



The Champion Centre  
TAMARIKI TOIORA

## Annual Report

of the  
Christchurch Early Intervention Trust  
Charities Commission Number CC22708

**July 2011 to June 2012**

**"BUILDING FUTURES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS"**

### *Our mission statement*

The Champion Centre is committed to providing high quality family and whānau based early intervention services for children/tamariki with multifaceted developmental delay. In partnership with our local runanga (Te Ngai Tuahuriri), The Champion Centre will educate about early intervention and act with parents/mātua of children/tamariki with developmental delay as advocates for adequate and appropriate community services for them and their children/tamariki.

PAGE 02  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'S REPORT

PAGE 03 / 04  
THE BOARD

PAGE 05 - 10  
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PAGE 11 / 12  
STRATEGIC PLAN

PAGE 13  
OUTCOMES

PAGE 14  
FAMILY COMMENTS ON OUR SERVICE

PAGE 15  
PETER'S STORY

PAGE 16  
FUNDING

PAGE 17 / 18  
CORPORATE SUPPORT





### Chairman's Report for the Financial Year 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

Simon Mortlock  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the  
Christchurch Early Intervention Trust

This is my final report after six years as chair of the Christchurch Early Intervention Trust board. Over these years I have come to appreciate the significant contribution made by those who work within the Champion Centre to enhance the lives of young children.

It is well recognised that the first five years of a child's life are the most critical period for their development. This is even more so for those babies and young children who start their life with special needs and who do not share the opportunities of good health.

The work with children and the ongoing research programme at the Champion Centre are highly respected both nationally and internationally. The Champion Centre regularly receives reports from government agencies on its work and these speak of high professional standards, dedicated staff and strong relationships with the children and their families.

What is equally impressive is the continuing questioning, challenging and tracking that continues after children have left the Centre. In what is a very challenging environment where the needs of children and their families are paramount, it is heartening to know that the partnership between the families and professionals is recognised and supported.

To enable the Champion Centre to continue its work with the children and expand its knowledge requires significant financial resources. The staff of the Champion Centre already make a significant contribution by accepting a lower level of remuneration so they might work in the most demanding of professions. Government ministries provide funding that falls short of what is required.

To maintain the financial health of the Centre requires the financial support of the community. That requires contributions both small and large, from a dollar a week through to those who can afford a \$1,000 or more a year. It is ongoing. It is necessary.

This financial support should be seen against the backdrop of good management where the monies are carefully managed and spent to maximum effect. The fact that the Champion Centre retains 6 months cash reserves should not be seen as a sign that monies are not required but rather seen as an example of planned sustainability.

In this my final report as Chair, I wish Susan, her staff and my fellow board members all success for the future.

### Meet the Board of Trustees of the Christchurch Early Intervention Trust

These were the trustees as at June 30th 2012

#### Simon Mortlock, Chair (To August 2012)

Simon Mortlock is a commercial lawyer with accounting and economics expertise. He has had a close association with the Christchurch Early Intervention Trust for the past 30 years as a parent, and five years on the Trust Board as Chairman. Simon is also a trustee of the Wayne Francis Charitable Trust and the Employment Scholarship Trust and a director of Christchurch City Facilities Ltd, Danne Mora Holdings Ltd, Westmoreland Nominees Ltd, Nevele R Stud Ltd and Spreydon Lodge Ltd. Simon is an active advocate for all children and young people and thrives on win-win outcomes believing real success is achieved when everyone knows they have played a vital and valued role

#### Nathan Mikaere-Wallis

Nathan is the Director of his own company, X-Factor Education, which was established to facilitate training, professional development and the application of neuroscience research to practice. He was a lecturer for ten years at the Canterbury University College of Education and the School of Human Development and Educational Studies. He still lectures there from time to time as a Guest Lecturer. Nathan is a father with a background in both Primary and Early Childhood teaching, child counselling and educational management. He is a founding member of the Te Waipounamu Brainwave Board and is on the Board of Trustees for the Brainwave Trust. As well as being a popular and effective presenter for them Nathan is their Director of Training and is also a trainer for Child Protection. Nathan is a member of Te Runaka o Kai Tahu Ki Otautahi and has affiliations with the local Iwi Ngai Tahu.

#### Barbara Stewart, QSO

Barbara is a director of SKOPE Industries Limited, a Christchurch manufacturing company employing approximately 400 people. In addition to serving on the trust board of the Champion Centre, she is on the Cholmondeley Foundation, Chairman of the Court Theatre fundraising campaign and Co-Patron of the Diabetes (Christchurch) Society. She was involved as a local body, elected representative for 15 years, including three years on Waimairi District Council, three years as a community board member for the Fendalton ward of Christchurch City, and nine years as a city councillor for the Fendalton ward of the Christchurch City Council.

