

Tātou Tātou e!

The value of relationships in building wellbeing

Combined Conference 27–28 August 2019 Wellington

Some highlights of the **Tātou, tātou e! The value of relationships in building wellbeing** conference include:

- “Whakamana Tāngata: Restoring Dignity to Social Security in

New Zealand, learning from the past and present for the future” Implementing the Social Welfare Report – **Cindy Kiro**

- “Where’s the resources for community wellbeing? Supporting communities to support wellbeing” Political Panel featuring **Minister Hon. Carmel Sepuloni, Minister Hon. Tracey Martin, Jan Logie and Hon Alfred Ngaro** chaired by **Dr Bryce Edwards**

- “Business as Unusual: The Hikurangi Cannabis Company” Considering the business of medical marijuana and its role in building community in Te Tai Rawhiti as we lead up to next year’s cannabis referendum – **Panapa Ehau**

- “Changing social change – Maintaining the Why but changing the How we do what we do”

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**Tātou
tātou
e!** The value of relationships
in building Wellbeing:
Wellington 27-28 August



Oranga Tamariki “Uplifting” Children

Trevor McGlinchey

The close attention now being paid to the practice of uplifting children by Oranga Tamariki (OT) is welcome. The release of the [Newsroom video](#) “New Zealand’s Own Taken Generation” highlighting the lived reality of the removal of children by the State brought a greater clarity and understanding of this everyday practice to the attention of New Zealanders. The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) welcomes the three inquiries (OT internal, Children’s Commissioner, Ombudsman and Whānau Ora) and hope they bring strong drivers to change.

For NZCCSS members working with vulnerable families and whānau this video did not show anything new. The removal of babies and children is part of the lived experience of the mums, whānau and families NZCCSS members’ community-based social workers walk alongside of.

Members have been increasingly reporting that the impacts of the 2017 Children, Young Persons and their Families (Oranga Tamariki) Act have resulted in an increased number of children, particularly tamariki Māori, being uplifted.

The Balance is Wrong

A group of NGO leaders working in the child protection field have been collecting a range of examples of this practice where, without seeming to get to know the individual mums and whānau concerned, Oranga Tamariki has come in and unilaterally uplifted children. If the OT social workers had been focussed on keeping the whānau together, rather than on the uplift process, they would have given weight to the wrap-around supports the whānau and community services had put in place, and the improvements in

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TĀTOU TĀTOU E!

exploring the relationship between entrepreneurship, positive social change and building community capability to be self-determining – **Sacha McKeeking**



Cindy Kiro



Bryce Edwards



Damon Salea



Peeni Henare



Sacha McKeeking

- “Wellbeing, spirituality and ageing” – for many people as they age interest in spirituality in all its forms becomes more important. A Panel discussion with **Dr Richard Egan** Otago University, **Dr Ofa Dewes** Auckland University, **Danny Karatea-Goodard** – Te Huinga o ngā Pihopa Katorika o Aotearoa
- “The impacts of colonialism, empire, government and race in NZ today”, how is colonisation and racism experienced in modern day Aotearoa – **Damon Salea**
- “As community-based organisations how are we going to contribute to a sustained response to exclusion and discrimination following events in Christchurch?” The aftermath of the Christchurch terror attacks showed a loving and inclusive side of New Zealand, how can we ensure this is maintained. – **Anjum Rahman, Liz Hawes and Jayden Cromb**, a Panel discussion facilitated by **Mike Reid**.

Nau mai! Haere mai!

We would love to see you at our Wellington-based conference.

ORANGA TAMARIKI “UPLIFTING” CHILDREN

parenting skills and commitment to caring the mums and their whānau were demonstrating.

This does not deny the role of a child protection agency and the need to, from time to time, place children in the care of those who are not their biological parents, and that this should see them with improved opportunities for a good life. However, the balance is wrong. Oranga Tamariki has spent a great deal of time building of care practices and supports to provide high quality care for removed children. Given the incredibly sad statistics for the life outcomes for children in care this is necessary. Yet, surely the main approach of Oranga Tamariki should be ensuring our tamariki do not end up in care? The focus, the funds and the main thrust of the agency is on care. If this was turned around and community organisations that prevented children from going into care were as highly valued as the systems to uplift and place children in care, then we would see real change in child wellbeing.

Flawed Legislation

More than two years ago, in February 2017, when making Select Committee submissions on the sections of the Children, Young Persons and Their Families (Oranga

Tamariki) Act which focus on “considering and planning for the possibility for alternative care arrangements for the child”, NZCCSS and our strategic partners Te Kahui Atawhai o te Motu stated:

Our agencies are concerned that provisions to enable early placements could create an unintended incentive to give such plans effect and remove children from their homes early.

Further to this, when submitting on the removal at birth of the subsequent child provisions within this Act, namely, those provisions which enable OT to as of right remove any children from a mother who had previously had a child removed, NZCCSS and Te Kahui Atawhai o te Motu submitted:

We acknowledge the need to ensure a subsequent child of a parent (to whom 18A applies) is safe in the care of their parents. However, the removal of a subsequent child should only be the very last resort and only after intensive support has not resulted in confidence that parents can safely parent their children.

Furthermore, the decision to remove a subsequent child must be accompanied by appropriate support and resources to address

underlying issues ... and by effective engagement with families struggling to care for their children. We believe mothers of a subsequent child need to have real hope that they might keep their child if they make agreed changes to their lives. (ibid)

Oranga Tamariki is a government agency, charged under the last government to take an approach grounded on the “Expert Panel Final Report Investing in New Zealand’s Children and Their Families” and to giving effect to the CYPF (Oranga Tamariki) Act which grew out of it. In the opinion of many both the Report and the Act are fatally flawed, supporting the further colonisation of tangata whenua.

