



Number 6 - September 2009

## Recession Blues

*Trevor McGlinchey, NZCCSS Executive Officer*

NZCCSS has recently published its second "Vulnerability Report". This quarterly report on issues which contribute to social, financial and physical vulnerability in our society has begun to expose the impacts of the recession on New Zealand families.

Since the publication of the first report only three months ago, we can now see how more and more families are being impacted by loss of income, either through reduced hours or through one (and sometimes both) family income earners being made redundant.

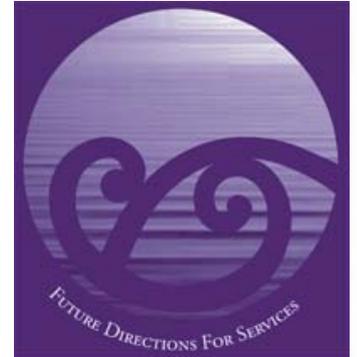
We are concerned for these families and we will be striving to have Government policies implemented that provide some relief for their situations. We are particularly concerned about the 219,000 children living in benefit dependent families and recognise that when these children are added to children living in other low income families, far too many New Zealand children are living in poverty.

The Government's recently announced "Break-Away Programme" is a good start on assisting children from these families stay connected to their communities. However, it is only a start and needs to be extended from a holiday only programme to cover engagement with sports and cultural programmes during term time as well.

Prior to this recession our member Christian social service agencies were fully engaged working with the many New Zealand families who were both poor and vulnerable. This group of people have not gone away, but with the increase in people needing support it is becoming harder to do the intensive and time demanding work that they need.

NZCCSS will continue to advocate for resources to support this most vulnerable group of New Zealanders, they cannot be left to languish, to be pushed to the bottom of the list, as the demand for help grows. Even in these difficult times our member agencies are committed to providing a hand up to those with longer term needs.

## Working Together We Can Respond to Dementia: Future directions for services



A real depth of aroha and compassion is needed in our society if we are to meet the future needs of families and whānau living with dementia/mate wareware. This is the key message of the NZCCSS report on future services for dementia. Just and compassionate responses to the increasing number of people living with dementia will require changes to existing structures and services to recognise their particular needs. From community level through to national social policy and political levels, our message is that "together we can" meet those needs - when we understand, collaborate and communicate to best use all our available resources.

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## Working Together We Can Respond to Dementia...

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*Working Together We Can Respond to Dementia* involved interviews with a range of service provider organisations, an overview of key literature and visits to social service programmes. We spoke with people with dementia, their families and whānau as well as those providing care and support through day programmes, home support and residential care.

The report underlines the vital role of spirituality and a relational understanding of care and support in dementia care. Kaumātua spiritual support and chaplaincy are recommended as essential ingredients for core services. Other recommendations include taking a community development approach to service development that could include models of intergenerational housing.

In the future an increased range of culturally specific services for Māori as well as Pacific and Asian communities will be needed, as well as increasing

the amount of high level residential care generally. Dementia specific home support and a range of quality respite services will be needed. The report notes the lack of supported housing options for people with dementia, and recommends that successful models from other countries be tried here (e.g. Swedish village cooperative model).

Study participants reported a lack of knowledge and understanding about dementia both in the wider health services and general public. A public education campaign to inform people about and de-stigmatise dementia is one proposal of the report. This could be included as part of an overarching dementia strategy as proposed by Alzheimers New Zealand. Such a strategy could also address the urgent need to coordinate dementia services across government and non-government agencies.

*Working Together We Can Respond to Dementia: Future directions for services* will be released in September and will be available to download from our website at: [www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz](http://www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz)

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## Protecting NZ Superannuation for future generations



*This concludes a 2-part article on the recent Budget decision to suspend automatic contributions to the New Zealand Superannuation Fund, by Charles Waldegrave.*

In Part One I outlined how the Government in its first budget decided to suspend the automatic contributions to the New Zealand

Superannuation Fund (NZS) for eleven years and make ad hoc contributions as they see fit during that period. I also pointed out that the NZS Fund 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.

