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Media release

For immediate release

FROM: ABLE MINDS (Formerly Able Charitable Trust)

Able Minds is pleased to announce the appointment of two high-calibre people to the organisation's Supporting Parents Healthy Children and Alexandra Activity Centre Coordinator roles.

Emil Pienaar has been appointed as our Supporting Parents Healthy Children Coordinator. Emil is a registered enrolled nurse with experience in caring for some of society's most vulnerable people and those dealing with mental health challenges. He is also active in his Church as a leader, in particular leading youth groups and is a karate instructor. Emil recently welcomed a new baby girl, Anarieke to his family. He will be based in Dunedin but will travel around the region to connect with all of you.

Able Minds is also pleased to announce Claire Scherp will be joining our team as the Alexandra Activity Centre Coordinator. Claire comes from an Early Childhood background with qualifications in mental health and wellbeing. She is well respected in the community, having successfully run her own homebased childcare business.

Able Minds Chief Executive Sarah Dowie says: "We are very excited to have two people who are passionate about helping others and building wellbeing in the community join our team. Due to funding uncertainty, our Activity Centre in Alexandra has been temporarily closed. It will be great to see it up and running again with Claire at the helm so our clients have a space to re-connect."

"Emil will be a fantastic addition in the Supporting Parents Healthy Children role. Emil has so many life experiences to draw on and has established valuable connections in the Mental Health and Addiction sector already. I know he will hit the ground running."

Able Minds supports families and whanau with loved ones who have mental health and addiction issues. The organisation also supports consumers through Activity Centres and Peer Support Groups.

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