



Number 5 - June 2009

Supporting Families and Children - Four Steps Forward, Three Steps Back

Shaun Robinson, NZCCSS President

NZCCSS has been working for many years to improve the systems of support for families and children. Much of our focus is on the care and protection, youth justice and income support systems – we have also tried very hard to get a co-ordinated approach to policy and governments activity. It has been a very long process in which we often take four steps forward then three steps back, but NZCCSS has had a positive impact over the years. Right now another chance to make progress is in front of us.

Going back twenty years NZCCSS helped shape the Children Young Persons and their Families (CYPF) Act and has been critiquing its implementation since 1989. Early in the 1990s the resources to support the Act dried up and a long series of restructures and revamps of Child Youth and Family (CYF) began. NZCCSS advocated hard for resources for families and for agencies who support them, and/ or a better partnership between government and community agencies. Toward the end of the 1990s this started to flow into CYF. It took nearly another decade before community groups saw some benefit with the initial roll out of Pathway to Partnership.

Along that road Differential Responses emerged as a model for better partnership between CYF and community providers, and, most importantly, for meeting the support needs of families.

During the last decade there were also several attempts to create an over-arching plan or policy framework for how we all address the needs of families and children. We had the Judge Brown review of Care and Protection in 2000, the Care and Protection Blueprint 2003, attempts at Local Services Mapping, the creation of Family and Community Services within the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and the development of Te Moemoea. Sadly none of these things have really got traction or given us the co-ordination that we need.

Differential Responses has changed a lot as it has been rolled out, the recession has hit and a new government



Members of the Council at a recent meeting in Wellington. Standing behind NZCCSS President Shaun Robinson, from left to right are: Nettie Holm, Brian Turner, Judith Petersen, John Murray, Ruby Duncan, Vaughan Milner, Ian Hutson, Ian Donnelly. Our other Council members are: Karen Morrison-Hume, Joan Hardiman and Duncan MacDonald.

is in power and the use of Pathway to Partnership funding is being reconsidered. In all of this several important pegs have been put in the ground:

- significant funding increases remain on the table through Pathway to Partnership
- partnership between CYF and community agencies is acknowledged via Differential Responses

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SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

- CYF is better resourced and has a better handle on its case load
- there is a recognition that co-ordination needs to happen at senior government levels

None of this is perfect but they are important pieces of the puzzle. Add to this the new government's genuine desire to consult our sector and we have an opportunity.

To begin with NZCCSS and its member church's leaders met with the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in March. Mr Key and Mr English showed real interest in making headway in the support for children and asked us to develop our ideas around a co-ordinated strategy.

NZCCSS is also directly involved with Social Development Minister Paula Bennett in thinking about how Pathway to Partnership could be developed.

With a bit of luck and a lot of effort we can hopefully bring the pieces together into something that will make the best use of the resources available to support children and families. We will keep you posted.

VULNERABILITY REPORTS

In the May 2009 issue of *Kete Kupu* NZCCSS outlined plans to produce a quarterly report covering the social impact of the recession.

Known as the 'Vulnerability Report' the aim is to draw together information from official sources such as the Consumers Prices Index, Benefit Fact Sheets, Housing NZ Corporation, Work and Income, etc to sit alongside data and stories from our own members. We hope to release the first report in early July.

We are keen to hear from anyone working in the following areas: food banks, emergency meals, budget services, social work, counselling, emergency housing, housing advocacy, support services for homeless people, family violence, anger management, care and protection.

We are interested in hearing from providers who can answer the following types of questions:

- Is your agency experiencing increasing demand for services?
- Which services? – can you quantify this (using most recent data).
- How does current demand compare with 3 months earlier?
- How does it compare with the same time last year?
- What do you (or your workers) attribute this increasing demand to? E.g. industry closures in your area, increasing cost of living, lack of affordable housing, proliferation of fringe lenders/gambling

outlets, reduced service provision from other agencies, increased unemployment, etc

- Is the nature of the client base changing? Describe the change e.g. new people we haven't seen before, young people, more working families, etc
- What services have waiting lists and are these growing?

We need on the ground informants to help us give voice to the people behind the statistics. If you are willing to help please contact Anne Kelly by calling (04) 473 2627 or email: anne.kelly@nzccss.org.nz. All 'Vulnerability Reports' and background information sheets will be available from July on our website at www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz



Through the eyes of NZ's most vulnerable

"It could have been much worse..."
commented NZCCSS President Shaun
Robinson when interviewed by
the NZ Herald.

