



Work and Income
Te Hiranga Tangata

A service of the Ministry of Social Development

For more information



Call 0800 559 009



Visit www.workandincome.govt.nz

These changes will take effect in April 2016*. Until then, payments and obligations stay the same.

- Benefit rates for families with dependent children will increase by \$25 a week after tax (per family), resulting in an average gain of \$23 per week in the hand after adjustments to other support such as Accommodation Supplement and Temporary Additional Support.
- Very low-income working families (receiving the minimum family tax credit, and In Work Tax Credit) will get \$24.50 more a week from Working for Families, approximately matching the increase in benefit rates.
- Low- to middle-income working families (not on a benefit) will get up to \$12.50 a week more from Working for Families, depending on their income.
- Low-income families will be eligible for a higher \$5 rate of Childcare Assistance for pre-school and out-of-school care.
- Beneficiaries receiving Sole Parent Support will need to reapply for their benefit every year.
- Sole parents, and partners of beneficiaries, will be expected to look for part-time work when their youngest child turns three.
- People required to look for part-time work will be expected to look for around 20 hours work a week.
- Student Allowance rates for families with children will increase by \$25 a week after tax.

In early 2016, Work and Income will contact families affected by the changes. **Changes to Childcare Assistance take effect on 4 April 2016. All other changes take effect from 1 April 2016.*

Charities Services - New Reporting Standards Reminder

Registered Charities are now required to prepare financial statements that comply with new standards.

There are 4 reporting tiers, but most charities will fall under either tier 3 or tier 4. Use:

Tier 3 if your annual expenses are under \$2 million and you use accrual accounting

Tier 4 if your annual expenses are under \$125,000 and you use cash accounting.

Charities Services website has lots of resources to help you, including video tutorials, templates and guidance notes, visit <https://charities.govt.nz/new-reporting-standards/>

In this Issue

- Work and Income Update
- Funding
- Training/Workshop
- Who's New
- Organisation Information
- Notices



MDC

Seymour Street Ph.: +64 3 520 7400
PO Box 443 Fax: +64 3 520 7496
Blenheim 7240 Email: mdc@marlborough.govt.nz
NEW ZEALAND www.marlborough.govt.nz

FUNDING

Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS)

This year's COGS round, opens on 27 April 2016 and closes 8 June 2016.

Further information is available at:

<http://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/Funding-and-grants---Crown-Funds---Community-Organisation-Grants-Scheme>.

Or contact Kaye Latham on

kaye.latham@dia.govt.nz with any questions.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Te Tari Taiwhenua

WHO'S NEW



Cancer Society Marlborough has a new Health Promoter, Anna Small. Anna's role is to help reduce the incidence of cancer through promotion of healthy lifestyle behaviour. Key areas of focus are sunsmart accreditation and education in schools, nutrition and physical activity, tobacco control and early detection and screening.

Cancer Society Marlborough are a non-government funded charity. We aim to reduce the impact and incidence of cancer throughout Marlborough. No matter who you are, where you live or the issues you're facing through cancer, we can help with services that are free, confidential and accessible. We have an open door policy. Our services include:

- Information on cancer and treatment issues.
- Emotional and psychological support either through counselling or a variety of workshops and education groups.
- Transport to treatment related appointments.
- Support for community events through the loan of our shade tents and sunsmart umbrellas.

For more information visit the Marlborough Centre at the Forum Building, Market Street, Blenheim or call (03) 579 4379.

TRAINING/WORKSHOP

FREE HEARING THERAPY SERVICES

- * Hearing Evaluation
- * Information and Advice
- * Communication Needs Assessment
- * Tinnitus Management
- * Hearing Aid Management
- * Community Education

Anyone aged 16 years and over with any degree of hearing loss can benefit from seeing a hearing therapist.

