

MONTHLY UPDATE

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FEBRUARY ISSUE 2023

The aftermath of the wild weather

This month we've had not one, but two extreme weather events batter much of the North Island. Fortunately for ABI, we were largely unaffected but did go 48 hours without power at Ranui and depended on a back up generator to keep us operating as normal. A special thanks to Robyn Cameron and the staff who stayed on past their shifts while the incoming staff were struggling to get in due to road closures. Tony Young commented that everyone had a solutions-focused approach to the issues faced and their calm and professional manner ensured there was no impact to the service we provide our kiritaki.

We appreciate everyone's commitment during these tough times and acknowledge that many of you have been personally affected by these events in many different ways. Clearhead is available to employees who might benefit from chatting with someone.



Our nurse educator Marie, keeping the lights on at Ranui during the power outage



Back row L:-R Anna R, Jess B, Kath M, Josh Faulkner (facilitator), Sarah R, Sue H, Chris D, Dawn J, Jessica S
Front row: Rebecca S, Tayla R, Catherine H, Victoria B, Vivien F, Dianne Whiting (facilitator)

Psychologists learn and connect in Wellington

This month, 16 ABI psychologists from around the motu attended a seminar in Wellington on ACT (acceptance and commitment therapy) facilitated by NZSIGN (NZ Special Interest Group Neuropsychology) and presented by Australian Clinical Psychologist Dr Diane Whiting. ABI was well represented at the seminar of 46 participants, 16 of these were ABI psychologists plus two speech and language therapists.

ABI was lucky to have a one-on-one session with Diane on the second day who is an expert in this therapy modality for moderate to severe TBI. Joining Diane was Dr Josh Faulkner (Victoria University) who is developing this therapy for concussion/mTBI.

This was a great opportunity to connect the ABI Psychology team face to face, and also to connect other neuropsychologist colleagues and brain injury rehab organisations across New Zealand. The team were very appreciative of the opportunity to learn and connect with attendees commenting:

"I found the content invaluable. I apply some of these approaches with ABI clients sporadically, but now feel elevated in confidence, competence, and skill in my delivery of this therapeutic approach. I am sure my clients will benefit from my learning."

The chance to meet as a group of ABI psychologists was my biggest win. There are people (even in the Auckland teams) that I have never met in my three years with the organisation! The chance to meet, chat, swap stories, share experiences, and learn from each other was huge.

Many thanks to Kath Murrell for organising this worthwhile session.



L-R Julia, Roberta, Sophie, Thania, Anthony (HR) Anthony (Finance). Missing: Boni, Ashwin, Tina.

Moselle office refresh

COVID-19 has seen many of our HR and Finance Team working from home. This has meant staff have been working in a virtual space and not a 'real space' for some time now. Although this has had some positive sides, it misses the opportunities for impact, collaboration and alignment. Ultimately too much working from home causes fragmentation when we are trying to achieve better connections. Face to face working and in-person interactions are so important to our wellbeing at work and seeing our business go from strength to strength.

Anthony Lebis, our new Finance Manager has been at the forefront of refreshing our environment for the HR and Finance Team that makes it a professional, warm and inviting space. Chaplain Bruce joined the HR, Finance and some ELT team members at a blessing following the environmental improvements. This has created the platform for our Finance and HR Teams to be more connected and present on site. The improvements at the site now also includes a meeting room with video technology for teams meetings. This space is also available to others who work across our Auckland Services so they can also meet and spark connections with our support services. If you wish to book the meeting room, find it in our directory Moselle Ave – Kowhai Room.

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Hawkes Bay Collection

It's been an eventful beginning to 2023 and my thoughts have been with our whānau in Auckland who have been affected by the severe weather and flooding. Our resilience shines through in these trying circumstances with no services affected and all our clients continuing to receive the highest level of care. Thank you on behalf of everyone – it's appreciated. Please access support services such as Clearhead which are available (to employees) which may be helpful for those of you personally impacted by the weather event. Another thanks to those in Wellington who took the time to bring in items to be sent to Hawkes Bay – Teresa dropped these off at Paraparaumu Beach School and they were packed up to distribute to communities in need. Collectively we sent over 350 clothing items, 70 towels, 30 pairs of shoes, 15 jackets and 20 sets of bedding.



Join us on social media

If you haven't already, please join our online Facebook and LinkedIn communities using the icons at the top of this newsletter. It's a great way to support ABI, and keep up to date with what's going on at all our services. If you have a story you'd like to see on there, let us know using the feedback email below. We're also using LinkedIn to attract some new staff across all roles and if you've got a peer that might enjoy working at ABI, please let them know about us. There's a referral bonus for successful appointments to the value of \$1,000.

Neuro Nurses Symposium

We're supporting our nurses to attend the Neuro Nurses Symposium on 11-12 May. We've got representation from ABI with our Jonathan Armstrong and Te Rina Ruru-Pelasio speaking, plus other engaging speakers planned. Please speak with your manager if you'd like to attend. More information available [here](#).

New team members
to join us in February:

Gareth Carter
Su Yi Lee
Julia Levi
Orlaith Gardiner
Joanna Young
Miliama Tupuse
Charlotte Baker
Zar Tun

We're glad to have
you on the ABI team!



Got feedback or a story you'd like to share?

We'd love to hear from you.

feedback@abi-rehab.co.nz

