



# ACROSS

## Te Kotahitanga O te Wairua

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### JULY 2008 NEWSLETTER

#### EDITORIAL

In this the 3<sup>rd</sup> Issue of our Newsletter this year we highlight the place of older people in our community.

As a family member looking after an elderly relative (my mother!) I know how important it is to get support for older people and get help when it is needed. This month the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) continues its information about social justice issues in NZ by promoting the message that more action is needed to provide a valued place in our society for older people.



The fact that people are living longer than ever before is something we should be celebrating. Older New Zealanders make huge contributions to maintaining our social fabric through their skills and life experiences, as workers, as parents or grandparents, as caregivers and as active members of the community.

Yet often older people are portrayed as a burden on society, suffer from ageism are exploited or even abused. Genuine issues of poverty loneliness and sickness are too easily ignored.

NZCCSS argues that the realities of an aging population put some fundamental challenges before all us: Where and how shall we live? What choices will there be to help us? What choices will we be able to provide older people with?

Some answers can be drawn from the long tradition that Christian social services have in supporting older people, in developing innovative responses to needs and in seeking to work in partnership with governments to plan future services.

Ultimately we can play a part in building strong communities that value the lives of older people. This reflects a central message of Christian teaching that we are all interdependent and need to look after each other.

*Abridged: NZCCSS*

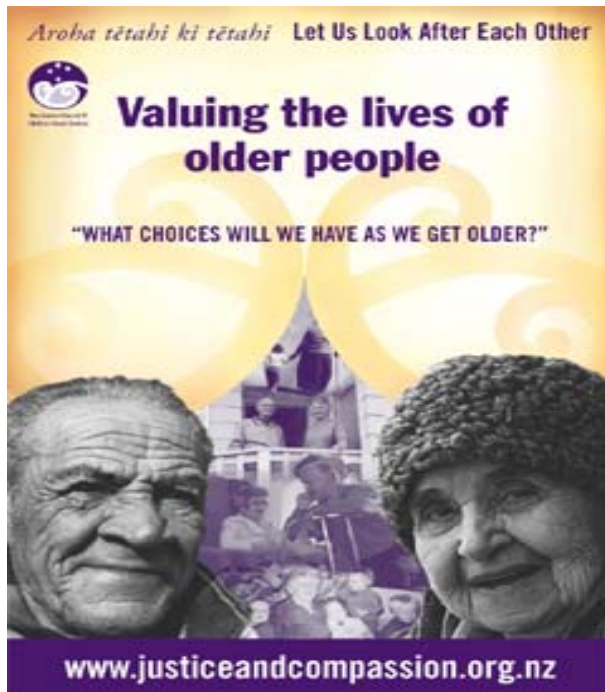
**Doing our part...**

As an Anglican and Catholic social service we have a special part to play in support of families, including support of older people. ACROSS also works closely with other community organisations and in this issue we have highlighted the work of the Anglican Social Work Trust in Palmerston North

**The Anglican Social Work Trust** was set up in 1988 as an independent charitable organisation. By providing friendship and help we are able to provide assistance and contacts to enable the elderly to remain in the community and to meet with others. We employ a Social Worker who oversees Volunteers to drive the vans, help at the various events and with the visiting scheme to ensure the seniors are visited regularly in their homes or place of residence.

We organise and run Friendship Centres 4 days per week using three minibuses to transport seniors, free of charge, to the Centre activities and outings. We also liaise with family members and other concerned groups, and identify areas of need within the community where we have the potential to help and offer support to about 200 seniors each week. We operate from various sites around the city and hope to move back All Saints soon. Forty Volunteers were recently given certificates of acknowledgement for their services, five of whom have been serving the elderly for over 15 years each.

As we get no Government Funding we are reliant on Grants and donations from various organisations and individuals and welcome any support given and are always on the lookout for new Volunteers to help us. For more information phone Theresa or Heather 3551204



**SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY**

The Anglican Church has set aside July 27 as a day to celebrate the work of all those involved in social services through the Church. Help recognise this day by remembering these people and showing your appreciation in some way.



**Your support...**

If you would like to make a donation towards our work please complete the tear off form:

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Send to: THE DIRECTOR, ACROSS, PO Box 1140, Palmerston North 4440