

Children's Commissioner Dr. Cindy Kiro launches book on homicide



Lives Cut Short, Child death by maltreatment, by Marie Connolly and Mike Doolan, is a significant piece of research and analyses that will be useful to anyone engaged in child welfare. This book, which records 91 child homicides in New Zealand between 1991 and 2000, was published by the Office of the Children's Commissioner and launched at a function at Parliament on 5 December. It has already generated a lot of interest, including internationally. Commissioner Dr Cindy Kiro says she wants the book to continue to foster discussions around child abuse with the goal of ensuring every child is safe, nurtured and enjoys good health, education, safety and economic wellbeing.

"While no country can ever hope to prevent all child maltreatment deaths, we can reduce the number with more rigorous research and by looking at building a child health and welfare system that works in an integrated and coherent way. "One of the most disturbing findings of the study undertaken by the book's authors is that children under one year of age are the most likely to be killed and represent 26 percent of child homicide victims in New Zealand. "It is glaringly obvious that solving this problem involves investment in the early years of life focusing on prevention and intervention when abuse occurs".

This theme was picked up the morning after the book launch with the final Littlies Lobby breakfast of the year, also held at Parliament, on 6 December. Dr Kiro called on all political parties to provide the public with their plans to invest in children and young people as New Zealand heads into a general election next year. She was joined by Plunket; high-profile New Zealander actress Robyn Malcolm,

television presenters Suzy Cato and Mike McRoberts; and a group of five Wellington children to present to representatives of political parties and the current government at the breakfast event.

"Importantly from my perspective, we had five children from Wellington who gave us their opinions on five key things children need to get the right start in life. In their words, these are: opportunities; support; fun – which interestingly they say does not require money; being fair and setting rules for safety; and providing food and shelter so they are safe and warm. "Our babies need all of us to take responsibility for their wellbeing. The high-profile New Zealanders spoke about how the community feels and what they want to see happen to prevent child abuse. It's a good time for all political parties to consider how they will ensure good child health, quality education, social support for families and children, flexible work practices and family-friendly policies in the workplace. "The economic benefits for investing in the first five years and reducing child poverty are as compelling as the moral case and human rights obligations.

"Families, communities and politicians need to think about the things the children told us. In planning their presentation on the Give me Five theme of the breakfast, they said how important it was for a parent to support them on the sports field to cheer them on. They talked about going to the park and playing cards as fun family activities for any family. They said it was important to be able to explore their community and have places to play that are safe. This is a theme that ties into Children's Day in March 2009.

"It makes sense for policy-makers to listen to children and involve them in future planning."

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER.....

As 2007 draws to a close it is once again time to acknowledge the valuable work provided by our members and the services delivered to children, young people and families in communities around the country. Our membership remains strong and SSPA values the continuing support provided to the organisation as we advocate on behalf of our grass roots members to ensure that identified issues and concerns are acted upon.

This year we canvassed your views through the Talking Back Questionnaire on Social Work Registration and Work Force Issues and the responses received provided a clear picture of how these two important issues affect our member organisations. The collated responses can be viewed on SSPA's website www.theorganisation.org.nz. In response to the concerns identified, the National Executive met with members of the Social Work Registration Board and similarly the many Work Force Issues identified will be raised with Minister Dyson early in the New Year.

We were pleased to welcome on board Apii Rongo-Raea as the Regional Executive Officer responsible for keeping in touch and strengthening our Regional Networks. Already Apii has held a Regional Meeting in Tauranga and in various locations throughout Northland. Next year he will be organising Regional Meetings in areas that are not well served at the present time. Watch out for information on Regional Meetings to be held in Nelson, Blenheim, West Coast, Taranaki, Hawkes Bay and the greater Wellington area.

Best Practice Seminars continue to be an important part of the work provided to our members. Two Seminars are in the planning stage for Auckland and Northland in the New Year and in response to requests from members we are wanting to provide training in ways to develop safe bi-cultural practice.

We continue to meet with key politicians wherever possible to raise awareness of the issues affecting the sector - as election year looms in 2008 this will include politicians from all parties .

Jocelyn Wilson
National Executive Officer

As the festive season is almost upon us the National Executive would like to wish all SSPA members a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and trust that wherever you travel you have a relaxed and safe holiday.



