

The Review

Autumn – May 2008



AUCKLAND
PLAYBACK THEATRE

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Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, Cerebral Palsy Society of NZ or Focus 2000

Cover

**Harvey Brunt & Allyson Hamblett
at Playback Theatre**

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A Spontaneous invitation (cover story)

The planning is over. The performance is about to begin. So come along and be thoroughly entertained.

The Cerebral Palsy Society has commissioned a performance by Auckland Playback Theatre on Saturday 7th June at Focus 2000 headquarters

Playback Theatre is all about spontaneity between the performers and audience. A member of the audience reveals a life experience and the performers act it out on stage. The experience could be a fleeting moment or it could be a lengthier episode. Before long the audience are full of suggestions stemming from childhood memories or present day incidents. The performance warms up by acting out moments in people's lives and then asks individuals from the audience to sit in the director's chair to guide the actors to perform a more substantial incident in their lives. One of the more interesting techniques is the snap shot effect where the audience are asked to shut and open their eyes while the performers position themselves in various poses to express the moment.

The concept of a Cerebral Palsy Society commissioned performance came from regular playback theatre goer Allyson Hamblett.

"Witnessing a moment come back to life is amazing and I wanted to share it with our CP members," she said.

She approached Harvey Brunt who immediately saw the potential but wanted to know more. After a series of email



exchanges and face to face meetings with Allyson, Harvey warmed to the idea.

"From what Allyson told me it seems Playback Theatre have many aspects to it. It's entertaining, humorous and pithy," said Harvey.

Date: Saturday 7th June 2008

Where: Focus 2000 13th Coyle Street.

Time: 5.15pm --- Wine and Cheese
6pm --- Performance

Ticket form enclosed or on website.

Boccia Focus Cup



**Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th July
Unitec Carrington Road**

Mt Albert, Auckland For more information and for the Entry Form go the Boccia NZ Website www.boccia.org.nz or the CP Website

www.cpsociety.org.nz or Phone Focus
09 8466295 ext 831





Mid - Winter Christmas Lunch at the Sorrento

To those of you who have never been to the Sorrento, this is your golden opportunity to enjoy the view of one of New Zealand's largest inner centre parks, whilst delighting in the fine food, ambiance, & the wonderful company of both old and new friends.



This is the latest upcoming major event for the year. To find the Sorrento you enter One Tree Hill Park, which is off Manukau Rd, going past the Auckland Observatory, the Sorrento is then the next building on the right.

We are holding this function on the day of the winter solstice or shortest day of the year, which this year is on 22nd of June. It kicks off at 12 noon finishing at 4pm. The subsidised price for either members or carers is only \$10 each or \$25 for non-members.



So book your tickets early, as they are likely to be in great demand based on previous successful events. Forms are downloadable from our website or with this Review.

Michael Northcott



Golden Omen for Boccia

NZ Boccia player Greig Jackson has just struck gold in Montreal. Greig was playing in a warm up tournament before heading off to the Beijing Paralympics later this year. This is the first individual medal NZ has won outside Australasia. Greig played a major role in scoring bronze for NZ in the BC3 pairs event. The NZ throwing team finished an unofficial 2nd in its event. The Cerebral Palsy Society assisted with funding for this trip. Congratulations to the players who have been awarded places in the NZ Paralympics Team, Beijing bound, namely: **Mandy Slade (Auckland), Greig Jackson (Christchurch) Henk Dijkstra (Dunedin) Liam Sanders (Auckland) Maurice Toon (Hamilton) Kerri Bonner (Christchurch) Jeremy Morriss (Christchurch)**



Attention getOutThere Users!

Vouchers Expiring

We now have approximately 150 members enjoying the benefits of the getOutThere programme. Many have used up all their current vouchers, many will still have some left. All vouchers presently out there have a black barcode, these vouchers will expire at the end of June (yes, next month!) so if you still have some, plan to use them prior to this. After the end of June these vouchers become obsolete and will not be accepted by any taxi company.



