

Early Intervention for children with disabilities

Paul Gibson Senior Disability Advisor CCDHB

Child Development Team

Stella Thorp Social Worker

Kathleen Moffit Visiting Neurodevelopmental
Therapist



- Census 17% of whole population, 10% of children
- CCDHB region: 5000 disabled children with low, medium or high needs
- Most of the 1500 with medium or high needs on CDT books.
- 30 new referrals per month



What is disability?

- Impairment is what you have
- Disability is what happens to you
- Public Health and Disability Act, New Zealand Disability Strategy
- UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Paradigm shift from medical to social



Aspirations

- Like everyone else disabled children want a good life.
- To play and have fun
- To have friends, relationships,
- To live, to dream, to love , to learn
- To belong, have a home and family who love and look after you
- To touch people, to leave behind a world better for our being here.



Gaps in health & support

- Consistent data collection nationally and locally on both health and support needs of disabled children
- Disability support for families (MOH directly funded)
- Collaboration across agencies
- Transition from paediatric to adult services



Early support evidence

- If there is not a handover into a service, families don't seek support until crisis
- Earlier support more effective, efficient
- Facilitating early support requires expertise
- Working holistically with family/ whanau
- Disability rights, children's rights
- Community development
- Cultural competence and partnership

- Keeping disabled children safe
- Family, whanau, community
- Care and protection
- Dignity of risk



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Child Development Team

The team

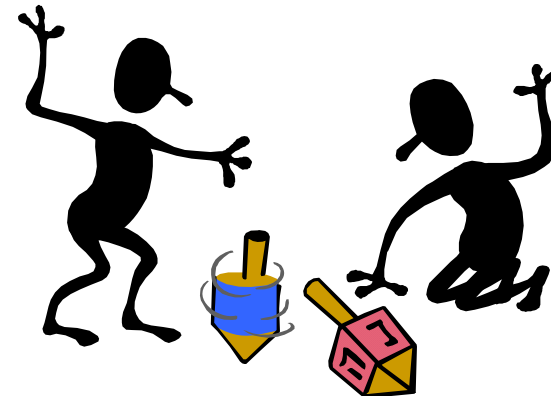
- Multi-disciplinary team
- Work with children with disabilities or developmental delays and their families/whanau
- Liaise with other agencies





The team consists of:

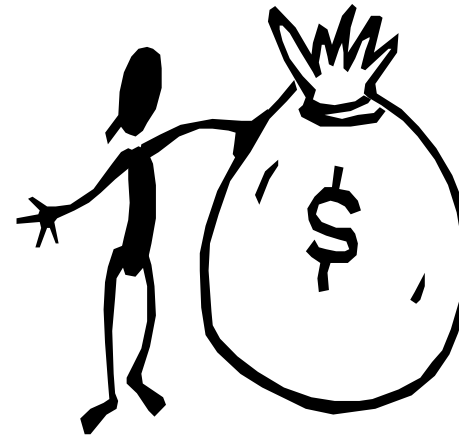
- Therapists
 - Visiting Neurodevelopmental Therapists
 - Speech Language Therapists
 - Occupational Therapists
 - Physiotherapists
- Developmental Paediatricians
- Social Worker
- Psychologists
- Administration/support





Contracts

- with Ministry of Health funding from the Disability Support Services.
- Service Specifications extensive, not explicit (0-16yr)
- contracts also with ACC.





Current Waiting Lists

April 2010

Numbers

Times
(oldest)

OT: 31

10mths

PT: 19

6mths

Psych: 105

18mths

Paed: 87

6mths

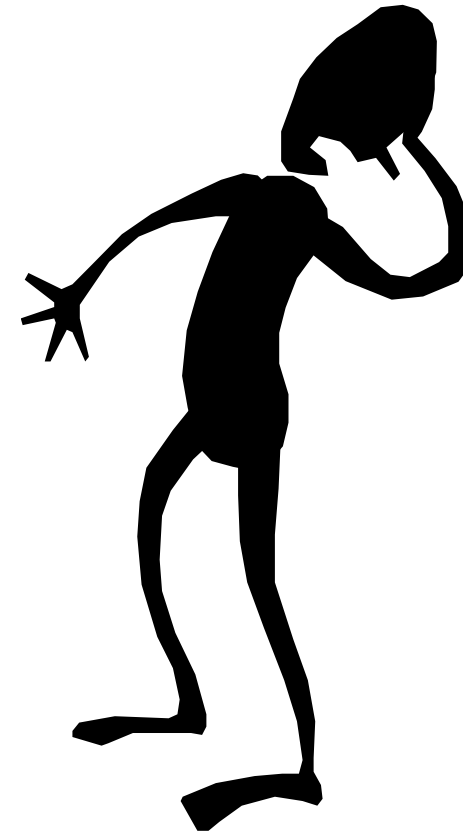
Specialist teams

6 mths

VNDTs and SLTs

-do not operate wait lists

-have very large caseloads.