I noted that the decision to suspend the automatic contributions will impact negatively on an elderly population which is set to double over the next three to four decades.

Most older New Zealanders rely on NZ Superannuation as their primary income. A recent study we carried out with a national random sample of Kiwis between the ages of 65 and 84 years showed that nearly half (48 percent) lived on NZS plus \$5,000 or less per annum before tax (Koopman-Boyden and Waldegrave 2009). At least a third had no assets except the family home. The elderly have also benefitted through low housing costs because of the very high rate of homeownership. In this study 92 percent either owned their own homes or lived in houses owned by family trusts or other family members.

The Ministry of Social Development have similarly noted that for a majority of older New Zealanders, NZS makes up the bulk of their total income (Perry 2009). 40 percent have virtually no other income source, and the next 20 percent rely on NZS and other government transfers for 85 percent of their total income.

Older Kiwis are largely protected from poverty at present because of the combination of NZS and low housing costs due to the very high levels of homeownership and mortgage free houses among that age group. However, the decision to suspend the automatic contributions to the NZS Fund for eleven years at a time of decreasing home ownership, shows just how vulnerable the baby-boomers coming through are.

During the election campaign, the current government promised New Zealanders, “National is committed to continuing the New Zealand Superannuation Fund in its current form and with the current contribution rate.” The Prime Minister stated on the TV One Agenda programme two weeks before the election that the NZS Fund is an investment in our future and that along with having a strong economy, we need “to ensure ... we pre-fund that liability of the ageing of the population.”

These commitments were stated unequivocally and they gave New Zealanders the assurance that a new government would not radicalize or betray its commitment to future generations. After all, we all understand that it is regular and consistent savings during good times and bad that protects us in the long run.

*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)*

# FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY - a Positive Contribution to Wellbeing and Health



by Paul Barber,  
NZCCSS Policy Advisor

The very positive contribution of faith and spirituality to the wellbeing and health of older people has been emphasised through two recent events I attended on behalf of NZCCSS.

The Selwyn Foundation's Centre for Ageing and Spirituality (SCAS) hosted New Zealand's first ever International Conference for Ageing and Spirituality, which took place at Auckland University. Coinciding with this conference is the release of the first report of the five-year research study *Enhancing Wellbeing in an Ageing Society* (EWAS).

## Sense of Wellbeing High among Older People

The EWAS research interviewed 1600 older people and nearly 90% of them reported that they feel satisfied with their lives. The research analysed wellbeing in ten broad domains that parallel those of the Government's Social Report. Among those domains are health, social connectedness, and culture and religion. For those older people surveyed, involvement in faith and religion was associated with a greater sense of wellbeing. There was a high level of involvement in religious activities and a higher proportion of Māori than non-Māori identified faith as important.

The EWAS researchers recommend that policy makers and researchers pay more attention to the role of spirituality and religion in improving wellbeing. This does not imply promoting a form of religion but does mean policies to assist people to access and participate in religion. Other important factors contributing to wellbeing were the older person's health or that of their spouse, having family and friends close by, living in a desirable neighbourhood, easy access to transport, and reasonable rent or maintenance costs.

The main factors that detracted from wellbeing are forced early retirement, long periods outside the workforce and going without essential items.

The importance of social connectedness was a theme of the research with participation in community organisations and voluntary associations positively contributing to life satisfaction. Being married or in a relationship meant higher incomes and more social participation, especially for men.

## Spirituality and Health - the Positive Impacts

Among a great range of presentations at the Ageing and Spirituality conference, keynote speaker American Professor Jeff Levin spoke about the huge volume of research and publications now emerging on

The EWAS report is available on the EWAS website [www.ewas.net.nz](http://www.ewas.net.nz)



spirituality and health. Now numbering in the tens of thousands, the data stemming out of this body of knowledge consistently points to positive links between religion/spirituality and health. The impacts can be broadly categorised as healthy lifestyles, social relationships and supportive networks, healthy beliefs and personality styles, and positive life expectations.

