

MAGIC NZ

Supporting Children with Growth Disorders
and their Families



www.magicnz.org.nz

General Information

Worried about your child's growth?

The MAGIC Foundation NZ Incorporated (MAGIC NZ) is a national organisation supporting the families of children with growth disorders. A growth disorder is any type of problem in infants, children or teens that prevents them from meeting realistic expectations of growth. Disorders include (among others):

- ☆ Failure-to-Thrive
- ☆ Growth Hormone Deficiency
- ☆ Turner Syndrome
- ☆ Small-for-Gestational Age (or IUGR)
- ☆ Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia
- ☆ Idiopathic Short Stature (reason unknown)
- ☆ Precocious Puberty

MAGIC NZ supports families who are worried about their child's growth, whether they have a diagnosed medical condition or no diagnosis. We provide families with information through our website, newsletter, educational brochures and a library of medical articles. We also put families in contact with others who have a child with a similar condition - in NZ or around the world.

A major aim of MAGIC NZ is to work together with affected families and the wider community to achieve the healthy development of our children.

MAGIC NZ is affiliated to The MAGIC Foundation (MAGIC USA), which has been operating since 1989. MAGIC USA is enormously successful, supporting over 11,000 families, organising an annual convention for families and medical experts working in the area of growth disorders and running a medical centre devoted to helping children with growth disorders. The relationship between the organisations enables MAGIC NZ to provide a wider range of services to New Zealand families.

Effects of Short Stature

Children with growth failure can have a wide variety of medical syndromes, diseases and disorders. Many of these are not obvious or well-known, and some are so rare that only two or three people have been diagnosed with the specific condition in New Zealand. It is estimated that many thousands of people in New Zealand are affected by short stature. Many of these people have a

problem that may radically affect the quality of their lives. In many cases, appropriate medical care can effectively treat the underlying problems. The longer treatment is delayed, the harder it is for the child to catch up.

Very short children, adolescents and adults have a greater risk for psychological and cognitive problems than peers of normal height. Children can suffer from the social complications of being short, such as teasing, feeling inadequate and the assumptions by adults and children that they are younger than they are. This may result in significantly lower educational achievement, lower self-esteem and emotional distress.

MAGIC NZ Goals and Key Activities

- ☆ To provide support and education services to children with growth disorders and to their families, including a library, newsletter, website, online support group, MAGIC NZ Kids' Club, networking opportunities and discussions with expert speakers;
- ☆ To grow a support network within New Zealand and internationally, so that parents and children can get to know others with the same or similar condition;
- ☆ To advocate for our children, many of whom have needs which are currently not being met by the New Zealand healthcare system;
- ☆ To liaise with medical professionals so that families have the best information available and are able to build strong collaborative relationships so children can receive the optimum treatment; and
- ☆ To liaise with pharmaceutical companies, so that our families can understand leading edge developments in this area.

www.magicnz.org.nz

The MAGIC NZ website has information on various conditions affecting growth. It provides answers to frequently asked questions and links to many other informative sites about growth-related issues. It is updated frequently with news, upcoming events, articles and new links.

Library

MAGIC NZ has a library of more than 400 medical articles about growth disorders and related issues that are a great source of information for families.

Newsletter

The MAGIC Lantern is a quarterly newsletter for MAGIC NZ families, medical professionals and others working with children with growth disorders. It provides a forum for sharing information and experiences.

Networking

Networking is a vital function of MAGIC NZ. Parents gain enormous support from connections made with others who have a child with the same medical condition and a real understanding of the issues they face.

Many of our children have rare conditions. Through our relationship with The MAGIC Foundation in America, MAGIC NZ families are able to network internationally, as well as within New Zealand.

Growth disorders that fall under the MAGIC umbrella include:

Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia	Constitutional Growth Delay
Failure-to-Thrive	Genital & Reproductive Anomalies
Growth Hormone Deficiency (Children/Adults)	McCune-Albright Syndrome
Panhypopituitarism	Prader-Willi Syndrome
Precocious Puberty	Renal Disease
Russell-Silver Syndrome	Septo Optic Dysplasia
Small-for-Gestational Age	Turner Syndrome
Other Rare Disorders	

Become a Member

MAGIC NZ welcomes new members. Membership is free.

Members may be:

Active - a parent/caregiver with a child who has a growth disorder.

Friend - any supporter of MAGIC NZ who does not have a child with a growth disorder.

Group - an incorporated or unincorporated group that supports the aims of MAGIC NZ.

The children of Active Members are automatically members of the **MAGIC NZ Kids' Club**.

Interested? Then contact one of our Board Members or Regional Co-ordinators or visit our website:

www.magicnz.org.nz

The Board of MAGIC NZ

The current New Zealand Board members are:

Jan Polaschek	Chairperson	Julia Forsyth	Vice-Chairperson
Juliet Mollan	Secretary	Karen Wilkinson	Treasurer

We are also fortunate to have Mary Andrews, CEO and Co-Founder MAGIC USA, and Teresa Tucker, Co-Founder MAGIC USA, jointly holding one board position, representing The MAGIC Foundation (USA).

Medical Advisor:

Dr Esko Wiltshire, MD, FRACP
Paediatric Endocrinologist, Wellington Hospital
Senior Lecturer, Wellington School of Medicine

Statement of Purpose:

The MAGIC Foundation NZ Incorporated (MAGIC NZ) is a national not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting the families of children with chronic and/or critical disorders, syndromes, diseases or other issues that affect their growth.

We achieve this through:

- *Educating* parents, children, healthcare professionals, teachers, and the public about the specific needs and issues impacting our children's social, physical and emotional development;
- *Networking* NZ families with each other and with the global community; and
- *Advocating* for better medical and psychological outcomes for our children.

For further information contact:

Board Members:

Jan Polaschek	(04) 478 9637	jan@magicnz.org.nz
Julia Forsyth	(04) 476 9896	julia@magicnz.org.nz
Juliet Mollan	(04) 973 2874	juliet@magicnz.org.nz
Karen Wilkinson	(04) 477 4561	karen@magicnz.org.nz

Regional Co-ordinators:

Vicki Clarke	(06) 759 4696	Taranaki
Hayley Morris	(07) 577 6715	Waikato/Bay of Plenty
Louise McMillan	(03) 4544948	Otago

Write to: **MAGIC NZ**
PO Box 1493
Wellington

Or visit our website: www.magicnz.org.nz

MAGIC NZ online support group: <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/GFNZ/>

This brochure is for informational purposes only. Neither The MAGIC Foundation nor the contributing medical specialists assumes any liability for its content. Consult your physician for diagnosis and treatment.