NOTICES

Advance Notice of the 3rd National Stopping Sexual Violence Conference
"Hurt - Hope - Health"
Quality Hotel Plymouth International
New Plymouth
24 - 26 September 2008

Further information is available from
manager@safercentre.org.nz
Ph 06 7584178

The Annual Conference for Social Service Providers Aotearoa will be held in Dunedin in September 2008. More information on the dates of the conference and the venue will be available in the New Year

Discipline, Democracy and Diversity

Working with students with behaviour difficulties by Angus H. McFarlane is a useful resource that provides a range of practical approaches, responses, practices and procedures that can be used by teachers and others in their everyday work.

The book is available from The NZ Council for Education Research, PO Box 3237, Wellington Ph 04 3847933

E-mail:sales@nzcer.org.nz

Cost of the book is \$39.60

Lives Cut Short: Child Death by maltreatment

The book launched by Dr Cidy Kiro aims to increase understanding of child homicide in NZ. It also seeks to identify contributing factors and how we might better keep children and young people safe. The book is written by Mike Doolan (former Chief Social Worker) and Dr. Marie Connolly current Chief Social Worker. This book is available at www.occ.org.nz - Office of the Children's Commissioner at a cost of \$24.95.

Update on the Pathways to Partnership Project

Social Service Providers Aotearoa has been aware for some time of the widespread concerns held in the NGO sector about the lack of Govt. funding to ensure services remain viable and sustainable over time. Historical contributory funding has remained the same for some years and involved a competitive funding process which left many social services scrambling for additional funding from Lotteries, Community Trusts and other external funding bodies to meet the shortfall in their budget requirements. This situation has resulted in uncertainty and contributed to a lack of planning beyond the immediate level of funding.

Goals and Objectives and Terms of Reference for the Project

The Pathways to Partnership Strategy has been identified as a mechanism for addressing longstanding problems with funding levels, processes and NGO capacity issues. The Pathways to Partnership is a five year plan to provide a clearer direction for building effective and sustainable community based child and family support services

The Project aims to:

- Establish a strong continuum of child and family services from prevention to remedial services
- Increase the availability of demonstrably effective child and family services
- Encourage services to work together
- Improve the way in which providers' infrastructure, workforce development and training needs are met

The key elements of Pathways to Partnership include:

- Establishing local strategic partnerships of service providers to improve services planning and coverage, encourage joint working, focus on joint outcomes, and provide incentives for providers to work together or merge
- Replacing child and family service contracts with an annual value of \$30,000 or less with conditional grant arrangements to reduce compliance and transaction costs
- Moving key part funded child and family services towards a model of fully funding services sought by the Government, with an initial focus on family violence, including child abuse and neglect, and early intervention services
- Recognising, through a one-off payment in 2007/2008, the cost pressures associated with inflation for child and family services funded by FACS, Child Youth and Family, Ministry of Youth Development and Ministry of Education (the Hippy programme and Family Start)
 - developing an approach for recognising community-based child and family services' inflation related cost pressures from 2008/2009 and beyond

Participants:

Pathways to Partnership has been developed with oversight from a Steering Group that includes representatives drawn from key NGO groups, including Social Service Providers Aotearoa Representatives on the Steering Group come from the following organisations:-

Plunket
Barnardos
Pacific Islands Women's Trust
He Waka Tapu Trust
Jigsaw
Te Korowhai Aroha o Aotearoa
Relationship Services
Child Protection Studies
Social Service Providers Aotearoa
NZ Council of Social Services

As a member of the Steering Group I have been able to put forward many of the views and concerns that have been conveyed to me by SSPA members through Regional Meetings and Talking Back Questionnaires. Other providers have been involved in specific aspects of the project, for example, there is a user testing group of around 25 providers for the development of a costing tool for child and family services.

Stage One:

The timeline for the five year plan is broken into three phases. The first phase from July 2007 to June 2009 includes –

- Establishing and evaluating up to five local strategic child and family partnerships over the next two years (the two in 2007/08 that have been chosen are Social Services Waikato and Social Service Providers, Canterbury) Three more sites will be established in 2008/2009
- Expanding national strategic partnerships with key child and family services
- Introducing a services planning and funding model, including developing a costing tool to support child and family services ' business planning
- Developing sustainable and fair funding - including -
 - Transferring services receiving \$30,000 or less a year from service contracts to conditional grants where this does not compromise client safety
 - Making a payment in 2007/2008 to recognise cost pressures associated with inflation over the next year for CYF or FACS and MYD funded services as well as the HIPPY and Family Start programmes funded by the Ministry of Education
 - Moving key part funded child and family services toward full funding

Have you applied to register with the Charities Commission yet?