BUDGET 2009 - AT A GLANCE

New Funding

- Home Insulation fund: \$323m + 2,700 jobs
- Aged residential age funding \$89m
- Rural Housing programme \$12m
- Whanau social assistance \$32m
- Carers Information \$370,000
- State housing renovation \$124m

Funding Retained

- P2P funding stays in social services but in what form is still to be worked out
- Housing Innovation Fund – appears to be a reallocation of capacity building grants into direct housing projects

Funding Cut

- No increase for beneficiaries in the level of allowable earnings before abatement (currently \$80)
- Community Adult Education funding cut by \$54m
- Enterprising Communities Subsidies phased out \$32m

This is not 1991 and there was no 'Mother of All Budgets' but this Budget has taken very few steps to improve the situation for people in the most vulnerable situations. The big reductions in available funding for future years' Budgets point to tough times ahead for publicly funded services.

POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment is a fast track into poverty in this country, and the job situation will get much worse over the coming year with up to 100,000 more people expected to become unemployed.

Treasury forecasts predict unemployment peaking in September 2010 at possibly well over 200,000 (compared to 115,000 at present). The last time it was that bad was a decade ago in 1999.

Faced with such a huge increase it is fair to be expected that the government would see supporting the unemployed and job creation as key areas of investment.

Very little in the way of concrete initiatives have flowed out of the Jobs Summit in February and the only significant area of new job creation announced, is the estimated 2,700 jobs that will come through the Home Insulation Scheme.

Indeed the funding squeeze is seeing government departments cutting jobs and it is not clear whether the government will achieve its stated goal of retaining the net size of the public service.

Cuts in funding to Community Enterprise Job schemes and Adult Community Education will also have negative employment impacts.

Moving into unemployment will be a harsh experience as tens of thousands of workers and their families have to cope with grossly inadequate benefit levels and losing entitlement to Working for Families income support.

Comment:

The Budget set out on a low road for economic development, and fails to step up to the mark on the need to invest now in jobs and skills.

(Council of Trade Unions)

• **No Cuts to NZ Super, Working for Families and Main Benefits (but no more either)**

The government will not be reducing the social assistance that many people receive either through Working for Families, NZ Super or through the benefit system (main benefits, supplementary benefits and hardship assistance).

But there is also no new support, not even the relatively small \$26.5m cost of the National Party election campaign promise to increase the allowable additional earnings for those on a benefit from the current \$80 per week to \$100.

For many years NZCCSS, and other organisations such as the Child Poverty Action Group, have been calling for benefit levels to be increased to lift people out of poverty. We are relieved that cuts have not been made but will continue to call for sufficient resources to enable all people to live in dignity.

Comment:

Poverty, especially the poverty of those who were in financial strife before the recession has vanished from the political radar.

(Child Poverty Action Group)

• **MSD Restructuring**

The Ministry of Social Development is in the process of restructuring. It is proposing to move from a current four tier structure comprising of the National Office, Regional Offices, Service Centres and Site Offices to a three tier structure. This new structure would close the Service Centres and move their social work functions to the Site offices. NZCCSS will watch this process in order to ensure there is no decrease in service provision.

• **Future Tax Cuts Postponed**

There is minimal negative impact for low income earners in the cancelled tax cuts as most of the \$900m in the remaining cuts would have gone to higher income earners. This is a welcome return to fiscal responsibility but it comes too late as the big dollars have already been granted to high income earners by the April 2009 round of tax cuts. It is only to be hoped that these cuts will be redistributed in future years to allow more to be done for the most vulnerable.

• **Those Making The Cuts Increase Their Cut!**

Treasury increased its funding by a cool \$5m (8.3%) to \$65.5m while busily cutting spending in other areas!



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

- **Community Response Fund (CRF) and Pathway to Partnership (P2P)**

\$104m has been committed by the government for social services over the next two years to address two problems. Firstly, to help agencies meet the cost of increasing demand for family support services as a result of the recession, and secondly to help agencies in financial strife, again, linked to the impact of the recession on their normal income streams, e.g. reduced grants from local philanthropic trusts etc. \$40m is available in the 2009/10 year with four funding rounds per annum. The maximum amount of funding per application is \$50,000. The first round is currently open and closes on the 3rd of July. Up to \$64m more will be available in the 2010/11 year.

