

## A QUESTION SMACKING OF DECEIT

Happily my children are not yet at the age when they look wildly around for the nearest exit whenever I mention my schooldays. In fact they're fascinated by these tales of the ancient world, particularly when the subject of corporal punishment comes up. My kids love hearing about the teacher who used to soak his strap in warm water every morning; about the family friend whose secondary school had a tradition of caning the last boy home from the annual cross country.

Presumably, my children are enthralled by these anecdotes for much the same reason that I used to be transfixed by stories of the thumbscrew, the rack, and the dunking stool; because there's a perverse pleasure in rubber necking on barbarism from a safe distance.

The notion of corporal punishment in schools is thrilling rather than scary for my kids because it is unimaginable to them that their teacher might beat them until they bleed for spelling a word wrong. School has inevitable trials, but my children have never associated it with pain, terror and humiliation.

New Zealand was among the last countries in the industrialised world to ban corporal punishment in schools, but attitudes have now changed to the point where most parents would be outraged at any suggestion that teachers be allowed to take a belt, strap or cane to kids. Bafflingly, though, it appears to be the location of the beating rather than the act itself that some of us object to. We don't want kids being hit in the classroom, but we're happy for them to be hit in the home.

Despite clear evidence that the world around us is chock full of people who couldn't successfully raise a family of tadpoles to adulthood, we believe anyone above the age of 8 can be trusted to use restraint, caution and common sense in deciding exactly how hard to hit the children in their care. This is

presumably why, in July and August, we will go through the utter tedium of yet another public consultation exercise on the child discipline law. Two years ago, by a majority of 113 votes to 8, Parliament gave children protection from physical assault by their parents. Advocates of smacking claimed the changes would lead to the criminalisation of good parents, but this has not happened.

Police reviews of the law have found that there are very few complaints about smacking, and that parents are not being prosecuted for minor assaults. Opponents of the law change started getting signatures for a petition calling for a referendum even before the act was passed. So now - even though this was one of the most widely debated policy changes in New Zealand's recent history; even though it was passed by a huge majority; even though the law is clearly working well - we're about to spend \$10million on a postal vote referendum.

Much as I hate to kick a dog when it's down, it's hard not to put at least part of the blame for this on the media. It was never legal to hit kids: the law change simply prevented people from using the "reasonable force" defence if they attacked their children with, for example, a plank of wood or a horsewhip. And yet, most media outlets continue to use the lazy, inaccurate and partisan term of 'the anti-smacking bill'

Bob McCoskrie, self-appointed champion of "the family", is given far more media coverage than Unicef, Barnardos, Save the Children or any of the other organisations that support the act, and his continued bleating that the law victimises good parents is largely left unchallenged.

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER.....

Tena Koutou, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Malo e Lelei, Bula Vinaka,  
Taloha Ni Greetings

It's hard to believe that we are half way through 2009 already, and signs are that this year is just as busy and productive for SSPA as in previous years. Plans are well underway to hold our popular annual conference in Whangarei on 17 and 18 September and we are delighted that Hon Pita Sharples and Paula Bennett have agreed to be keynote speakers this year.

After the many months of uncertainty and anxiety for many of our members, and in the face of financial pressures on services, Minister Bennett finally announced the introduction of the Community Response Fund at a series of briefing meetings throughout the country. Full information on the Fund has been sent to members already and also appears in the latest MSD Funding News. We were also pleased to learn that the Pathways to Partnership funding has been retained for the sector, albeit that it is likely to be re-worked into a new programme to match the priorities of the incoming government.

A delegation of National Executive members and the National Executive Officer met with Ministers Bennett and Turia on 18 June to provide an opportunity for them to hear about the work of SSPA and for SSPA to hear about the Ministers' vision for the social services and ways we might work together to achieve common outcomes. Our requests to build an on-going relationship in the interests of the sector were warmly received. We were pleased to bring our Regional Development Officers to Wellington on the same day and to provide an opportunity for them to meet with each other and to meet National Executive members.

