



The Chris Ruth Centre
promoting a good life for adults with disabilities



2025 February Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

As we start a new year it is timely that we share some updates and news with you all. Firstly, we would like to welcome the new persons we support who have started with us this year. This includes Flynn and Tobias to Kaiapoi, Rachel to Lamar, Charlotte and Caitlin Rosie to Hoon Hay 3, Tanner to Hoon Hay 1 and Eve to Sockburn. We look forward to supporting you and your whānau for many years to come.

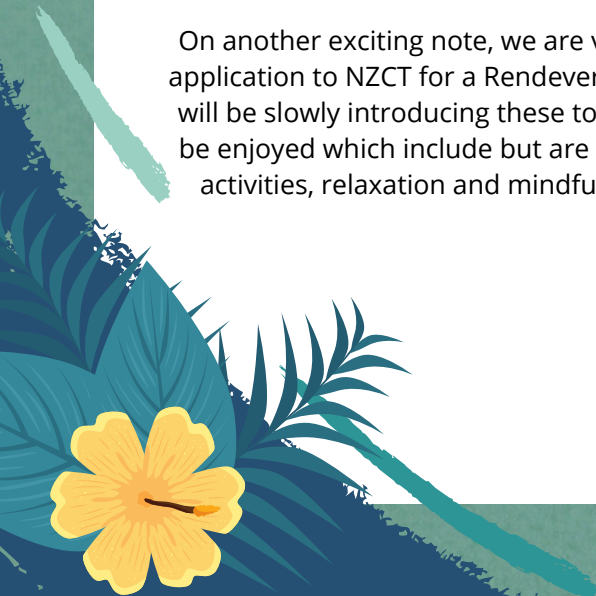
Our thoughts and memories are with Sandra and all those who knew Daniel Tutty. Sadly Daniel passed away in January. Everyone who supported Daniel through the 20 years he attended our centres enjoyed working with him. He will be sadly missed and not forgotten.

It is timely that we also introduce you to new members of our executive leadership team. Debbie Newman is our new Accounts/Administration Officer. Thank you for your patience while Debbie navigates through our systems and processes. We are also very pleased to introduce you to Elaine Dunlop who is our People and Culture Advisor. Both ladies come with a wealth of knowledge and skills, we welcome them to the Chris Ruth Centre Trust.

We also welcome Brock Vuleta as a new Board member. Brock joined the Board in November last year and as you will soon see on our new website he brings excellent knowledge and background, which will be especially useful for when the Hoon Hay rebuild gets underway.

Along with the introduction of Amy Pawson (Fundraising Manager), we no longer have enough office space to accommodate everyone. Therefore, as of Monday, February 24th, Head Office will be relocating from the Hoon Hay centre to the upstairs space in the Sockburn Centre. Other than a change of venue, email addresses and phone contact details will remain the same. The move is happening on the afternoon of Friday, February 21st. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. We foresee this move being seamless.

On another exciting note, we are very pleased to announce that Amy has been successful in a grant application to NZCT for a Rendever Virtual Reality set. We received the set on Thursday last week and will be slowly introducing these to persons who attend. There is a library of over 600 experiences to be enjoyed which include but are not limited to travel around the world, animals, sealife, adventure activities, relaxation and mindfulness, concerts and musical experiences and many many more.





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Centre News:

As in previous years there are persons we support who have joined a team to play in the annual Helen Anderson Trust Softball tournament. The games are held on a Thursday afternoon (starting at 1pm) at Dynasty Ball Park (Pages Rd). You are very welcome to visit and cheer the teams on.

As part of our growth as an organisation, we have also reviewed how our leadership team are referred to. Therefore we are making a change and introducing an executive leadership team. This team will include the CEO, General Manager, People and Culture Advisor, Accounts/Administration Officer, Fundraising Manager, and all the Centre Managers (who will now adopt the title of Executive Leader). The current Lead Vocational Support staff (2IC's) will be adopting the title Team Leader. This change will identify the shift in titles used across the sector and bring us in line with general practices.

Recently you may have seen these headlines in papers -

[The Press: 'Most inhumane policy I've seen': Clinicians speak of harm since disability funding freeze](#)

[The New Zealand Herald: Funding squeeze for disability sector causing 'unnecessary and severe harm', doctors say](#)

[RNZ: Disability funding changes resulting in 'untold distress' to vulnerable people - reports](#)

There has been a lot of media attention in regard to the changes the government has made along with the announcement in March 2024.

As a parent, you have the opportunity to complete a survey and a submission in regard to disability support. Please find the link here and complete it.

[Disability Support Services: Survey](#)

The more feedback that is submitted, the more chances that voices will be heard. If you have any queries about this please do not hesitate to be in contact.

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following organisations for grants we have received recently.

Aotearoa Gaming Trust- Operational Funding for Sockburn Centre
NZCT- Rendeever Virtual Reality System

Thank you to everyone for all your support as we head into another year. We particularly acknowledge the commitment and dedication being shown by our extraordinary support staff and leadership team. We look forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings.

Warmest regards Marilyn (CEO).