***Carol Bellette.***  
Our new Chairperson  
as of September 2012.



### Graeme H Daniel

Graeme has been a principal in special education settings for over twenty five years. He is currently principal of Allenvale School, was principal of Halswell Residential College and has worked for the Education Review Office. He is currently the president of SEPAnz and is a member of several education advisory boards at a national and local level.

### Carol Bellette (Chair from September 2012)

Carol is a finance professional with governance experience in both the not-for-profit and commercial sector. Her current role is Chief Financial Officer for Landcare Research. Carol has been associated with the Christchurch Early Intervention Trust for the last seven years, as a parent and for two years as a Trust Board member. Carol believes all children should have the opportunity to realise their full potential.

### Casey King

Casey Jane King is a parent of a child with Down syndrome who currently attends The Champion Centre. She has a keen interest in all children's well being and is also a member on the Family Advisory Council at the Christchurch District Health Board.

### David Kerr

David has worked as a General Practitioner in Christchurch for over 30 years. He was the founding Chair of Pegasus Medical Group, and was the Clinical leader for Mental Health for this organisation for many years. He is the Chair of Ryman Healthcare Ltd, Deputy Chair of Pharmac, and Chair of EcoCentral Ltd.

### David Lang

David is a partner in the law firm of Saunders & Co, working principally in the fields of commercial and property law. He is on one of the Standards Committees of the New Zealand Law Society, and is the honorary solicitor for a number of Charitable Trusts. David was a member of the Board of Trustees of Kirkwood Intermediate School for 6 years, and is presently on the Board of the Nurse Maude Association.



It is my pleasure to present this year's  
Champion Centre Annual Report.

Dr. Susan Foster-Cohen, PhD.  
Director



Photo: Paul Tattersson

The year 2011 to 2012 has, thankfully, been a seismically quieter one. We have had no closures of the Centre, apart from in response to heavy snowfall, and we have been able to work with our children and families throughout the school year. The impact of the earthquakes is, however, far from over for either our families or the staff. The long term consequences of sustained fear responses on both brain and body are reasonably well understood and we see them reflected in the difficulty many families find in coping with raising their children in our broken and battered city. The Family Support and Education Support teams have shouldered the greater burden of these challenges, as families have struggled financially and emotionally and children have had to weather changes and uncertainty in their early childhood centres and, most recently, in where they might be going to school.

With private funds ever harder to access, the Champion Centre fundraising team has worked hard to raise the visibility of the Champion Centre in the local community. With significant help from key Canterbury organisations and individuals, we have increased our presence in the media, improved our branding image, started a Facebook page, and are well on the way to having an upgraded website. Important contributions to these efforts have been made by the Champion Foundation Trust, who have also increased our visibility in other centres around New Zealand, and Compton Fundraising, who have provided input during part of the year.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the trustees on the board of the Christchurch Early Intervention Trust for their work during the year, and particularly to Simon Mortlock who has stepped down as board chairman after six years in the role. Simon brought an important legal and governance

perspective to the board, and an unfailing commitment to the work we do for children and families.

The balance of this report is a review of our progress towards the goals set out in the strategic plan for the years 2010 – 2015. (See page 12)



### Review - Strategic Plan: Goal 1

#### Maintain core service funding:

- The year has been a year of survival both locally and nationally. In the face of the destruction of the city by the earthquakes and the negative impact of the economic recession we have sought simply to maintain existing levels of funding and keep our overheads as low as possible. Both of these goals we have achieved. We have been grateful that there have been only relative reductions in government funding due to rising prices; and we have succeeded in attracting funding from private sources to cover the ever increasing shortfall.
- Our government grants, which provide approximately 65% of our income, have all been renewed with either no increases or only nominal increases. While we remain convinced that there should be more of a commitment from government, we are keenly aware that maintaining current levels of funding in these hard economic times is already a positive, and speaks well of the reputation we have for providing a quality service.
- For part of the year we worked with a fundraising consultancy (Compton Fundraising), but are now going it alone. The Champion Foundation Trust, set up a couple of years ago for the purpose of providing more long-term sustainability for the Champion Centre, now has an active board and fundraising executive and is gradually building momentum in its fundraising efforts. It is taking responsibility for growing bequests and other long-term donations.
- We have made significant strides in increasing the visibility of the Champion Centre and its need for funding over the last year. In addition to a number of highly successful fundraising activities, we have



had generous exposure from The Press newspaper; and, more recently, we have been given significant support from a member of one of our families to redevelop our website, to develop a communication strategy, and to have a wider range of powerful visual statements in the media that will draw attention to the service we offer and the support we need.

## Review - Strategic Plan: Goal 1 (continued)

### Maintain service effectiveness:

- Despite the earthquakes, we had almost no turn-over of staff until very recently. This has allowed us to maintain the same levels of staff client ratios as before and to maintain an appropriate distribution of staff expertise. We recently experienced a number of departures within our cohort of social workers in the Family Support Team (largely as a result of retirements), but we have been able to replace these staff members and to maintain service in an area of delivery which has become even more vital since the traumas of recent months in Christchurch. We have been very grateful for some significant private funding targeted at this part of the service.