Expiring end of June 08!

New Vouchers

New vouchers will be issued this June. These new vouchers will have a blue bar-code for easy differentiation. They will be valid from the date you receive them until the end of December 2008.

If you are already a member of the getOutThere programme what do you have to do to get new vouchers? nothing, except renew your membership of the Society for the coming year. Once your membership renewal has been paid then new vouchers will



New voucher layout

be issued, automatically!

Expired Vouchers

What do you do with your unused vouchers once they pass their expiry date?.... Just rip them up and throw them in the bin! (you will be pleased to know that the Society only pays for vouchers once they have been used. Unused ones cost the Society nothing)

To join getOutThere programme

Of course if you are not part of the getOutThere programme but are eligible (i.e., have CP, have a Total Mobility card, are a member of the Society and live in an area where the programme is operating (currently: AKL, CHC, HML, TGA, ROT, NPL, HAW)) then join!, it's a no-brainer. (by the end of 2009 it is hoped that the programme will be throughout NZ)

There is more info, on our website with application forms that can be downloaded or just give the office a call on



Membership Renewal Time..... Again!

Yes it's that time of the year again when subscriptions for membership of the Cerebral Palsy Society of NZ are due.

The cost of membership has not changed since 1988, and I am pleased to inform you that it will remain unchanged for the coming year (i.e. \$10 for individuals and \$15 for family membership). Your renewed membership will run from the 1st July 2008 through until the 30th June 2009.



New members that have joined since 1st April 2008 have their membership automatically go through until the 30th June 2009, so these members need not pay anything further.

Enclosed in the package in which this REVIEW was posted to you, is a renewal form. Please update any information that is incorrect, attach your subs for next year and return in the freepost envelope enclosed.

(You can also download a 'membership renewal form' from the Society's website)

The benefits of membership are as follows:

Members with CP are eligible to apply for grants

Members with CP can apply to participate in programmes run by the Society (getConnected, getOutThere, with more to be introduced in next financial year)

Members get reduced entry to social and sporting events run by the Society.

Members get reduced fees for programmes run by Focus 2000.

Four copies of the REVIEW per year

A website kept current about what's happenings on CP in NZ

0800 phone assistance and advice

The responsibilities of membership are as follows:

To participate where possible

To contribute where possible

To foster a sense of community for people with cerebral palsy

SURVEY coming

In the next two weeks the Society will be sending out a survey for our members to complete. This will enable us to understand our membership better and get some feedback on what is working and what additional services or programmes the

Society should be providing or advocating for. We hope you will take this opportunity to have your say.



Paul's Golf Hazards



couple of pics for posterity, after he checked if Paul was still alive and kicking off of course.

The golfing tournament was somewhat delayed as it took five men to rescue Paul from the vegetation.

"I got a ribbing from the guys all day about that," said Paul. "However I got the last laugh as it started to rain and my Fred Flintstone type buggy had a roof on it."

CP Executive Board member Paul Munckhof is having second thoughts about becoming a golf caddie, after wiping out a golf cart at the Mobility Dogs Charity Golf Tournament, in March. Describing the incident as a wipe out is maybe a slight exaggeration, but it must be said his day didn't start all that well.

Apparently Paul also received a belated offer from Harvey to join the playing foursome as Peter continually found the trees,

Karl found the water, and Craig lost his golf ball altogether.

Paul grabbed the wheel of the golf buggy and set off after his companions CP General Manager Harvey Brunt, President Karl Sangster, Vice President Peter Fergusson and Chairman of Focus 2000 Craig Hobbs, who made up the Cerebral Palsy Society's golfing foursome.

It was all worthwhile in the end however as the Mobility Dog Trust was delighted to announce a profit of **\$22,000** from the tournament. This money will go a long way to the development and training of dogs to be matched with potential new recipients.

