How do I get one?

If you are looking after a person who is living with Dementia / Autism and who is regularly wandering from their place of residence, you can contact:

Dementia Canterbury
Social Worker
(03) 379 2590

or

Margie Sharkey
Christchurch LandSAR
Phone: (03) 318 2425
Mob: 0274 375 635
E: msharkey@paradise.net.nz

Please note as this programme relies on donations there may be a wait time for pendants.

Dementia Canterbury
3/49 William Pickering Drive
Burnside
Christchurch
PO Box 20567
Bishopdale
Christchurch 8543
Phone: (03) 379 2590
Fax: (03) 379 7286
0800 444 776
E: admin@dementiacanterbury.org.nz
www.dementiacanterbury.org.nz

March 2018
General Information

What is it?
The WandaTrak Tracking System is used by Land Search and Rescue (LandSAR) and NZ Police to search for people living with Dementia / Autism who regularly wander from their place of residence. However, it can be used for other groups of people where wandering is an issue.

This is a not-for-profit service involving volunteers.

How does it work?
The system is comprised of either a pendant or a watch which is worn by the person living with Dementia / Autism. The pendant/watch emits a pulse using a specific frequency which is detected using a Radio Tracking Unit and a Directional Finding Aerial. The pulse strengthens as the tracking unit approaches the pendant / watch.

How much does it cost?
The pendants cost $280 and battery replacements (required every six months) cost $60.00 a time. There are plans to fundraise to try to cover these costs but currently if someone meets the criteria they are asked to contribute a donation towards the cost and would need to fund the $60 battery every six months. Once pendants are no longer needed they are returned to LandSAR.

Alternatively people may choose to purchase their own pendant through LandSAR – no waiting time if this is the case. You may also be eligible to apply via Work & Income New Zealand (WINZ) for a Disability Allowance to offset costs.

What are the benefits?
The benefits of the WandaTrak Tracking system include giving peace of mind to families and reducing stress for the missing person. It also reduces the resources required by LandSAR and Police when searching for the missing person.

See over for contact details