- While we will not be able to increase staff salaries for 2013, we were able to provide a modest increase to therapy staff for 2012. Thus, while we are still not paying our highly trained staff at market rates, we do try to raise salaries whenever this is possible and to keep this in mind as a goal. Working to ensure that all staff are adequately supported with professional development and effective supervision of their practice is one way in which we continue to provide a working environment that is supportive and rewarding for staff, even in the absence of equality of remuneration with their public sector counterparts.

- In November 2011, we were reviewed by the Ministry of Education against the Specialist Service Standards. The outcome of the review was extremely positive with a number of strengths identified including:

*"A strong focus on relationships underlies the approach taken by the Champion Centre to provide quality services to families, whānau and their children. In interviews with management, specialists and whānau there was strong evidence of commitment to building and sustaining positive relationships, and valuing and including the voice of the whānau. One parent said, "I felt quite alone and now I know it's nothing terrible and my daughter can have a good life".*

*"The Director leads a highly competent management team which provides strong leadership and support to the specialists. There is evidence of a very reflective approach that looks in depth at the unique systems for each child within their whānau and the wider community."*

*"The Champion Centre...acknowledges the need for ongoing research to maintain and advance the quality and scope of their early intervention approach. An authentic assessment pilot is underway which is gathering detailed information across a wide range of developmental areas. ...This...leads to ever more sensitive planning and goal setting in line with continuous improvement."*

- The Champion Centre's social work and family support services contract was reviewed by Child Youth and Family in May 2012. This report was also very positive and concluded as follows: "The approvals review has found that the Champion Centre continues to deliver a high quality social work service. Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place and staff are dedicated to supporting families/whānau through the early intervention programme. The level of record keeping in all aspects of the organisation's work is consistently excellent."

- One of The Champion Centre's core values is always to be reflective in our practice. That means we are always looking for ways to improve the service we offer to children and families. This year we have made our service to premature infants more individualised by offering additional sessions as they are needed between the regularly scheduled ones. Providing the additional support at the right time means that we can keep the challenges to these children's development minor ones that can be managed without a full service. We have also streamlined our services to children with feeding difficulties and added a feeding service to children who have significant sensory issues that often are part of an autistic spectrum disorder. All these changes have been managed within existing resources.



### Review - Strategic Plan: Goal 2

#### Expand the impact of the Champion Centre both regionally and nationally:

- I continue to be an active member of the Specialist Service Standards review team and advisory group for the Ministry of Education. I am currently serving on the group that is revising and refining the review process following completion of the first three-year cycle of reviews of all the providers of specialist services for children with disabilities in New Zealand. This allows me to encourage all providers to keep the values that underpin the services offered at the Champion Centre ever at the forefront of their efforts.
- We made a DVD with the New Zealand Down Syndrome Association called "Turn the page with me" which encourages parents to share books with their infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers in ways that support their language and literacy development. This DVD has been made available to all our families as part of our efforts to encourage book-sharing and home literacy practices. We are also examining families' responses to the DVD and seeking feedback on its effectiveness.
- Champion Centre staff and associates have made a number of presentations at conferences both in New Zealand and abroad (see under research below). This increases our ability to share good practice with colleagues and families.
- We have also welcomed several students in training for placements within the Centre during the year. These are important opportunities for staff to share their expertise more widely:
  - *Kate Gerken* University Of Otago School of Physiotherapy student. (1st May to 29th June)
  - *Yvonne van Tilburg*, a student of applied psychology for Saxion University in Deventer, The Netherlands spent a year at the Centre on placement and carrying out her graduate thesis work. (July 2011 to July 2012)
  - *Sonya Chamberlain* from the Early Childhood Education programme at the University of Canterbury. (July 2011)
  - *Hayley McKenzie*, university of Canterbury Speech and Language Therapy student. (1st August to 2nd September 2011)
  - *Amy Gillespie* from the Early Childhood Education programme at the University of Canterbury. (March 2012)
  - *Louise Raine*, Early Intervention Diploma student from University of Canterbury. (3rd May to 28th June 2012)
  - *Piki Hoskins* from the Early Childhood Education programme at the University of Canterbury. (July 2012)



Review - Strategic Plan: Goal 2 (continued)

Expand the advocacy role of the Champion Centre through training:

The Champion Centre made an extended written submission on the government's Green Paper on Vulnerable Children. Key points from the submission were that

- children with disabilities are by definition vulnerable and need support from birth and even before.
- children with disabilities are disproportionately the target of neglect and abuse and need specific support to them and their families.
- support needs to be based on long-term relationships between families and professionals who offer a coordinated approach and not be available only in response to problems.
- all children who need a service should receive it at a level that can have a positive impact on their development.
- all early intervention programmes for infants and children with disabilities need family support teams who can work directly and in a timely fashion with families to ensure they have the practical and emotional resources to raise their children.
- the barriers of lack of access to respite care and carer support need to be removed.
- health, education and social welfare supports in New Zealand need to be coordinated in ways that have been the hallmark of the Champion Centre model for 35 years.
- information needs to be shared between agencies so that children can be understood holistically.
- the economics of investment in early childhood need to be acted upon: a little now saves a lot later.

