

Anglican Care Canterbury/Westland

Report to Synod 2020

It has been an exciting, and in the end, a highly unpredictable year for Anglican Care. At the beginning of 2019/20 the Board set a new strategic direction for the agency and by the end of the year we were overtaken by the corona virus pandemic and responding to the emergency needs of the community. Our community project team has visited hundreds of households with the assistance of parish volunteers to check on the welfare of the lonely and isolated, the City Mission has reinvented itself to respond to needs of its clients during the crisis and we all became familiar with new terms such as 'lockdown' and 'social distancing' and using Zoom video for meetings while we worked from home.

New Strategic Direction

The Board has continued to build on the consultancy work in 2018 of Chris Clarke by developing its values and principles for deciding on what work it will prioritise in the coming decade. This work includes serving the **vulnerable**, using **best practice**, that is **complementary** (ie does not duplicate other work being done) and is faithful to its **Anglican and Christian theological base** and **develops relationships that align with values including the Treaty of Waitangi principles and our three Tikanga relationships**.

Examples of these priorities in the coming years will include mental health which is an area of desperate need in Canterbury and the West Coast, affordable housing, aged care in the community and community development to assist in combatting loneliness and isolation, the City Mission, social advocacy and justice and scaling up the work in South and Mid Canterbury.

In addition a new management framework was proposed by Chris with an Anglican Missioner working in tandem with the City Missioner and the Board appointed Roger Sutton as Anglican Missioner to work alongside our City Missioner Matthew Mark. Roger did some great work in a short space of time developing our community projects team, which responded to the needs of the local community after the Christchurch terrorist attacks, building relationships with other providers and giving us the benefit of his considerable leadership experience in managing large organisations. However, Roger was offered a senior position back in the energy sector, in which he has much experience and expertise and resigned at the end of 2019 and we are thankful for his brief but valued contribution to Anglican Care.

In the meantime we have been delighted to welcome back our former Director of the Anglican Advocacy Unit, Jolyon White who has taken over from Roger as Anglican Missioner in an acting position while the Board reflect on the structure that will best serve it in the future. Jolyon brings with him an understanding of the importance of Advocacy in bringing about change, and it is change at the levels of government and resourcing that will truly bring about change in the lives of people in our communities, so that we are creating better ways for all to live. Advocacy for change in how we all live is important and complementary to serving those in need.

Partnerships with other Providers.

The Youth Hub Te hurihanga o Rangatahi Trust

The Youth Hub Trust was set up in 2017, under the inspiring leadership of Dr Sue Bagshaw to provide accommodation facilities with wrap-around support services for at-risk youth between the ages of 10 and 25. In collaboration with the Youth Hub Trust, Anglican Care has provided a block of land for lease to the Trust at 109 Salisbury St and is working with the Trust to support the project.

The need for the Youth Hub is clearly illustrated by the rates of mental ill-health of young people in Christchurch and it is estimated that there is a lack of housing and opportunities for access to support for up to 20% of young people. The application for consent has now been submitted under the government's 'shovel-ready' COVID response scheme and it is hoped that if consent is obtained under the scheme work can get underway on the initial phases of the building project in around 6 months' time.

Christchurch Methodist Mission (CMM) Housing Development at Guild St

Another great example of Anglican Care working cooperatively (and ecumenically) with other providers who may be able to provide experience and expertise in different areas from Anglican Care is the social housing development with the CMM at the ex-Churchill aged care site at Guild St in Richmond. The Churchill site land is of poor quality and has been underutilised since the 2011 Christchurch earthquakes when the buildings were demolished and the residents were relocated. The CMM has leased the site from Anglican Care and purchased 15 relocatable housing units and a community house from the Otautahi trust and plan to move them on to the site and create a social housing community. The units will then be rented out to families in need with the assistance of the Ministry of Housing.

Work started on the site in May and it is planned to re-locate the housing units on to the site in July.

The Christchurch City Mission

The Christchurch City Mission had generally continued to experience a consistent growth in need, however with the impact of COVID the needs morphed and grew exponentially, while at the same time the process and method in which all services were delivered also needed to be dramatically adjusted to meet restrictions in place.