Perhaps the best result from the four inquiries into the uplifting of children is a review and rewrite of the Act and the removal of the focus on the Expert Panel’s Final Report. While OT continues to be bound to faulty legislation, based on a “a paternalistic right-wing” report then there seems little hope of achieving the underpinning change. Change which will see the focus being on supporting families to be strong and the removal of children being an absolute last resort, not an everyday practice.

NZCCSS branches into social media

Our Social Media Advisor Emily Menkes reflects on her time at NZCCSS

Since late 2018, I have had the fortune to work with NZCCSS and help them develop a social media presence and integrated strategy.

While NZCCSS has an effective media strategy in responding to government announcements, or current events, there was scope to broaden our audience by using social media.

A Facebook and Twitter page were created for NZCCSS and linked to the pages of other campaigns we were responsible for, including Closer Together – Whakatata Mai and Kore Hiakai Zero Hunger.

This has helped get the kaupapa of NZCCSS out to more people and provided a new way to reach a receptive audience. We have also connected with other social service agencies in Aotearoa and abroad, and our able to support each other's online presence.

Our first big success was the 50th Anniversary

Our first big success was the 50th Anniversary celebrated in a Day of Joint Worship on 20th February alongside the United Nations International Day of Social Justice. By promoting the event on

Facebook, we were able to get more than 100 people to join us throughout the day, to join in prayer, peruse the campaigns led over the years, and commemorate the ecumenical contribution made by NZCCSS since 1969 with their member churches and social service agencies.

Our social media presence has also been used to highlight the national hui tour for Kore Hiakai Zero Hunger

Since then, our social media presence has also been used to highlight the national hui tour for Kore Hiakai Zero Hunger with events in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington. Each hui was sold out and hourly updates were posted online to ensure public engagement for those not able to attend. The event and coverage both got excellent feedback and committed interest.

We also worked in collaboration

with Tax Justice Aotearoa, an organization seeking a fairer society through tax reform. For this, we shared multiple posts about income and tax inequality, supplemented by graphics, quizzes and discussion points. Although we were disappointed to see the well-supported Capital Gains Tax get abandoned by the Government, we remain hopeful that more can be done to redress Aotearoa's income inequality in the future.

Social media was also effectively used to highlight the contribution our Executive Officer Trevor McGlinchey made to the Welfare Expert Advisory Group report. Released in early May, the report recommended sweeping changes to the welfare system and new directions for the Ministry of Social Development in achieving this. The Government has adopted several recommendations, such as the removal of benefit sanctions for solo mothers,

and we hope more recommendations from the report will be adopted by the Government in future.

Most recently, our bolstered media presence has been useful to broadcast our response to the Wellbeing Budget laid out last month. For the budget, we took a new approach and recorded videos of our Executive Officer, Policy Advisor, and others connected to NZCCSS to get their response to the announcements. These videos have already been viewed several hundred times and have proved to be some of our most popular posts.

Each weekday we aim to post new content to generate discussion about how to look after Aotearoa's most vulnerable and draw attention to our mahi in addressing this. People have responded warmly to a new and reliable voice on social issues and we hope this will continue as the audience grows.

Each weekday we aim to post new content to generate discussion

Before I leave at the end of this month, I am conducting a final 'meet the team' series for Facebook and



Emily Menkes

Twitter, which will interview previous and current Council members to help personalize the organization, and find out what they have found most rewarding about their time at NZCCSS.

My time at council has been extremely rewarding, and I look forward to the fruits of their social media presence, and future collaborations together. Rangimarie.

To follow us on social media, visit [facebook.com/nzccss](https://www.facebook.com/nzccss) or [twitter.com/nzccss](https://www.twitter.com/nzccss)



The Wellbeing Budget 2019

The NZCCSS Policy Watch Special on the Wellbeing Budget gives a detailed run-down on some of the key initiatives that relate to children and families, older people, housing, poverty and inequality.

On Budget day we welcomed the investment in our children, in addressing New Zealand's mental health crisis, in family violence, in addictions and in supporting both Māori and Pasifika aspirations. These initiatives will make a positive difference in the lives of many of those who the NZCCSS member social service organisations serve.

While there were positive signs, NZCCSS Executive Officer Trevor McGlinchey emphasised that "Real progress will be made when we, as a nation, also address the systemic drivers that lead to stress and lack of hope".

There was little further announced on the implementation of the recommendations of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group (WEAG). The indexing of core benefits to wage increases was the main announcement on welfare. NZCCSS and other groups will be advocating strongly over the coming months for the government to go further in implementing the main



WEAG report recommendations such as substantially lifting core benefit rates to reduce poverty, especially among families with children.

Additional funding for NGOs working for children is welcome but also does not seem to be enough to cover the gaps in government funding between NGO services and the government's own Oranga Tamariki department.

Budget day saw no new housing announcements and that leaves the community housing sector still waiting to know if they will see any additional funding to help them with the thousands of additional housing

units they would like to build.

Older people received little direct attention with only three relatively small announcements relating to the Super Gold Card, ACC and digital literacy for seniors.

