

# Presbyterian Support New Zealand

## Report

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### 1 Presbyterian Heritage Strengthens Services Today

- 1.1 Around 100 years ago, socially minded Presbyterians established the first of the network of Presbyterian Support agencies around the country. Through the decades, these have continued as autonomous organisations striving consistently to deliver support which epitomises the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. At our 2006/07 planning meeting, the Presbyterian Support agencies collectively confirmed our core value as “Christianity in action”.
- 1.2 Our links with the Presbyterian Church remain close. Each independent board which oversees a Presbyterian Support service delivery organisation has on it representatives from local presbyteries. Many of our organisations work with local parishes to deliver services which fit the identified community needs, and of course we greatly appreciate the generosity of the parishes on Support Sundays and similar initiatives.

### 2 Presbyterian Supports’ Contribution: Overview

- 2.1 It is with pleasure that we can report to the General Assembly that collectively, the seven Presbyterian Support agencies continue to be one of the largest non-government social service providers in New Zealand, upholding our part in the positive Presbyterian tradition within this country. In total we spend around \$115 million, employ around 4,300 staff, and are assisted by about 1,000 volunteers to deliver a range of services across more than 100 sites. We work with older people, people with disabilities, families at risk and young people. Recognising the changes in society, community and individual expectations, our services are increasingly “strengths based”- that is, helping people to build on their own strengths and face life’s challenges successfully. More detail is available though our website, [www.pss.org.nz](http://www.pss.org.nz).

#### 1 Further Building Our Collective Organisation: PSNZ

- 3.1 Since our last report two years ago, we have focused on enhancing our national presence, strengthening our collective organisation as Presbyterian Support New Zealand (PSNZ). In that national collective, the seven autonomous organisations work together to maximise the advantage of size, where that is appropriate, without losing the critical core strength of local connection that is being able to respond with appropriate services to local needs.
- 3.2 In that context, PSNZ is developing a consistent family social service brand and framework (Family Works) which has been launched in most areas. That will help enable high quality consistent service delivery, maximising our agencies’ ability to learn from and support each other, as well as influence national events in family service policy development and practice. We are looking to enhance our influence in the social services national arena.
- 3.3 PSNZ is also implementing a consistent standard community based support programme for older people, with a focus on assisting the older person to maintain a life-style of choice, even after having some traumatic life events such as serious health issues. In a programme described as “Restorative Home Support”, members of PSNZ are working with DHBs and other health and social

professionals to ensure that support services provided to older people are world class. Presbyterian Support is committed to maintaining its leadership role in this area.

## **2 Conclusion**

- 4.1 PSNZ asks that General Assembly note that Presbyterian Support continues to be a large, effective social service provider that is committed to demonstrating Christian values in our everyday work and thereby to upholding positive Presbyterian traditions within New Zealand.

**Jo Lake**  
Executive