The approach to the first tee is downhill and involves a tight corner. Paul confidently took the corner at speed but ended up spread-eagled in the bushes. "What the heck do I do now," said Paul - or words to that effect.

Harvey knew exactly what to do as he, like all good General Managers should, reached for the camera and took a



It's all go at Rehab



The latest program includes

- ◆ The cycling and walking class which caters for people who want to improve their walking ability. Regular tests are taken for progress in stamina and endurance. Participants must be able to walk with assistance and to weight bear.
- ◆ The swimming and aquatics class are tailor-made for the individual

There is never a dull moment at Focus 2000's Rehab program. Their mobility programmes offer a variety of fitness orientated activities which are also fun to do. All classes are \$10 per session.

"We work alongside our clients promoting activities that will lead to independence and ultimately to a better quality of life", said sports therapist Margaret Moylan who has run the Mobility department for three years. "Success stories are an everyday occurrence as clients achieve their short term goals of maintaining their mobility and improving their strength and fitness and we also make sure everyone enjoys the experience along the way," she added.

Late last month Mikael Wiskum, who is a trained Physiotherapist from Denmark, joined the Focus Rehab team and he is currently supervising clients through their new programmes which started on the 5th of May. However it's not too late to join in so ring the team on 8466295 ext 831 or email Margaret mmoylan@focus2000.org.nz

and the exercise portion of this class is held at the hydro pool at Laura Ferguson Trust.

- ◆ Upper body circuit class is a fun group class which includes cardio, strength and endurance exercises for the upper body.
- ◆ Boccia a Paralympics sport that is across between bowls and petanque
- ◆ Wheelchair darts, Floorball, soccer, volleyball, and basketball are among the team sports
- ◆ Individual Programmes – a one hour exercise programme tailored to suit your needs

Mobility Assessments – to assess your mobility ability so we can design a programme to meet your needs



Profile of Paul Kearney

It's been 6 years to the month since Paul walked through the doors at Focus 2000, from the UK. Initially he facilitated creative & social workshops including, mosaic, cooking, papier-mache and gardening to mention just a few, for adults with physical and intellectual disabilities.

In 2004 Paul started Lifestyle Planning with Community Living Service CLS residents, creating a plan to assist clients in setting and achieving their goals and aspirations for their coming year.

Paul also works extensively with a group of Very High Needs (VHN) clients. Paul works with and arranges services for a range of VHN clients funded by the Ministry of Social Development and has found this a very rewarding experience.

Recently he attended an exciting, intensive 10-day workshop in Wellington on Person Centred Planning (PCP). This replaces the lifestyle plan way of thinking in the following ways:

- ◆ It centres on the client and wraps people and services around that person
- ◆ It is client driven
- ◆ It pursues holistic goals and aspirations and is constantly evolving
- ◆ The PCP process gives a clearer understanding of who the client really is
- ◆ It uses a model called The Domains of Need which encapsulates a holistic approach covering all aspects from client health to valued roles in society
- ◆ Paul is currently guided by a steering committee at Focus



'What a learning curve!' says Paul. He says it has opened up a whole new way of thinking about empowering clients to actively plan their own lives. Paul is currently working with two clients in CLS to draw up Focus's first Person Centred Plans.

Paul has seen many changes over the years but is excited that Focus is now on a new path, which is more thoroughly client-focused.

Boccia NZ Nationals

24th to 27th July 2008 Pioneer Stadium. Christchurch

For more information and for the Entry Form go the Boccia NZ Website www.boccia.org.nz or the CP Website www.cpsociety.org.nz



Painting Life Experiences

The creative juices are certainly flowing at Spark's Art studio. CP members Allyson Hamblett and Lynette Loye are constantly adding thought provoking works to their portfolios.

The artists joined Spark's Visual Arts Focus Group last year which encourages them to "tell their story" The group explores symbols and imagery to express their experience of life in drawing.

"At first I was unsure of how to tell my story through art, probably wondering whether it was worth telling" said Allyson." I can now say that my story is worth telling and I hope that some people are attracted to my work, through understanding the story behind each piece of art work.

