

<date>

<Mrs S Sample  
123 Sample Street  
Sampletown 3333>

80  
years  
CCS  
disability action  
Including all people

SUPPORTER CODE

012345

Dear <Mrs Sample>

When I was 6 months old in 1945, I got polio. From being a bouncy baby just learning to stand on my mother's lap, I turned into a floppy rag doll with extensive infantile paralysis. My parents lived in Northland, they didn't have a car, and society was not set up for the intense rehabilitation I needed.

My name is Edith Morris and I'd like to share my story with you today. I was the president of Polio New Zealand for 12 years; and my journey is tightly linked with the history of CCS Disability Action for the last 65. And although this is my personal story, there are thousands who stand behind me and it is on their behalf that I am writing to you. It's been a wonderful life, thanks to CCS Disability Action, and the people like you who support them. Every corner of our country has been affected by disability of some kind. And for 80 years CCS Disability Action workers have been to every one of those corners. In the early days, field officers travelled along dusty country roads, often on bicycles; visiting schools, isolated farm houses, Marae, cities and towns, seeking out children with disabilities. Fortunately for me, I was one of those children.

I went to live in the famous CCS Wilson Home in Auckland for more than three years, from the age of 18 months until I was able to walk and was ready to start school. I was very frightened and in pain when I first arrived, but thanks to the kindness and attentions of a young masseuse named Pauline, I made great progress. Eventually, I went home and was able to attend a small country school North of Whangarei. One day in the 1950s a field officer, Miss Nan Sellars



Nurse Owen with Edith  
at the Wilson Home 1947



Small patients at  
the Wilson Home

from CCS Disability Action, visited our school. **My life changed with the attention of this caring, helpful woman.** She arranged for me to be seen by an orthopaedic surgeon, organised leg braces and special shoes as well as transport to and from clinics in the Whangarei; all at no cost to my parents.

When I became a teenager, Miss Sellars thought I needed extra education and I had private lessons in English and other basic subjects. "What about your future?" was a question she often asked me. My family did not encourage me or express any expectations of me. I often wondered myself what use I would be to anyone or what my future might hold. **But Miss Sellars could see something worthwhile in me that others couldn't.** By the time I was 16 she sent me to the Auckland CCS Disability Action office to the care of a Miss Moira Taylor, another field officer. I was assessed as having some potential and in 1962 CCS Disability Action negotiated with Seddon Memorial Technical College to enrol me as a student in their Commercial Course. The classrooms were all upstairs and there were no lifts – no building regulations around accessibility in those days. But that didn't stop me and at 18 I graduated with a diploma in Commercial Practice and got my first job in the office of the Whangarei Engineering Company.

*The classrooms  
were all upstairs  
and there were  
no lifts. But that  
didn't stop me*



Studying at Seddon  
Memorial Technical College 1962

## THANK YOU <MRS SAMPLE>

**Your support has helped thousands of people just like me.**

While I was a student in Auckland I lived in the Una Carter Hostel for the disabled in Remuera. In those days CCS Disability Action had an emphasis on accommodation for out-of-town clients and disabled students. Kelly was one of the residents who studied with me at Auckland University. This was 1962 and there was absolutely nothing accessible at uni. Kelly needed help getting into his taxi, and getting upstairs to the classrooms. Noel, a fellow student came by the hostel every day to assist him. Noel was a skinny, dark haired, gentle, kind boy who I have been married to for the last 50 years. We joke that because of our meeting at the hostel, even our marrying each other was brought about by CCS Disability Action.

After I was married I needed further leg surgery and CCS Disability Action found work for me to do at home while I recovered. They also helped me get a new Morris Mini car through the Golden Kiwi Lottery and paid for lessons from Layton's Driving School. I was 21 years old.

I'll skip a few years here as we lived overseas in Japan for 25 years as Christian missionaries. Yes, I dragged myself, braces and crutches around Asia and other parts of the world until we returned to Hamilton in 1999.

In the 25 years we were out of the country, huge changes happened, like accessible buildings, ramps, elevators, footpath markings, mobility parking, and changes in language from crippled to disabled. Many of these initiatives came from CCS Disability Action.

Actually there is no way I can repay CCS Disability Action for all that they have done for me. Their encouragement and their belief in me as a valuable person has helped form my life. Now that sounds dramatic but you can't imagine what an influence this organisation has had on me and countless others. My story is personal but it contains common threads and illustrates elements of the journey of many disabled people who have been supported by CCS Disability Action. On behalf of all of them I'd like to say a huge THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS on this year's milestone 80th anniversary.

Their encouragement and their belief in me as a valuable person has helped form my life.



Edith hosted community radio programmes 2003 - 2006

# Yes. I'd like to support people with disabilities in New Zealand

**MY GIFT IS:**  \$20  \$50  \$75  \$10,000 other \$

Donations of \$5 or more may be tax deductible. You will receive a receipt within 21 working days.

My cheque payable to **CCS Disability Action** is enclosed

**Please charge my credit card**

Visa  Mastercard  Amex  Diners

Name on card

Expiry  /  Signature

You can find information about other donation options on the other side of this slip.

**Do we have your name and address correct?**  
If not, please write your correct details over the page.

Mr & Mrs AB Sample,  
Address line 1, Address line 2,  
Address line 3, Address line 4,  
Address line 5 1234

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CCS Disability Action can save money by occasionally inviting other reputable charities to write to our supporters. If you would like to be excluded from this, please tick here . To see our full Privacy Policy please go to [www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz/privacy-policy](http://www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz/privacy-policy)

I mean it when I say it's been a wonderful life and I owe so much of that to the support of CCS Disability Action and the generosity of people like you who have in turn, supported them. Together we've made things happen and helped improve the lives of disabled people and their families and whanau throughout New Zealand. But there is still more ahead for all of us, and that is where you can help again, if you can, by donating to the CCS Disability Action Christmas fundraising campaign. This is the end of their 80th birthday year and a great opportunity to help them go out with a bang. Please, give what you can to change the lives of disabled people today, and have a beautiful, warm and loving festive season.

Yours sincerely,



Edith Morris spoke at the CCS Disability Action Waikato 80th celebrations

### Edith Morris

Former President – Polio NZ Inc.

**Ps. CCS Disability Action has depended on the support of wonderful New Zealanders like you since they were first created in 1935. None of the amazing work they have carried out would have been possible without the generosity of people like you. So may I take this opportunity to say thank you from all the thousands and thousands of us that you've directly helped.**

## Other donation options

- **You can set up a monthly gift or make a one-off donation online through our secure system**  
Go to [www.ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz](http://www.ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz) and look for the "Donate Now" tab **OR** scan the QR code.  
Please use <<012345>> as a reference in the "Supporter code" box.
- **You can set up a monthly gift or make a one-off donation through your internet banking**

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