Earlier this year SSPA was asked to help organise a process for seeking feedback from the sector on the MSD Contract Terms and Conditions, and to be part of a panel to consider the feedback received. By now you will have received a copy of the revised contract document which reflects most of the suggestions that were submitted and I'm sure you will agree that this is now a much more acceptable and user friendly document.

SSPA's three Regional Development Officers have been busy familiarising themselves with their role and organising Regional Meetings and Best Practice Seminars around the country. In the past two months Seminars have been held on 'Loss -Hope - Resilience' facilitated by Skylight one of our Wellington members, an Expo highlighting the variety and scope of over 100 social services in Canterbury, and a seminar on 'Having Conversations about Abuse' facilitated by Ken McMaster to be held in North Canterbury at the end of June.

Jocelyn Wilson

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The referendum question "should a smack as part of good parental correction be a criminal offence in New Zealand?" - not only implies that all good parents smack, but wrongly suggests that a parent who smacks will be prosecuted. It is outrageous that in a recession, we should be required to spend \$10 million for the privilege of answering this deceitful question. Meanwhile, nearly one child a week is admitted to Starship children's hospital with serious injuries inflicted by an adult. It took us generations for us to believe that it was unacceptable to beat children in schools. It will take generations for us to believe that it is unacceptable to beat children in our homes. But we have to start somewhere.

This article by Linley Boniface appeared in the Dominion Post 8 June 2009 .

## NOTICES

**Social Service Providers  
Aotearoa**

**Annual Conference 2009**

**'Te Puawaitanga O Te**

**Kakano' - 'Sowing Seeds of  
Change'**

**Flames International Hotel**

**Whangarei 17 and 18**

**September 2009**

**Keynote Speakers include**

- **Hon Paula Bennett**
- **Dr. Pita sharples**
- **Di Grennel**
- **Dr. Fiona Inkpen**

**For further information go to  
the website [www.sspa.org.nz](http://www.sspa.org.nz)**

**"Professional Supervision:  
Common threads, different  
patterns"**

**Auckland 30 April – 01 May  
2010**

**Pre-conference workshops  
29 April**

Supervision will be examined from a range of different professions' perspectives. Conference themes: Supervision in Context; Research, education and training; Cultural models and social justice; Practice innovations. Interested? More information available from:-  
[Barbara.a.burt@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.a.burt@gmail.com)

**20th Asia Pacific Social  
Work Conference 11 - 13  
November 2009**

Major theme of the conference is -  
'Many voices, many communities,  
social justice for all'

Further information available on the  
website:- [www.swinnz2009.co.no](http://www.swinnz2009.co.no)

## **MSD Consults with Community Agencies about Web-Based Case Management and Reporting Tool**

On Wednesday 27 May 2009, a group of NGOs were invited by the Ministry of Social Development's Family and Community Services (FACS) to attend a presentation on a web-based case management and reporting tool they have recently completed to support the operations of a group of providers delivering Family Start services.

**1. This web-based tool has the following features:**

- It facilitates entry of information by front-line workers that follows the service delivery process
- It generates reminders of key provider activities associated with families' progress
- It provides day to day management information for service delivery providers
- It builds formal reports in the background that relate to activities, practice elements and results/outcomes.

FACS suggested that if we were interested they could partner with us to develop a common web-based case management and reporting tool that might be offered to all the providers they currently contract to deliver critical social services. This development would be at no cost to providers, other than their representatives attending scoping and project meetings.

**The benefits of such a development would include:**

- reduced compliance for providers in terms of reporting
- improved information for outcomes based reporting and monitoring of the impact achieved e.g. regular reports could specify -
  - (a) how much did we do? (monthly statistical reports)
  - (b) how well did we do? (quarterly report)
  - (c) is anyone better off? (quarterly report)
- reduced cost of monitoring.

Community representatives at the meeting saw many benefits for social service providers from this proposition. It was recognised that the cost of introducing a computer based data programme can be extremely expensive for the NGO sector, and therefore partnering with the Ministry may be an option for some providers in the community sector. A follow up meeting is planned in two - three months and interested NGOs will be invited to present examples of their service delivery work as part of the scoping meetings.