The Charities Commission is strongly encouraging charities to apply
NOW to join its Charities Register

Charitable organisations need to register with the Charities Commission before 1 July 2008 to continue to be eligible for tax exemptions on the grounds of charitable purposes.

About the Charities Commission

The Charities Register will help build and maintain public confidence in the charitable sector by making more information about charities publicly available. It will also provide better information to government from which it can make policy decisions affecting the charitable sector.

Once the registration period is over, the Commission will focus on providing education and assistance to the charitable sector, encouraging best practice in governance and use of resources, and providing advice on matters relating to charities.

Apply now to get in the queue

Applications for registration under the Charities Act **take at least fourteen weeks to process**, with more complex cases taking longer. With more applications being received every day, and the queue growing longer, it makes good sense to get your application in as soon as possible, to avoid any uncertainties about your future tax status. Although the Commission can backdate registration it can only do so to the date it receives a **correctly completed** application.

Applications received by the commission after 1 July 2008 will be caught up by the new tax laws, and will be subject to income tax (including Resident Withholding Tax) and gift and estate duty taxes until the date the application is processed, and if it meets the Charities Act criteria, registered

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible for registration, an organisation must:-

- Be established and maintained for charitable purposes - meaning they must have a purpose that advances religion, advances education, relieves poverty, or is otherwise beneficial to the community (For Social Service Providers the term 'otherwise beneficial to the community could refer to promoting public health - such as providing education, counselling, and rehabilitation services; or facilitating social rehabilitation - such as integrating people back into the community who

have a disability or some form of deprivation.

Have officers who are qualified to be officers under the Charities Act (to qualify an officer must not be:

- an undischarged bankrupt
- younger than 16
- Subject to a property order under the Protection of Person and Property Rights Act 1988, or have their property managed by a trustee corporation under section 32 of that Act.
- Prohibited from being involved with the management of a company under Sections 382,383, or 385 of the Companies Act 1993.
- Convicted of a crime of dishonesty and sentenced within the last 7 years
- Disqualified from being an officer by the Commission under Section 31 (4) of the Charities Act.
- A body corporate that is being wound up, in liquidation or receivership or subject to statutory management under the Corporations (Investigation and Management) Act 1989.
- Disqualified from being an officer under the rules of their organisation.

Note: Being a registered charitable trust, incorporated society or a company or having donee status is not the same as being registered under the Charities Act. All existing charitable-purpose tax exemptions granted by Inland Revenue will also be null and void after 1 July 2008. To retain charitable-purpose tax Exemptions, organisations will need to register under the Charities Act.

How do I register?

You can register online or on paper. Forms are available to download from the Commission website, or phone the Commission's free information line to request forms.

Further Information:

Website: www.charities.govt.nz

Email info@charities.govt.nz

Freephone 0508 242 748

From the Minister's Desk.....

Hon. Ruth Dyson



I'm very pleased to be writing this column in my new role as the Minister for Social Development and Employment. I am excited by the opportunities that the portfolio provides. I have met with many social sector agencies in my previous role as the Minister responsible for Child, Youth and Family, Disability Issues and Senior Citizens, and I know how important your work is. I look forward to working with you all to achieve our common goal of creating better futures for New Zealanders.

One of the important pieces of work that is currently underway is the update of the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989. In April 2007, the Ministry released a discussion paper outlining ideas from stakeholders on how the Act could be updated to ensure it remains relevant and to strengthen its principles. Close to 100 submissions were received on the document from stakeholders, academics and frontline workers from across the care and protection, disability and youth justice sector. This level of feedback demonstrates the commitment so many people have to ensuring the Act is one that supports the wellbeing of children, young people and their families.

One of the strongest messages to come out of the consultation is that the Act is fundamentally sound. People continue to strongly support the principles and the family group conference process is still considered to represent best practice. The submitters have identified areas where the Act could be improved and updated, and be made less complex. Following the consultation, an Amendment Bill has been introduced to Parliament. The Bill covers the first phase of changes being proposed to strengthen the Act and to ensure it is inline with current best practice.

The changes outlined in the Bill would:

- raise the upper age to include 17 year olds
- improve criteria for sharing information
- clarify options for holding child offenders accountable for their behaviour
- enhance Youth Court Orders, including the introduction of two new orders for persistent or serious offending by young people
- provide for better recognition of the rights of victims
- establish complaints and review procedures
- formalise the role of the Chief Social Worker
- allow different responses to reports of concerns of child abuse or neglect

- improve the participation of children and young people
- ensure the timeliness of care and protection family group conferences
- recognise the support needs of those moving from care to independence
- improve disability provisions by ensuring appropriate and timely family group conferences and reviews.