Contact Tania Shearer
Hearing Therapist
(03) 577 9052

Integrity, excellence and accountability in all we do



Project Co-coordinator for MVIP

Liz Collyns has been appointed Project Co-ordinator for the Marlborough Violence

Intervention Project working primarily in the Men's Workstream. Her contract is for 20 hours per week until mid December.

One of her key tasks is to identify what services are available in Marlborough for men who want to improve their relationship with their families by stopping their violent behaviour. If you have any knowledge about any such services please contact her:

Email: lizcollyns@gmail.com

Phone: 021 026 59502



MVIP

Marlborough Violence Intervention Project

marlbvip.co.nz

ORGANISATION INFO

STAND

Referral Information for Family Therapy Tena Koutou, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Malo e Lelei, Bula Vinaka, Taloha Ni, Warm Greetings to our referral agents and agencies. Stand is a charity that provides the Stand for Children Service – a nationwide intensive wraparound social service including therapeutic care and education, for vulnerable children aged 5 to 12 and their families. Stand also have a long history of providing Social Workers in Schools Services.

Stand now offers a Family Therapy Service. The focus of the new service is to provide a response to protect the most vulnerable children/young people aged 0 to 17 years of age (including unborns) from further maltreatment/exposure to chronic trauma, and to support their recovery from that exposure and enhance their wellbeing.

The Family Therapy Service is child focused and structured to achieve a reduction in risk and an increase in protection for children and young people through a therapeutic and multi-systemic approach to change within the family/whānau, school and community through the provision of a Family Therapy Service.

The Family Therapy Service is "trauma informed" meaning that its delivery is grounded in an understanding and responsiveness to the impact of trauma that emphasises physical, psychological and emotional safety for Children and families.

The service will create an opportunity for them to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment and the focus on supporting positive family functioning will help address and support resilience and recovery from damaging experiences such as those associated with intergenerational trauma, family violence, parental depression and chronic health issues, grief and loss, and addiction lifestyles. If you know children and families with these kinds of struggles then perhaps our Family Therapy Service can help. These children and their families need us to work together if they are to heal and recover.

For each child and family we seek to develop their capacity to live in healthy, hopeful relationships with others and function as a stable, capable and loving family. On this depends all of the other necessary outcomes which contribute to their ability to enjoy life and reach their potential. This provision of profoundly healing relationships is at the heart of the theoretical underpinning of Stand Children's Services so we expect when you refer to us that you will continue your involvement with the child and family, working to your strengths as we work to ours.

Referrals for Stand Family Therapy Services

Access to our family therapy service is limited to:

- vulnerable families with children aged 0 to 17 (including unborns), is by referral only, and is limited to referrals from:
 - Child, Youth and Family, Children's Teams, Strengthening Families, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Social Service NGO's

Priority will be given to Child, Youth and Family and Children's Team referrals.

NOTICES

Marlborough Youth Trust

Plenty going on for MYT with a range of events catering to youth all around Marlborough!!

This Thursday 31st March we have Monster Madness at College Park Skating Rink on Stephenson St. Activities are aimed at youth aged 11-19 years and will run from 4pm-6pm. Deedee is always looking for volunteers to help out, so if you would like to be involved you can contact her at events@myt.org.nz

April 7th sees the first night of our 10 week Youth in Emergency Services programme – this has involved fantastic collaboration between MYT and Marlborough's emergency services. 16 youth aged 16-19 years from all around the region will take part in 2 sessions per week with each service, these include Rarangi Surf Lifesaving, Urban Fire, Rural Fire, St John Ambulance, Coastguard, Civil Defence, Land SAR and NZ Police. This is a very hands on, scenario based programme and will culminate in a full on scenario at Mistletoe Bay on June 10th and 11th.

April 29th we have a UV Dance Party hosted by Clubs of Marlborough for secondary school aged youth – celebrating the end of term one. Watch this space for more info – but if you would like to volunteer get in touch with Deedee to see how you can help.

