

# Greetings from the CCS Disability Action Auckland Local Advisory Committee

The Auckland Local Advisory Committee (LAC) meets monthly and advises the CCS Disability Action Auckland branch on disability issues.

Our LAC members are Allyson Hamblett, Tim George, Linda-Lee Odom, Meri Kohi and Shannan Kohi, Mark Grantham, David Hughes and Janet Swamy. Our Regionally Elected Board Member is Vicki Terrell.

## Recent work

### Advertising complaint

**THE LAC HAS** made a complaint to the Advertising Standards Authority about a life insurance advertisement. Using the rhyme Three Blind Mice, it insinuates buying their life insurance will stop you becoming disabled. In our opinion, it is offensive towards disabled people and should not be on social media or television. We have appealed to the ASA and have written to the advertising agency who made the advert and the insurance company to educate them on disability.

### Immigration policy is discriminatory

**THE LAC HAS** been concerned with the current immigration settings that make it very difficult for overseas-born disabled people to reside in New Zealand. The reasoning behind this is that disabled people will cost more when accessing public health. We met with Juliana Carvalho, who has been lobbying for changes to the immigration settings so that disabled people have freedom when deciding which country to reside in. We also met with Green MP Ricardo Menendez March, who actively supports a change in immigration policy.

### Congratulations Vicki

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR** Regionally Elected Board Member, Rev Vicki Terrell. Vicki received her MNZM Member of NZ Order of Merit Medal for services to the disability community over more than four decades. It was a wonderful day at Government House. We were honoured to be invited to celebrate this wonderful day with Vicki, her whānau and friends in recognition of her many years of service and advocacy for disabled people. Congratulations Vicki!



Rev Vicki Terrell (right) with Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro (left).

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disability action**  
Including all people

# Karanga Maha

**Kia ora koutou katoa,**

**KO SHANAN KOHI** tāku ingoa. My name is Shanan Kohi, I am a part of a roopu called Karanga Maha, which means “Many Voices”. This allows our Rangatahi (young people) and other people with a disability that haven’t had a voice to speak for themselves, without their loved ones speaking for them. Karanga Maha is also a safe place for them to be themselves. Our dream is to go global, but first we start in our own backyard of Aotearoa. The first Karanga Maha was in Auckland/Northland over 10 years ago. Now we are in Tauranga, Taranaki and Hamilton.

We had a gathering at the end of September and the topic was Rongoā (Māori Medicine). We learned about the different plants we can use for medical purposes. These plants are: Kawakawa (Pepper Tree); Kūmarahou (Gum digger’s soap, Golden Tainui); Teteaweka (Daisy Flower); Manukā (Leptospermum scoparium). These plants and trees and many more from the Ngahere (forest) were used in the past by my ancestors and are still used for health problems we experience these days. If you want to find out more, you can look online.



We also learned about Mirimiri bodywork, a traditional Māori healing practice that rebalances function and releases deeply held tension in the body through agitation of tissue, muscle, bone, blood and fluid.

Arohanui, Shanan Kohi.

If you would like more information about Karanga Maha please email Shanan Kohi or Meri Kohi.

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# Make a real difference in your community

## Join the CCS Disability Action Auckland Local Executive Committee

**CCS DISABILITY ACTION** has been working with disabled people and their families for almost 90 years. We have a presence in 27 locations from Auckland to Invercargill and at the heart of our vision is a society where all people are included in the life of their community and family. All our branches have dedicated governance committees that offer local people the chance to get involved and have a say in the way we work.

If this sounds like something you would like to be involved in, the Auckland Local Executive Committee is currently recruiting for a Chairperson and a member. Previous finance and governance experience is preferred. Committee membership is voluntary and is a way you can take action to make a real difference in your community.

**Please contact Debbie Schneider today:**

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