

PRESBYTERIAN PEOPLE

Employment news & information bulletin Vol 11 September 2007

Employment update

Welcome to the September edition of Presbyterian People!



Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

As I highlighted last month, the Rev Simon Mcleay has been busy traveling the North Island presenting the 'Well Churches' workshops to parishes. The purpose of the workshop is to apply the Health and Safety in Employment Act within a parish context as well as demonstrating that being safe doesn't end with checklists or necessarily require large expenditure on buildings. Simon's next stop is in Invercargill next month.

To date, these workshops have been well received and the National Mission Team strongly encourages each parish to send at least one representative to a workshop—future dates and venues are listed below. And remember, the workshop is FREE, no obligation and you can send along as many people as you like!

Dates and Venues:

Invercargill

7.30-9.30pm Monday 15th October. Windsor Community Church (formerly North Presbyterian).

Dunedin

7.30-9.30pm Tuesday 16th October. East Taieri Church.

Christchurch

7.30-9.30pm Wednesday 17th October. Knox Church.

Wellington

7.30-9.30pm Thursday 18th October. National office, 275 Cuba Street.

Bay of Plenty

December—exact date, time and venue to be confirmed.

Manawatu Wanganui Presbytery

Date, time and venue to be confirmed.

Please email me at juliette@presbyterian.org.nz if you require an enrolment form for the workshop.

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In the Media

You may have seen recently the case of an employer who is being taken to court by ACC for failing to pay costs for an employee who was shot whilst on his break in the employer's carpark. Although much of the attention has focussed on whether an employer is liable for the criminal activity of others not employed by them, it should be noted here that ACC is arguing that this employer had originally opted to pay for the employee's costs under the accredited employer scheme and only tried to opt out of paying for costs after they realised how expensive it would be— in this case \$1 million dollars.

This serves as a timely reminder of the differences between ACC and OSH.

Occupational Safety and Health is a section of the Department of Labour charged with the prevention of workplace accidents and disease. Where they do occur, OSH has the authority to investigate and prosecute the parties at fault. Penalties such as fines and imprisonment can be made and, if the employer is especially negligent they may also be required to pay damages.

Oh the other hand, ACC has responsibility for determining appropriate compensation for people off work and/or receiving treatment which may be the result of an accident (including work and non-work related), a disease process (work-related) or a crime. The money for this comes from levies on employers and employees and, where the accident is work-related, the employer is also required to pay the salary for the first week off work.

An accredited employer has entered into the ACC Partnership Programme. In return for significantly reduced levies the accredited employer agrees to take on the costs of work injury claims for their employees. Whilst the programme can be of benefit to large employers with strict health and safety protocols in place, employers must still weigh up the financial risk of an employee being injured on the job. If anything, the above case is a reminder of just how costly workplace accidents can be.

Best Travel Fund

We are fast approaching October which means Best Travel Fund applications are due!

The Best Travel Fund assists ministers and lay leaders with the cost of traveling for the purposes of study leave.

Please email me for an application pack at:
juliette@presbyterian.org.nz.

Applications close **5pm 31 October 2007.**



Retirement Survey

As I noted last month, we have surveyed ministers on retirement issues. The findings of this study will be published in the October edition of Candour. Once again, a big thank you to all ministers who took part!