Phase two of the changes will include a plain language rewrite of the Act. Thank you to those of you who made submissions. There will be a further opportunity for input next year when the Bill goes through the select committee process. More information is available at www.msd.govt.nz.

The International Day of the Disabled is always a special day for me but this year it was particularly significant, with the announcement that New Zealand has been awarded the Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award for 2007. The Award is recognition of the progress that we have made towards achieving the goals of the UN's World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons to ensure equality and full participation of disabled people.

The Award particularly reflects the role of the New Zealand Disability Strategy in establishing a fully inclusive society in which disabled New Zealanders are able to lead ordinary lives. I would like to extend my thanks and warm congratulations to everyone in the disability community for their continued commitment to this goal. Although there is more to be done, this Award is just recognition of your efforts.

As part of the Award, US\$50,000 will be available to a New Zealand non-government disability organisation that has advocated for the rights of disabled people, or worked to make society more responsive to their needs. Applications are now being invited from outstanding non-government organisations for this Award. Applications close in February 2008 and more information is available from the Office for Disability Issues website at www.odi.govt.nz

Ruth Dyson
Minister for Social Development and Employment

Learning from our neighbours - Feedback from the Australian ACCAN Conference

Two National Executive members recently attended the ACCAN conference in Australia and were highly impressed by a model of sector wide collaboration that has been rolled out in Victoria . A major theme of the model is the 'whole of sector' approach to planning which focuses on the needs of individual children, young people and families and a commitment to improve outcomes for those who access the services.

The Australian Child Wellbeing and Safety Act (2005) contains a range of principles that apply to all services funded by the Office for Children that work with children young people and families. These principles are intended to guide the development and provision of services to children and families. They support the notion of an integrated system of services that share a common vision and they provide impetus to continue to focus effort on more coordinated and joined up ways of working together at the local level.

The Vision:

There are three parts to the vision to drive the sector

- Every child thrives, learns and grows, is valued and respected (to become an effective adult)
- To give families and communities the help they need to provide vulnerable children and young people with the best possible start in life
- Positive outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and families will be achieved through a collaborative service system of skilled and sustainable community service organisations working in a robust partnership with other services, government and the wider community

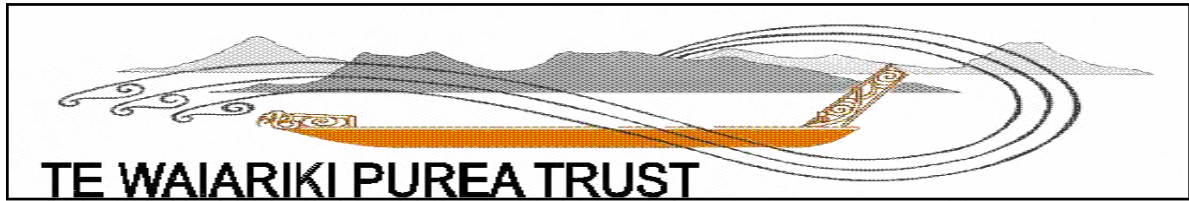
Key Challenges Identified in establishing new partnerships:

There are challenges in establishing new partnerships between child protection services and family support services - some of these are identified below

- Inadequately defined approach to partnership between government, service providers and service users which includes an inadequate definition of each party's roles and responsibilities
- Inadequate service co-ordination and leadership at the regional and statewide level
- A reactive service system, driven by system organisation and external pressures rather than by a focus on achieving improved outcomes for children, young people and families
- Service models that have not kept pace with the changing nature and rising complexity of the children, young people and families the services are for, and which need to ensure a stronger focus on earlier intervention
- A declining volunteer workforce and a need to better harness and support the potential volunteer resource that exists in other part of the service systems
- Many children are losing contact with their culture and communities - services must be more responsive and culturally aware
- Little understanding of the nature and value of the work of the sector within the broader community and an undervaluing of the work of non government services within the sector
- Failure to regularly update and revise funding models and to reflect increasing complexity

True partnership will occur when funded community organisations and the department work together to achieve shared objectives. The difference between the two will be acknowledged and respected and service providers will have an active voice in developing and implementing policy .