Youth Week 21-29 May

This year MYT are working together with Youth Services, Sport Tasman and Graeme Dingle Foundation to host a Youth Sport and Recreation Expo on Wednesday May 25th at Stadium 2000. The expo will run from 3.30 till 7.30 and there will be a chance for youth to have a go at as many activities as we can fit into the stadium. Thanks Youth Council for your support of this event!

Super exciting news is that we have a youth 'gig' happening on Saturday 28th May, 7-10pm!! This is being hosted by World Café at Community College, with four local youth bands showing off their musical talents. Café food, coffee and cold drinks will be available for purchase, thanks to Community College's Hospitality students for running the café. Also huge thanks to Marlborough Light and Sound for providing the band equipment for the night, and Youth Council for helping with costs.....we are hoping events such as this will continue on a regular basis and encourage more young people to get involved in the music scene.

If anyone else has any Youth Week events happening that they would like MYT to help support we are happy to get involved!!

Blenheim Community of Learning (2BCoS)

A briefing for community groups who are interested in hearing about this exciting educational development is being held on:

Wednesday 13 April 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm MGC Hall

Due to the number of such requests both locally and nationally, we are providing this opportunity for local groups to meet with us.

Following a brief presentation we will take Questions and Answers

Look forward to seeing you and any other members of your group who would like to attend.

Karen Stewart and Simon Heath

Lead Principals

Blenheim Community of Learning (2BCoS)

Email Karen.Stewart@mgc.school.nz

We have available Health & Safety Policies, Governance & Health & safety templates to assist NGO's (these reflect the new H & S changes). If anyone would like a copy or even if they would like us to check their policy – give us a call.



Community Law Marlborough

Te Ture Umanga mō te Iwi Whānui

PO Box 584

14 Market Street

Blenheim 7240

(03)5779919

access – empowerment – justice

Super Seniors website survey

Tell us what you think

Our SuperSeniors website has been up and running just over six months. To help ensure the website is meeting your needs we have compiled a five minute survey about online use - your participation would be really appreciated. Please do pass the link on to your networks. Our audiences range from future and current seniors to those working on and interested in seniors' issues, as well as those people interested in the opportunities and challenges of our ageing population.

Complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N9RVRX8>

Web: <http://www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz/>



NOTICES

Our Grants Ō mātou pūtea rota

New Funding Programmes for 2016 Your Applications Process Just Got a Whole Lot Easier

Our communities have lived through enormous change and Rātā Foundation has been working over the past twelve months to examine our current funding practices to ensure we remain relevant and focused on our communities' needs. Our strategic vision is to make our communities stronger, more connected, happier and more prosperous.

Earlier in the year we engaged with you and sent out a survey to those of you who had applied to us over the past two years seeking feedback and thoughts about our application processes. We had a huge level of response and your feedback told us:

- 91% of those surveyed wanted simpler applications for grants under \$20,000
- 91% of those surveyed wanted quicker decision timeframes for smaller requests
- 84% were supportive of moving away from annual sector closing dates
- 84% wanted more face to face engagement and support around larger requests

As a result of your feedback and our own internal work we are excited to announce changes to our funding practices and will be implementing new Funding Programmes from 2016.

This new way of working will ensure we continue to work towards our strategic vision. As we evolve as an organisation our funding practices support our intention of being a more strategic grant maker which aims to create positive change in our communities.

Although a departure from the way we traditionally process applications, these new Funding Programmes are not a departure from our purpose. Creating more flexibility and options for organisations reflects the feedback we had from you.

- No more sector closing dates
- More flexibility
- More options
- More transparency
- Increased engagement
- Application forms relative to your request
- Support of wide range of organisations

How you can apply

From mid March 2016 your organisation will have the option of applying to one of our two Funding Programmes within a 12 month period.

To find out more about our new Funding Programmes for 2016, please select the Small Grants or Large Grants boxes.

Leading up to mid March 2016 we will be working hard to keep you informed about these changes via direct communication to existing applicants, our website and social media. If you have any enquiries please call 0508 266 878 or email one of our [friendly staff](#).

