

# **EARLY AND INTEGRATED SUPPORT FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

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IHC and Parent & Family Resource Centre are co-hosting a children's rights seminar in Auckland to consider:

- what early support is currently available to disabled children and their families
- to identify the barriers in accessing quality, early, integrated and sustained support and
- to define the actions required to improve outcomes for disabled children and their families.

Initial consultation with the Paediatric Society and families involved with IHC indicates some areas of serious concern namely a lack of an integrated response to supporting and strengthening families, a limited capacity of mainstream Well Child providers to respond to disability issues, and also a worrying lack of data about children born with a disability and their ongoing circumstances and wellbeing.

IHC's "*Start Strong*" seminars provide an opportunity for Government and non-Government agencies, parents and professionals to come together to discuss a range of issues facing children with a disability and their families in early life.

The seminar format will include a number of specialist speakers as well as a panel of parents who will share their experiences, and space for open discussion and informal networking.

**Waipuna Hotel & Conference Centre,**  
Mt Wellington, Auckland

**Thursday 1 July, 9.30am – 3.00pm**

Previous IHC children's rights seminars have attracted audiences of over 100 people from disability and mainstream organisations. Family voices and interests are integral to the seminar programme alongside the presentation of "stock take" information from a variety of government and other organisations including the Paediatric Society. IHC hopes that this seminar series will result in new partnerships and direction focused on improved outcomes for disabled children.

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