Inequality barely rated a mention in the Wellbeing Budget, with surprisingly little attention to how wellbeing is distributed within our population. Yet we know that it will take clear action to further lift the lowest incomes and share the wealth and income of this country more fairly, if we are going to achieve wellbeing for all in this country.

Check our full [Budget Policy Watch](#) blog.

Social Workers Survey 2019

The annual social workers' workforce survey is now under way which we encourage social workers to fill out as it gives an indication of trends and what is happening for social workers and the profession.

The survey, which is run by the Social Workers Registration Board, is divided into four sections: about you as a social worker, your qualifications, your registration, and your employment. The purpose of the survey is to collect information for an overview of the registered social worker workforce at national and local levels.

The information collected is anonymous, is not associated with your registration number, and will be used to produce reports on workforce composition, workforce trends, and to plan for workforce development.

The information gathered last year started to build the evidence and a picture for Ministers and government agencies, policy people and others in the sector about what's going on within the profession.

This is a short survey that should take no more than ten minutes of your time.

During 2019 NZCCSS is marking 50 years since the organization was established.

In February we began the year with a vigil at Wellington Anglican Cathedral of St Paul. Emily Menkes, our social media coordinator, has been interviewing some of the people who have helped shape the history of NZCCSS. We will be sharing those interviews over the next few months beginning with CEO of HBH Senior Living, Bonnie Robinson.



NZ Council of Christian Social Services



Bonnie Robinson

Tell us about yourself and your time at NZCCSS

I have had a career in the non-profit industry. NZCCSS was my second job, after graduating. I trained as a Presbyterian minister but I only very briefly served in a parish-type role, I was much more interested in social justice and community development and that kind of thing.

I did a little history of NZCCSS at 25 years, when I was at university as a history major. It's a bit of a family business. My father worked for Council, and my brother did too

and then I did too! Social justice was a family business, that is just what we did. I'd go in on a Friday afternoon and help my father do photocopying and mail because he had a physical disability. Those were the days where you had to wander down to the post office with big stacks of mail. So it was just him, and then it slowly evolved. And then my brother really stepped it up a bit and Council got their first Policy Analyst to work alongside the Executive Officer, which really beefed up their ability to do stuff. Council has always punched above its weight, that's for sure.

What role do you think NZCCSS plays in Aotearoa?

It is a voice for both the organisations that serve people but also for the clients for all our social services. That was how I saw it, and still see it. We are speaking into places of power that can impact on the lives of the people we serve through our social service agencies. And I think one of the powerful things NZCCSS does is tell those stories. Because, particularly people in positions of

power may not move in circles where they get to see that or hear that – what that reality is for people that are struggling. To tell those stories is really important. And also, to represent the agencies that do the work.

It's interesting because I did that job and then really morphed into being a manager and leader of service-delivery agencies. And when you are delivering services, it's really busy! You gather a lot of data, you see a lot of stuff, and you have views on how things should change but you don't necessarily have the time or the resources to put that together. To be able to harness all that rich information and put it into places where it might be able to change things systemically, I think is really powerful and necessary thing to do.

How has the organisation changed?

The core purpose has stayed the same, speaking truth to power and seeking systemic change. That has been there right from the beginning, for as long as I've known about it. In fact, the current core structure of the

policy groups was something I put in place. The core mission has stayed the same, which is good because it hasn't been fulfilled yet, so it's good to have consistent voice in the political process. Being a steady voice for change is important for issues that are going to be generational.

The issues have changed a little as the government and economy has changed, because obviously that affects how the social service agencies are put together. I think it must be really interesting working for them right now, because, on the surface, this government is much more aligned with what NZCCSS has been advocating, but it's about making that real and deliverable.

I think the nature of the people involved has changed over the years – when I started, it was the last period where there were a lot more clergy involved at that managerial level, whereas agencies had to go down different routes to getting their staffing. People have slightly different backgrounds now.

And obviously the advent of social media, will have changed things. I'll

sound really old, but we got email about 18-months into my job – up until that point we thought we were sophisticated because we had a fax and could send 20 faxes at once! But social media has dramatically changed how people get information, so the process of educating the public about it, and getting that public pressure – it's a totally different environment from the days where we used to call around media, there were only two papers in Wellington. Now there's far more competing voices saying what should happen and what the issues are – so it's probably a more competitive environment in terms of having that presence and that voice.

What have you been proudest of during your time there?

It is always a team effort. I am proud that the policy group methodology is still going but I think the thing I was proudest of was our work around poverty and getting poverty on the political agenda. At the time when I was there, it was when all the benefit cuts were happening and poverty



NZ Council of Christian
Social Services

BONNIE ROBINSON

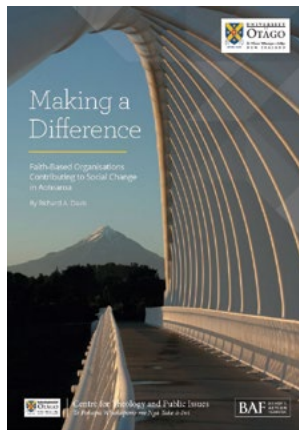
wasn't allowed to be talked about. It kind of got banned as a word, you could talk about 'economic disparity' but couldn't mention the 'P-word'! It wasn't just us, there were a lot of organisations involved at that time but we did a number of strategies including an open letter on poverty signed by all the churches and the church social services.