The funding for the Community Response Fund (CRF) has come from the \$446m originally reserved under the previous government's four year Pathway to Partnership (P2P) strategy. Three years of the four years of funding has now been committed either through P2P or National's CRF.

A significant chunk of the \$446m was to be made available in 2011/12. It is not clear exactly how much money this is, or what it will be used for. What we do know is that it has been ring-fenced for the social services sector but its release is subject to Cabinet approval. The government has told us that it is reshaping the policy and "is looking to work with the sector over the next 18 months on building strong, sustainable and more effective community-based services for families, children and young people." NZCCSS will continue to be involved in this conversation.

- **Whanau Social Assistance Services**

Whanau Social Assistance Services receive \$32m over four years to build a network of Whanau advocates in communities to liaise with community groups and Maori Wardens and to work with families experiencing hardship, to ensure they are getting all the assistance available to them. This idea may have its origins in the 1984 Matua Whangai programme.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

"It's not roads that will secure New Zealand's future it is our children", said NZCCSS in response to the Budget.

Our human infrastructure is more important than our highways and tunnels and the social costs of neglecting our children and families are higher than those of neglecting our roads. The hundreds of millions directed to roading in the Budget dwarf the modest amounts directed children and young people.

- **Early Childhood Education 20 Free Hours**

The announcement in the Budget that the 20 Free Hours Policy for early childhood education (ECE), introduced by the previous government, is to be extended to Kohanga Reo and Play Centres comes as no surprise. This was one of the policy promises made by National before the election. It is pleasing that the rather arbitrary six hours daily limit rule is to be removed by 2011. Nearly \$70m has been allocated over four years to meet the cost of expanding ECE services.

- **Fresh Start Initiatives - Youth Justice**

Fresh Start initiatives are to receive \$81.5m over four years for dealing with serious youth offenders. The funding is to be used to extend the range of tools available to the youth justice system. This is the funding behind the so-called "Boot Camps" legislation which NZCCSS commented on in its submission on the Bill. (A copy of our submission is available on our website under Publications). In our submission we supported increased government investment in court directed support services for youth offenders.

Our own *Grassroots Voices* research and the *Fistful of Tears* research undertaken by Presbyterian Support Upper South Island highlighted gaps in youth services, particularly in the areas of anger management and specialist help with behaviour problems for children and young people.

- **Overall Justice Spend**

This government is committing serious amounts of money to Vote Justice – a total of \$950m over four years to a series of initiatives across the justice sector.

Whilst it is good that that some of this money is being used to resource community law centres and for prisoner programmes, a large proportion of the spend is committed to building new prisons or the conversion of existing prisons for double bunking. This is in anticipation of a rapidly rising prison muster resulting directly from government policies such as restricting parole and lengthening prison sentences.

Comment:

The Budget fails to "respond wisely to the needs of New Zealand. The heavy expenditure on imprisoning people has no justification whatsoever".

(Gabrielle Maxwell, Criminologist)

HOUSING

In total Housing NZ Corporation is planning to add only a net total **1,000 new or leased state houses** over the next three years to the state housing stock. This seems a very small number in light of the thousands of people on the HNZA urgent needs waiting lists. The main investment

seems to be in the **\$124m** being invested in upgrading existing state houses and building 69 additional new state houses in 2009.

- **Home Insulation Scheme \$323M**

This includes aspects that make it more accessible for the lower income households. The scheme will offer grants for two purposes – home insulation, and the installation of clean heating – on homes built before 2000. The subsidies will provide one third of the cost up to \$1,300 for home insulation, and up to \$500 for clean heating devices. Community service card holders receive up to \$3,000 that will help get 180,000 of New Zealand's 850,000 poorly insulated homes retrofitted. Some 2,700 jobs per year are expected to result over the four years of the scheme's operation. The Business Council for Sustainable Development points out that there will need to be additional sources of finance to help home owners and landlords bridge the gap between the actual costs of insulation and the maximum grants. Without such assistance families and landlords may still be reluctant to carry the additional outlay on home insulation.

- **Housing Innovation Fund (HIF)**

It is not clear if the extra \$20m over the next four years for the HIF that was announced is really additional funding, or simply reallocation of the capacity building funding that was cancelled effective from 1 July. What it does reflect is the Minister of Housing's often stated wish only to fund organisations that have a "proven track record" of getting rooves over people's heads. It means that larger and established agencies will benefit but many of the smaller community organisations may now have a harder road in becoming established.

