

To Whom It May Concern,

Implementation of the new national Carer Learning and Wellbeing Resource Service

The Ministry of Health is implementing a new national service called Carer Learning and Wellbeing Resource Service. The new service provider is SAMS (Standards and Monitoring Services) and Parent to Parent who are working in partnership to deliver the new service called Care Matters.

Care Matters has been designed for carers by carers. It will provide resources and avenues for learning and empowering people who care for a person with a disability.

The new service will:

- launch a new website – Care Matters
- develop a range of web based resources for carers
- provide a freephone, information and support service
- put carers in touch with others who have a similar experience, for support
- provide a range of nationwide workshops
- set up an Advisory group and Carer e-leadership to advise and guide the design and delivery of the carer learning and wellbeing resources and workshops

They will begin to deliver services in your area from the 1st of October 2015. Individuals can contact Care Matters regarding services direct or be referred by a provider from this date.

Who can attend face-to-face learning opportunities?

- a. people who are eligible for disability support services as determined by the Ministry funded NASC
- b. carer(s) of people who are eligible to access disability support services as determined by the NASC
- c. relief carers who want to provide supports to disabled people and/or their carer(s).

Note: These face-to-face learning opportunities are not available to full-time employees of disability service provider organisations, and people and their carers who do not have disability support services allocated through the NASC.

Key dates to be aware of are:

You can contact Care Matters regarding services from:	1 st of October 2015
The freephone number is:	0508 236 236
The website will be launched by:	1 st November 2015

For further information, Care Matters can be contacted on 0508 236 236 or e-mail rebeccawalton@xtra.co.nz (Rebecca Walton – Development Manager, SAMS), samsmb@xtra.co.nz (Mark Benjamin – CEO, SAMS) or annew@parent2parent.org.nz (Anne Wilkinson – CEO, Parent to Parent).

Feala Afoa is the Development Manager from the Ministry of Health supporting the implementation of the new service and he can be contacted on (09) 580 9053 or Feala_Afoa@moh.govt.nz