I think we were instrumental in getting poverty named as an issue that had to be dealt with. And that led to Helen Clark's government getting voted in, partly on the back of the public just going 'we just don't want to live in a country with these levels of poverty'. So, I'm pretty proud of that. I think over the years we have also established NZCCSS as a very credible voice. Because we base what we say in real-life service delivery – people may disagree with our views but they can't deny that we're seeing what we're seeing. I think that's always been an incredibly powerful part of what Council does, to take that information and those stories and pull them together, which opens a window on other people's experience.

Contributing to Social Change

The contribution of the churches in social policy and social change is the focus of a research report published this year by the Centre for Theology and Public Issues at Otago University. The report *Making a Difference: Faith-Based Organisations Contributing to Social Change in Aotearoa* written by Dr Richard Davis, gives some insight into the role played by faith-based organisations (FBOs) such as NZCCSS in the social and political debate in this country.

In an *Otago Daily Times* opinion piece, Professor David Tombs, Director of the Centre comments that if "FBOs and churches are to contribute effectively to social change, and not just provide social support, they must find ways to address policy makers on political matters. *Making a Difference: Faith-Based Organisations Contributing to Social Change in Aotearoa* was originally commissioned from Otago's Centre for Theology and Public Issues by the Bishop's Action Foundation (BAF), to offer insights into how BAF can work most effectively."



The University has this year launched a new master's degree on "Faith-Based Leadership and Management" and the report has been published as an open-access resource for Otago students and the general public.

The report explores the work of the churches in social policy debates through the eyes of a group of people who have been actively involved with that work. The nuclear-free campaign, advocacy on poverty and inequality, and the Living Wage movement are among the campaign experiences that the interviewees reflect on.

When asked what the distinctive Christian contribution is, one respondent summarised it in this way: "the church should walk humbly as citizens of the country

and be a powerful force for good, and be seen to be a powerful voice for good, without always waving a Christian flag." Faith-based organisations should look to what is going on, focus on the data and the impact on human lives, and respond in love.

Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions

The work of the Royal Commission is progressing. The approach to abuse that occurred in faith-based settings are now in the Terms of Reference and are set out below.

In the care of faith-based institutions means where a faith-based institution assumed responsibility for the care of an individual, including faith-based schools, and –

- for the avoidance of doubt, care provided by faith-based institutions excludes fully private settings, except where the person was also in the care of a faith-based institution;
- for the avoidance of doubt, if faith-based institutions provided care on behalf of the State (as described in clause 17.3(b) above), this may be dealt with by the inquiry as part of its work on indirect State care;
- as provided in clause 17.3(d) above, care settings may be residential or non-residential and may provide voluntary or non-voluntary care. The inquiry may consider abuse that occurred in the context of

care but outside a particular institution's premises;

- for the avoidance of doubt, the term 'faith-based institutions' is not limited to one particular faith, religion, or denomination. An institution or group may qualify as 'faith-based' if its purpose or activity is connected to a religious or spiritual belief system. The inquiry can consider abuse in faith-based institutions, whether they are formally incorporated or not and however they are described;
- for the avoidance of doubt, 'abuse in faith-based care' means abuse that occurred in New Zealand.

The Commission has welcomed the decision by the Government's Chief Archivist to implement a disposal moratorium over any information

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ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

held by government agencies that may be relevant to the Commission. This means that Government agencies are prohibited from disposing of potentially relevant information to make sure it is available. The Chief Archivist has emphasised the importance of ensuring no records which could be required by the Commission are disposed of. The commission also advises that the same expectation applies to faith-based institutions and all other bodies involved in providing care (for example non-government organisations).

The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services is talking with the denominational leadership involved with responding to the faith-based aspects of the Inquiry. It also working with the Crown Secretariat for the Historical Abuse Inquiry and with staff from the Royal Commission to support these organisations to communicate with our membership and to respond to their queries.

The Royal Commission's website has additional information and a timeline of activities.

CARERS' STRATEGY CONSULTATION MEETINGS

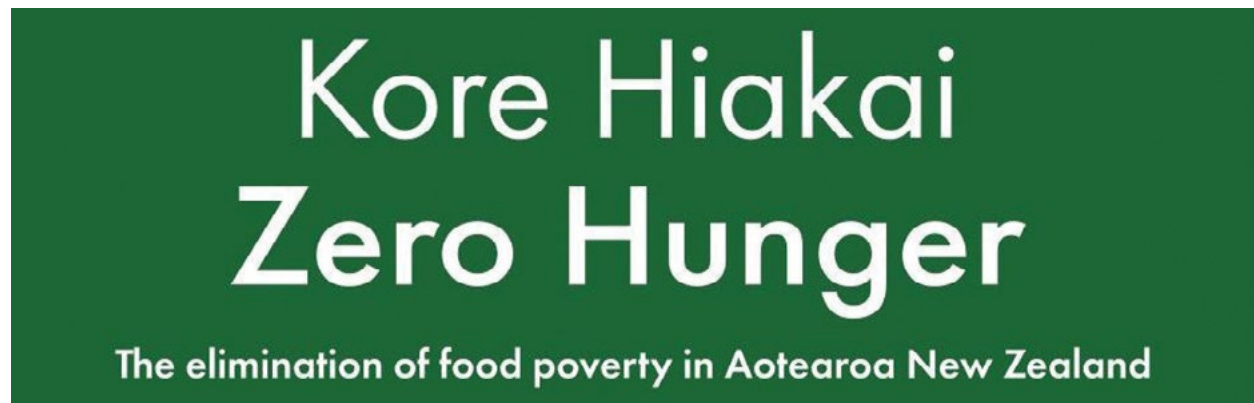
Help shape the Action Plan for 2019–2023

The Government is hosting meetings across the country in July and August to discuss what priorities it should focus on for family carers for the new Carers' Strategy Action Plan. For the first time issues such as paid family care will be on the table for the Carers' Strategy. This is a chance for carers and others who are interested in the issues, so come along to these meetings to help shape policy for the coming five years.