Maori housing development projects have been allocated around \$5m of the new HIF to fund the development of innovative housing solutions for Maori.

Local authorities will be able to apply for HIF funding but it will no longer be available for modernisation or reconfiguration of existing housing. This will hopefully also help achieve more investment from local authorities towards increasing community housing.

- **Rural Housing Programme**

Funded by Housing NZ this programme will continue with \$12m allocated over two years. This is a welcome continued investment in improving sub-standard rural housing.

- **Gateway Housing Initiative**

This National Party policy to develop unused Crown land for affordable housing is not funded this year but the Budget and Fiscal Economic Update estimates costs in future years of up to \$96m. According to HNZA they are working on options that would see land in public ownership developed for first-home buyers or in partnership with community housing organisations. Households qualifying would have free use of the 'ready-to-build' site on a leasehold basis for up to 10 years so

long as they started building within 12 months. At the end of the 10 years (or earlier if possible) the home buyer would have the right to purchase the land at its original capital value plus 3% for each year that had elapsed. This is like a low interest loan for the costs of the land.

SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

- **Aged Residential Care**

The \$89.5m increase in funding announced includes increases in the subsidy paid for residential care that will take effect from 1st July 2009 and funding to District Health Boards for dedicated aged residential care respite beds.

- **Home Support Funding**

Unlike residential care, there were no announcements in the Budget about this area and there is no formal requirement on DHBs to give price increases to service providers. However, all DHBs receive inflation and demographic adjustments and it is to be hoped that they will pass on this funding through a price increase of somewhere around 1.5 – 3%.

- **Hospice & Palliative Care**

An increase of \$60m over four years in palliative care funding is a welcome injection of funding. Minister Ryall told Parliament that the Ministry of Health has worked with hospices and DHBs to identify individual shortfalls in funding. They have agreed funding allocations that enable around 70% of hospice costs to be covered by the government. For those areas without hospices, palliative care funding has been allocated to ensure that those areas are not disadvantaged and can access services. There are also plans for a national stock-take of services to be completed later in 2009.

- **Unpaid Carers Information Packs**

A welcome step in fulfilling the Carers Strategy is the \$370,000 over four years committed to producing information packs about entitlement to support and assistance to be sent to 20,000 family carers who are supporting family and whanau without payment.

POLICY WATCH - RECENT CONTENT

June 15: Community Response Fund and P2P, Yes Vote Campaign, new OCC review on child deaths, Salvation Army discussion paper on consumers and entitlement

June 3: Initial focus on Budget 09

May 22: Update on NZCCSS parliamentary submissions, new reports

You can read all of our Policy Watch bulletins online at <http://christiansocialservices.blogspot.com/> (there is also a link from the NZCCSS homepage at www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz)

LEGISLATION & SUBMISSIONS

YES VOTE CAMPAIGN - NZCCSS SIGNS UP



At a recent meeting of Council it was agreed that NZCCSS would sign up to the Yes Vote Campaign. This campaign supports the recent changes to the law which removed Section 59 from the Crimes Act.

Section 59 allowed the use of parental force for the purpose of correction. NZCCSS agreed to sign up to Vote Yes because we do not believe that adults should have any legal right to hit children.

Referendum papers are currently being sent out asking the public to agree or disagree with the question "Should a smack as part of good parental correction be a criminal offence in New Zealand?" The question is misleading and flawed.

A number of organisations who have extensive histories working with children and families have formed the YES Vote coalition.

Here are some of the reasons why organisations are voting "yes":

"I have yet to see that violence at any level has a positive part to play in family life" (National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges)"

"In our research four out of ten parents said that they occasionally smacked their children. However, less than one percent said it was effective" (Otago University research report funded by the Families Commission)

"Police reports show 'good parents' are not being wrongly convicted as a result of this law change" (Childspace)

"The law sets a standard that states violence against children is unacceptable. This

is particularly important in a country with such high rates of violence against children" (Parents Centre)

The referendum will run from 31 July until 21 August. Referendum papers are being posted out to enrolled voters from 15 June. This is a non-binding citizens' referendum. For more information on Yes Vote visit their website: www.yesvote.org.nz

