



WELCOME TO THE NEW LOOK CALD CHILD DISABILITY NEWSLETTER, NOW BEING PUBLISHED BY NORTHERN REGIONAL ALLIANCE.

CALD stands for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse. We're one of several Ministry of Health funded programmes that help Auckland's three DHBs implement the Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy Health Action Plan.

DISABILITY CONNECT'S INFORMATION & ADVISORY SERVICE FOR CALD FAMILIES

Disability Connect, formerly Parent and Family Resource Centre, has been contracted by Counties Manukau DHB to provide an information and advisory service to CALD families in South Auckland. This service is designed for CALD families raising a child with a disability (up to school leaving age).



Key to this service is Community Cultural Disability Advisor Sanny Chan, who speaks both Mandarin and Cantonese. Disability Connect also has access to interpreting services for speakers of other languages. For CALD families in South Auckland who need more support, Sanny can assist by, for example, making home visits, helping to identify gaps in services or attending meetings with other agencies. Families from other parts of Auckland who need more support are referred to Auckland or Waitemata DHB services.

Since undertaking this contract, Sanny and Disability Connect CEO

Lisa Martin have managed to visit almost all the special schools in the Auckland region to acquaint principals and staff with the information services available from Disability Connect as well as the more specialised CALD services available to families in South Auckland. The visits were also an opportunity remind everyone of the name change to Disability Connect.

As part of the services to CALD families, Disability Connect organises and hosts the monthly meetings of the South Auckland Chinese Families Autism Support Group. This group is well established, with thirty to forty people attending the meetings, and families come from all parts of Auckland. Presentation topics are chosen by the parents, and this year have included such topics as Taikura Trust, Individualised Funding, behaviour management, social and friendship skills, trust and guardianship and transition from school.

Many of the parents in this group are also connected as users of WeChat, a messaging and calling application for smart phones. Sanny herself is a member of this group and is able to answer any queries that may come up in the course of conversations.

Sanny advertises the Disability

Connect services in the Chinese media and also appears in educational programmes on Chinese television to help raise awareness of disability issues within the Chinese community. She and a Mandarin speaking psychiatrist have recently been featured on an hour long programme on autism on the Chinese television network.

In May Disability Connect began working on a new initiative in South Auckland to establish a Support Group for Indian Families with Children with Special Needs. This group now meets monthly, and so far has had a presentation from Taikura Trust and a presentation on transition in its meetings.



For more information about the Disability Connect's information advisory service or support groups contact Sanny email sanny@disabilityconnect.org.nz or Lisa email lisa@disabilityconnect.org.nz or phone 636-0351. 



CULTURAL CASEWORKERS

SPEAK ABOUT THEIR ROLE




At the invitation of Auckland University of Technology lecturer Kate Waterworth, Waitemata DHB cultural caseworkers Im Soo Kim and Abdi Musse spoke about their role in the Child Development Service working with migrant and refugee families to a class of occupational therapy students and physiotherapy students taking the paper 'Rehabilitation and Participation'.

The presentation was very well received by students, who were pleased to learn that in the future they could potentially work with colleagues in similar cultural roles who could promote their clients engagement and participation. Students also found it valuable to discover some of the distinctions between refugee and migrant groups and to become aware of different services and the work of the Mangere Resettlement Centre. Kate commented, "The Coordinator of the paper, Sandy Rutherford, and I are both very grateful that Im Soo and Abdi were willing to share their knowledge and experiences with the students and hope there will be further opportunity to work together in the future." 