Without denying the need to acknowledge and research some of the negative aspects for health of spirituality, the message is that in addition to more subjective supernatural and transpersonal experiences, there is clear and robust scientific data on the significant links between spirituality and wellbeing.

- Conference presentations will be available on the SCAS website in the coming weeks: [www.selwyncare.org.nz/?t=233](http://www.selwyncare.org.nz/?t=233)

## Careerforce Older Person's Health

### Reference Group –request for feedback

In order to improve its responsiveness to the training issues for the services for older people workforce, Careerforce established an Older Persons Health Reference Group (OPHRG) including sector representatives from home support, aged residential care, retirement villages and iwi organisations. NZCCSS has two representatives on this group: Val Sugrue (Howick Baptist Healthcare) and Maurice Burrows (Presbyterian Support Otago).

The Group would like to be made aware of issues or challenges that the aged care sector is currently experiencing in relation to worker standards, training and national qualifications. Particular issues they are looking for feedback on are the:

- advanced caregiver/health support worker qualification that is being developed
- second-level nursing scopes of practice (Enrolled Nurses and Nurse Assistants) which is currently under review by the Nursing Council
- Team Leader qualification for Aged Residential Care, Disability and Community Care currently under development

More information on the OPHRG is available online at: [www.careerforce.org.nz](http://www.careerforce.org.nz)

# Child Poverty is Rising Again: Household Income Trends Report Updated

*Contributed by Simon Harding*

The Ministry of Social Development has released its latest report on household incomes in New Zealand. The publication is based on data collected from 1984 to June 2008. Hence, the report paints a useful picture of the New Zealand situation following the impact of Working for Families [WFF], but just prior to increasing hardships attributed to the current global financial crisis. The survey also precedes the implementation of tax cuts which took effect in October 2008.

Perhaps most significantly, recent years have seen the growth in low to medium incomes outstrip that of high incomes for the first time in twenty five years - a welcome development almost certainly attributable to the WFF package introduced in 2004. However, income disparity began to increase again in the year to June 2008, suggesting that the WFF package has already reduced inequality as much as it is likely to. Child Poverty Action Group spokesperson Dr Susan St John notes that while the work focused WFF package may appear sensible in times of economic boom, it is punitive when jobs are scarce. She stresses that children's needs do not change depending on whether the caregiver is in employment or otherwise.

The report also draws attention to levels of poverty in New Zealand. Sadly, one in five households continue to struggle with income levels less than 60% of the New Zealand median after housing costs. This represents levels of poverty approximately double those seen throughout the 1980's. Although this also represents a slight increase over the 2007 figure, proportionate poverty levels have changed little since the mid-nineties.

More concerning is the significant growth in child poverty over the twelve months prior to the report's release. The proportion of children living in poverty has increased from 16% to 20% between 2007 and 2008. From 2001, a number of policies including WFF, the return of the Income Related Rent policy and changes to the Accommodation Supplement were successful in reducing the prevalence of child poverty overall. The reversal of this trend is worrying.

Poverty levels for New Zealanders aged over 65 remain comparatively low at 9%. This is in part due to the fact that superannuation income is benchmarked as a proportion of the average wage (approximately 66% per couple) and has remained steady in real terms since the 1980's. However, other factors, such as increases in the average number of hours worked per person, have contributed to a slowly growing disparity between superannuation payments and average household income.

In the longer term, the report depicts the 1980's as a decade of relative ease against the hardships of the 1990's. From 2001, changing economic circumstances and the culmination of a number of policies, particularly WFF, appear responsible for lifting many out of poverty.

However, income inequality, poverty levels and unemployment are again on the rise. More distressingly, the subsequent hardships associated with the global recession have yet to be reflected in the survey. The 2010 report is likely to make sobering reading.