"It only takes a short journey through Allyson's portfolio to realize how far she has progressed as an artist. There is a very clever painting of Venice where the buildings are wavy to compliment the water and her most recent creation depicting rejection from her childhood piano teacher is cathartic for both painter and observer.

Lynette's work is full of vibrant colour "I really like to think outside the square" said Lynette.

As her work shows, Lynette is a natural observer. She gets her inspiration from anywhere including the candy store at Silvia Park shopping mall and the orchard in her Gisborne backyard.

Allyson and Lynette are just two artists who are benefiting from a professional team of art facilitators/ tutors at Spark Studios, who provide comprehensive



learning in creative expression and visual arts education for people with disabilities.

This type of education brings about self development, personal achievement and a sense of purpose through creative endeavour.

The Visual Arts Focus Group focuses on the learning of elements of art making in painting and drawing.

The Studio's work very much develops both the skills and abilities of its artists as proficient art makers – and dually holds a self developmental aspect.

In November an exhibition of the artists work is to be held at **Corbans Estate Arts Centre** which will be sponsored by the Tertiary Education Commission. Spark studio is also seeking sponsorship for an exhibition featuring the works of Lynette, Allyson and others. Spark Studio is currently looking for a sponsor for this exhibition.

Take a look at the studios website <http://www.sparkstudio.org.nz/>



Old Friends Catch Up

"It was a celebration of achievements after a twenty year gap," reflected Jocelyn Burgess, (Photo Jocelyn with son Bruce), after the Cerebral Palsy Society's social afternoon.



Jocelyn saw the need to put on an event catering for the older CP members and their families and had worked extremely hard to make this occasion a success.

And what a success it turned out to be. The Piccolo Room at Auckland Ellerslie Racecourse was full of old friends catching up and just enjoying each other's company. During the afternoon we all marveled at Gayle Russell's artistic talent who now makes a living out of being a member of the mouth and foot painting association. It was later revealed that she uses a sewing machine with her feet to make her own clothes. We also had the privilege of watching Bruce Burgess's 1970's ascent on Mt Ruapehu via the film "All the way up there."

In its own way the occasion was a tribute

to the wonderful ladies who made up the parents support group for the Cerebral Palsy society. These ladies organized such events right up till the 1980's

CP members showed how much they appreciated the event by showering Jocelyn with positive feedback.

"Pat James told me that her CP son Errol spent many hours spelling out the names of the people who were there," said Jocelyn.

"I would like to see these types of occasions happen at least once a year. Perhaps we could consider doing it on a regional basis" she said.

Words of Thanks

On behalf of Sue we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all in the CP and Boccia 'families' who have: provided support, offered support, sent (either directly or indirectly) sympathy or get well messages, simply offered a kind thought or said a prayer for Sue as she battles the demon of cancer.

To date treatment has not been as successful as we would have hoped and she now rests in the hands of our GP and the Hospice.

It is a demanding journey, however knowing the support she has is a real comfort to her and helping her face the future.

Thanks to all

Peter and Imogen Atkinson'



Anyone for Bowls

Contrary to popular belief, Lawn Bowls is a great game for people of all ages and disabilities.

I was a 36 year old Londoner who enjoyed football (not soccer), a loud night out with the boys and a quiet night in with the family. My wife is a kiwi and we planned to make New Zealand our home. One week prior to flying out, December 2003, I had a road traffic accident (motorbike vs. car, guess who lost). I went through rehab at Stoke Mandeville Hospital (UK) as quickly as I could. It was during rehab that I was introduced to bowls. The venue was the hospital reception area with its shag pile carpet as the green and lots of people in wheelchairs chucking big black balls around for entertainment. It was good fun and everyone enjoyed it but as far I was concerned the hospital reception is where it would finish.