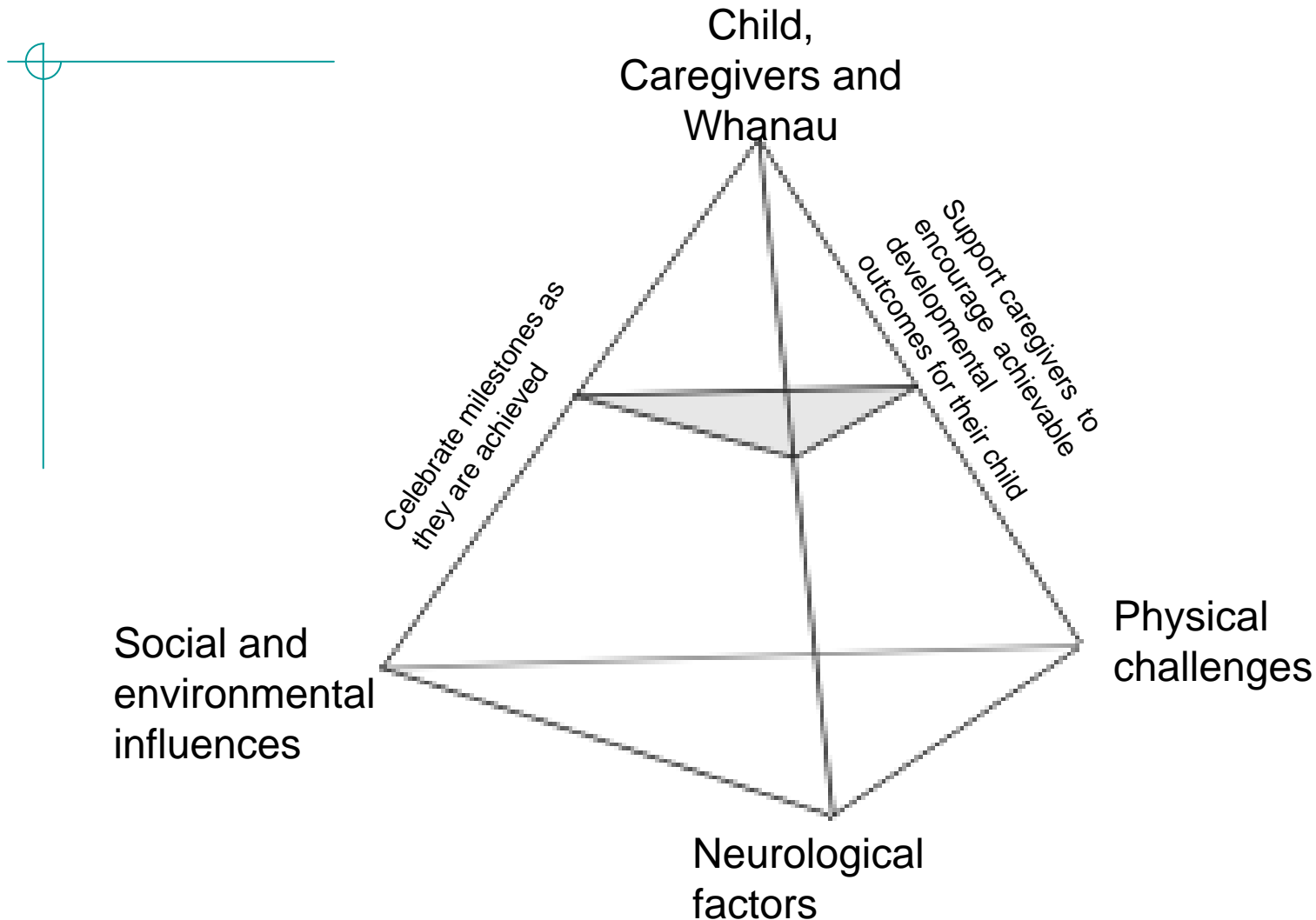


Who are VNT's

- Occupational Therapists or Physiotherapists with postgraduate paediatric experience
- Primarily work with children and their caregivers in their home or in other facilities as required in the community.



VNT Model of Care





- Developmental assessments and therapy
- Develop home programmes
- Assess for and prescribe specialist equipment
- Liaison with other services.



- Trained well-paid relief carers
- Grief counselling for parents/whanau
- Support groups for parents/whanau
- Sibling support groups



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Action Plan

- Address gaps
- Data collection
- Cross agency collaboration
- Transition
- Ongoing quality work
- Health of disabled children
- Disability responsiveness education
- Other?