The report entitled "Household Incomes in New Zealand: Trends in Indicators of Inequality and Hardship 1982 - 2008" can be downloaded from the Ministry of Social Development's website:

[www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/monitoring/household-incomes/](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/monitoring/household-incomes/)

## FACTS ABOUT POVERTY UPDATE

NZCCSS has collated data for its latest 'Facts about Poverty' publication, a living document that seeks to challenge some of the more commonly held misconceptions about poverty in New Zealand. Perhaps one of the most prolific contentions is the suggestion that there simply is no poverty in New Zealand. On the contrary, over half a million New Zealanders now live below the poverty line as defined in the Government's Social Report, including no less than 163,000 children. While the Working for Families package did lift notable numbers of working families out of poverty, the latest data indicates that both poverty levels and income inequality are again on the rise.

The popular contention that economic growth alone will alleviate poverty is again countered by the most recent evidence, while increasing employment scarcity casts serious doubt over the effectiveness of primarily work-focused welfare policies. The publication also identifies growing demands on critical services such as state housing, food banks and night shelters; a particularly worrying trend given that much of the referenced data predates the impact of the economic recession. Importantly, the most recent data reminds us that living in poverty is neither easy nor a chosen lifestyle. Policies must attend to the structural elements that inhibit people's ability to rise above hardship.

**Facts About Poverty 2009** is available online  
at the NZCCSS website:  
[www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz](http://www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz)

# WAIKATO POVERTY ACTION PROJECT

This year Trust Waikato developed a set of strategic goals which included the development of a project to examine poverty in the Waikato region, and the structures which enable it, with the aim of reducing poverty in our communities.

As funder, Trust Waikato has approached Anglican Action with a view to entering into a strategic partnership for the purpose of providing umbrella support for this three year project.

It is expected that the project would:

1. Gather statistical information about poverty in the region (much of this information should already be available)
2. Gather qualitative information about poverty in the region
3. Articulate the relationship between ethnicity, gender and poverty in the region
4. Raise community awareness of poverty in the region
5. Examine policies which exacerbate poverty or reduce poverty in the region
6. Advocate for change which would reduce poverty in the region
7. Liaise with other national projects such as the work of NZCCSS, Child Poverty Action Group, and the policy work of the Salvation Army.

A hui with social service providers, iwi representatives, researchers and interested groups from across the region was held on August 25th and the proposal was discussed. Those present agreed that the project had merit and decided that the first step is to set up the structure for the project.

It is envisaged that an advisory/kaitiaki group be established which would include representative stakeholders from across the region, including Tainui. This is similar to the policy group structure within NZCCSS. This group will develop, support and monitor the project.

A researcher will then be employed to establish an office within Anglican Action who will also be the fund-holder. In this way, no new legal entity has to be established to hold the funds. It is a good use of an established organisation's infrastructure as well as providing a grassroots base to work within and from.

The overall purpose of this project is to bring a regional focus to the issue of poverty reduction and to develop strategic responses from within this context whilst at the same time linking to national organisations to strengthen their research base and advocacy with government.

## *Latest NZCCSS Project:*

### **Manaaki Hapori / Supporting Communities**

Church and parish communities are key places where creative, innovative and compassionate responses are happening to the hardship created in the current recession. A new NZCCSS project, Manaaki Hapori/ Supporting Communities, involves visiting creative parish initiatives and publicising them as well as supporting collaboration between social services.

Stories of parish projects will have an emphasis on innovative responses to hardship in communities. These stories will be made available through the NZCCSS website and the Christian press. The collaboration aspect will be highlighted where social services identify this as a significant issue for them. Where social service agencies wish to be supported with inter-agency collaboration, NZCCSS will contribute to this process. Three or four locations will be identified for the parish and social service components. We are including tangata whenua/Māori projects as well as Pasifika initiatives in this project for community engagement.

An advisory group is assisting with identifying projects and a Project Co-ordinator will visit community projects as well as local social services and be available for a liaison role. More information will be posted on the NZCCSS website as the project progresses.

