



2024 / 2025 Annual Plan

New Zealand Council of
Christian Social Services

June 2024

Rise up, take courage and do it.

Ezra 10:4

Ki te kotahi te Kākaho, ka whati, ki te kapuia, e kore e whati.
When we stand alone, we are vulnerable, but together we are unbreakable.

Ko wai tātou

The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) represents more than 230 member organisations providing a range of community, health and social support services across Aotearoa. These organisations include some of the most recognised and highly regarded names in social service provision, and all are world famous in their own rohe.

Nationally, the range and scope of our member networks is extensive. Around 230 separate providers in 55 towns and cities throughout New Zealand deliver 37 types of services through 1,024 programmes. Members employ over 5,000 full-time staff, 7,000 part-time staff, and coordinate almost 16,000 volunteers.

Their mahi informs our deep understanding of the everyday lives of New Zealand communities as we work towards achieving a just and compassionate society for all. We see this work as an extension of the mission of Jesus Christ, which we seek to fulfil through our commitment to giving priority to the systematically disempowered. We feel a deep sense of responsibility to uphold the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and take action to push for equity for all.

Our work is focused in three policy areas – Equity and Inclusion, Children and Families, and Older People. For each area, we have a specialist working group made up of leaders of service organisations from across the country who provide up-to-date knowledge of experiences and need in their communities. We call these groups 'Policy Groups'.

This knowledge, along with input from the representatives of Council's six members, informs our mahi of providing research, representation, connection, good practice dissemination, policy advice / information and advocacy services for our members.

Our Member Organisations



Our Workstreams

Strategic Direction

Give effect to Mission, Vision and Values

NZCCSS continues to recommit to its purpose as laid out nearly 60 years ago, working towards a more just and compassionate society that enacts the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi as an expression of our commitment to Jesus Christ.

Outputs:

1. Vision, Mission, Values refresh
2. Te Tiriti o Waitangi audit
3. Explore wider funding sources

Operations and Communications

Stable operations and growing profile

With a strong operational structure and assurance processes we are looking to maintain stability, and grow our profile

Outputs:

1. Continue to utilise Te Tiriti Mainstreaming tool for assurance and compliance
2. Develop clear communications plan, including mid-term blue-sky options
3. Seek to enhance voice and profile in relation to key portfolio areas

Child and Family

Grow understanding of Middle Childhood

5-12s deserve the same level of professional support and deep understanding as ECE and Youth. We want to build this up around them, to ensure they are best supported at this critical age.

Outputs:

1. Promote Te Kōrero mō ngā Tamariki
2. Seek funding to create learning modules
3. Host forum for those interested in middle childhood to work towards an outcome focused Children's plan

Older Persons

Challenging Structural Ageism

Ageism is the last socially acceptable form of discrimination, and permeates all levels of policy and performance - we cannot make progress when ageism halts progress in its tracks.

Outputs:

1. Older Persons Poverty Monitor
2. Promote and begin to work on outcomes in the Aotearoa Aged Care Action Plan
3. Actively promote and widen utilisation of suite of resources developed since 2022
4. Funding for book on Ageism

Equity and Inclusion

A Focus on Response and Collaboration

With a new Government in place, we see clear areas for response, collaboration and support

Outputs:

1. Identify and prepare for policy programme and regulatory review options
2. Create resources to support others to understand and respond to Government processes
3. Become a driver of and contributor to collaborative spaces

Projects

Funding Reliant Additional Opportunities

Outputs:

1. Scoping of 'Collaboration & Innovation in Scarce Times'
2. Further enhance website refresh

Our Sector, Our Nation

Aotearoa New Zealand is home to just over five million people, all of whom share the dream for security, adequacy and wellbeing for themselves and their family. For some among us that is their reality, but for many in our communities these ideals are far off.

Our members are the people in our communities doing what they can to alleviate these pressures and bring compassion, dignity and justice to those most disenfranchised. We believe our members are effective in their work because they believe strongly in their mission and the positive impacts they bring. Every day, those who work and volunteer for our member organisations do so in the hope of a just and compassionate Aotearoa, where everyone can find safety, joy and prosperity.

Through this service to society, our members see the challenges faced across our communities. Our role here at the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services is to be their voice – for those they serve and for the people and organisations themselves.

In the year between June 2022 and June 2023, 2,013 extra households received Accommodation Supplement, to a total of \$346,755 **because their household income could not meet their housing costs**

90,780 households received Temporary Additional Support in the same 12-month period, because their income could not meet their essential living costs.

The Social Service workforce is **underfunded, understaffed, under-resourced, and underqualified** for the task placed upon them.

Homogenisation of the workforce has reduced the capacity for individuals to be supported fully by specialists.

In the social sector we are so over-reliant on social work that working beyond your scope of practice is accepted as the norm. Those with lower-level qualifications are working to address core work.

Our nurses shoulder responsibilities far beyond their training and scope of practice daily.

Food prices have increased by 12%, resulting in an unprecedented spike in kai support access through community providers, with one provider distributing food to almost half a million people across the nation every month.

Our nation's 5-12 year olds are fundamentally under-served at a structural level. At some point, we have lost track of their developmental needs, any focused attention on their wellbeing or even a social workforce with a deep understanding of childhood.

There are no national plans for this cohort outside of educational targets, and no clarity that our Ministries of Education, Children or Social Development have any child specific evidence base to support their direction.

We believe our tamariki deserve better than this.

The Aged Care sector is **ready to collapse** under the weight of the ageing population and systemic underfunding.

Our not-for-profit providers are fighting the pressures of rising costs, subsidy insufficiency, wage inequity, staff shortages and older people that are arriving more frail and in higher numbers than ever before.

At the end of the June quarter this year, **24,717 households were on the social housing register.**

In 2022, those in the highest 20% income of the population had 2.5x more disposable income than the entire bottom 20%.

In the same year, **15.5% of our households had less than half the median disposable income.**

Hardship assistance payments totalled \$248.4 million in the 2022/2023 year, which was 13.1% more than the previous 12 months.

The majority of this was Special Needs Grants, **with the vast number (311,637) being for food, totalling \$33.4m**, and followed by 26,403 applications for housing related cost assistance, totalling \$87.6m

The average median net worth of a New Zealand household was \$397,000 in 2021, but when this is broken down by tenure type, enormous disparity is found.

Those living in homes they don't own have a median net worth of approximately \$55,000, whereas those paying a mortgage on their own home sit around \$460,000, those who own their home mortgage free at around \$900,000, and those who have their dwelling held in their trust at almost \$1.2m.

\$1.2m is more than 20 times the median net worth of \$55k.