**Please contact Jocelyn Wilson, National Executive Officer, on Phone 06 36405657 or email: [jocwilson@theorganisation.org.nz](mailto:jocwilson@theorganisation.org.nz) if you would like to be kept informed of progress on the Web Based Management and Reporting Tool.**



## Agency Profile.....

# IOSIS FAMILY SOLUTIONS

Many people have asked us what the word **IOSIS** actually means. It's a great conversation opener and explanations usually lead to a meaningful exchange. **iosis** isn't an anagram, it is, however a word that means, "The process whereby base metal is turned into gold." Obviously this concept by its' very nature forms our mission statement where we believe that transformation is possible when the right formula is applied to the families we seek to serve within our community.

The use of the word solutions in our title also gives rise to the thought that transformation is part of a solutions based ideal that allows clients to gain and reach a potential they never thought they could. It gives them tools they can own and use themselves, and allows them progression at their own pace with complete recognition of themselves as the driving force behind the change and offers them opportunity to experience life differently.

**IOSIS** is a learning environment. Our clients have much to teach us and it is in our best interests to learn from them. Our belief structure hinges on the concept of creating strong and healthy families where each person is valued and encouraged. Our service specialises in a multi-disciplinary approach which we use to good effect, constantly looking at ways this can be enhanced to meet current client need.

Our newest innovation is to take a sample of all the services we currently offer and combine them into one five week programme. This will give clients the opportunity of being able to experience a sample of what is on offer and to be in a good position to be referred into a more specialised intervention if required. We have called this our Family Resilience Programme.

### **IOSIS currently offer the following services:**

- Social Work; Counselling;
- MenD (Men's Development Programme)
- KFS (Kids Feeling Safe)
- Parenting Programmes for 3 age groups (0-5; 6-12 and teen)
- Parenting Through Separation
- Family Therapy
- Budgeting (Total Money Management)
- Supervised Visitation;
- Strengthening Families
- Residential women and children's programme – Merivale Whanau Development Centre.

Each one of these programmes is complete in itself, however, we have the potential to be a "one stop shop" for those experiencing multi level needs, and to allow for easy referral from one service to another.



**Ruby Duncan is the Chief Executive Officer of iosis Family Solutions -  
Contact details are 112C Russell Road, Manurewa, Ph 09 2555212  
E mail: ruby.duncan@iosis.org.nz**

## **From the Minister's Desk.....**

### **Hon. Paula Bennett**



No one knows better than those working in social services how difficult the economic environment has become over the past few months. Or how much harder it will get. We know from experience that those likely to feel the worst effects of this downturn are already facing challenges they seem unable to overcome. But right now we also have the opportunity to take a hard look at how we've been operating over the last decade and do things better. That doesn't mean spending more money. It does mean being far, far smarter and making every dollar count.

We will know we have succeeded when every single New Zealander has the opportunity to realise their full potential, and contribute to and participate in society. Children should have the opportunity to succeed in life, and people facing challenges should be given the tools they need to get ahead. But there's another reason we need this to happen: it's the smart thing to do for New Zealand.

When some of us have lost the ability to look after ourselves and our own lives at a certain level, we all suffer. If you have poor social outcomes, you hold back the potential of not just individuals or even their families – but whole communities. If you're not getting people to reach their potential, then by default, you're not allowing the country to reach its potential either. If there is one thing that has been crystal clear to me from talking to people throughout New Zealand – it's the capacity which communities naturally possess to understand how they can best look after their own. It's simple really. Communities are best placed to understand the issues and challenges being faced by the individuals and families living within their borders. Ideas and partnerships and connections are more easily developed at the community level. There's an inherent willingness to help and a shared interest in everyone being at their best. We need to recognise this as the priceless resource that it is and work far more closely with community partners.