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT BILL 2009

This National Party Bill was introduced into Parliament on 13th May almost a year after the previous Labour Party version (which the new Government withdrew). The main provisions of the new Bill are:

- extend the Act (including access to advice, information and dispute resolution services) to more people involved in renting, such as tenants in boarding houses
- clarify responsibility for outgoing by introducing overarching principles to indicate when landlords or tenants are responsible for charges such as water or rates
- introduce clearer and fairer processes for terminating and renewing tenancies to provide an appropriate balance between flexibility and certainty of tenure
- encourage landlords and tenants to comply with their obligations under the Act by increasing the value of existing fines and exemplary damages and introducing new sanctions
- provide for most tenancy disputes to be resolved quickly, fairly and cost effectively
- improve the enforceability of Tribunal orders.

Submissions on the Bill close 3rd of July 2009. Please contact NZCCSS if you would like more information to support a submission or wish to share your own submission email paul.barber@nzccss.org.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS

Housing Researchers Conference, Sydney, 5-7 August
www.fbe.unsw.edu.au/cf/apnhr/program/

Christian Budgeting Services Conference. "Living Above Recession", Auckland, 21-22 August www.cbnz.org.nz

Changing Minds 2009: Positive End of Life Care - Friday 28th August, Lower Hutt
www.teomanga.org.nz

International Conference on Ageing and Spirituality: Gender, Culture and Care. 30th August - 2nd September 2009, Auckland
www.selwyncare.org.nz/?t=139

Turning Point - two day interactive symposium with Dr Barry Duncan on creating a culture of client feedback, 14-15 September; Westpac Trust Stadium, Wellington email symposium@wesleyca.org.nz

Sowing Seeds of Change SSPA Conference, 17-18th September, Whangarei
www.theorganisation.org.nz

Anglicare Australian National Conference. "Global trends, local voices", Auckland, 20-23 September
www.anglicare.asn.au/conferencecurrent.htm

Carers NZ National Carers Conference 2009 - Waipuna Events Centre - Auckland, 24-25 September
www.carers.net.nz

Age Concern & NZ Association of Gerontology Conference. "Living in An Ageing Society: Shaping Tomorrow Today" - Wellington, 7-9 October
www.confer.co.nz/ageing2009

Professional Supervision: Common Threads, Different Patterns, 30 April - 1 May 2010, Mangere - calling for papers by 1 September 2009. Contact Barbara.a.burt@gmail.com

Services for Older People UPDATE



New booklet to help counter elder abuse: Age Concern marked World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15 June through releasing a new booklet titled "Take the Time... Value Older People". It is a handbook for people who work with older people offering them information on elder abuse and respect. As well as raising awareness in the community about elder abuse, Age Concern provides education and training for staff working with older people, such as residential care workers. www.ageconcern.org.nz

Respite Care Funding Increase: Included in the Budget announcements was a Government commitment for \$5 million per year (\$2.5 in 2009/10) targeted at dedicated residential respite for older people. The Ministry of Health has advised us that the aim of this targeted funding is to increase access to residential respite care as part of supporting carer health and wellbeing and enabling older people to live at home longer. The funding is being allocated to DHBs based on their share of population based funding and DHBs have different arrangements for respite provision. DHBs are providing the Ministry of Health with information about what approach for implementing the targeted funding would best suit their situation and how dedicated residential respite services fit or can be developed within their current services for older people. The Ministry of Health is aiming to implement the changes by January 2010 and advise that once they have contacted all DHBs about their plans they will consider what discussions are needed with provider organisations.

Maximum Contribution Changes Gazetted: The increases in the subsidy paid for residential care that take effect from 1st July have now been formally gazetted. Prices for each Territorial Local Authority can be viewed online at: www.moh.govt.nz/olderpeople

Retirement Villages and "Fair Wear and Tear": One of the biggest sources of disputes within retirement villages is the issue of refurbishing units when occupants move out. The Retirement Villages Code of Practice sets out a standard that essentially means any resident who signed an occupation right agreement after 25th September 2006 cannot be charged for refurbishing that is a result of "fair wear & tear". This has led to some debate in the sector about the meaning of fair wear & tear and who the Code applies to. The Department of Building & Housing has now issued a best practice guide that seeks to bring some clarity into the sector. The guide is online at www.dbh.govt.nz/retirement-villages

- See also the item about Rest Home Certification Audits on page 8.

