



*helping families*

## **Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Disability Information and Advisory Service for families in the South Auckland Region**

Disability Connect provides information, advice and support for individuals with a disability, their families and caregivers so they can live the lives they want.

Our CALD service specifically assists Chinese, Indian, Southeast Asian, Other Asian, Middle Eastern, African and Latin American/Hispanic families raising a child with a disability (up to school leaving age) – although we will endeavour to assist **all** who approach our service and direct families to appropriate support.

Yoky Yao, Community Cultural Disability Advisor, speaks Mandarin and English. Yoky works Monday to Wednesday and facilitates a monthly Chinese Family Disability Support Group.

Rachna Sethi, Community Cultural Disability Advisor, speaks English, Hindi and Punjabi. Rachna works Monday to Wednesday and facilitates a Parents Social Group as well as a Parent Support Group. Both groups meet bimonthly.

We also have access to interpreter services for speakers of other languages.

This service provides the South Auckland community with culturally and religiously appropriate disability related information via:

- Telephone/email and in-person conversations (interpreted if necessary)
- Seminars including such topics as:
  - Navigating the New Zealand Disability Sector
  - Education Transition phases (Early Childhood Education to Primary school and progressing to Secondary school, and Secondary school to Community)
  - Ministry of Health Disability Support Services
  - The Needs Assessment and Service Coordination process
  - Some disability specific seminars such as Autism support/info
  - Information on other possible supports including Work and Income
- Publications (some translated) on Navigating the New Zealand Disability Sector including some of the above topics

This service improves the quality of information available to non-English speaking families, including where to go for more information, the services available and how to access them.

For more information, please contact Yoky Yao or Rachna Sethi Phone 636-0351 or email [disabilityadvisor@disabilityconnect.org.nz](mailto:disabilityadvisor@disabilityconnect.org.nz) or [rachna@disabilityconnect.org.nz](mailto:rachna@disabilityconnect.org.nz)