Other contributions include a Perspective article published in The Press on 31st October 2012 concerning the closure and merging of schools in Christchurch and the need to think about the impact of such changes on children with disabilities.

Engage in appropriate research projects:

- A major activity throughout the year has been the systematic collection of data about children's development and the outcomes of intervention. See "Tracking Outcomes for Children" on page 13 for a progress report.
- This year has also seen the completion of the service delivery portion of the Cross-Agency Learning Resources Project in collaboration with the Seabrook McKenzie centre for Children with Special Learning Needs, The Special Needs Library, and the Dyspraxia Support Group. Funded by the Wayne Francis Charitable Trust and the J. R. McKenzie Trust, this project has provided a support service to 24 primary aged children in Christchurch schools by supplying them with appropriate visual supports at home and at school to enable them to stay focussed and organised and better access the curriculum. It remains to complete the data analysis and report writing.
- Jessie Davison, Speech and Language Therapist, is combining her hands-on therapy work at the Champion Centre with work towards a master's degree in Communication Disorders with a scholarship from the New Zealand Institute of Language, Brain and Behaviour. This work, which is still in progress, suggests that even children with the same aetiologies are quite varied in the speed and path of their language development and that variation in their ability to keep themselves calm, focussed and engaged with others may contribute significantly to these differences.

### Review - Strategic Plan: Goal 2 (continued)

#### Engage in appropriate research projects: (continued)

• Yvonne van Tilburg, a student of applied psychology for Saxion University in Deventer, The Netherlands spent a year at the Centre on placement and carrying out her graduate thesis work. She explored the development of children with Down syndrome through analysis of a series of video-tapes of one child taken over a period of four years by video researcher Lesley Drew. Her analysis highlighted both the challenges and the strides the child made, as well as providing reflection on the difficulties of tracking the complexities of human development.



The following presentations have been given by staff members this year:

- Foster-Cohen, S. & Davison, J. Building a language development database. Presentation to the New Zealand Institute of Language, Brain and Behaviour, August 2012.
- Tattersson, C. and Ritchie, R. Building Engagement in Children with Disorders of Relating and Communicating. Workshop presented to the Early Childhood Intervention Australia, 10th Biennial National Conference, Perth, Australia, August 2012.
- Wylie, J. Musical journeys: the Art of Musical Play in an Early Intervention Multi-disciplinary Programme for Children with Special Needs. Paper presented to the International Society for Music Education, Thessaloniki, Greece, July 2012.
- Foster-Cohen, S. Understanding children with dyspraxia through parental report. Presentation to the Dyspraxia Support AGM, June 2012.
- Foster-Cohen, S. and Jan Murphy. Across the boundaries of language: Taking a systems view of language development in children with developmental delay. Paper presented to the Speech-Language Therapists' Association conference, Auckland 23-25th May.
- Wong, T.P., Moran, C. & Foster-Cohen, S. Changes in caregiver-child conversations following the Relating and Communicating Intervention programme: Case series. Paper presented to the Speech-Language Therapists' Association conference, Auckland 23-25th May.
- Gray, A. Early Social Communication & Exposure to Methadone. Presentation to the Infant Mental Health Association of Australia & NZ national conference. Wellington, February 2012

The following publications by staff members have appeared or are in press this year:

- Van Bysterveldt, A., Foster-Cohen, S. & Gillon, G. (in press) Engaging families in promoting emerging literacy for children with Down syndrome. *Promising Practices*
- Van Bysterveldt, A. K., Westerveld, M. K., Gillon, G. & Foster-Cohen, S. (2012) Personal narrative skills of school-aged children with Down syndrome. *International Journal of Communication Disorders*. 47 (1), 95-105
- Wong, T.P., Moran, C. & Foster-Cohen, S. (2012) The effects of expansions, questions and cloze procedures on children's conversational skills. *Clinical Linguistics and Phonetics* 26(3), 273-287



The Champion Centre:  
A centre of excellence in early intervention 2010 - 2015

The Champion Centre provides specialist early intervention to infants and young children with disabilities and their families through a centre-based multi-disciplinary approach that:

- *Is based on the very best scientific understanding of child development and disability.*
- *Supports family and whānau to foster and encourage their child's development through playful relationship-based activities.*
- *Works holistically with infants and children to support all areas of development: social, intellectual, physical, emotional.*
- *Advocates with other agencies and individuals on behalf of children and their families/whanau.*
- *Is proactive in supporting a bi-cultural approach with all families and whānau.*

This strategy document makes the following assumptions: That **sustainability** of the Champion Centre involves:

- *Maintenance of a staff to client ratio that sustains the provision of a best-practice service.*
- *Hiring and retention of suitably qualified therapy and support staff who are fairly remunerated and adequately supported.*
- *Ongoing partnership with all client families at all levels of the service.*
- *Maintenance of physical facilities capable of supporting the programme.*

That the **advocacy** role of the Champion Centre for all children with developmental disabilities involves:

- *Dissemination of the Champion Centre model of practice to other professionals through training.*
- *Public education including of policy makers and others with power over children's lives.*
- *Engagement in appropriate research both local and nationally.*



## GOAL 1: TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE CHAMPION CENTRE SERVICE FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

OBJECTIVES	KEY ACTIONS	MEASURES OF PROGRESS
Maintain core service funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase government contributions to service delivery</li> <li>• Increase private support of service delivery</li> <li>• Develop a long-term funding plan that includes a capital base</li> <li>• Maintain prudent budgets</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for partnerships and joint funding with other appropriate agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government funding increases</li> <li>• Private funding increases</li> <li>• Maintenance of overheads at 20% or less of total expenditure</li> <li>• Appropriate service connections are maintained/developed</li> </ul>
Maintain service effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain appropriate ratios between staff and client numbers</li> <li>• Maintain appropriate distribution of staff expertise</li> <li>• Work towards market rates for all staff</li> <li>• Ensure succession of senior and junior staff</li> <li>• Maintain high professional standards of all staff</li> <li>• Maintain effective partnership with all client families</li> <li>• Maintain and develop connections with other providers</li> <li>• Maintain bicultural and multicultural effectiveness</li> <li>• Develop robust outcome data collection and tracking systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clear succession plan</li> <li>• Strategic provision of practical training for students and staff</li> <li>• Outcome data shows clear evidence of progress for all children</li> <li>• Maintenance of appropriate staff numbers and expertise distribution</li> <li>• Successful reviews by all the quality assurance bodies that govern the Centre's activities</li> </ul>

## GOAL 2: TO ADVOCATE FOR ALL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH TRAINING AND RESEARCH

OBJECTIVES	KEY ACTIONS	MEASURES OF PROGRESS
To expand the impact of the Champion Centre both regionally and nationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase understanding among early intervention professionals of how to meet the needs of children with disabilities</li> <li>• Increase understanding among teachers of how to include children with disabilities in mainstream education</li> <li>• Increase understanding among child welfare professionals of how to meet the needs of children with disabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of face-to-face and on-line training designed to generate income</li> <li>• Delivery of pilot model services with a fee for service</li> <li>• Holding of symposia and conferences with international speakers</li> </ul>
To expand the advocacy role of the Champion Centre through training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to change public perceptions of young children with disabilities and to encourage them being valued by the community</li> <li>• To help government and policy makers to understand the effectiveness of the Champion Centre model of service</li> <li>• To actively support initiatives from government and private sources most likely to support better outcomes for children with disabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive media coverage</li> <li>• Development of collaborative relationships with other organisations.</li> </ul>
To engage in appropriate research projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To engage in appropriate research in collaboration with local, national and international universities and other research units.</li> <li>• To develop the infrastructure to support research at the Centre</li> <li>• To collect new data and exploit existing data held by the Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed responses to tender invitations.</li> <li>• Publication of results.</li> </ul>