Any suggestions for initiatives to include are welcome. Please address these or other comments to the Project Co-ordinator, Betsan Martin; [betsan@nzccss.org.nz](mailto:betsan@nzccss.org.nz) or call (04) 473 2627

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### **GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND**

The first round of funding grants from the Government's Community Response Fund was announced on Friday 4th September. In total \$8.8 million in grants were distributed to 164 organisations. In all 293 applications were received for in excess of \$16 million.

As the impact of growing unemployment and government cutbacks continues to deepen, NZCCSS expects more pressure to be put on social service organisations. In total \$40million has been allocated to this fund for the year to 30 June 2010 and a further two funding rounds are planned.

The next round of grants closes on Friday 25th September at 5pm. NZCCSS urges all community organisations facing increased demand as a result of the recession to apply for additional funding to meet these needs. Find out more online at:

[www.familyservices.govt.nz/our-work/funding-resources/community-response.html](http://www.familyservices.govt.nz/our-work/funding-resources/community-response.html)

## LEGISLATION & SUBMISSIONS

### **Urgent Action! Infrastructure Bill 2009 includes repeal of Affordable Housing Act!**

The Infrastructure Bill, introduced on 5 August had its first reading on the 25 August and has been sent to the Transport and Industrial Relations Select Committee. The Bill amends 8 Acts and repeals one Act to encourage infrastructure development by removing unnecessary barriers and improving regulatory arrangements.

This Bill repeals the Affordable Housing Enabling Territorial Authorities Act 2008 to which NZCCSS made a submission. Submissions on the Infrastructure Bill closed on 18th September. Copies of the Bill can be found at [www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/Legislation/Bills/7/b/e/00DBHOH\\_BILL9307\\_1-Infrastructure-Bill.htm](http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/Legislation/Bills/7/b/e/00DBHOH_BILL9307_1-Infrastructure-Bill.htm)

### **Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill**

The oral presentation made by NZCCSS to the Social Services Select Committee was well received. We used the opportunity to call for further work to ensure that the private rental market offers decent and affordable homes for all New Zealanders. We will explore the issue of rental housing standards and the idea of a housing "warrant of fitness" in more detail in the next issue of *Kete Kupu*.

### **Liquor Review**

As many of you will be aware, the Law Commission has been tasked with undertaking a comprehensive review of the Sale of Liquor Act. In July they released a public discussion document called *Alcohol in our Lives: an issues paper on NZ's liquor laws*. In this rather hefty document the Commission outlines the current laws and policies and looks at the range of actions that could be taken to reduce liquor related harm.

Some of the options for controlling supply [of liquor] include: Increasing the minimum age of purchase,

increasing license fees, giving the District Licensing Agencies more powers, restricting opening hours, prohibiting the sale of beer and wine in supermarkets, or changing labeling requirements. Some demand reduction options include increasing excise tax, restricting alcohol discounting and banning liquor advertising.

The third and last range of options are described as 'problem limitation' and include enforcement and penalty options, alcohol in public places options, transport options (e.g. lowering the blood alcohol limit) and treatment options (e.g. temporary supervised centres for the intoxicated who haven't offended but pose a risk to themselves or others). There will be public consultation meetings during August and September. Submissions close 30 October. Online submission forms and a schedule of consultation meetings are available at [www.talklaw.co.nz](http://www.talklaw.co.nz)

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### **Home based support services – what kind of future?**

Around the country pressure is building on home support services. A number of District Health Boards (DHBs) have not offered any form of price increase for their contracts, effectively a price reduction given the impact of 3% inflation (which all DHBs were compensated for in the funding they receive from government). In addition to not increasing prices, there have been reports of reductions in the amount of lower level care such as household assistance (cleaning, cooking or shopping). The NZ Home Health Association has presented its view of model for sustainable home based support services for older people. This can be viewed in the Southland DHB Disability Support Advisory Committee papers from 26th June. [www.southlandhealth.co.nz](http://www.southlandhealth.co.nz).

NZCCSS welcomes comments and feedback on home based services and the future of home based care. We believe that principles of justice and compassion are essential to developing future services.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **What the Liquor Industry Doesn't Tell us About Alcohol - Alcohol Action NZ**

Professor Doug Sellman, expert in psychiatry and addiction is speaking at a series of public meetings throughout the country during September through to November.