With that in mind, we've announced the Community Response Fund, which will make up to \$104 million dollars available over the next two years to help support those critical social services doing such great work in towns and cities around New Zealand. The Fund is targeted at those groups working with vulnerable families, children, younger and older people, which are facing a significant increase in demand for their services or are in dire financial straits as a result of the economic downturn. The applications will be decided by regional panels with community representation.

This National-government understands the difference organisations like SSPA can make in the lives of so many Kiwis. But you need support. As well as the Community Response Fund, I've been pleased to be able to confirm that funding committed under the Pathway to Partnership model will remain in the sector. That's no small achievement when belts are being tightened across all areas of government. As well as the importance of community voice in decision making, we want to emphasise the need for central and local government to work well together in delivering outcomes for families and communities. Council and central government have critical roles and responsibilities to deliver on social outcomes. In Auckland alone about 12 billion dollars is spent by central and local government to achieve social outcomes every year. We need to make sure it is spent effectively.

We're not interested in telling people how to live their lives. We back people to know what's best for them. People who are struggling often need to access a number of different supports and programmes. But I believe many programmes operate in isolation from each other, with little long term thinking for how they could, or should, work together to support someone needing help. It's time to ensure that every tax dollar we invest is spent where it will make a real difference, and that we put in place



## **Applications are invited for the MSD Social Work Study Awards 2010**

### **Applications for an NGO social work study award commencing in 2010 are invited from social workers employed by a Non-Government Organisation (NGO)**

To be eligible NGO's are likely to be community organisations that have become incorporated societies, or that have a charitable status. Organisations will need to demonstrate eligibility. Social work students will need to be paid employees of NGO's and enrolled in or intending to enrol in a social work course that is recognised by the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB). The application round for these study awards opens on Monday 29 June 2009 and closes on Friday 16 October 2009 - a minimum of 65 new study awards will be available for the 2010 academic year. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application no later than 4 December 2009.

#### **About The Awards**

- Each study award has a maximum possible value of \$32,750:
- Students can receive help with their course fees of up to \$3,500 per year and up to \$10,500 in total over the duration of the award
- Employers can receive a contribution to help support their student in study of up to \$4,500 per year and up to \$13,500 over the duration of the award. This can be used to help with a range of study-related expenses, including backfilling the employee's position while they are studying.
- Employers can also receive a contribution to help with the cost of backfilling their employee while they are on their final three month external placement of up to \$8,750.

#### **Application Process**

Application is a joint process between an NGO employee and their employer. There is a standard application form to complete and it is recommended that employees and their employers complete the application together. Complete and well-presented information is likely to assist in the selection process.

#### **Selection Process**

All applications will be considered on a national basis on their individual merits. Selection will be based on the

- completed standard application form and any supporting documentation provided
- through the selection criteria weighting will be given to: organisations with government contracts for services which are delivering early intervention or preventative social work services to vulnerable children and families
- employees who have previously studied and / or who are currently studying at a tertiary level
- employees who are employed on a full time basis (ideally 20 hours or more per week)

#### **More Information**

These awards are administered by Family and Community Services (FACS), a service line of the Ministry of Social Development. More information about these study awards is available on our website – <http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/index.html> or by calling our free phone 0508 346 376.

#### **Information booklets and the standard application forms are available :**

- from the Family and Community Services website (see above)
- from individual Schools of Social Work (i.e. Universities, Polytechnics, Wananga, etc)
- by calling free phone 0508 346 376
- through attending one of the Pre-application Workshops (see next page).