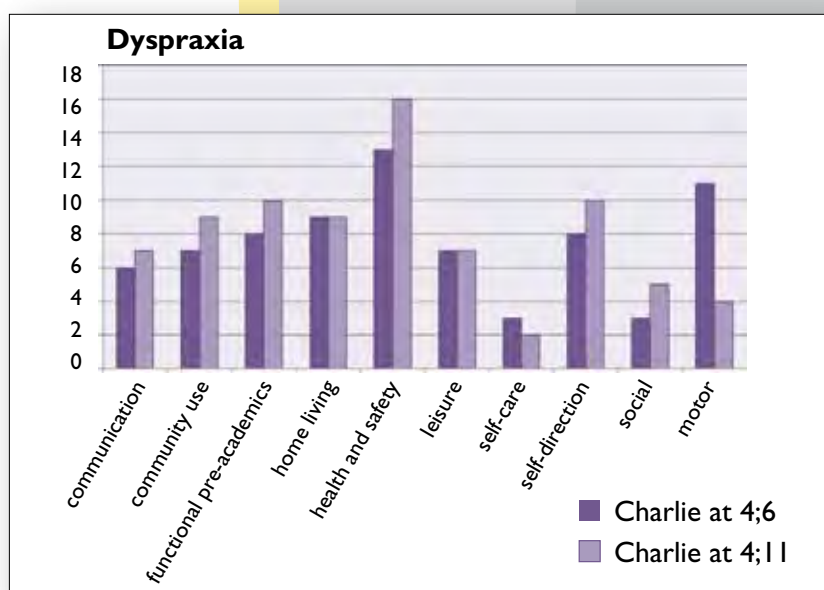


## Tracking Outcomes for Children

“It is only through the process of analysing change over time that we can truly begin to understand the phenomenon of development. And it is primarily through developing a greater understanding of the development of children with disabilities that we can design more effective intervention strategies to enhance their lives and those of their families” (Hauser-Cram, Warfield, Shonkoff and Krauss 2001)

Despite a lack of funding, we have made some significant progress in tracking the developmental trajectories of 37 children with a range of disabilities and a control group of 79 typically developing children. The children attending the Champion Centre have a range of challenges including: Down syndrome, global developmental delay, disorders of relating and communicating, cerebral palsy, and dyspraxia. Their language development and general development has been measured at six-monthly intervals during the year. The development of the children in the control group has been measured once this year.

The data come from questionnaires completed by parents and Champion Centre team members and cover the development of a wide range of functional skills and language and communication. We are beginning to find some interesting patterns in the data. For example, the graph below shows the distribution of skills in a little boy with developmental dyspraxia. Collected at two points six months apart, this graph suggests Charlie (not his real name) has good functional pre-academic skills, is a child who is extremely careful in matters of health and safety, but who struggles with social and communication skills and who finds it hard to perform motor tasks consistently. These are common traits in children with dyspraxia and suggest a ‘signature’ profile for dyspraxia that it would be extremely helpful for teachers and others to understand as Charlie gets ready for school. When we are able to secure research funding, we will be able to continue to follow the children throughout their time at the Champion Centre and on into school.



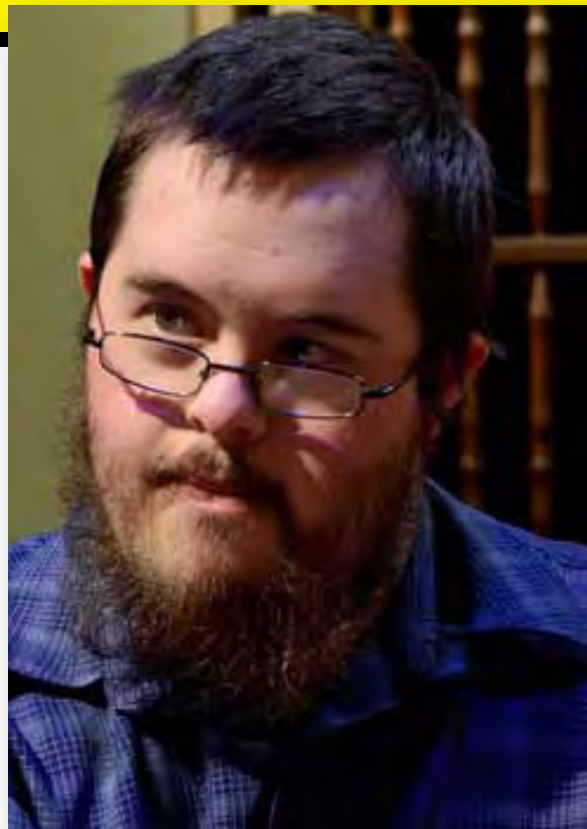
## Parent comments in response to the 2011 consumer survey

- Thank you for your excellent ongoing support. It is very much appreciated. A fantastic team.
- This is an amazing service which provides unique and specific care for my son. I cannot rave enough about it.
- This programme has been the best thing for my children and myself I cannot thank them enough.
- We are very lucky to have such a team of professionals helping us and guiding us through.
- The support and information given well exceeded our expectations. The warmth of everybody from reception staff to therapists is wonderful.
- We are treated with the upmost respect and understanding always.
- We can't imagine life without the Champion Centre. We love coming every week.
- We are so lucky to have the Champion Centre in Christchurch. It's an amazing place where people understand our child and positively push him to develop. Thanks so much.
- We are constantly amazed at how accurately the therapists can tell us what our child will next be able to achieve. They are very in tune with where our child's at and what is coming next.
- We really appreciate that the therapists are always looking to extend and challenge our child, always looking ahead.
- The therapists constantly offer ideas on ways we can replicate Champion Centre activities at home.
- We love coming to the Champion Centre each week, love seeing our child make progress, It's great to have the support that you give.
- We would like to move to the North Island, but we can see the huge benefits the Champion Centre gives to our child, so we will stay in Christchurch until she is at least 5 years. It's the best resource ever.
- We feel very fortunate to have the support of the staff at the Champion Centre. We find the environment welcoming, relaxed and non-judgemental. We also value the contact we have through the Champion Centre with parents in similar to us.