Upon arrival in New Zealand I learned my father-in-law played the game regularly, with much twisting of my arm (he nearly broke it!!) I decided to humour the old sod and let him drag me down to his local club. Initially I thought I'd go down, have a bit of fun, have a laugh with a few old codgers, and leave it there. Bigger me, (great kiwi phrase) if I didn't enjoy it.

I have now been playing local club bowls for two years. In February 2007, I joined the New Zealand Disabled Lawn Bowling Association. Since then I've represented Canterbury and most recently New Zealand at the International Bowls for



the Disabled World Championships, (a two week event held in Australia). I must also add it was fantastic to beat England (just in case anyone questions my allegiance). I met people of all ages, shapes, sizes, (men & women) Spinal Injuries, Amputees, Cerebral Palsy, Head Injuries, the list is endless. It was such good fun and a great experience. I can't wait for the next one.

It doesn't matter whether you just want to play for fun or get serious and set you goals higher. Bowls is very social, keeps you fit and I guarantee you'll have a great time.

Anyone interested in trying Lawn Bowls can contact New Zealand Disabled Bowls through their website www.nzdisabledbowls.org.nz or you can telephone **Quinn Mahoney on: 03-310-2294.**

I hope to meet you one day around the bowling green's of New Zealand.
Quinn Mahoney



Accessible Law

"I need Cerebral Palsy people to tell me where they are coming from" said Huhana Hickey from Auckland Disability Law which opens its office this month in the Mangere Community Law Centre, at Mangere Town Centre.

This service offers clients legal advice, assistance, information and representation from a disability perspective. It also aims to educate and support the legal community in the area of disability law and to provide law related education sessions for the wider community.

"It's all about closing gaps and opening doors," said Huhana. "I want to reflect what the client says and avoid the presumption I know it all. It's about working with disabled people to help them to solve their own legal problems." Auckland Disability Law will be working closely with the other Community Law centres in the region, who oversee the project. They aim to hold clinics in accessible locations and explain legal issues in plain English.

Huhana describes herself as a wheelchair user:

"Have wheels will travel, but I'm not bound to my wheelchair and I don't suffer" she laughs in her naturally humorous style.

However underlying the humour there is a strong determination to make the legal profession more accessible for disabled people. She is sometimes frustrated by the lack of legal research concerning disability issues and the lack of support for law students with a disability.

"Auckland Disability Law can play its part



in improving these neglected areas by educating the legal profession and mentoring disabled law students who have the passion to make a difference," she said.

Huhana has a master's degree specialising in disability and human rights and a PHD researching the unmet legal, social, cultural needs with Maori with disability. She is a vastly experienced local and international advocate. Overseas she has attended a UN disability convention in Spain and Korea and became involved in ensuring disabled war survivors received Government support in being included in the disability Convention.

Huhana appreciates the support of her office staff: Development Manager Nicola Owen, and Heather Alford who diligently takes care of office administration.

For further information contact Auckland Disability Law Centre PO Box 43-201 Mangere Town Centre Mangere Auckland Phone: 09 275 5140 fax: 09 275 4693 email: info@adl.org.nz



Integration via Dance

"I feel like I have known you all for ages," confessed Hayley Arthur, a professional dancer from London. That seemed to sum up the feelings of all of us who attended a Touch Compass integrated dance workshop last month.

All shapes, sizes and disabilities moved to the music over the two days, exploring our body's capabilities. Even the warm ups were full of laughter as each individual contributed his or her particular movement to the circle of friends.

As shyness melted the dancing became more expressive and we learnt how important the formations of circles are when searching for dance innovations and how vital it is to relate to your partner as opposed to dancing in isolation.

All participants quite naturally became friendly with his or her newly acquainted dancing partners as everyone was encouraged to play a part in a fun and stress free environment. The dance company touch compass has just celebrated its 10th anniversary and it's easy to see why it has lasted the distance. Commitment and dedication



laced with humour marks the characteristics of the company founded by Artistic Director Catherine Chappell.