There is also an online survey and opportunity for written comment.

Consultation closes on 16th August.

Find out more about the venues and other ways you can contribute and comment on the MSD website.



The core Kore Hiakai group that coordinated the hui in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland during March 2019 has continued to analyse the feedback, information and ideas you provided. This has led to a threefold strategy being pursued, the key aspects of the strategy are:

Structural Societal Change to Eliminate Food Poverty	Structural Change to Achieve Mana Enhancing Practice	National Food Distribution Network
<p>Building on the existent empathy that exists for those who suffer from food poverty to move beyond donations of food to understanding and responding to the causes of poverty.</p> <p>Creating public support for the implementation of minimum wage, benefit payments and housing supports which mean people have a sufficient, after housing costs, income to purchase nutritious food</p>	<p>Supporting critical reflection within food charities on their practices and building food support strategies which enhance mana and contribute to longer-term sustainable solutions</p> <p>Supporting the development of approaches whereby those experiencing food insecurity and poverty become part of the solution rather than the face of the problem.</p>	<p>Growing a zero-food waste movement which creates an environment of wide social support for food rescue and distribution at community, industry, marketing and societal levels</p> <p>Developing a co-ordinated network of food rescue, transport and distribution organisations operating both locally, regionally and across the nation to support and facilitate the zero-food waste movement and to provide low cost/ free food to those experiencing food insecurity</p>

The governance group is now reaching out to potential funders to provide the resources which will allow for the implementation of these strategies. It is intended to create leadership groups in each area by bringing together the key leaders from our hui in a collective to influence and create change. As these resources become available Kore Hiakai will be more able to involve others in the work of eliminating food insecurity.

New Information Sharing Requirements Oranga Tamariki and Ministry of Justice

Important for NZCCSS members to note!

New information sharing provisions come into force 1 July 2019. Oranga Tamariki and the Ministry of Justice have released separate guidance on new information sharing provisions under the [Oranga Tamariki Act 1989](#) and the [Family Violence Act 2019](#)

The Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 [Sections 65A to 66Q]

- New provisions enable ‘child welfare and protection agencies, and some independent persons’, to request, use and share personal information for specific purposes relating to the safety and wellbeing of tamariki.
- The definition of Child welfare and protection agencies includes *“Any social, family and community services that provides services under section 396 of the Oranga Tamariki Act”* and *“Any person, body or organisations that provides regulated services under schedule 1 of the Children’s Act 2014”*.
- There is no legal definition of ‘wellbeing’ in the legislation, but guidance is provided on page 10 of the guidance document.



- *“One way to think about safety is as part of wellbeing, not a separate thing. If there is a safety issue then tamariki wellbeing will be affected. But not all wellbeing issues are safety issues.”*
- 66 C (a) (i) to (vi) sets out how information can be used. These include preventing and reducing risk, contributing to an assessment of risk or need, preparing, implementing or reviewing a prevention plan, carrying out any function in relation to family group conferences.

“One way to think about safety is as part of wellbeing, not a separate thing. If there is a safety issue then tamariki wellbeing will be affected. But not all wellbeing issues are safety issues.”

Guidance Information and links to related material:

Oranga Tamariki has published a range of resources to support the implementation of these provisions.

Guidance document Information Sharing to Support Tamariki Wellbeing and Safety: Guidance for sharing information across the child welfare and protection sector.

Fact Sheet: Information sharing under the Oranga Tamariki Act to support tamariki wellbeing and safety.

Flow Chart: A flow chart to support decision-making provides useful help Oranga Tamariki to support decision-making – Steps to follow when thinking about sharing information under section 66C.

How the Oranga Tamariki and Family Violence documents work together

The Ministry of Health has also published a useful overview on information sharing provisions targeted at the health sector.

Overview of the Family Violence Act 2018 information sharing provisions.

Overview of changes to the information sharing provisions in the **Oranga Tamariki Act 1989**

The **Ministry of Justice** has published guidance on the **Family Violence Act 2019**



- The Act allows information to be shared to identify, stop prevent family violence.
- NGOs are covered under the definition of family violence agency, social service practitioner who is providing social services as a registered social worker (See page 4 of the Act).
- The Act allows personal information to be used to make a family violence risk or needs assessment, contribute to making, carrying a decision or plan relating family violence or to protect a victim from family violence.

Alongside Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry of Justice has prepared a range of guidance material to support the sector understand these new provisions:

Sharing information safely: Guidance on sharing personal information under the Family Violence Act 2018

Decision Tree poster: Step by step guide to sharing information under the Family Violence Act 2018

INFORMATION SHARING

How Best To Work Alongside Māori

Section 7AA of Oranga Tamariki Act – NZCCSS Hui report

Factsheet: A one pager summarising key areas of the information sharing provisions

How the Family Violence and Oranga Tamariki guidance documents work together

Given the potential for overlap between their respective legislations, Oranga Tamariki and the Ministry of Justice, have produced guidance on when to share information under the Family Violence Act 2018 and the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989

In May Auckland social services provider VisionWest was the venue for a hui for NZCCSS members and other interested community social service organisations on how best to work alongside Iwi/Māori and to understand Section 7AA of Child Youth and Family (Oranga Tamariki) Legislation Act due to come into force 1 July 2019.

