding members of the Auckland Regional Refugee Coalition. Abdi has worked as a refugee community health worker with Auckland DHB and a refugee youth worker with Youth Transition Services. He has worked with schools in central Auckland as a bilingual tutor and for the Ministry of Social Development project *Settling In*. Abdi is based at Waitakere with the Child Development team West.

NB: Although Abdi and Im Soo are based in the West and North respectively, they both work across the district.

For more information contact the project team:

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- Sandy Latimer, Project Leader – 0212457785

Next issue:

Learn about the all-important evaluation process for the Child Disability CALD Project.