The Cerebral Palsy Society would like to encourage members to attend future dance workshops to experience the exhilaration of dancing to the beat of the music.

For further information go to the dance company's website <http://www.touchcompass.org.nz/> and find out when the next workshop is.

Ross Flood

Christian Ministries with Disabled Trust

Do you know about us?

We have camps, drop in centres in Onehunga, quarterly magazines and meetings.

We love to hear from you.

Ring Di Willis ph 6364763

Postal address is P.O. Box 13322 Onehunga, Auckland



Grants Committee Up and Running

A grants committee has been appointed by the Executive Board to consider all grants received by the Society. It meets on the first Thursday of every month to consider all those grants received in the prior month. Decisions from the meeting are then relayed to the applicants shortly thereafter.

The committee consists of two parents of children with cerebral palsy and two adults with cerebral palsy. Three of the committee are from Auckland and one is from Christchurch, the genders are split evenly. A fifth member will be added in the coming months to break this dead-lock.

There are now two new application forms. One for individuals and one for organizations.

Applicants must use these new forms. Application for grants can be downloaded from the website or an

application form can be requested from the office.

To have a grant for an individual considered by the Grants Committee you must:

- ◆ Have cerebral palsy or the beneficiary of the grant is a person with CP.
- ◆ Be a current financial member of the Society, or have an application in for membership.

For organizations:

- ◆ The grant must benefit people who have cerebral palsy or where the majority of beneficiaries have cerebral palsy.

If you have a need for an item or service that results from you having cerebral palsy, then we encourage you to apply for a grant.

Forms can be downloaded from the website at www.cpsociety.org.nz or call the office on 0800 503603



Many people with Cerebral Palsy are afraid of dogs and I speak from experience as I am one of those people..... That is until I met Lola the cute, scarf wearing Labrador and her owner Trish Whyte. Yes, at first I was frightened of Lola but gradually that fear diminished and I've grown quite fond of her. But I'm not the only resident at Kitchener Road who has really benefitted from Trish and Lola's visits. Quite a few others all love Lola and I think this article really should be more to do with them than myself as I don't feel comfortable taking all the credit for this article.

So, I would like to dedicate this article to Lynette Lloyd, Paul Addison, Libby Sergeant, Anthony, Ross, and Scott Williams who really have a lot more interaction with Lola than myself.

So, here's to Lola, Trish, and all the residents here at Kitchener Road who loves Lola also. God bless and bow wow wow to you all.

By Heydon Bailey.



Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy – a treatment option for spastic cerebral palsy

At 8 months of age my daughter Sarah was diagnosed with spastic diplegia CP and, 3 months later, we took her, to the United States of America for the next 4 years, Whilst in the U.S., Sarah had a hamstring release operation, botox treatments and several castings. Her specialist at the University of Virginia Hospital, Charlottesville, discussed an alternative treatment with us called Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR) but felt that she was too young at the time for it.

Sarah is now at a recommended optimal age for SDR and we have decided to proceed down the path of having her assessed by the St Louis Children's Hospital, located in St Louis, Missouri, USA. This article explains what SDR is, what is involved in the treatment and, the steps we have taken to date in getting Sarah assessed.



Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR)

Currently, oral medication, Botox (botulinum A toxin) injection, baclofen infusion, orthopedic surgery, Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy surgery, physical therapy, and braces are employed to treat CP spasticity and related problems. Of these, only SDR can permanently reduce spasticity in many patients with spastic diplegia or quadriplegia.

SDR begins with a 1-2 inch incision along the centre lower back just below the rib cage. The tip of the spinal cord is located with ultrasound and other methods. A back portion of a single lumbar vertebra is removed to expose the spinal cord and nerve roots. After

sensory nerves are exposed, the neurosurgeon divides each of the dorsal roots into 3-5 rootlets and stimulates each rootlet electronically. Muscle contraction responses from muscles in the lower extremities are tested by electrical stimulation to identify the rootlets that cause spasticity. The abnormal rootlets are selectively cut, leaving the normal rootlets intact. SDR is a complex neurosurgical procedure but the risk of surgery is minimal. In over 1100 patient treated at St Louis, only patient-developed leakage of the spinal fluid and no other complication occurred (<http://www.aaippt.org/SelectiveDorsal.html>).