Peter Rees attended the programme as a child. I caught up with him recently...

On a wintry Sunday morning a group of actors sits in a circle talking through the consequences of making a change to a scene in the soap opera they are creating. Guided by their director, they think about what the man who wakes up from a coma following an accident is going to remember of his life: will he remember that he has betrayed his wife who is about to divorce him? Will he remember any of the things that the people who visited him in the hospital said to him? And later in improvising the scene in which the accident happened and the man is on the point of revealing his betrayal to his friend, the actors struggle against the urge to tell all and have to think carefully about how one pretends not to know what one does actually know. This is Tony McCaffrey in rehearsal with 'A Different Light', Christchurch's mixed ability amateur theatre company.



Peter Rees, a member of the cast, has Down syndrome and attended the Champion Centre from just two weeks old until he went to school in 1994. His transition to school report noted that Peter was a boy who "shares with us a real joy in learning and living – and who is a joy to know". His "quiet, cheerful, gentle personality...with a twinkle in his eye" was noted, even as a small boy, and it is clear he has not lost that approach to life as he has grown, gone on to primary and then secondary school. He has, however, added a magnificent beard as he has entered adulthood and this makes him look older than his twenty-two years.

'A Different Light' is not Peter's first experience of theatre, having been in school plays at Mairehau High School. At high school he also successfully completed Levels 1 and 2 of NCEA, showing a particular aptitude for mathematics. He now has a part-time job at a busy restaurant/bar, and attends the CPIT Lifeskills course.

As the rehearsal progresses, I learn that Peter plays the part of a successful business man, 'Ed', who, years before, fathered a child who, we are about to find out, is the accident victim in a coma. When Ed enters the hospital room of the young man, he tenderly touches the young man's hand, promises him the best care that money can buy, and reveals the nature of his relationship with him. Does the son hear his father? Will he remember when he awakes? For the moment this is left open. What we can be sure of is that this father loves this son; and the way Peter practises cradling a baby doll while waiting to go on stage, reveals his thinking about the fatherly relationship he is about to portray.

Peter has, with patience and effort and the support of the Champion Centre, his family and his teachers, reached goals that many thought were unachievable. The road ahead, however, gets no less steep and Peter tells me he is concerned for his future. Clearly his hard won skills are not being fully used yet and he must rely on the wider community to provide opportunity for him to use and develop the skills he has put so much effort into gaining.

- Dr. Susan Foster-Cohen

The Champion Centre is sincerely grateful for the generous support of our community, through donations of time, energy and funds during the financial year ending June 2012.

Fundraising at the Champion Centre is a team effort. We are especially grateful to our Champion families for their support. They have supported us through a range of activities from donating items for the first Champion Centre Fair, March 2012, to spreading the word amongst their work colleagues, families and friends about the wonderful results achieved with our Champion children. Another first during this year was receiving donations via payroll giving, a cost effective way to support your charity of choice. Support from Dynamic Controls, both the company and their Social Club has also been gratefully received along with being selected as the recipient of funds raised at events such as the Clearwater Charity Classic and the Mad Butcher Fundraisers. Thank you again for your support and don't forget to look at our growing Facebook page for more up to date information: [www.facebook.com/TheChampionCentre](http://www.facebook.com/TheChampionCentre)

**We thank the following for donations of \$500 and over:**

Champions of The Champion Centre  
Burdon, R&P  
Cohen, D&S  
Jarman, L&J  
Moseley, A  
Robbies Bar & Bistro Ltd  
Sullivan, A&J  
Winstone, J&R

Abrahamson, J&M  
Chambers, F  
Hutchison, M  
Moore, Jenny  
Oswin, R&K  
Simpson, J&G  
Walshe, V&A

Blackwell, W  
Cummins, N & Kikbride N  
Keir, James  
Mortlock, S&B  
Redwood Physiotherapy  
Stock, H  
Wegner, E&A

**General Donations**

Air Rescue Services Ltd  
Bernard Ryan Charitable Trust  
EB Millton Charitable Trust Inc  
Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd  
Harcourts Foundation  
Heartland Building Society  
J & M Ferrier Charitable Trust  
LB Miller Charitable Trust  
Maurice Carter Charitable Trust  
NZ Charitable Foundation  
Paparoa Street School  
Sargood Bequest  
Te Pou  
The Barbara & Robert Stewart Trust  
Wayne Francis Charitable Trust

Anderson, Pamela  
Christchurch Casino Staff  
Farina Thompson Charitable Trust  
Grant, ME  
He Family  
I Sullivan Estate  
Jones Foundation  
Lenore Farrelly Limited  
Mulligan, Simon  
NZ Lottery Grants Board  
Pub Charity  
Shand, Cynthia  
The Canterbury Community Trust  
The Ron Ball Charitable Trust  
Wilkinson, Murray

