

Social workers celebrate pay equity

Government announces extension of pay equity for all community-based social work roles.

On 24 November the Government announced a pay equity settlement has been extended to cover all social workers in Aotearoa New Zealand. It means that social workers will receive the same pay equity rate and be fairly paid for the work they do.

Social Service Providers Aotearoa (SSPA) has been advocating for the change for the past three years since the first claim was lodged. Historically, social workers have been undervalued as the roles were predominantly undertaken by women. It is a welcome step forward, recognising and valuing the vital mahi of the social work profession.



Retaining staff will also be easier and the industry can continue attracting exceptional people, and maintaining a stable workforce.

A confirmed date for when the extension will take effect has not yet been announced, but early this year Te Kawa Maataho (the Public Service Commission) is due to request key information and data from all service providers, so it can ensure everyone who is eligible will receive pay equity.

For more information on the extension of the pay equity settlement, read the Te Kawa Maataho article: <https://bit.ly/extensionofpayequity>



The impact of the pay equity settlement on the lives of social workers, and the organisations that employ them, is huge. It will also make a positive difference for the children/tamariki, older people/kaumātua, and families/whānau who they support.

"He waka eke noa" - we are all in this together.



From our CEO



The Social Workers Pay Equity Settlement is an exciting development in recognising the

value Presbyterian Support social workers provide to the community. They deserve recognition in the same way as their government counterparts, and we are delighted they will receive a tangible benefit for their hard work. Our organisation is dedicated to supporting this important initiative.

Whilst there was positive news last year, it was also challenging for many. However, we hope everyone enjoyed a rejuvenating Christmas and New Year, and that 2023 brings great things.

We value your support and look forward to continuing to build on the services we provide to support children/tamariki, older people/kaumātua, and families/whānau with their wellbeing.



Barry Helem

our services

A milestone anniversary for Elder Care Canterbury

We recently celebrated 25 years since the inception of Elder Care Canterbury (ECC).

The celebratory event was held in November at the Te Korowai office in Christchurch where new and familiar faces gathered to connect and reflect on the last 25 years.

Dr Nigel Millar, former Chief Medical Officer, CDHB provided a wonderful presentation and many others shared stories of ECC from over the years. A highlight was the story of an early driver of the project - Sarah Byers. She shared the experience of a much older person's healthcare journey and the positive impact ECC had at each stage of the journey.

For more information on Elder Care Canterbury, visit <https://bit.ly/eldercarecanterbury>



Spring & Christmas appeals update

Latest appeals highlight the variety of clients needing our support

In our **Spring/Summer appeal** we shared the Greenwood* family story. The whānau of five were struggling financially and unable to provide enough food or essential clothing to meet their basic needs. The children also began to display emotional and behavioural issues - 12-year-old Charlie was particularly struggling.

Luckily Mum, Naomi* reached out to Presbyterian Support, and registered social worker, Sarah* turned things around for them. They are all now in a much better financial and emotional place.



Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, we raised \$19,742! These funds will help our Family Works team continue to provide vital support to many more families like the Greenwoods.

Our Christmas appeal

spoke of older couple Edward* and Judith*. Edward was sadly diagnosed with dementia and his wife Judith volunteered as his full-time carer. Unable to take time for herself, Judith eventually became overwhelmed, and Edward was lacking social interaction outside the home. After reaching out to Presbyterian Support's Enliven Harakeke Club, they experienced an amazing transformation and are now enjoying much more in life.



We wish to extend our sincere thanks to those of you who have already donated. Together, we have raised \$15,672 so far, which is a little way off our \$20,000 target. If you haven't yet donated and would like to help us support older people in need, please complete the donation form in this newsletter or donate online at www.psuppersouth.org.nz/donate.

*Names and images have been changed to protect privacy.

Thank you!

Christmas donations & celebrations

As usual there were plenty of festive celebrations to be enjoyed just before Christmas, and we received a huge haul of gifts and essential items from some of our very kind supporters.

HomeShare Christmas

Mid Canterbury held a Christmas party at Lake Hood for both HomeShare clients and hosts. Santa delivered tasty baked treats and calendars, which were donated by the Ashburton Inner Wheel, and clients also received Christmas cards, handmade by local school children.



Christmas giving

Our offices were flooded with gifts and essential items, which were kindly donated by our supporters. They helped to make Christmas a little brighter for many of the families we support.

We are so thankful to everyone involved and who donated items. Our special thanks to Rangi Ruru School, 2degrees, Duncan Cotterill, Ballantynes, and Riccarton Rotary Club for their continued support this year, it is much appreciated.

Continuing the celebrations

North Canterbury Tōtara Club clients, staff and volunteers enjoyed a lovely relaxing lunch at The Plough, filled with endless laughter and chatter.



Youth Mentor Coordinator Angela Adcock organised a wonderful Christmas event for Family Works Mentor Volunteers in Christchurch, to say thank you for their dedication.



Enliven colleagues had chance to celebrate and reminisce on the past year during a tasty Christmas dinner at Le Soleil in Kaiapoi.



Volunteer with us!



And help make a difference in the lives of others

We are searching for day programme volunteers, as well as minivan drivers and assistants in all of our regions, to help support our Enliven programmes.

A regular, small amount of time each week really does make a huge difference to the people we care for. Get in touch today!

To find out more about becoming a volunteer please contact:

Roni Jordan

P. 0800 477 874 or 03 261 2889

E. ronij@psusi.org.nz



www.enlivenuppersouth.org.nz

Tōtara Tech Programme

Blenheim is leading the way in teaching technology skills to older people and, in turn, helping to reduce social isolation issues.

