



A milestone for ABI's Wellington service

Awesome news for Wellington Community Service this month (pictured above) as they now have a full paediatric team!

This month team got the opportunity to have a tour of Te Wao Nui – Wellington's newly built Child Health Service. Many of acute paediatric traumatic brain injuries from lower North Island and Upper South Island will undergo acute management including neurosurgery. ABI is keen to partner in this space so that we can have a seamless transition of care from the hospital services into the community.



JULY UPDATE

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Our move to SharePoint

As we begin our move from one intranet platform to another, a file clean up project is underway to support this work. If you are looking for any type of form, policy or procedure on the intranet but cannot locate it, please contact Donna Gordon (Quality Manager) for help with this. We appreciate your understanding and support and aim to minimise this wherever possible.



Power of our people

Izel completed her master of physiotherapy degree at the end of last year. Her research focused on the feasibility of ballistic strength training to improve the mobility of inpatients with moderate to severe traumatic brain injuries. The research project was implemented at our Auckland Intensive site and the study results were published in this month's edition of the New Zealand Journal of Physiotherapy. The study protocol was published earlier this year, in the March edition of the same journal. "I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone for their support, guidance and assistance with the research project over the past couple of years. Thank you for encouraging me to pursue my aspirations." Amazing work Izel!



MONTHLY UPDATE

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July proved to be a busy month with the Matariki celebrations and the completion of our external audit for ongoing certification with the Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health). We also launched a new project to improve our financial management systems so they interface with Microsoft and even make purchase order processes easier. Sharepoint progress has also been excellent whilst we juggle priorities to also complete our annual report on Intensive Services. Over the last month, we've also been putting the finishing touches on He Ūpoko Tapu, our Māori community stroke rehab programme.

Concussion news

In Community Services we have also been finishing up a pilot project for concussion and transitioning across to the mainstream concussion services which now include a number of improvements that have come out of the pilot. North West are now also delivering concussion services for children and the Wellington Community Team is now at full strength for its paediatric service.

Commitment to continuous improvement

Intensive and Residential Services remain busy with a mix of traumatic and acquired brain injury kiritaki. There has been a continued focus on improving the environment at Intensive Auckland Services and adding an external office at Glenburn. These changes continue to professionalise our services. In Auckland we will also soon be getting access to another property on the site and have a new nursing clinical treatment room almost completed.

It's wonderful that so many activities support the growth and quality of our services alongside business as usual activities. It takes a lot of passion and commitment from you to participate and it makes a real difference. Thank you! Look out for the great baking competition coming our way in August. Further details to follow.



**New team
members to join
us in July:**

Sandra Peleti

Leela Saini

Shijimol Palathanathu

Swati Trikam

Polly Muir

Florencia Rabitti

Molly Denly

Chante Kuhn

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

MĀORI DEVELOPMENT PĀNUI

Mānawatia a Matariki!

July came with one of the most important times of the year for māori – MATARIKI, full of celebration, reflection, and preparation as many welcomed the new year.

At ABI we carried out activities to signify Matariki including poi making, baking star cookies, goal setting, Matariki Macarena, food gatherings, planting, acknowledgments of our loved ones who have passed on and much more. We'd like to thank everyone who led out on initiatives across our services including Joanna Young, Shobika Ravindran, Arohanui Baker-Toopi, Zarnia Pickering, and the many hands that helped. Some images of how all our services celebrated are on the next two pages showing the wonderful spirit and fun we had.

Please see the link to our Matariki TedTalk here: <https://youtu.be/eTgihpnWFOQ>

You will also see the last month's glossary requested from the Kaiarahi Kaupapa Māori Ted Talk attached to the email of this pānui.

Throughout this month we have also been working hard to bring together the Rehabilitation Folder Review, Kiritaki, and Whānau Welcome Process, and Client Satisfaction Surveys. More information to follow on these soon.

We're glad to announce there will be four new intakes of the Mauri Ora Framework Training. In the past these have filled up quickly and required a waitlist for registration so please contact HR for more information if you are interested in registering.

MATARIKI CELEBRATIONS



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SPOTLIGHT ON...

JONATHAN

An adventurer from an early age, Jonathan lived in three countries before his 13th birthday and attended seven schools before returning to the UK for his high school years. His father was in the pipeline industry which brought the family to Qatar, and Jonathan attended international schools during his younger years.

Initially interested in optometry, he was driven by the ability to help others regain or maintain their independence and that sealed the deal for him to study occupational therapy at University of Derby. During his final fieldwork placement at a neuro-rehabilitation unit, he had affirmation that he had chosen the right career path. "Everything just clicked, I found it fascinating" remarked Jonathan.



After graduating, he returned to Scotland and worked a junior rotation in a hospital setting before moving to the bright lights of Birmingham to work a rehab rotation where he had to quickly learn how to cut through the strong accents in family meetings. After Birmingham, he moved to Swindon to work in one of the first community stroke rehabilitation teams in the UK – a clinical guideline supporting stroke rehab in the community had just been released and he was part of the team proving its worth. The programme provided excellent outcomes and as the programme grew, Jonathan also cut his teeth.

"I learned so much in the two years I was at Swindon – it's where I became passionate about transitions of care and community integration".

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During a six-month career break, Jonathan visited New Zealand and when he returned to the UK, he realised he loved NZ and wanted to return so completed his registration remotely and arrived back in Aotearoa in 2005. He first worked at Auckland City Hospital in a clinical supervisor role before first joining ABI in 2008 as an occupational therapist. During this time, Jonathan decided to complete some postgraduate study and completed his Masters at AUT in Rehabilitation. Jonathan went on at ABI to become the Rehab Services Manager and enjoyed that role until 2018 when he went to Counties Manukau (Te Whatu Ora) to work on their community stroke programme which was a throwback to his formative years in Swindon.

During a six-month volunteer position in Cambodia working at a rehab unit where many children and adults had been injured as a result of land mines and scatter bombs, he noticed that Westernised models of care were never going to work as the injured couldn't relate or apply it to their daily lives, and many didn't have access to the resources we were asking them to complete therapy with.

"I remember a young child I was helping who needed to practice rolling a ball and the parents told me they didn't have a ball or the means to obtain one".

Again, Jonathan returned to study, recently completing a Doctorate of Health Science alongside working full time. He took on a Clinical Director of Allied Health role at Counties Manukau, supporting 160 allied health professionals but lucky for us, Jonathan returned to ABI in 2022 and now works as National Allied Health Advisor, supporting our allied health staff in a variety of ways.

Jonathan has learned so much from his kiritaki, including milking cows, making roti, pig hunting and making the best pizza bases as he worked alongside them during their daily activities. "The beauty of occupational therapy is it combines the science of rehabilitation with the creativity needed to apply it to individual kiritaki – no therapy session will ever be the same as you apply the science to different contexts depending on how the kiritaki lives their life".

Jonathan is a long standing member of the ABI whanau and has noticed many changes within the organisation over the years. He's noticed the big influence ABI has at national and international levels, and being the original CARF surveyor has seen a wonderful knowledge-sharing opportunity. Most recently, Jonathan sat as part of a group of experts for the World Health Organisation (WHO) developing the packages of intervention for rehabilitation.

You can read more about that here:

<https://www.who.int/activities/integrating-rehabilitation-into-health-systems/service-delivery/package-of-interventions-for-rehabilitation>