ASB Christchurch  
Dove Charitable Trust  
Garden City Lions  
Gulich, J & Hackston, D  
Hearing Excellence  
Inner Wheel Club of Chch  
Kiwanis Foundation Trust  
Lion Foundation  
Murphy, SP & MJ  
NZFGW Canty Branch  
Rotary Club of ChCh South  
Stewart, Lady Adrienne  
The Philip Brown Fund

**Events**

Bring You Dinner  
Garden City Lions Club Quizz Nite

Clearwater Golf Tournament

Autumn Fair

**Gifts in Kind**

Canon NZ  
NZILBB for assistance with research

Dynamite Signs  
Mulligan, Simon

Jenson, Carolyn  
The Press for advertising

# It's what any ordinary person would do: support a champion

Learning to eat, talk, walk, read, write, and make friends will come pretty naturally to most of us. We don't think much about how we pick up that basic, ordinary stuff – until we meet someone who has to put in huge effort to learn everyday activities. It's good to know that there is a charitable organisation right here in Christchurch working with families and their special needs children, to help them all lead a full and contributing life.

When we learnt about the Champion Centre's work, we realised that our team could contribute by doing what we ordinarily do. We've put together some branding and advertising material, aimed at fundraising for the Centre.

Perhaps something *you do everyday* can also help the Champion Centre and their little champions.

G&A Nelson | Design and Advertising







Early in 2012 the Dynamic Controls Social Club started a review of how we engage with our community and whether we were making the most of the opportunities. As a result of this we decided both as a Social Club and as a Company to actively engage with the Champion Centre for our fundraising activities and Parafed Canterbury for our volunteer activities.


What we saw in the Champion Centre was a group of very passionate, dedicated people, making a real difference in the lives of pre-schoolers with physical and learning disabilities, and their families, in an environment where funding was a real challenge. We all identified with the team and the people they're helping, and we thought we could help make a difference either through direct fundraising or through applying our business skills in some way. The result so far has been a variety of engagements including providing IT support to improve the wireless network at the Centre and a big bake-off fundraiser. Its been a real privilege to work with the Champion Centre team, and we've had a blast doing it - we look forward to working together in 2013.

- Charlotte Walshe, CEO, Dynamic Controls

IN SUPPORT OF THE CHAMPION CENTRE

# A FEW BEERS WITH THE BUTCHER

WITH MC JAMES DANIELS AND SPECIAL GUESTS TANE NORTON & BILLY BUSH!



**Our old mate Sir Peter Leitch aka "The Mad Butcher" is coming to town and wants to have a few beers with us...**

And he's bringing local rugby legends Tane Norton and Billy Bush along with him just to keep it interesting with no topic off limits!

MC for the night James Daniels will host a question and answer session as well as a charity Auction for the Champion Centre.

There will be a bit of food handed around and music Limited tickets available now!


Tickets are just \$20 and available from the Ale Houses with 100% of the proceeds going to the Champion Centre.

**TUESDAY - 25TH SEPTEMBER**  
FERRY ALE HOUSE - FERRYMEAD  
FROM 5.30PM

**WEDNESDAY - 26TH SEPTEMBER**  
SPEIGHT'S ALE HOUSE - BEALEY AVE  
FROM 5.30PM

**ONLY \$20 PER PERSON**


THANKS TO



**Don't miss your chance to have a beer with New Zealand's favourite sons - and a bloody**

# 2012 CLEARWATER CHARITY CLASSIC

(in support of The Champion Centre)



Clearwater Golf Club



Entries to Clearwater Golf Club: Tel: (03) 360 7146  
Email: play@clearwatergolf.co.nz  
scadenhead@clearwatergolf.co.nz



Left: The Mad Butcher - Sir Peter Leitch, Gina Guthrie and Tane Norton at 'A Few Beers with the Butcher'.  
Right: Sir Bob Charles and Special Olympian gold medalist Andrew Oswin at the Clearwater Charity Classic

A recent comment that can be found on our Facebook Page says it all really!

"A place were little kids with big needs should be; an outstanding place, outstanding teachers, outstanding growth; we would have been lost without the Champion Centre's help. You have made my kids grow and be a part of a wonderful programme. We love the Champion Centre. Keep up the outstanding work because it does work" - [www.facebook.com/TheChampionCentre](http://www.facebook.com/TheChampionCentre)



The Champion Centre  
TAMARIKI TOIORA

"Tuia te rangi e tū iho nei. Tuia te papa e takoto nei"  
"As the sky joins the earth, so people depend on one another"

THE CHAMPION CENTRE  
BURWOOD HOSPITAL  
PRIVATE BAG 4708  
CHRISTCHURCH 8140  
NEW ZEALAND

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