



## People First New Zealand Nga Tangata Tuatahi

### 'WHOW' THE PUZZLE OF 'WHO and HOW' Learning About Self-Advocacy

Nothing about us without us!

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## People First is a self-advocacy organization for people with learning disability

People First is in many countries around the world

- People First started in Salem Oregon in America in 1974
- People First got it's name because people with a learning disability said **"We are people first!"**
- Now People First is in many countries like England, Scotland, Australia, Canada, Germany and new Zealand



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## People First in New Zealand

- People First was started in 1984 in New Zealand
- It was started and supported by Ihc for the first 20 years
- In 1984 at the National People First conference the members said



- "We want our own organisation and we want to become independent"
- "We want to have a national committee and our own national office"



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## A new beginning

- In 2003 Ihc supported People First to become an independent organisation
- On the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2003 People First launched the independent organisation at Parliament and then we had a party!



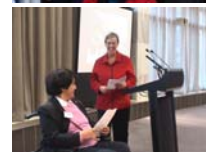
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## Meeting new people




- People First is a good place to meet new people
- We talk to other disabled people
- We talk to people who work with people with learning disability
- We talk to people in the Government and Council



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**Having fun!**



- We have fun celebrating our successes at People First

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**Speaking Up**

- This is about being brave enough to speak up and tell people what you want in your life
- At local People First meetings you will get support to talk about the things you want in your life
- You might hear about things that other people are doing and want to try them too!

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**'WHOW' – WHO and HOW**

People First believes there are 3 missing pieces of the 'WHOW' puzzle.

In-order for people with learning disability to really know, that they have the right to make choices, to speak-up and to be heard in their daily lives, they need to:

- Learn about Self-Advocacy from people **WHO** have learning disability themselves
- The service providers, agencies and staff, and families also need to learn about basic human rights and **HOW** to support people with learning disability to advocate for themselves
- And this learning needs to be independent of any agency or service provider

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**Speaking Up Courses**

- People First has been holding Speaking-Up, Self-Advocacy Courses in Christchurch
- People First members are teaching other people with learning disability how to speak up
- The courses are run during the day so people who use community participation services can go too



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**Your Rights At Work**



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**What Does a Minimum Wage Exemption Mean?**

- You are paid less than the minimum wage
- It lasts for one year – then it is checked
- It only happens when all other things have been checked out



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## Sessions

- We have sessions on 'Choices' What choices do we have and what things do we have no choice about? How can we have more choice in our own lives?
- We also do art work and role-plays so we can really understand ideas from different angles
- In other sessions we learn about 'Relationships'. It is good to know about different kinds of relationships between people



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## Learning how to become leaders

- At the Speaking Up Course and at People First meetings, you will get the chance to:
  - Take part
  - Learn in a safe place
  - Know that it is ok to make mistakes
  - Get the chance to speak up and have your say



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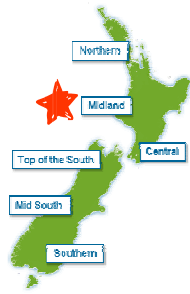
## Rights Under the Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights. You should be told about these rights and be able to exercise them:

- Right One**
  - You have the right to respect, including respect for your personal privacy
  - Services should be delivered in a safe, clean, pleasant, and comfortable environment
- Right Two**
  - Services should be delivered in a safe, clean, pleasant, and comfortable environment
- Right Three**
  - Services should be delivered in a safe, clean, pleasant, and comfortable environment
- Right Four**
  - Services should be delivered in a safe, clean, pleasant, and comfortable environment
- Right Five**
  - Services should be delivered in a safe, clean, pleasant, and comfortable environment
- Right Six**
  - Services should be delivered in a safe, clean, pleasant, and comfortable environment
- Right Seven**
  - Services should be delivered in a safe, clean, pleasant, and comfortable environment
- Right Eight**
  - Services should be delivered in a safe, clean, pleasant, and comfortable environment
- Right Nine**
  - Services should be delivered in a safe, clean, pleasant, and comfortable environment
- Right Ten**
  - Services should be delivered in a safe, clean, pleasant, and comfortable environment
- Right Eleven**
  - Services should be delivered in a safe, clean, pleasant, and comfortable environment
- Right Twelve**
  - Services should be delivered in a safe, clean, pleasant, and comfortable environment

These are the main matters which are protected by the Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights. The actual legal entitlements are contained in the regulations. If you have difficulties with a health or disability service and they do not appear to be covered by these rights, they may be covered by the Privacy Act or the Human Rights Act.

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## People First New Zealand



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## People First Disability Information and Advisory Service - DIAS

- This service is for people with learning disability and anyone else who wants to find out information about learning disability
- Information about where and how you live, getting a job, where to get support and how to get involved in things you want to do
- Call us between 8.30am-4.30pm on our free phone number and it won't cost you any money!



[www.peoplefirst.org.nz](http://www.peoplefirst.org.nz)  
0800 20 60 70

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## And now – a small plug for an up-and-coming service that People First will be providing....

People First has a contract with the NZ Ministry of Social Development to set up an Employment Advocacy Service for people with learning disability.

- We will mostly be working with people who work in Business Enterprises (sheltered workshops) but we expect we will also work with a few people in open employment.
- It is a 4-year contract. The first 3 years will be to run the service and to up-skill the Unions about working with people with learning disability.

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## Nothing for us without us

- And in the 4th year we will be working with the Unions so they can pick up this advocacy work - just like they do for other workers in New Zealand.
- Again, just as we do, the coordinator who runs the service will be working along side people with learning disability to provide this service in their local areas.
- We believe that we will be involved when people are re-negotiating their minimum wage exemptions.
- We are really excited about this contract and look forward to providing this really needed service.

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## Contact Details

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[mail@peoplefirst.org.nz](mailto:mail@peoplefirst.org.nz), 0800 20 60 70

Website:  
[www.peoplefirst.org.nz](http://www.peoplefirst.org.nz)

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Thank you very much  
 We hope you have  
 Enjoyed our workshop

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