If you are intending to apply to Rātā Foundation for a building project please go to <http://www.ratafoundation.org.nz/funding/building-projects>

Funding programme for organisations requesting \$20,000 or less

Rātā Foundation recognises the importance of supporting grassroots initiatives in the community and the value of supporting 'the engine room' of an organisations service or programme.

With the small grants programme this will mean:

- There will be no closing dates
- You can choose when you wish to apply within a 12 month period
- You will complete a simpler application form with clearer criteria, which will focus on outcomes and needs of your organisation or project
- If we don't receive all of the information we require at the time your application is submitted, we will simply put your application on hold until this information can be provided to us
- Generally the timeframe for a funding decision will be six to eight weeks once we have all the completed information

Funding programme for organisations requesting over \$20,000

Rātā Foundation is aiming to increase its engagement in the community and is keen to look at ways we can support the infrastructure of communities.

With the large grants programme this will mean:

- We will have three funding rounds per annum regardless of your organisation type
- You can choose which funding round you wish to apply under within a 12 month period
- You will complete a more in-depth application form with clearer criteria and documentation and this will have a stronger focus on the needs of your organisation and what outcomes you are expecting to achieve
- If we don't receive all of the information we require at the time your application is submitted we will simply put your application on hold until this information can be provided to us
- Rātā Foundations staff may undertake a site visit with your organisation as and when appropriate
- Generally the timeframe for a funding decision will be three to four months once we have all the completed information

We will be working hard to keep you informed about these changes via direct communication, our website and social media.

If you have any enquiries please call one of our friendly staff on Freephone 0508 266 878, or phone 03 335 0305 or email: enquiry@ratafoundation.org.nz.



Course Programme Term 2 May-June 2016

Kia whakamohio -To inform Kia whakamanawa -To encourage Kia whakaara -To inspire



NZ Sign Language Level 1 REAP House Monday 25 July (10 weeks) 7.00pm-9.00pm Debbie Balcombe

Introduction to Te Reo REAP House Wednesday 25 May (6 weeks) 10.00am-12.00pm Merehira Wills

Defensive Driving Course REAP House 13,15,20,22 June 6.00pm-7.30pm Mike McCann *includes manual and certificate*

Conversational Mandarin REAP House Wednesday 25 May (6 weeks) 7.00pm-9.00pm Lee Guay Hoon

Winter Pruning 8 Stafford St, Grovetown Saturday 1 August 10.00am-4.00pm Allan Thomas

Chainsaw Maintenance and Safety 247 Vickerman St, Grovetown Saturday 11 June 9.00am-1.00pm Tim Lovejoy

Smooth Operator – Barista CPR Headquarters Wynen St Thursday 2 June (2 weeks) 7.00pm-9.00pm CPR Staff

Stepping Up Programme Free Computer Courses held at the Picton and Blenheim Libraries *A joint venture with REAP Marlborough and Marlborough District Libraries*

Introduction to Relaxation Massage Clinic, Old Renwick Road Fri 10 June 7.00pm-9.00pm Sat 11 June 9.00am-4.00pm Kate Harper

‘P’ Methamphetamine Drug Awareness Presentation REAP House Friday 27 May 1.00pm-3.00pm *(afternoon tea provided)*
Russell Smith NZ Police \$5.00

Introduction to Te Tiriti O Waitangi REAP House Sunday 17 July 2.00pm-5.00pm Michelle Lavender

Introduction to Mahjong REAP House Tuesday 24 May (6 weeks) 7.00pm-9.00pm Jocelyn MacKay

Mahjong Advanced - Developing your expertise REAP House Monday 23 May (6 weeks) 7.00pm-9.00pm Jocelyn MacKay

Introduction to Water Colours REAP House Weekend 28 & 29 May 10.00am-3.00pm Jan Thomson

