



ACROSS

Te Kotahitanga O te Wairua

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NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

The last message in the year-long programme of social justice information and advocacy by the New Zealand Council for Christian Social Services (Aroha tētahi ki tētahi - Let Us Look After Each Other) has been released; it calls for more support to be given to the work done by community-based organisations throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

"Social issues that providers of social services are engaged with every day are about solutions not problems," says Trevor McGlinchey, NZCCSS Executive Officer.

"We see the big picture. The big picture of what it means to have your life and your potential valued, to be safe and nurtured as a child, to have your choices respected and supported as you grow older, to have your family live in an affordable and healthy house".

"All of these things are compromised by poverty, by ignorance of how poverty affects New Zealanders and by prejudice. Turning those attitudes around has been the focus of our work this year. We cannot afford to live in a political environment where words such as 'underclass' are used to describe those amongst us who survive on the lowest of incomes or are otherwise at their most vulnerable. Rather than labels, we seek social justice for all".

"The strength evident in so many of our communities gives us real hope. Problems like child safety, domestic violence, poor housing, unhealthy lifestyles, mental health issues and even the worst affects of poverty can be overcome by people working together in communities," says Trevor McGlinchey.

"We believe that the way forward lies in a two-way partnership between government agencies and those community-based organisations that care most for their community. If governments truly listen to the grassroot and flaxroot voices of the people, they will develop policies to help with community based solutions to local issues".

Supporting information and further background is available at the NZCCSS website at www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz

Abridged: NZCCSS

Review of our Plan for 2006-08

This month we reviewed our achievements over the last 2 years. **Highlights** have been:

- increase in the number of after school children's programmes
- offering a greater range of services in return for Ministry of Social Development funding
- the growth in the number of support groups provided
- extending services into other areas
- support for training with other community groups

- contracting to provide services for people with mental health needs

We now move onto planning for the next two years – the signs are that the challenges will be greater, especially the cost of providing for support of families; next year we be will promoting the **ACROSS Supporters Trust**. The Trust receives donations from people wanting to support our work through regular giving and automatic payments; (we also have our 100 Club which is aimed at businesses looking to donate funds) – people can make enquiries about making regular donations either as an individual or business by contacting ACROSS and/or completing the tear off slip below (it should also be noted that ACROSS is now registered with Charities Commission).

Latest happenings...



Over the first weekend in December ACROSS organised a parenting programme for fathers with support from the Palmerston North Strengthening Families programme, this programme provides coordinated support for families where agencies and the family work together to develop joint solutions. The weekend was very successful for those who attended. ACROSS continues to look for new ideas like this to support people in the community where there is a need.



The important role community organisations play alongside government social service providers continues to be promoted by this Association of which ACROSS is a member – watch this space! We believe in the next 2-3 years the relationship between govt. and non-govt. agencies will become even more important.



ACROSS will be closed from 24 December – re-opening on 5 January; we wish all those who have supported us over the last year a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Your support...

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

- I / we enclose a donation of \$
- I/ we would like to make automatic payments, please send a direct debit form

NAME:

ADDRESS:

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