



# Employers partner with PORSE

From left: Rehka, Oliver, Riva, Ravi and Jerjen.

**All parents face choices when deciding to return to work, as they try to balance the needs of their children with the demands of family finances and careers. A new PORSE Employer Partnership Programme aims to simplify the balancing act and support parents returning to work.**

The initiative gives businesses both big and small an opportunity to support employees back into work with in-home childcare subsidies for staff.

MidCentral District Health Board welcomes the scheme and has teamed up with PORSE to find in-home childcare for many of its shift workers.

Nearly 20 DHB employees have come on board, with many more keen to take up the opportunity.

Human Resources Manager Lisa Henson says connecting with PORSE has been a no-brainer.

“Our staff work shifts and often have issues finding adequate childcare. Sometimes they are here really early or finish late and many centres aren’t open at these times, so the flexibility of in-home childcare works.”

The DHB offered existing staff the opportunity, and sees potential to use the partnership as an incentive to attract new staff in future.

“From our point of view it’s a great thing for staff to have childcare they can trust and rely on; it allows them to relax and focus when they are at work,” says Lisa.

Palmerston North PORSE Consultant Hannah Read has welcomed the positive response from the DHB.

“When families aren’t eligible for subsidies through Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ), childcare costs can be a large portion of their income, so businesses see the initiative as a good opportunity to help wages go further, as well as providing families with more flexibility.

“Our educators are more than happy to accommodate people working difficult hours where they can.”

Parents can expect to save up to \$45 a week with the subsidies and reduced fees.

The Employer Partnership Programme has been popular, with businesses signing on from Whangarei to Invercargill.