

Meet the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is made up of five committed people whose lives have been impacted by a brain injured child/children. Shirley Wilson, Sandra Fletcher and Kimberley Di-Giandomenico each have a child with Cerebral Palsy and have seen dramatic improvement through the Ian Hunter Neuro Developmental Therapy programs. William Doull and Shona Wilson worked as volunteers with these children applying the NDT programs, and appreciate its benefits. All Trustees have a passion to provide appropriate support and therapies for children and families/whanau affected by brain injury improving their quality of life.



Donations

You can call into any Westpac Bank Branch and make a donation into Friends of Brain Injured Children of New Zealand Charitable Trust account.

More about the NDTP approach

Brain injury results in the destruction of brain cells, the degree of loss depending on the severity and nature of the trauma. Even though the brain injury may be severe, if life is preserved there must be surviving cells at each brain level. Since the brain consists of billions of cells, the number of surviving cells could be quite large. Recovery of function can occur if these dormant or non-specific areas of the brain are stimulated into action. If reached, these cells may be able to take over the functions of the destroyed neurons.

Normal brain development demonstrates how this can happen. At birth, a normal brain is immature, as evidenced by the low level of function of the human newborn. The process of normal development helps wire-up and organise the brain - the normal motor stages and accompanying sensory input transforms non specific cells into functioning neurons, and the whole system gradually becomes highly organised.

Neuro-Developmental Therapy Programs applies the principles of normal development to the treatment of brain injured children. It recognises that normal brain growth follows a structured pattern, a step-by-step process by which higher brain areas progressively develop from the levels below. A normal baby usually crawls before it walks, and wherever possible the same should apply to a brain injured child.

Further Information

Name: Shirley Wilson
Phone: 07 - 543 0313
Fax: 07 - 543 2657
Email: braininjuredkidz@clear.net.nz



Friends of
Brain Injured Children
of New Zealand Charitable Trust

“The Sky’s the Limit”

What Is A Brain Injury?

Injury to the brain can happen at any time in life. Before birth, due to complications during the pregnancy. During birth, due to difficult labour, birth trauma, or difficulties immediately after birth. Or at any time from then due to traumatic brain injury, such as an infection, car accident, near-drowning, stroke, or anything causing oxygen deprivation.

The Trust's approach

The Friends of Brain Injured Children Trust supports families who have chosen to undergo an intensive home-based therapy program — Neuro-Developmental Therapy Programs (NDTP), directed by Ian Hunter, an Australian brain injury therapist. Such an undertaking involves a great deal of commitment and time, and these families/whanau and caregivers deserve support to maintain a balanced healthy life.

The NDTP philosophy is based on the belief that a vast amount of scientific evidence demonstrates an enormous spare capacity or potential for recovery exists in the human brain after brain injury. The NDTP aims to utilise this potential to facilitate recovery of function of dormant surviving cells. This is done through the child performing repetitive aided physical exercises and activities.



When Was The Trust Formed?

The Trust was established in 1993 by a small group of caring parents who saw a need because of minimal Government support or medical treatment available.

This Trust has been dormant for a couple of years but the current Board of Trustees saw a continuing need and have re-instated it in 2005.



Information Packs

An information pack is available for interested families and organisations.

The Trust's Vision and Policies

Vision:

To provide love and support to brain injured children, their families/whanau and caregivers undergoing the Neuro-Developmental Therapy Program, within the boundaries of this trust, enabling these children to reach their full potential.

Policies:

- Provide physical, emotional, and financial support to families/whanau and caregivers with children on Neuro-Developmental Therapy Programs in New Zealand.
- Stimulate within the New Zealand community an awareness of problems experienced by families/whanau with a brain injured child and benefits of Neuro-Developmental Therapy Programs through seminars and other advertising media.
- Prioritise need and fund the brain injured child's treatment enabling them to reach their full potential.
- Organise facilities and research which will assist in carrying out Neuro-Developmental Therapy Programs in New Zealand.
- Regularly communicate results achieved to sponsors.