See [www.alcoholaction.co.nz/](http://www.alcoholaction.co.nz/) for the details of venues and dates.

**Carers NZ National Conference: Tomorrow's Care Today**  
Waipuna Events Centre, Auckland, 24-25 September.  
[www.carers.net.nz](http://www.carers.net.nz)

### **FORUM with Dr. Ron Colman How to avoid the next crisis with a NZ (GPI) Genuine Progress Indicator**

Dr. Ron Colman, an international authority on the GPI here in New Zealand Auckland 25th Sept. and Wellington 28th Sept evenings Shows how the GPI can be an:

- Early warning system
- Accurate analysis of causes
- Source of creative solutions

For more information see Anew NZ website – [www.anewnz.org.nz](http://www.anewnz.org.nz)

### **Dementia Today – National Learning Workshop**

For people working with dementia and their managers.

16th October 2009 Wellington  
[www.ps.org.nz](http://www.ps.org.nz)

### **"Living in An Ageing Society: Shaping Tomorrow Today" - Age Concern & NZ Association of Gerontology Conference**

7th – 9th October 2009 Wellington  
[www.confer.co.nz/ageing2009](http://www.confer.co.nz/ageing2009)

### **Strengths based practice with at risk families and children: Interventions to nurture hidden resilience across cultures and contexts**

A 2 day workshop for professionals, presented by Michael Ungar, 12-13 October, Auckland For more info:

[www.barnardos.org.nz/Home/Ungar-presentation.pdf](http://www.barnardos.org.nz/Home/Ungar-presentation.pdf)

# Prisons and the Value for Money mantra

by Anne Kelly, NZCCSS Policy Advisor

We have all become very familiar with the government's critique of public expenditure, the need to 'tighten our belts', look for efficiencies, do more with less etc. Every time you look around they have set up a new committee to carry out a stock-take or review. We have the Tax Working Group, the ACC Stocktake Committee and the Ministry of Health 'reorganisation'. The Department of Corrections has also had a Value For Money review. We commend, in principle, the newly announced Rehabilitation and Reintegration Services, resulting from the review. However a more fundamental review of our criminal justice system is warranted. There is a wealth of evidence that prisons are both ineffective in reducing crime and expensive. Take these statistics for example:

- NZ has the second highest rate of incarceration in the developed world, second only to the United States.
- The recidivism rate is 67%, that is, overall two thirds of all people who have been in prison will have re-offended within five years (the recidivism rate is 74% for Māori)
- Half of the total prison population is Māori
- In July 2009 NZ's prison population peaked at 8434 and is forecast to rise to 10,700 by 2016 – a 50% increase on ten years ago
- It costs on average \$90,746 a year to incarcerate an offender
- The 2008/09 Budget for Corrections was \$965m, 70% of which is spent on prison based services

Corrections is considering double bunking and using modified mobile shipping containers because our current prisons are full and we can't build new prisons fast enough. If we continue with current policies we will be committing large chunks of future budgets on the costs of building and servicing prisons, money that could be spend more constructively on – well, almost anything else. Only 10% of the current Corrections budget is spent on rehabilitation.

## Why is the prison population growing so fast?

In last year's Briefing to the Incoming Minister, officials advised "the most critical issues confronting the Department have arisen from the unrelenting growth in the numbers of offenders Corrections is required to manage". This growth is a result of changes in sentencing and parole policies, greater use of custody remand, some growth in some crimes especially family violence, greater numbers of Police and higher resolution rates.

Given the tight fiscal conditions that are hampering government expenditure, why this obsession with 'road

most travelled' – the punitive route? Largely because our politicians lack the courage and leadership needed to educate the public on the effectiveness of alternative approaches. The need for 'retribution' has cast a long shadow over rehabilitation and reintegration. Ironically the 'get tough' rhetoric has led to policies that undermine public safety.