The speed in which technology has advanced, especially over the past few years, is truly mind-blowing. For the younger generation, who had the opportunity to learn from a young age, it is an exciting development. But, for the older generation where new information processing is generally more challenging, it can be a source of anxiety.

For members of our Enliven Tōtara day programme in Blenheim, this anxiety could soon disappear. Team Leader, Tricia Dawson, who has worked in the technology industry for many years, is championing a technology programme with the support of two Marlborough Trusts. It is set to teach members vital technology skills for use with not just standard desktop computers, but also laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, as well as other hardware such as the UE Boom speaker.

It is hoped that it will help older people overcome their technology struggles and, in turn, will also help to reduce social isolation where technology has been a barrier to keeping in touch.

Sessions are held once a week as part of the usual Tōtara day programme, but are optional for those that want to join in. They include one on one lessons to start, and then advance to include engagement with other members. Activities begin with familiarising members with the technology and then develop to trickier tasks such as:

- Taking pictures with tablets
- Attaching and sending photos using email
- Selecting music through apps such as Spotify
- Making/accepting Zoom calls



"It's good to have time to practice these things, it's easy to forget if you don't get a chance to practice."

Tōtara Club members, Joan, John & Sally.

Yes! I would like to help

Your gift will help vulnerable children, families/whānau and older people to be safe, strong and connected.

\$30

Can pay for printed materials that give information to parents to help them raise strong children/tamariki



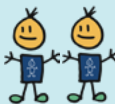
\$50

Can pay for snacks and lunch for an Enliven member at one of our day programmes



\$100

Can pay for two children, who are feeling anxious, to receive help from a social worker



\$250

Can help a young person, with poor eyesight, receive an eye test and reading glasses



\$

I would like to give a gift to support the work of Presbyterian Support



Name

Address

Phone

DOB

Email

Donor ID

(see envelope label)

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

Card number

Name on card

Expiry date

Signature

POST TO: Presbyterian Support, Freepost 60373, PO Box 13171, Christchurch 8141

Thank you!

There are many wonderful organisations who help our communities by giving grants and donations during the year and we're tremendously grateful to all of them. Find them at psuppersouth.org.nz. As a charity we rely on this financial assistance to support vulnerable children, families/whānau and older people as we work towards a just, compassionate and inclusive society.

Ways to donate

Website

psuppersouth.org.nz/donate

Bank Transfer

Banking online or in person at your bank, you can make a donation by depositing money into our account.

Account: 06-0801-0678233-01

Particulars: Your address

Code: Your donor ID (if known)

Reference: If you would like to nominate your region to donate to please include it in this field (optional)

Credit Card

(Visa and Mastercard only)

Complete the donation form and post to Presbyterian Support, Freepost 60373, PO Box 13171, Christchurch 8141. All donations are receipted. Gifts over \$5 are tax deductible. NZ Charities Register #CC21765. Your privacy is important to us. Please visit www.psuppersouth.org.nz/privacy-statement for information about how we collect and look after your personal information. Asking for your date of birth will help us get to know you a little better so we can communicate with you as effectively as possible.

Getting to know our people



Tricia Dawson is an innovative and supportive team leader based in our Blenheim office.

What do you do?

I'm the team leader for Blenheim, supporting staff in both our Family Works and Enliven services.

What does that involve?

Four words come to mind: *support*, *promote*, *innovate*, and *listen*.

I think the most important part of my job is to *support* our teams to do their jobs. I enjoy developing an

understanding of team members' roles and how best I can help them.

I also enjoy being out in the Marlborough community *promoting* Presbyterian Support. As a result of extending our brand reach, we've had further opportunity to *innovate*. We have some exciting new projects in the pipeline, including "Tōtara Tech" which is focused on developing confidence and competence in the use of technology, and the design of a mural for the front of our building. Watch this space for the results!

And finally, taking time to *listen* to the team, their clients, the organisation, and the wider community makes up a huge part of my role.

Tell us a bit about yourself

I worked as a Speech Language Therapist for 20 years, specialising in assistive technology in private practice. Finding the right piece of

technology to meet the functional communication needs for clients has been my focus. I believe that communication is a fundamental right and the core element for all positive interactions.

I live with my husband Brian and our son Alex who has recently returned home after completing his training to be a commercial pilot. Alex is on the hunt for his first piloting role, let's hope the industry opens up soon!

What's your favourite pastime?

My husband and I enjoy training together in our local gym and getting up into the Wither Hills for walks. I am an active member of my Lions Club; I really enjoy the opportunity the club gives me to work together with other Lions, to give back to our community.

For more information on careers at Presbyterian Support, visit <https://bit.ly/psusicareers>

Student placement leads to graduate position

Graduate, Danielle Jeffery, joins Presbyterian Support as a youth coach after impressing the Enliven team on her placement.

As part of Danielle's social work degree, she completed the placement in November. Once she graduated, Presbyterian Support wasted no time inviting her to return in the Youth Service role.

Danielle experienced our Enliven day programmes, and thoroughly enjoyed the many connections she made with our older clients. She says that her interactions were both **"Fun and rewarding"**.

She had the opportunity to review cases and files and assist with planning the programmes. Her confidence grew as she learnt de-escalation techniques, dealing

with conflict, and running group activities. Danielle said, **"It was exciting using my training in the real world with Enliven's client-led and strengths-based model."**

A highlight for Danielle was the cultural accreditation programme she completed in her last week, she said, **"It was a really awesome way to bond with my team. Kim and Vicki were incredibly inclusive and supportive in facilitating my learning about something I was passionate about."**

Danielle has a bright future, and we wish her all the best in her exciting new career.