A significant differentiator between St Louis Children's Hospital, and other worldwide centre's that offer SDR, is that bone from only a single lumbar vertebra is removed and this is believed to prevent SDR-related spine problems in patients.



At other hospitals, it is not unusual for bone from at least 3 lumbar vertebra to be removed.

This is one of the reasons why we have chosen St Louis Children' Hospital as the preferred assessment centre for Sarah, along with the fact that surgery is performed by Dr T.S. Park, MD, neurosurgeon-in-chief at St Louis Children's Hospital, Shi H. Huang, Professor of Neurosurgery at Washington University School of Medicine and one of the United States' leading pediatric neurosurgeons.

After surgery (about 3 hours), patients can expect to spend about 24 hours in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) then be transferred to the hospital's neurology/neurosurgery unit for bed rest until at least day 3 post-op. Gentle physical therapy then follows until discharge (days or weeks depending on individual patient recovery), followed by intensive physical therapy once home, for several months.

Outcome of SDR

SDR does not cause permanent weakness and does not result in floppy extremities. SDR results in improvements in sitting, standing, walking, and balance control in walking.

Typically, improvements in motor function are most noticeable during the first 6 months after SDR. After that, improvements are slow but steady. In children, these improvements can continue up to 10 years of age. Some CP-related deformities can be improved by SDR. In most patients, SDR can halt the progression of hip subluxation and it does not exacerbate or increase the risk of this occurring.

Physical therapy post-SDR appears to be key to the whole procedure.

Sarah's Status at end of April 2008

Getting to assessment by St Louis Children's Hospital has involved a raft of forms being completed, a video taken of Sarah undertaking various physical actions, and supplying recent hip x-rays. From all the research to date, it would appear Sarah will be a good candidate for the procedure.

Further updates on Sarah's path to possible SDR will be provided in future editions of The Review.

Dave Colquhoun

Please note that this article is abridged. The full article appears on the Cerebral Palsy website's

Our best wishes go to

The Dumble family who are going through a torrid time at the moment. Scott Dumble is currently undergoing investigation for surgery after spending a month in hospital. His mum, Sue, has just suffered a stroke but is recovering at home. Both Scott and Sue are dedicated supporters of the Cerebral Palsy Society and are stalwarts Boccia. For many years Sue has been a valuable member of the NZ Boccia committee. Get well soon!!



Immigration and Disability

NZ Immigration is becoming a thorny issue when it relates to disability. The current policy states that the immigration department may decline application for residency if the immigrant is likely to impose significant costs or demands on NZ's health service or special education needs. However it also states that there are exceptions and the "Review" is in the process of finding out what these exceptions are.



In this issue Huhana Hikey from Auckland Disability Law points out the current situation.

The Human Rights Commission completed a review of the Immigration Act in June 2006 and stated that in relation to immigration for persons with disabilities there is no guarantee that even when bringing immigration into line with other law that it will automatically allow for persons with disabilities to emigrate to New Zealand.

The Human Rights review outlined concerns over Section 6 on Expulsion and Exclusion of the Immigration Act:

6.1.1 The intention to include requirements permitting exclusion if a person is not of an "acceptable standard of health" in legislation is concerning - particularly if this means a family is refused entry because of the health status of a child or dependent family member.

Although the proposal contemplates exceptions to the exclusion rule, there is no guarantee that a person with a disability who meets all the other requirements for entry will be permitted to enter the country. This may constitute indirect discrimination on the ground of disability.