As background, [Section 7AA](#) was included in the legislation following deep concerns raised by Māori that a range of provisions in the legislation would have a detrimental impact on tamariki Māori and their whānau, specifically around the early removal of tamariki Māori and

permanent placements outside of their whakapapa.

Section 7AA places a legislative duty on the Chief Executive to recognise and give practical commitment to the principles of the Tiriti o Waitangi. This is achieved by duties set out under (2) (a-c) to (6). Key duties include:

- setting of measurable outcomes for Māori children and young persons who come to the attention of the department;
- having regard to mana tamaiti (tamariki) and the whakapapa of Māori children and young persons and the whanaungatanga responsibilities of their whanau, hapu and iwi.

Section 7AA also places a legislative requirement on Oranga Tamariki to develop strategic partnerships with iwi and Māori organisation.

After a powhiri from Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, Trevor McGlinchey, Executive Officer at NZCCSS opened the meeting saying “at the heart of section 7AA is a commitment to ‘see greater outcomes for success for tamariki’. It also has ‘improved strategic relations with iwi’, as well as provision for reporting on annual data on wellbeing”.

The hui was kick-started by an invigorating presentation from Fred Astle, Tumu Whakarae Māori – Head of Māori Development, VisionWest, on their journey towards a Kaupapa Māori approach: “*learning is a never-ending process*”.

A robust panel discussion followed. Darrin Haimoana, National Director Māori, Oranga Tamariki, spoke on article 7AA and its potential for improving the wellbeing of Māori tamariki.

Miri Rawiri, Te Kahui Atawhai o te Motu, spoke passionately about what she is seeing in Māori communities: the frequency of babies removed from their mothers and the devastation left behind. The underpinning legislation was seen to be flawed and working against the intentions of Section 7AA (subsequent children provisions, permanent guardianship, and a focus on early removal before parents are supported to parent safely).

The hui attracted a broad representation including: Salvation Army, Monte Cecilia Housing Trust, Methodist Mission, Māori social service organisation and community groups.

Groups were asked to provide

feedback on how their organisations could promote section 7AA. Ideas included educating staff about Te Ao Māori including pronunciation and history, supporting the relationship with Māori and Pasifika, empowering the younger generation with knowledge of the history of Aotearoa and knowledge of their turangawaewae.

Other issues identified included clarifying what success looks like at an organisational level, providing wrap-around services for whānau, and tapping into iwi resources. There was an acknowledgement that cultural awareness should start from the top. Providing an intentional Māori ministry strategy which incorporates a Māori perspective was seen as crucial as well as utilising Māori models of health practise – including tapawha as a holistic approach.

NZCCSS received positive feedback from participants on providing a forum to better understand the extent to which other provisions in the legislation will enable the intention of Section 7AA to be realised in operational practice. “My kete is full” was a sentiment shared around the room!



Fred Astle

Tātou tātou e!
The value of relationships
in building Wellbeing:
Wellington 27-28 August

COMMUNITY NETWORKS AOTEAROA
Te Hapori Tuhoāngō o Aotearoa

New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services

Welfare That Works For All

Paul Barber, Policy Advisor, NZCCSS

We have reached a turning point for social welfare in this country with the release of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group (WEAG) report *Whakamana Tāngata: Restoring Dignity to Social Security in New Zealand* (WEAG).

We have reached a turning point for social welfare in this country.

The report sets out what we must do to rebalance our social welfare system in a way that ensures the dignity and mana for all. The coming months are crucial as the Government makes decisions about adopting the 42 recommendations.

The report places the dignity and the mana of people at the centre of its recommendations. **NZCCSS President Ian Hutson said** “This means providing hope and the chance for people to improve their lives and be truly part of our society”.

The report gives voice to those who are excluded from our society, learning from their experiences and

The report gives voice to those who are excluded from our society.

seeking solutions that are practical.

The authors have drawn from thousands of people who shared their ideas and experiences with the WEAG group last year. “I think people that are on the benefit should not look, experience or feel different to anyone else in our country...” (past welfare recipient in the report, p.60).

Many of us have worked hard to see change in how people in the welfare system are treated. For the first time

Many of us have worked hard to see change in how people in the welfare system are treated.



Kia Piki Ake Te Mana Tangata Framework, p.63
Whakamana Tangata report

in decades we have a clear opportunity for transformation in the system. The recommendations from the report are the stars that will guide us on the path to change. The six values of the Kia Piki Ake Te Mana Tangata Framework are proposed to shape the changes to welfare. This kaupapa Māori frame addresses Te Tiriti interest of all New Zealanders and will benefit everyone.

Government Must Respond With Real Change

Social Development Minister Hon Carmel Sepuloni has welcomed the report and made some small but significant initial announcements on abatement thresholds, removing sanctions on mothers who do not disclose the father of their child, and increased frontline case managers for Work & Income.

The Cabinet Paper released along with the report gives hints of possible further increases in income to individuals and families in the May Budget. A plan for priority areas of action and longer term work is scheduled for later this year.

We are at an important moment in the history of social security in this country. Real transformational

change will occur only if all the recommendations in the report are implemented. NZCCSS wants to see wide involvement in developing the Government’s plan for change and the inclusion of clear milestones to hold the government accountable for its implementation.