Heavy Vehicle Courses – Classes 2, 4 or 5 68 Seymour St Monday 7 June 8.00am-4.30pm and another ½ day Grant Ingersoll *Master Drive Services*

Dangerous Goods 68 Seymour St Thursday 16 June 8.00am-5.00pm Grant Ingersoll *A joint venture with REAP Marlborough and Master Drive Services*

Rollers, Tracks and Wheels 68 Seymour St Tuesday 28 June 9.00am-5.00pm Grant Ingersoll *A joint venture with REAP Marlborough and Master Drive Services*
Book and pay at Master Drive Services then bring your receipt to REAP Marlborough for a \$50.00 subsidy to help you gain qualifications in any of these industry driving certificated courses.

Introduction to Grapevine Art Saturday 18 June 10.00am-3.00pm Helen Jackson

CV Preparation REAP House 7.00pm-9.00pm Jude O’Dea *Blenheim Library*

Quad Bike Safety and Handling.....Thursday 26 May 8.30am-4.30pm Mark Wills *Pernod-Ricard*

Specialty Breads..... 10.00am-2.00pm Annette Michna-Konigstorfer

English Language Conversation Course Marlborough House, 21 Henry St, Tuesday 10 May (8 weeks) 6.00- 8.00pm

Mums and Tots Class Plunket Rooms, 16 Henry Street Thursday 12 May 10.00am – 12 noon

English for Employees Class *This is a free, part-time class for people who are working and want to improve their language, literacy and numeracy for the workplace. Small groups with individual learning plans for each student. Book and pay at English Language Partners, Marlborough House, 21 Henry St, Marlborough House 579 2460*

Health and Safety *Information Seminar on new rules and regulations to Health and Safety for the construction, manufacturing, horticulture, viticulture and farming industries of Marlborough.*

Give it a go YOGA..... *There will also be an opportunity to follow on and join a full 6 week course*

Growsafe Approved Handlers Certificate.....

Matariki Celebrations.....



.....Full details on all these courses will be available at REAP Marlborough in early April. We hope to see you then.

Subsidy on all courses for youth age 16-25. Payment required with enrolment, cash, cheque or internet banking available.

REAP House 19 George Street, Phone 5787848 Email: admin@reapmarlborough.co.nz www.reapmarlborough.co.nz

NOTICES

A workshop/presentation 4 April 2016 @ 12pm – 2pm

St John's rooms, Seymour St

Break Down the Barriers

Sit. Ask. Listen

- Gain an insight into how a person may be feeling when experiencing mental distress
- An opportunity for people to explore their own attitude towards people who experience mental distress
- Improve ways to support your own wellbeing and the wellbeing of others.
- A chance for group discussion and conversations - Let's talk about Mental distress

Presenter Larna Macdonald – Te Ara Mahana co-ordinator

RSVP Supporting Families Phone 5775491 or email sfmarib@extra.co.nz



Parents Support Group Meetings



Held on the 1st Tuesday of every month.

Next meeting to be held on

5 April 2016 at 10.30 am—12 pm

Guest speaker: Jill Hounsell (ASD NZ)

Teenage Support Group Meetings

**Held on the last Tuesday of every month
starting at 4.30 pm.**

**Supporting Families Marlborough
4 Scott Street, Blenheim
Phone: 577 5491**

Warmer Healthy Homes 2016

The Healthy Homes programme is an opportunity to improve people's health by reducing cold and dampness in homes. This programme offers ceiling and under floor insulation at **NO COST** to eligible householders. You don't have to own your home to qualify – this scheme applies to both home-owners and tenants. If you rent your home we'll contact your landlord to seek consent to undertake the work.

What is the eligibility criteria?

The basic criteria for this programme require the owner/tenant to have a valid **Community Service Card** or **Super Gold Card** with Community Service Card (CSC) endorsement. In addition, referrals are prioritised for people who could benefit most from a warmer home environment, this includes households with:

- Children under 17 years,
- People aged 65+ years,
- People with chronic health conditions.

What next?