### **NGO Study Awards - Pre-Application Workshops**

A series of pre-application workshops will be held between June and October 2009, as below. These workshops will explain more fully the information available contained in the Applicant's Booklet, and on our website. These workshops also provide an opportunity to have any questions answered. The timing and locations of these workshops is as shown below - this information and any changes can also be accessed via our website <http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/index.html> or by calling our free phone 0508 346 376.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Host</b>
30/06/2009	Christchurch	1.00 pm to 3.00 pm	Room N202/203, Second Floor Nursing Building, City Campus, CPIT, Madras Street, Christchurch.
01/07/2009	Dunedin	4.00 pm to 6.00 pm	Otago University, School of Social Work, 520 Castle Street, Dunedin.
07/09/2009	Hamilton	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	Anglican Action Te Ara Hou, 100 Morrinsville Rd, Hamilton.
08/09/2009	Tauranga	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	TWOA Campus, 69 Spring Rd, Tauranga.
09/09/2009	Gisborne	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	TWOA Campus, 630 Childers Rd, Gisborne.
11/09/2009	Auckland	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	TWOA Campus, 15 Canning Cres, Mangere, Auckland.
15/09/2009	Kaitia	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	NorthTech, Kaitia Campus, Room 1, 21 South Road, Kaitia.
16/09/2009	Whangarei	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	NorthTech, Raumaunga Campus, Room F210, 55 Raumaunga Valley Rd., Whangarei.
17 & 18/09/2009	Whangarei		SSPC Annual Conference, Flames International Hotel, Waverley Street, Onerahi, Whangarei.
22/09/2009	Hawkes Bay	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	Family Works, 106 Lyndon Rd, Hastings.
23/09/2009	Palmerston North	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	W&I Regional Office, 37 Victoria St, Palmerston Nth.
24/09/2009	Wellington	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	TWOA Campus, Auditorium, 3-5 Heroit Dr, Porirua.
28/09/2009	Nelson	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	Public Health Organisation, 20 New Street, Nelson
29/09/2009	Christchurch (NOTE: Please do not park in Library carpark)	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	Beckenham Centre, Boardroom, 66 Colombo Street Christchurch
30/09/2009	Invercargill	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	Family Works, 183 Spey Street, Invercargill.
05/10/2009	Rotorua	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	Waiariki Institute of Technology, (Room L 14), Mokoia Drive, Rotorua.

## HAVE YOUR SAY.....

In this issue of SSPA's Newsletter Minister Bennett says *"We're not interested in telling people how to live their lives. We back people to know what's best for them. People who are struggling often need to access a number of different supports and programmes. But I believe many programmes operate in isolation from each other, with little long term thinking for how they could, or should, work together to support someone needing help. It's time to ensure that every tax dollar we invest is spent where it will make a real difference, and that we put in place systems which support people striving to become self sufficient and contributing to society"*

Minister Bennett appears to be having a re-think on how Government funding to the NGO sector should be spent and new ways in which social services can be provided in the future

If you had the opportunity to put people and communities in the driving seat how would you develop a fresh approach to social service delivery? Let us have your thoughts and ideas on what a social service would look like if you had the opportunity to design a new system from scratch.

**Send your responses to Jocelyn Wilson, National Executive Officer, SSPA, PO Box 127 Otaki or e mail [jocwilson@theorrganisation.org.nz](mailto:jocwilson@theorrganisation.org.nz)**

### **SSPA welcomes our third Regional Development Officer**

**John Wenger**



**Hello to SSPA members!**

As of April 2009, I have taken up the new role of Regional Development Officer in the Auckland region. Over the coming months, no doubt I will be able to meet many of you in person, but I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce myself here. I currently divide my time between running my own business and in the role of Manager of Parent Trust Auckland Inc. The role of RDO sits very comfortably alongside both of these roles. I am passionate about growing strong relationship, strategic thinking and good, systemic outcomes for our clients. I also have an understanding of clinical work in the sector, having been a therapist at the SAFE programme in Auckland, a telephone counsellor at Youthline Auckland and having worked in private practice as a counsellor. I am looking forward to drawing together and facilitating an increasingly-connected forum in the Auckland region which can serve its members to forge and maintain the good working relationships necessary to generate united voice and action around issues of common concern to us all. While I'll be making every effort to get out and about and meet with the Auckland members as much as possible, I welcome your phone calls and emails as well. Please be in touch and let me know what you want from SSPA and what you bring to SSPA! I hope that, together, we can generate something lively, nourishing and productive for us all.

**Don't forget it's Membership Renewal Time!! Renewal forms are enclosed with this Newsletter. SSPA's membership subscription fee remains the same We rely on and appreciate your ongoing membership to maintain our support for the sector**