Nothing has changed yet for people reliant on welfare – the first changes announced take effect in April 2020. Core benefit rates are unchanged, the sanctions regime is still in force, stand-down periods for access to benefits remain, and intrusive relationship rules still apply. The vision of welfare is still defined by a law that sees paid work as the path to participation and wellbeing.

More action for change is needed now, not sometime in the future. Some of the recommendations of the report could be implemented almost immediately, although others will require significant planning and system changes.

If the Government is going to

Real transformational change will occur only if all the recommendations in the report are implemented.

Significant lifts in income for whānau/families reliant on welfare support must happen.

achieve its goals for reducing child poverty, then significant lifts in income for whānau/families reliant on welfare support must happen, especially those on the very lowest incomes. Welfare transfers are the most direct and effective way to lift incomes for low- and middle-income households, which is an essential step to greater equality.

South Auckland community social worker Sr Margaret Martin summed up the situation by saying: “Having enough income to meet our needs and being treated with respect and understanding is a basic human right. As a society we cannot afford to demean the human dignity of another.”

Originally published on the ComVoices blog



Paul Barber



Community Housing Aotearoa, the Salvation Army, the Housing Foundation and Habitat for Humanity are working together on the [KiwiBuy campaign](#) to persuade the government to put more resources into shared ownership and progressive home ownership products that can help more kiwis own an affordable home.

Using shared ownership and progressive home ownership models, community-based housing providers can help people on lower incomes get into home ownership.

Shared Ownership: Under the 'Affordable Equity' model a household purchases a share of the property at a price point they can afford (subject to criteria and conditions). The remainder is owned by our community housing providers and both parties will be represented on the property title. The household organises their own mortgage (with support from KiwiBuy), the advantage being that under this arrangement, they will have a smaller

mortgage than they will ordinarily require to purchase the property at market value.

Progressive Home Ownership: Under the 'Affordable Rental' model you occupy a new home built by one of our providers, paying the equivalent of a fair market rent and

determined by what is affordable based on your total gross household income (before tax)

These models are already working well in small scale but with financial help from government, many, many more people could benefit from this approach to home ownership.

Take Action

I Support KiwiBuy – Sign the Petition

THERE IS A CRISIS IN HOUSING. MANY KIWIS CANNOT FIND A HOME AND ESCALATING COSTS MEAN THAT MANY SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO BUY ONE.



What was once considered to be the Kiwi birthright, the right to own a home is out of reach for thousands of families.

Government has committed to KiwiBuild and 100,000 houses. But housing availability won't change the fact that the cost of buying a first house is simply too high for many.

KiwiBuy – offered by community housing organisations The Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, Housing Foundation and Community Housing Aotearoa – is a proven way of giving the support people need to own a home. KiwiBuy will give momentum to KiwiBuild and offer real housing availability and affordability.

THIS PETITION ASKS GOVERNMENT TO COMMIT SIGNIFICANT FUNDING TO KIWIBUY

Sign the petition on the [KiwiBuy website](#)

LEGISLATION AND SUBMISSIONS

Kainga Ora – Homes and Communities Bill – due 11 July

Have your say on the future of urban housing and communities

Parliament is calling for public submissions on the Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities Bill. The bill seeks to establish *Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities* as a Crown entity to address challenges around urban areas' population growth, changing preferences, and aging populations.

The new entity would have two main roles:

- to be a public housing landlord
- to lead and co-ordinate urban development projects.

To achieve this, the bill would disestablish Housing New Zealand and its subsidiary HLC (Homes. Land. Community), putting their assets into Kāinga Ora. It would also repeal the Housing Corporation Act 1974, and place some of the functions and assets related to KiwiBuild (that currently sit in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development) into the new entity.

The overarching aim of Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities is to contribute to sustainable, inclusive, and thriving communities that:

- provide people with good quality, affordable housing choices that meet diverse needs
- support access to jobs, facilities, and services
- sustain or increase the overall economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of current and future generations.

Submissions are due 11 July 2019 – go the Parliament website to [make your submission](#) on the bill and find out more information.

July 2019.

Respite and Dementia – Urgent Change Needed

Carer Support is not working and needs to be replaced as soon as possible with flexible budgets that people can use for what they, when need it. That is the main point from a report *Respite in New Zealand: We Must Do Better*, released in May by the Carers Alliance.

Some 430,000 people in this country are estimated to be providing the equivalent of up to \$17 billion of unpaid care every year. It is the carers and the people they care for that should be the focus of a respite system that is flexible enough to respond to differing needs and contexts.

The way respite is funded by DHBS needs to be reviewed and an innovation fund created to make space for new ideas and service improvements. This should be linked to a quality and outcomes framework for service providers that can provide benchmarks for service improvement and innovation.

Respite is a chance for the carer and the person being cared for to take a break. It helps keep families together, keeps people out of hospital and delays the deterioration of people's physical and mental wellbeing.

Dementia is a condition that is rapidly increasing among older people. Alliance Co-Chair and Alzheimers NZ CEO Catherine Hall commented that the "statistics are extremely

worrying now, but with an aging population our need for carers will grow exponentially." Respite services are vital to help carers as they support people living with dementia. Yet, as Sam's story (see below) shows, there are many problems with the system.

Studies have shown that every dollar spent on respite gives at least \$4 return, yet current funding levels are inadequate to meet the need. District Health Boards fund most respite services for older people. How those services are organised and funded varies between region and depends on the priorities of different DHBS for their regions. The result is that some areas lack good services, providers struggle for financial sustainability and there is a lack of innovation.

Start here....