Inclusion as yet has not occurred for those wishing to immigrate to New Zealand who also are identified with disabilities. There is no guarantee they will be able to emigrate and it basically depends on the health and character of the individual. The health category could be of particular concern to those with long term neurological or other physical impairments that result in limited mobility, costly supports and medications etc.

The Immigration Act is not likely to become inclusive in the near future as it is vigorously used in cases where disability has occurred for those applying to remain in New Zealand and do not have citizenship guarantees at the time of their application. It is advised that anyone wishing to claim citizenship status for themselves and a family member with disabilities to consult with an immigration lawyer, and in Auckland to consult both with the immigration lawyer and the Auckland Disability Law service that is launching on 15 May 2008 to gain a disability rights perspective when making the application."



Equity fight continues

In March a two day hearing was held in the Wellington High Court, questioning the fairness in the funding of ACC claimants vs. Ministry of Health (MOH) clients. The hearing ruled, against people born with their disabilities or those who acquire disabilities as a result of an illness, in favour of the status quo.

The case was brought by Melanie Trevethick who was refused funding for the amount required for a van, which she could drive from her wheelchair. If her disability had been the result of an accident or injury, Melanie would have been eligible for funding support from ACC. The \$92,000.00 bill for the van, including modifications to allow her to drive it, would have been paid in full. Melanie has Multiple Sclerosis and therefore comes under the Ministry of Health criteria. The MOH criterion only allows a maximum of \$11,900 for either the purchase of a vehicle or to modify a vehicle.

Melanie was determined that this injustice be tested in court. Crown Law filed an application to have her case thrown out on two points of law; that as a person disabled because of an illness, Melanie could not compare herself to someone having had an accident and secondly, that the phrase "cause of disability" could not be read into the Human Rights Act. The HR's Review Tribunal threw out Crown Law's application on the first point and asked for further. Submissions on the second point.

The Tribunal ruled in favour of Crown Law while stating that they "in no way endorse the present regime of being fair or equitable, it is not" and added that "the plaintiff has a legitimate political point to make". The Human Rights



Commission also gave up their neutral position to come out in support of Melanie's claim, saying that the Human Rights Act should be amended to include cause of a disability. Two weeks after the hearing, the judge's decision was released rejecting Melanie's case. In his decision, the judge agreed with Crown Law who argued that the word 'cause' cannot be read into the Human Rights Act.

While Melanie is disappointed with the outcome, she has vowed to fight on to achieve a fair and equitable distribution of the tax payer's dollar across all disability groups. An appeal is now being considered.

The Cerebral Palsy Society is proud to financially support Melanie's fight for justice.

In addition CP Executive Board member Todd Fernie travelled to Wellington to represent the Society during the High Court hearing.

The Review wishes to acknowledge John Wolk the editor of "Without Limits" for supplying the information for this article. "Without limits" is an independent quarterly publication celebrating and debating disability issues.





For Your Diaries

Christmas Lunches

Auckland

Sunday 14th Dec, 12-4pm at the Floating Pavillion

Christchurch

Sunday 7th Dec, 12-4pm at the Latimer Hotel



Stop the press!! Fifteen candles for CE

Children performing action songs, guest speakers, and a film screening are all part of the plan to celebrate Conductive Education's fifteenth anniversary in Auckland on Saturday 17th May. The staff and children at the Centre, which is based at Focus 2000, have all been busy preparing for this great occasion. Right through that week a historical display of photos and articles along with children's art work will be exhibited. Former pupils and their parents have been invited to mix and mingle with present pupils and families to share knowledge, experiences and success. This will be a wonderful time to catch up and celebrate outstanding achievements.



In conjunction with its fifteenth anniversary the Centre is holding an open day where professionals, working in the field and other interested parties, are invited to attend. Workshops about Conductive Education, observation of groups in operation and forum discussions will be on offer.

Heydon Bailey (Photo) has also been honoured by the Conductive Education Centre when he was awarded a "Friend of Focus Conductive Education" certificate in April. Heydon is highly regarded at the centre for his generosity and selfless actions over a long period.

