

## Consideration of Equipment and Modification Services for People with Challenging Behaviour

29 April 2014

Following the introduction of the process for the consideration of equipment and modifications for children and young people with challenging behaviours in 2010, Disability Support Services received considerable feedback from various sector groups that the system was not meeting the needs of disabled children and their families and whānau.

The system was put in place in 2010 following concern that applications for equipment and modifications often showed limited or no evidence of how a child's wider behavioural issues would be addressed or that a multi-team approach has been taken when considering particular solutions. However, since this time the processes have reportedly not been effective or efficient for the families and whānau concerned, the Equipment and Modification Services (EMS) Assessors working with them, the EMS Providers, NASCs or behaviour support specialists.

Disability Support Services has therefore decided to review the process for all people who have challenging behaviour, including adults, who may benefit from equipment and modifications. We have contracted with Newstuff Ltd to undertake this review for us – a key part of their work will involve engaging with invited sector representatives to map the current process and then develop a revised pathway which will be workable for everyone.

I would like to invite you, or a representative from your organisation, to join the working group for this project. This working group will meet twice throughout the duration of the project - additional input may be required from you to review circulated documents and provide feedback on these.

The two meetings will be held in Brentwood Hotel, Kilbirnie, Wellington, on the following dates:

- Monday 19 May - to map and analyse the “as is” process
- Friday 6 June - to build the “to be” process

If you need to travel outside of Wellington to attend the meetings, your travel costs will be covered by the project budget.

We are seeking participants for this working group who will provide representation across all areas of the current process. In addition participants will:

- have a working familiarity with current process - what is working and what isn't
- have a willingness to seek improvements
- have problem solving logic and skills

- have the time to participate fully in both workshops.

The key contacts for this project are:

Joe Zhou (project leader) [junzhou@xtra.co.nz](mailto:junzhou@xtra.co.nz)

David Guest (subject matter expert) [david@3am.net.nz](mailto:david@3am.net.nz)

The timeframe for the project is quite tight as we are seeking to finalise the revised pathway by the end of June.

If you, or a representative from your organisation, are able to participate in both these two working group meetings, could you please contact Joe at the above email address.

Thank you and we look forward to this project being undertaken and the outcome of a revised process that will better support people with challenging behaviour.

Sue Primrose

Development Manager, Service Access, Disability Support Services