While Matthew and his team, now including Community Development, have responded through building capacity in a number of areas to meet the increased demand there has also been a very determined focus on drawing up those they serve. The adage of 'Teach a man to fish' becoming enmeshed in the heartbeat of all the interactions with those they serve.

While meeting the immediate need is the catalyst for engagement, the ongoing focus is to provide outcomes that deliver sustainable change within the lives of the individuals and families of those they serve, influencing change across our wider community. This was evidenced in numerous ways throughout the lock-down period and even resulted in a number of clients securing permanent housing in addition to upskilling sufficiently to gain employment

Anglican Care, South Canterbury (ACSC)

South Canterbury has two key approaches to serving our communities: Anglican Advocacy and Oceans Grief and Loss programme.

The **Anglican Advocacy** service in South Canterbury continues to offer one to one support for people facing challenging situations such as employment disputes, landlord negotiations or navigating government departments. Advocacy co-ordinator Ruth Swale shares this work with 15 volunteer advocates who she trains and supports. A new focus is emerging for the Anglican Advocacy service in South Canterbury as a result of COVID 19 with requests for support for people with employment problems and applying for Jobseeker benefits, especially 'first timers'.

There were 19 peer-support **Ocean's programmes** run across South Canterbury for adults and children in the 2019/20 year. During the year ACSC also trialled a well-received classroom education

programme about change and grief and loss developed by the coordinator Matt Cameron and a further initiative this year has been to offer grief and loss support to staff in rest and funeral homes.

Community Projects

In 2019 Roger Sutton developed a programme and policies for **community visiting** to respond to the terrorist attacks in Christchurch. Roger further developed this programme by obtaining funding for LED lightbulbs to give to households in low income areas. (LED lightbulbs are more expensive to buy for low income households but far cheaper to run). Whilst the funding was to buy lightbulbs, the real opportunity this project gives to Anglican Care is to assist in reducing 'energy poverty' and improving the lives of the socially isolated. The free bulbs give us an opportunity to have genuine conversations that make it easier to link people to support services and local activities (such as the Eldercare programme – see below)

Janette Sprott who has extensive experience in home visiting after the earthquakes and with the Red Cross was engaged to run the programme. The programmes have taken on a new significance with COVID-19 and since the relaxation of the alert levels Janette has mobilised her team of volunteers to visit over 600 homes in East Christchurch to carry out wellness checks with the assistance of volunteers from East Christchurch parish. Janette would be interested to hear from other parishes who would like to run similar programmes in their community.

Elder Care Programme

After the sale of the Anglican Living residential aged care facilities in 2019 our Warden, Bishop Peter, proposed that the oversight of the Elder Care centres be transferred from the Diocese to Anglican Care. The Elder Care programme is a social programme that addresses the needs of elderly people who are potentially socially isolated with a strong emphasis on health and well-being. The programme is currently offered by seven Elder Care Centres each hosted by an Anglican Parish and run by a part-time paid co-ordinator under the professional leadership of Rev'd Anne Russell-Brighty. Anglican Care accepted the offer as it provides good synergies with other Anglican Care programmes and funding streams and gives the opportunity for Anglican Care to develop closer relationships and support for parishes. The programmes were formally transferred in January 2020 and although the programme is temporarily suspended by COVID-19 due to the age and vulnerability of the guests it is already proving to be a valuable addition to the range of services offered by Anglican Care.

Anglican Care Canterbury Westland Trust Board 2019-20

Our grateful thanks to the Rev'd Katrina Hill who retired last year at the end of her 3 year term and to the following Board members who have served faithfully during the year.

Bishop Peter Carrell (Warden), Ms Moka Ritchie (Chair), Miss Jane Evans (Deputy-Chair), Mrs Nalini Meyer (Chair, Christchurch City Mission), Rev'd Peter Beck, Mr Chas Muir, Rev'd Ben Randall and Mr Neil Shewan and our minute secretary Ms Lynne Havenaar.

We give grateful thanks to God for the life and service of the Rev'd Nelson Kennedy, a former Director of Anglican Care and member of the City Mission Divisional and Finance Committee, who recently passed away.

Finally I would also like to thank our Divisional and Trust Board committee members, dedicated staff, teams of volunteers and our generous donors for their contributions and support for Anglican Care during the year.

Mr Patrick Murray (Executive Officer)

Ms Moka Ritchie (Chair)

1 June 2020.