There are similarities between the Victorian model of collaboration and the work in progress on Pathways to Partnership in N.Z. Are there possibilities for NZ in adopting a similar whole of sector approach to collaboration? Email your views / comments to the Executive Officer jocwilson@theorganisation.org.nz. A full copy of the Sector Development Plan is also available by contacting the Executive Officer



Whakataukī - Mission Statement

*E hoki ki ngā maunga kia purea koe e nga hau a "Tāwhiri Matea"
Return to the mountains and there be purified by the winds of "Tawhiri Matea"*

We offer adventure activities and experiential educational services utilising the natural wonders of the Waiariki region including Te Arawa Lakes.

Te Waiariki Pura Trust was established in 1987. The Trust is Incorporated as a Charitable Trust and administered by a group of local trustees

Outdoor Services

Schools, PTEs, Marae groups, Tertiary providers, Other Social Service Providers pay Te Waiariki Pura Trust to provide outdoor activities such as: - Sea Kayaking - Waka Tete - Camping - Indoor Climbing Wall - Team Building - Abseiling



Youth Transitions Service (YTS)

Ministry of Social Development and The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs initiative to assist all 15 - 19 year olds into further Education, Training or Employment

Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS)

Te Arawa Journey Mai Maketu ki Tongariro 20 referred young people attend every weekend for 6 weeks.

Youth Development Programme - E Kare 3 young people per year - 6 months 3 young people per year

Ministry of Youth Development (MOYD)

12 young people attend a 20 week Conservation Corp course. Te Waiariki Pura Trust run 2 courses per year. We have been an approved provider of Conservation Corp for 25 programmes over 12 years

Private Training Establishment (PTE)

We are a certified PTE and students are taught Unit Standard training in Outdoor Recreation (SFRITO) and the National Certificate in Youth Work Level 4 (TKA)



**For further information please contact the Trust:
07 348 5051 or email twpt@xtra.co.nz**

Other Items of Interest.....

STUDY AWARD APPLICATIONS 2008

In excess of 30 pre-application workshops were held at various locations from Kaitaia to Invercargill to publicise the Study Award Programme. Attendance varied greatly with attendance at the workshops ranging from 0 - 40. Overall the interest level for workshops was extremely high and the workshops proved to be valuable for promotion of the study awards programme.

Approximately 120 applications were received and the standard and quality of the applications this year were very high. The criteria for Selection was as follows:-

- The assessment form for rating applications were aligned with questions within the application form
- The weightings reflected the relative importance of a number of factors including:
 - Employers indication of the level of support that will be provided during the employee's study.
 - Employee's demonstrated commitment and ability to achieve qualifications.
- The panel was advised that the assessment of each applicant was rated out of a possible 1000 and the scores typically ranged from 450-900 points.
- It is envisaged that 75 - 80 awards will be allocated to applicants determined by the highest scoring applicants against the available funding for award selection . It was thought that the applicants score cut-off point was around the 680-700 range.
- It was acknowledged that the 2008 applications received reflected a higher number of Maori and Pacific Island applications than in past years Total applicants (Maori and Pacific Island) were 62%.
- The average age of applicant was 40 years - the youngest was 21 years and the oldest 62 years.
- 71% of applicants were Female and 29% of applicants were male.

The next steps within the selection process is that the 2008 student selection proposal will be presented to the FACS senior manager for final review and during the first week in December selection letters and contracts are issued to the successful applicants. Signed contracts from employers and employees are expected back to FACS in January 2008.

UPDATING THE CYPF ACT

Following consultation with SSPA members earlier this year and as a result of feedback and comments received the National Executive submitted a submission on the discussion paper 'Safeguarding our Children: Updating the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1989' The discussion paper outlined ideas and suggestions from stakeholders for amending the Act and bringing it more up to date.

98 submissions from key stakeholders, practitioners and academics from across the care and protection, disability and youth justice sectors were received. A significant number of submissions represented organisation or groups with an interest in the sector.

As Hon Ruth Dyson acknowledges in her column in this Newsletter the CYPF act is recognised for what it is – world leading legislation. The principles and philosophies still represent best practice that continues to be strongly supported by those in the sector.

A range of opportunities for improvement emerged from the consultation, and in order to realise the benefits of the proposed changes in a timely manner, and because they cover both discrete policy changes and significant redrafting, the changes will follow a two phased approach.

Phase I will include discrete additions and policy changes and Phase II will cover whole of Act changes to language and structure. The Bill covering the Phase I changes was introduced to the house on 3 December and is available at http://www.parliament.nz/enNZ/PB/Legislation/Bills/c/7/1/00DBHOH_Bill8364_Children-Young-Persons-and-the-Families-Amendment.htm