The report has a number of recommendations but the three first priorities are:

1. All DHBS to review their services and recommission, with a priority on dementia.
2. Develop a quality and outcomes framework.
3. Establish a cross-sector stewardship and leadership group to help ensure policy coherence across government.

"None of this work needs to be complex", says Ms Hall. "It just needs to happen."

[Read the full report online](#) on the Carers Alliance website.

Sam's Story* – "I just need some help from time to time"

My wife was diagnosed with dementia 11 years ago at the age of 71. I care for her 24/7. Continuing to care for my wife is important. The lack of support services is making it more and more difficult.

I am over 80 and have health issues of my own. When you love someone, you care for them... but you can't do it alone. There is no regular respite where I live. We were allocated 91 days of respite care by the nurse assessor – but there was no regular respite service in our area.

I can get the "carer support" reimbursement – but it is still the same amount it was 22 years ago and will only pay for two or three hours help at best.

My wife doesn't need to go into a rest home – I just need some help from time to time

*Summarised from a story in the report based on real experiences of carers

Selwyn Foundation brings world-leading strength and balance tech to NZ

The Selwyn Foundation has opened a unique Strength and Wellness studio with world-leading exercise equipment developed especially for older adults and designed to help improve seniors' strength and overall wellbeing.

With this year's Budget focusing on wellbeing, and the number of Kiwis aged 65+ due to reach more than one million by 2036, there is a greater need for preventative health services for older New Zealanders. The Selwyn Foundation delivers a broad range of services through its Selwyn Community arm to help older people living in the wider community stay active, healthy and socially connected. This allows them to live well in their home environment for longer.

Opened on 18 March 2019 at Selwyn Heights village in Hillsborough, Selwyn's new Strength and Wellness studio is the first in New Zealand to adopt the new generation of world-leading HUR (Helsinki University Research) equipment that aims to improve older people's strength and physical ability, reduce the risk of falls and enhance overall quality of life.

John Ashley, Selwyn Community Chief Operating Officer, says: "The new studio is the first of its kind in New Zealand, and is especially suitable for older people who've never participated in a regular or organised exercise session. The innovative equipment uses technology that's purposely designed for age-friendly exercising and allows people to exercise gently and safely at their own pace and ability, in order to gain muscle strength and improve balance. With exercise programmes tailored to each user's specific needs, it's ideal for strength training, medical fitness and rehabilitation."

The [new studio is available](#) to older adults living in the local community, following an individual assessment by the studio's onsite Clinical Exercise Physiologist as to their suitability for the programme, and access is by appointment only.

[John Ashley says](#) participants in Selwyn's community 'Forever Young' strength and balance programmes, which aim to build strength and conditioning, have tested the HUR equipment and are fans of its benefits for overall wellness.

Borrowers' pain demands "ambulance at top of cliff"

Ngā Tangata Microfinance



Submissions have closed on the Credit Contracts Amendment Bill, but the clarion call from [Ngā Tangata Microfinance](#), [FinCap](#), budgeting services and poverty-focused agencies throughout the country (including NZCCSS) was unanimous: an interest rate cap must be a priority.

An interest rate cap is fundamental for protecting low income borrowers from being caught with expensive unaffordable repayments, driving them into a debt spiral of financial pain and poverty. Over 70

An interest rate cap is fundamental for protecting low income borrowers.

nations including the UK, Canada, and Australia implement an interest rate cap on high cost loans and no country imposes a total amount repayable limit (as is being proposed by the Government), without also implementing an interest rate cap.

Robert Choy, Ngā Tangata Microfinance's (NTM) Executive Officer explains, "an interest rate cap can be likened to 'the ambulance at the top of the cliff'. Placing such a protective measure when loans are extended or credit is initially provided, creates a fence that protects many borrowers falling into severe financial difficulty and hardship, because of the extreme burden of high interest. The financial pain, stress, and suffering

on whānau and tamariki caused by having insufficient financial resources each week for the basic essentials, can surely be avoided."

In partnership with Kiwibank, JR McKenzie Trust and Budgeting Services, NTM has been providing nil interest debt relief loans (DRLs) since 2012 to low income clients for the purpose of relief from high interest lenders (primarily fringe finance companies, mobile truck vendors, and pay day lenders). Over 350 DRLs totalling almost \$900,000, have been lent to clients to help them escape from the punitive financial, mental and social burden of high interest debt.

One of the key results from NTM's evaluation, was that nearly 80% of clients interviewed communicated a 'huge' improvement in well-being and peace of mind as a result of the loan supporting them to escape their high interest debt burden. Before receiving the NTM loan, one client described their high interest debt:

"I had been really stressed and I wasn't going anywhere [with my finances]. It was like chasing a rat."

After receiving the NTM loan, clients frequently stated:

My children and family stopped being worried about me.

"This process reduced the stress massively, and by the end of each meeting [with the budgeter], we had achieved a lot in getting my finances more under control." And: "My children and family stopped being worried about me."

NTM certainly welcomes reform to the Credit Contracts legislation that will contribute towards a safer, fair and ethical credit environment for the financially vulnerable in Aotearoa.

The proposed limit on the total cost of borrowing for higher cost loans will provide some measure of relief, but only as an ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. Why not prevent the suffering and pain of high interest predatory lending at the outset by having an ambulance at the top – let's put in place an interest rate cap.

Nearly 5,000 people have signed the [FinCap](#) online petition to show their support for an interest rate cap – [add your name to the FinCap petition](#).

Kete Kupu Word Basket

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