## What do we know about what works?

- We need to keep children and young people out of the formal criminal justice system. We need to see the prison setting as punishment enough. We need to keep parole, as its removal takes away hope and undermines rehabilitation.
- Many New Zealand prisoners have mental health and addiction problems and aren't receiving the help they need. We need to expand the suite of effective programmes further. Without treatment and ongoing support recidivism rates are unlikely to decline.
- Pre and post release supports need to be strengthened and expanded such as those offered by Project Jericho (PFNZ) which uses "trained volunteer mentors from local churches to ensure the offenders spiritual wellbeing and re-integrative needs are catered for before and after release".

A press release from Rethinking Crime and Punishment states – "NZ must at all costs, avoid the temptation to follow the Californian penal system ... expanding the prison population is not in anyone's long term interest".

### ***Fighting for my life: confessions of a violent offender***

*Book review by Anne Kelly*

I have recently read a biography by JJ Joseph, a violent offender, who takes the reader into his world and describes how he manages to turn his life around. With the help of counselling and anger management courses accessed while on home detention, and the loyal support of family members, he realises that he has a problem with violence, he is the problem and he can do something about it. His journey is likely to typify the experiences of many other offenders who are working towards a non violent life, and is a reminder to us all that every family deserves the chance to have healthy relationships. It is also an important story because it acknowledges that the services that helped to transform the author were accessed as a direct result of his contact with the justice system. In the foreword Celia Lashlie comments "It will only be when men's voices are clearly and consistently heard speaking out against [domestic] violence that real progress will be made". *Fighting for my life* was published by Exisle Publishing in 2008. See: [www.exislepublishing.com](http://www.exislepublishing.com)

## NZCCSS ROUND-UP

**MEMBER SURVEY SUMMARY:** A survey of NZCCSS member organisations has just been completed. The project sought to both update the existing membership database and provide a snapshot of the diversity, capacity and geographic spread of the services provided by umbrella organisations.

The feedback serves as a reminder of the critical role our wider network plays in the provision of helping services in New Zealand; there are no less than 639 member organisations who collectively run over 1200 community programmes. Particularly prolific areas of involvement include the provision of counselling and support services, the maintenance of food banks and bringing people together through the hosting of a wide range of social and recreational activities. Other popular initiatives include day care programmes, managing rest homes, youth centred services and the provision of home based support to those in need. It is no surprise to find a high concentration of member organisations and activities around New Zealand's larger population areas such as Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. However, the scarcity of representation in the Gisborne/East Coast region is not so self-evident. The feedback illuminates also the impressive work undertaken by some of our smaller members working in more remote areas. Although responding to a smaller population base, they nonetheless manage to deliver an encompassing variety of services to meet diverse needs.

NZCCSS would like to express our gratitude to Trust Waikato for supporting and funding the membership survey. The report will be available on the NZCCSS web site soon, and can also be obtained by contacting the Secretariat on [admin@nzccss.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzccss.org.nz)

**GRASSROOTS VOICES REPORT - POSSIBLE REPRINT:** We are considering a re-print of the Grassroots Voices report and would like to know if readers would like to order copies. If you are interested in receiving a hard copy of the report (there may be a small cost associated with this) please contact us at [admin@nzccss.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzccss.org.nz)

**NEXT ISSUE OF VULNERABILITY REPORT:** NZCCSS is due to release its second Vulnerability Report this month. The report focuses on trends and pressure points being experienced by social service providers in the period from April to July. The report uses data from government sources such as MSD and HNZC

as well as updates provided by community based organisations. The latest report is available at our website: [www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz](http://www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz)

**REQUEST TO YOU FOR ANNUAL REPORTS AND NEWLETTERS:** NZCCSS would like to keep as up to date as possible with our members' activities. The better informed we are, the better positioned we are to advocate on your behalf. Could members please ensure that NZCCSS is on your mailing list for any publications, particularly Annual Reports? Our contact address for electronic copies is [admin@nzccss.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzccss.org.nz) or post to NZCCSS, PO Box 12 090, Wellington 6144



### KETE KUPU - Word Basket

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