Contact your GP, Practice Nurse or health professional for a healthy homes referral form. For any other queries or if you'd like to find out how to refer your patients/clients to this programme, please contact Felicity Spencer ph. 03 928 4173 or email felicity.spencer@nmhs.govt.nz

Don't wait until WINTER!

Ask for a referral NOW as funding is limited!



**Nelson Marlborough
District Health Board**



**MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**Absolute
Energy
INSULATION**



**Rātā
Foundation**

Community Workers' Group Inc.

This is the group that:

- Organises the monthly Networking Meetings held on the second Monday of every month. 12.00 noon – 1.30 pm at the Marlborough Community Centre, 25 Alfred Street.
- Organises this Community Newsletter. Your organisation can put information and articles into it.
- Makes connections with networks in other communities and nationally through our membership of New Zealand Council of Social Services.

Meetings coming up: in 2016:

- **11 April 2016**
- **9 May 2016**

Quote:

Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it

- Charles R Swindoll

Synergy

Youth Mentoring Programme WORKING TOGETHER. ACHIEVING MORE

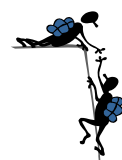
Much respect and a big thank you to all the community workers and referral agencies I have worked with over the past 11 years. I know you will be equally supportive to the new person who will be appointed this month and that together you will continue to make life better for the children of Marlborough.

Life and time seeps past quickly - make the most of it!

Warm regards, Nancy Sherwood

Phone: 577 9005 x 709

Email: nancys@psusi.org.nz



NOTICES

**Take a
moment
to connect**



VL0034

IHC Volunteering

Volunteers supporting people with intellectual disability

How can you volunteer with IHC?

There are many ways that you can volunteer with IHC. We have volunteers throughout our organisation, from IHC Association volunteers who help us with local IHC activities, events and governance and local fundraising volunteers.

IHC also has a rewarding one-to-one volunteer programme that encourages friendship and learning in the community.

All IHC volunteers help to make a big difference to the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

What is one-to-one volunteering with IHC?

It is about one-to-one friendship. By taking a moment to connect with someone with an intellectual disability, volunteers make a positive difference in the life of another. The main emphasis of this role is volunteers including a person with them while doing something they usually do. This is what makes IHC Volunteering unique.

How does it work?

We pair volunteers up with a person who has similar interests. It may be providing support to learn a new skill, achieve a personal goal or hanging out together to do something they both enjoy. The relationship is one-to-one and volunteers meet with their friend regularly. This means that volunteers spend time with only one person and they can get to know each other.

Why one-to-one?

Because learning one-to-one works well. Group activities can sometimes be the only option available to a person with intellectual disability and we've found that some people work best one-to-one. We've found that volunteers bring their own unique skills and experience to the friendship which sustains learning in a fun, friendly and supportive environment.

Who can volunteer?

We welcome applicants from 17 years of age and from all walks of life. People with intellectual disabilities have diverse interests and backgrounds so the more varied volunteers we have the easier it is to match people. Having a genuine interest in developing a connection with someone with an intellectual disability is a prerequisite.

What support do I receive as a volunteer?

The regional volunteer coordinator will provide a full orientation to IHC, along with relevant training to the person they are matched with. Initially volunteers meet frequently with the coordinator either in person or over the phone. There are regular scheduled reviews that will ensure the friendship is successful.

For more information

Jane Peoples
Volunteer Coordinator
027 836 0342 / 03 538 1115
jane.peoples@ihc.org.nz

www.ihc.org.nz/volunteer



NOTICES



Inland Revenue
Te Tari Taake

Child Support Changes Question and Answers

1) What's changing on 1 April 2016?