SERVICE REVIEW CONFIRMS THE VALUE OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER ROLE

Five years after establishing the refugee and new migrant community health worker positions on the Auckland DHB Child Development Team, team leader Madeleine Sands commissioned a service review to examine the role and its implementation. The purpose of the review was 'to establish what was working, what was not working, for whom and why'. The study confirmed that the roles are highly valued by families, with all families who were interviewed giving very positive feedback. The only concern expressed by families was that they would lose their access to the community health worker when their child was discharged from the service. The review also documented how the community health workers were able to assist Child Development team members to understand families' cultural practices and perspectives, and helped to increase engagement of families with the service, resulting in better outcomes for the child and the family. Madeleine commented, "The review was helpful in showing what was working well and also showed us how we can improve our service in some areas." 

Cultural caseworker model

presented at Waitemata DHB Asian Health Conference



From the 17th to the 21st of August, Asian Health Services at Waitemata DHB hosted a week of seminars providing an overview of New Zealand research into health of Asian populations and evidence-based models of care for working with Asian patients and clients. One

of the presenters at this very pertinent and successful conference was Im Soo Kim, a cultural caseworker with the Child Development Service at Waitemata DHB. Im Soo described the barriers migrant and refugee families have to accessing disability services and explained how the cultural caseworkers help families and services to overcome the barriers. The presentation concluded with two case studies to demonstrate in more detail how the cultural caseworker model works.



HOLIDAY PROGRAMME FOR SOUTH ASIAN CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

During the July school holidays, Auckland DHB Child Development Team with the support of the Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust offered a week long holiday programme for families in the Support Group for South Asian and Other Families of Children with Special Needs/Disabilities. The programme was held at the Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust premises in the afternoons during the week of 6 July. Activities were chosen and run by the parents, with support from Auckland DHB community health worker Hyma Danthala. On the last day Child Development Team Leader Madeleine Sands and Autism Coordinator Christine Ferguson



also attended and prizes were given to children for participation. Twenty children and 14 adults participated during the week, and feedback from parents was very positive, with many requesting that a programme be offered during the next term break.

The Support Group for South Asian and Other Families of Children with Special Needs/Disabilities meets monthly with support from the Auckland DHB Child Development Team Community Health Worker Hyma Danthala. For more information about this group contact Hyma Danthala 639-0200, ext 27507 or email hymavathid@adhb.govt.nz. 

Exciting News!!



CALD Cultural Competency Courses are going national on 28th August 2015

eCALD™ provides a range of online and face-to-face training courses for the New Zealand health workforce to develop CALD cultural competencies.

We are pleased to announce that all District Health Boards' workforces will be eligible to access free CALD cultural competency online and Auckland-based face-to-face courses from 28th August 2015.

eCALD™ courses and resources are developed and managed by Waitemata DHB's Asian Health Services and funded by the Ministry of Health via the Northern Regional Alliance Ltd.

(CALD refers to culturally and linguistically diverse groups who are migrants and refugees from Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) backgrounds).



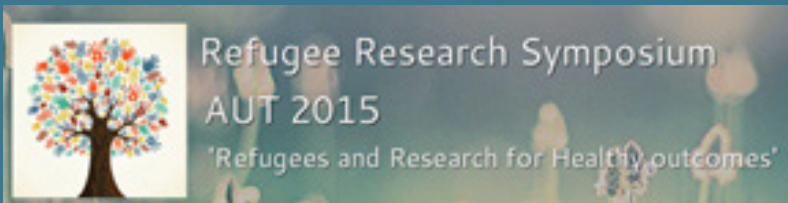
For further information about courses and resources, eligibility, cost and registration details please visit

www.eCALD.com



FROM A PARENT

“Holiday Program for special need children and special parents is the best way to come out from our own personal cocoons during holidays and adapt with the changed climate of happiness offered by ADHB and Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust.”



IN THE NEXT ISSUE The Refugee Research Symposium 2015, hosted by the Centre for Migrant and Refugee Research, will be held at Auckland University of Technology on 3rd December 2015. The

emphasis will be on research for healthy outcomes relevant to public and community health development, and to advance knowledge to improve access to healthcare and promote good health among the refugee populations in New Zealand. See more at: <http://www.refugeesymposium2015.co.nz/>.