



# DISABILITIES RESOURCE CENTRE

## COPD Liaison Officer Services

### Eligibility

You must have a respiratory condition such as COPD or Asthma, which has been diagnosed by a doctor.

### What's It All About?

The COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Liaison Officer Service is a free service which provides support and advice to people with chronic Asthma and respiratory problems. The Field Officer will stay in touch with clients and families and conduct regular visits. The COPD Liaison Officer will complete an individual assessment which will help identify your current health needs and goals in relation to COPD. You will work together to create a plan for how we can help you achieve your goals and manage your health step-by-step.

COPD Support Groups meet once a month in Whakatane, Opotiki and Kawerau, and offer information, advice and support from the Liaison Officer, as well as from others with similar conditions.

The COPD Liaison Officer can also help you with nebulizers for hire and nebulizer bowls, hoses and face masks for sale.

Free Smoking Cessation support and Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) is also available through the COPD Liaison Officer, provided you are committed to quitting smoking. An NRT 'Quit Card' may be available after an assessment by the Liaison Officer. Charges do apply at the pharmacy for NRT (around \$5.00 to \$10.00).

### Where To From Here?

You can contact the COPD Liaison Officer directly through the Disabilities Resource Centre as a 'self referral', through your General Practitioner (GP), or via Social Workers at the Whakatane Hospital.

For more information, call our COPD Liaison Officer on 0800 227 363, or email [copd@drct.co.nz](mailto:copd@drct.co.nz).

**See also: Pulmonary Rehabilitation Fact Sheet**

**one call - countless resources - endless opportunities**