



WHAT DOES ELECTION 2023 MEAN FOR US?



Hi everyone,

As you well know, there has been a change of government here in Aotearoa New Zealand. Whilst the coalition parties have been in negotiations, we have been spending our time speaking with incoming ministers and other officials. Autism New Zealand are always putting our best foot forward in speaking with all parties and advocating as best we can for all sections of our Autistic and autism community. As we enter these talks, we remain committed to our core mission of empowering the Autistic and wider autism communities.

As it's early days, we don't yet have practical answers as to how the Autistic and wider autism communities will be affected by the change in government. That said, we are advocating for systemic change, with the goal of a distinct and accessible pathway for autistic people and their whanau to access the services and support they want and need. We will continue to update you on our progress.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dane Dougan'.

Dane Dougan, CE

RESOURCES

Did you know that we have a resource library on our website? You can find a range of resources [here](#).

PARTNER CONTENT

Autism New Zealand has partnered with Safewill to help our community protect their loved ones in the event of their death. 38% of New Zealanders don't have a legally binding will, which we know can be a challenge for many of our community.

Safewill have make it easy to write your bespoke will online, wherever and whenever suits you best. Their online, guided process takes less than 20 minutes, and is solicitor-reviewed. There is also a live chat and customer support function on the website.

Autism New Zealand's followers and supporters can currently write their will for 50% off the usual cost. All you need to do is head to www.safewill.com/nz/autismnz and get started on the process.

Please note that Safewill is best for fairly simple estate planning. If you are looking to create a more complex will or trust, you may wish to contact Nan Jensen, who specialises in this area: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nan-jensen-b889b-b8/?originalSubdomain=nz>

Safewill **AUTISM NZ**
Every step together

Write your Will for \$80

Autism NZ has partnered with SafeWill to help our community protect their loved ones

WWW.SAFEWILL.COM/NZ/AUTISMNZ

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY



Bayleigh Teepa-Tarau, an Autistic 12-year-old, has won the Aims Games golfing tournament despite having only played three rounds of golf in his life. Congratulations Bayleigh! Read more [here](#).

LEGO Display at Te Papa:

We were very proud to present our recent collaboration with Te Papa and LEGO – the Autism NZ and LEGO Art Display and Whānau Fun Day. Each year we invite around 40 neurodivergent kids to create art from LEGO, and showcase it at Te Papa. It's a wonderful event and seeing how proud the artists are of their work is wonderful. We know that there is a lot of enthusiasm for similar events in other regions, and it's something we hope we may be able to expand in the future. Thank you to LEGO and Te Papa for this fantastic event.

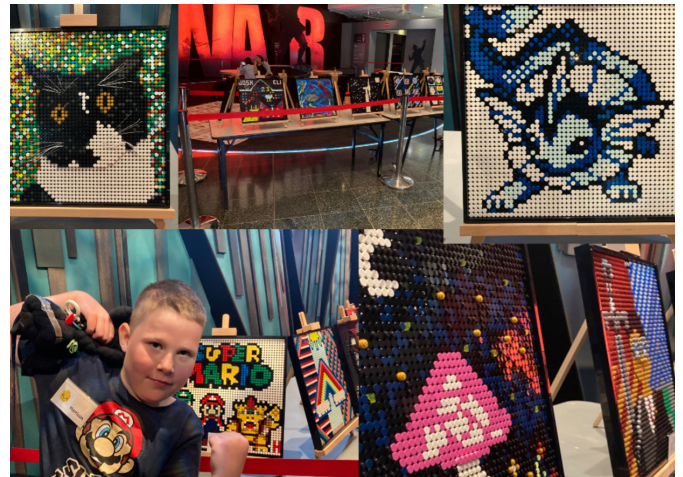
Early Steps Retreat:

On October 14th, the EarlySteps team held their annual parents retreat at Waitakere Resort. The aim is to recharge and connect with other parents. It was a brilliant day with 48 participants. Truly a highlight of the year. [Take a look at how it went.](#)

Research Spotlight:

We recently completed our research report titled 'How Do We Get Autism Support Right in Aotearoa?'

Here are a few photos from the day



in collaboration with the Autism CRC. The report is going through final edits and is yet to be released, but three of the research team will be presenting findings at the [ASfAR conference](#) in December. As soon as we are able to make these results publicly available, we will do so. If you're interested in the Autism CRC's work, you can find them here: <https://www.autismcrc.com.au/>

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT: A RECENT SUCCESS

Our Employment Support Service has celebrated many successes in helping autistic people in their employment journey. Here’s a story from one of the employers that we have worked with, Age Concern New Zealand.

Age Concern New Zealand believe that diversity is our strength, and we’re proud to share our positive experience with the Autism NZ Employment program. If you’re looking for exceptional talent and a fresh perspective, this program is a game-changer. Here’s why you should consider it too:

SEAMLESS INTEGRATION:

We were approached by Autism NZ Employment after posting a job vacancy on SEEK. They introduced us to a potential candidate who has enriched our team.

COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT:

Throughout the recruitment process, Autism NZ Employment provided invaluable resources and guidance. They connected us with other supports and answered all our queries, ensuring a smooth journey.

INTERVIEW ASSISTANCE:

They even supported us during the interview process, making it a seamless experience for both our team and the candidate.

BROADENED HORIZONS:

Our team’s diversity has grown, enhancing our understanding of the older person’s sector. Different perspectives and experiences have proven to be invaluable assets.

IMPROVED EFFICIENCY:

Thanks to this program, we’ve learned to break down tasks into clear steps, making our operations more efficient and effective.

Our employment programmes are currently full, but we are always looking to work with employers who are interested in learning more. If this sounds like your business, please contact:

AUCKLAND EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT:

Email. employment@autismnz.org.nz

Phone. 021 190 8091

WELLINGTON EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT:

Email. employment.wellington@autismnz.org.nz

Phone. 021 198 3320

CHRISTMAS

Auckland's leading theatre for children

Gift a Seat

THE SANTA CLAUS SHOW '23

By **TIM BRAY** • Songs by **CHRISTINE WHITE**

TAKAPUNA - THE PUMPHOUSE THEATRE
2-22 DECEMBER
timbray.org.nz

LIVE ON STAGE

Santa List

TIM BRAY THEATRE COMPANY

FOUNDATION HONOLULU

Wright Family Foundation

MORE FM

Benefit



The Tim Bray Theatre Company is providing a special sensory relaxed showing of their Santa Claus Show this year. More information [here](#).

Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages as we revive our **12 days of Christmas** giveaway. There are some amazing prizes up for grabs that we can't wait to share with you! Please note that last year there were unfortunately false/ scam accounts messaging people. We will be posting all winners publicly on our official Autism NZ pages and will not message you directly. Most importantly we will never ask for your bank details.

Stuck for a Christmas gift? The Good Registry is a great, waste-free gift option. Best of all, Autism NZ is one of the recipient charities!



Now nobody is hard to buy for

Gift giving has never been simpler than with The Good Registry - your recipients get to support 65 awesome New Zealand charities, including us! Best of all, you don't even need to wrap it.