Protecting New Zealand Superannuation for Future Generations

By Charles Waldegrave

The Government in its first budget decided to suspend the automatic contributions to the New Zealand Superannuation (aka Cullen) Fund for eleven years and make ad hoc contributions as they see fit during that period. This decision will impact negatively on an elderly population which is set to double over the next three to four decades. Already some commentators are saying it has crippled NZSF and the whole fund should be abandoned. This would be even more disastrous. It is very important the issue is widely debated in the light of the quality of life of older people over the next forty years, and not simply in the short term.

The NZSF is a form of social insurance that enables us to continue to afford to pay super at around its current rate from 2020 on, when the numbers of pensioners really start to grow. It is an investment against poverty and for the dignity of older New Zealanders. There is no doubt that, in the absence of such future proofing, there will be widespread poverty among older New Zealanders within 20 years, or that tax rates to fund pensions will have to grow from the current 4 percent of GDP to 8 percent in 2045. The Fund's aim was to equalise tax contributions to pensions through time, so that each generation effectively makes roughly the same tax contribution to their pensions.

The commentators and politicians, who have recommended suspending contributions, claim that it is foolhardy to borrow to invest in the Fund. However, this is surely a selective argument. The Government claims, and many would agree, that we need to borrow today to invest in future roading infrastructure. Likewise, we invest now to ensure we reduce carbon emissions in the future.

Surely an investment to protect a growing elderly population from falling into poverty should be at least as important. All Governments manage borrowing all the time to pay for current expenditure and future investments. Singling out the NZS Fund, and implying that investment is different from other borrowing, is a slight of hand. Furthermore, it is simply an artificial construct to state we borrow to pay into the fund. Any government pays for its costs, including its investment costs, through its income and borrowing. We don't normally say we borrow for this aspect of the health budget and pay these other aspects through tax income. The debate should be about, "how do we continue to fund a provision that is absolutely essential to the wellbeing of older New Zealanders?" We are, in fact, talking about our mothers and fathers and grandparents.

Charles Waldegrave is based at the Family Centre, Anglican Social Services (Hutt Valley) Inc and is a joint leader of the New Zealand Longitudinal Study of Ageing (NZLSA).

NZCCSS Council news...

NEW METHODIST MEMBERS

John Murray, CEO of Lifewise, Methodist Mission Northern, is one of two new NZCCSS Council members welcomed at its June meeting, representing Methodist social services.

Rev. Brian Turner is the second new Methodist representative on Council and he shares some of his thoughts on taking on the role:

Like all Methodist Church representatives, I'm appointed by the church as a whole rather than by the social service sector alone. I have had previous involvement with NZCCSS when Superintendent/Director of Wesley Wellington Mission, and as Methodist Church President last year when I was one of the Church leaders who endorsed the "Aroha tētahi ki tētahi - Let Us Look After Each Other" national programme.

Whilst presently involved with the Christchurch Methodist Mission, my day to day activity is predominantly as a presbyter/minister in the new Waimakariri - North Canterbury team ministry embracing the three parishes of Kaiapoi Co-operating, Oxford District Union and Rangiora-Woodend Methodist (including Pegasus). That helps give me a rural as well as an urban perspective.

Rest Home Certification Audits Online

The Ministry of Health will in the coming months begin publishing summaries of rest home certification audits on the <http://www.moh.govt.nz/certification> webpage. In March the Ministry published the complete list of all certified aged residential care providers that includes information about their current certification standard. Beginning 1 June, as rest homes come up for recertification, an audit summary will be added that includes a factual summary prepared by the audit agency and a table showing the rest home's achievement against the Health and Disability Sector Standards, using a four point scale.

My hope is that NZCCSS will give as much attention to the underlying causal issues of poverty and disparity in Aotearoa NZ as well as specific social service policy analysis and advocacy. I also welcome the Council's commitment to adopt a stronger Treaty of Waitangi mode of operation, at the same time as questioning how we might best achieve that. In an increasingly pluralistic society, I believe the future lies more in interfaith cooperation than separate inter-church or faith organisations.

Pictured at right:
John Murray, top;
Rev. Brian Turner, bottom.



UPCOMING ACTIVITY:

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 29 June | Policy Watch |
| 13 July | Policy Watch |
| 21 July | Church Leaders Advisors Group |
| 27 July | Policy Watch |
| 25 August | Kete Kupu |
| 26 August | Researchers Network |

KETE KUPU - Word Basket

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