Changes coming in from 1 April 2016 include:

- A change to qualifying age which will see the reduction of the maximum age a child can be included in a Child Support calculation from 19 to 18, unless they're still at school.
- A two-stage late payment penalty with an initial 2% late payment penalty, with a secondary penalty (8%) only being charged if the debt remains unpaid after seven days.
- A reduction in the incremental penalty rate from 2% to 1% in any month that remains unpaid for 12 months
- Relaxing of the circumstances by which **penalties** can be written off, including:
 - ⇒ when a liable parent enters into an instalment arrangement or is in serious hardship,
 - ⇒ when debt recovery is an inefficient use of Inland Revenue's resources, or
 - ⇒ when only penalty debt is outstanding.
- Allowing Inland Revenue to **write-off assessment** owed to the Crown on serious hardship grounds or when debt recovery is an inefficient use of Inland Revenue's resources.
- Estimation of income square-up. This completes the changes to the estimation process and reflects both parents' ability to estimate their income now.
- Two new administrative review grounds - recognising re-establishment costs as grounds for an administrative review and a ground to recognise payments owed to parents who are themselves now liable to pay so that the debt can be offset.

2) What's the reason for making these new changes?

The objectives of both the 2015 and 2016 changes are to:

- improve the fairness of the Child Support scheme so that it reflects social and legal changes occurred since its introduction in 1992
- reduce Child Support debt (or at least slow the growth)
- promote the welfare of the children, in particular recognising that children are disadvantaged when Child Support is not paid, or not paid on time.

3) How will these new changes affect customers?

It depends on their situation. If their child is turning 18 we'll get in touch with their parent/carer directly. If customers are in debt we need to encourage customers to call us on 0800 221 221 so that we can set up a payment plan to get their debt sorted. By calling us they may not have to pay penalties.

4) Where can customers find out information on the new changes?

They can find out more about how the changes may apply to them by watching our videos at www.ird.govt.nz/cs-videos.

Give out our leaflet 'More changes to Child Support'. The number is IR 516. This following QR code goes directly to our videos so people can watch them. People can download a QR code reader app to their phones to use this code:



5) Do customers need to tell Inland Revenue if their circumstances change?

Yes. They need to tell us if any of the following change:

- their name and address
- the name, date of birth and proportion of care they provide for the children they pay or receive Child Support for the name, date of birth and proportion of care for any of their other biological or adopted children who live with them.

Telling us straight away if their circumstances change means we can work out their correct amount of Child Support.

6) What should a customer do if they're having problems paying Child Support?

Setting up a deduction from their wages may help them pay on time and avoid penalties mounting up. Customers can choose to have their employer deduct their Child Support payments from their salary or wages even if they aren't behind with their payments.

If they don't keep up with their Child Support, penalties can start to add up. But by talking to us, we'll find a way to work out how to get back on track - we might even be able to reduce the total they owe.

7) Does Inland Revenue need to be involved with Child Support?

Many parents living apart make private arrangements for the financial support of their children, or ask us to administer a voluntary agreement.

If customers would prefer to manage their own Child Support, and the receiving parent is not getting a sole parent benefit from Work and Income, then they don't have to use us.

The benefits of having a private arrangement are they:

- can work out how much Child Support is right for them along with the other parent or carer
- can choose when and how often they pay Child Support.

If at any time the private arrangement doesn't work out, customers can always ask us to take care of their Child Support again but it can't be backdated.

Always wanted to be in a choir?

If you can talk, you can sing!

Join the **Thursday Zingers!**

Thursdays, 7pm, Community Centre, upstairs above the Farmer's car park (north-western corner)

All welcome.

"Pam gives us confidence. We have a 'wail' of a time!"

"This [Community Singing Group] is serious fun, lots of laughs... Good for the body, mind and soul."

For further information phone 578 0094 or 021 046 4841

Community Zinging at its Zest!

Supported by CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME

Community Newsletter

These newsletters go out bi-monthly. The next newsletter will be June 2016. Information about services you provide, upcoming events, training opportunities etc are welcome. Please get your items to Lyne Reeves at Council by **Friday 20 May for the June issue**. Email to: lyne.reeves@marlborough.govt.nz.