



PILLARS IS A CHARITY THAT WORKS DIRECTLY WITH VULNERABLE KIWI KIDS

- **There are about 23,000 kiwi kids with a parent in prison in New Zealand, this is a situation they did not choose.**
- These children can be traumatised by their parent going to prison yet face stigma and shame from their own family, friends, at school and the wider community.
- They often experience feelings of loss, confusion and isolation. They may leave their home, be cared for by somebody else, change schools and lose their friends.
- Treasury estimates that there are 148,000 children aged 0 - 14 in benefit led families who have had a parent in prison, and that these children are 10 times more likely to end up in prison themselves before the age of 21.

PILLARS HELPS TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF CRIME IN NEW ZEALAND

- **Children of prisoners are around 10 x more likely to go to prison than other kiwi kids, they are the 'vulnerable of the vulnerable.'**
- Without proper support, children of prisoners can become socially isolated with a lack of happiness and hope for a positive future. This can lead to pathways of criminal offending.
- Pillars works to break the cycle of crime in families so we have less victims of crime and increase the safety of our families, homes, businesses and communities.

PILLARS MENTORS ENGAGE CHILDREN OF PRISONERS IN A POSITIVE FUTURE

- **Pillars mentors provide children of prisoners with a trusted friend and stable, positive role model.**
- Pillars mentors come from all walks of life and are carefully matched to a child with similar interests. While the minimum commitment on the programme is one year of weekly contact and fortnightly 1:1 time, many form a friendship for life.
- In addition to the mentoring programme, Pillars provides other services such as a helpline for parents and caregivers of children of prisoners and helpful website for children of prisoners to help them navigate the situation of having a parent in prison.

PILLARS PROGRAMMES ARE SUCCESSFUL, LET'S HELP MORE KIWI KIDS

- **Pillars has helped over 7000 families and celebrated 25 years of service to the community in 2013.**
- Pillars programmes are research based and professionally evaluated. Pillars has the expertise to work with the families of these children in a positive way so the mentoring relationship can be successful.
- The mentoring programme requires \$3,000 in direct costs to recruit, train, match and support a volunteer mentor with a child for one year. (Note, direct costs, that does not include operating costs like rent and power).



"I was 12, I was at my best friend's house for dinner, when her Dad found out where my Dad really worked (in the garden at the prison because he was a prisoner) I was asked to leave the table and never come back again. I felt so ashamed, angry and sad."

- Lisa Milburn
Child of former prisoner,
supported by Pillars, now a Mum, and qualified child counsellor

Pillars Programmes and Services

The Family Wraparound Programme is at the heart of Pillars work, and is a two-pronged approach, providing both qualified support workers for families and volunteer mentors for children in Christchurch and South Auckland.

The family/whanau workers' mandate is to provide better outcomes for affected families. Their dedicated services provide low, medium and high intensive support to a portfolio of families, over varying time periods of up to 3 months, 3-6 months or 6-12 months. The mentoring co-ordinator recruits, screens, trains, matches and supports the volunteer mentor that becomes a trusted friend and stable, positive role model for each child. The hope is that these will become lifelong relationships.

Alongside the Family Wraparound Programme Pillars provides a nationwide helpline service, support groups and Family Pathway Centres in prisons to support parent / child bonding.

The period of 2015-2020 will see the significant expansion of staffing across programmes and into new areas in order to support the aggressive growth plans.

Operational planning, implementation and review of programmes will be managed through a centralised committee and co-ordinated by a dedicated staff person.

We will continue to build strong collaborations with like-minded agencies to benefit the families and children we serve.

Our practice will become more child minded with a focus on "hearing the child's voice" in any decisions that are made about them.

We will continue to build cultural awareness and understanding and build kaupapa Maori into our practice.

In 2016, Superu, the Government agency that specialises in using evidential analysis to enable social services to make informed decision making processes, committed to working with Pillars as part of its own programme of working with agencies to demonstrate good practice.

Pillars currently provides:

- Two Family Pathway Centres providing supervised weekly father / child bonding. Special events are held at Christchurch and Invercargill Prisons which include Christmas, Easter, Father's Day and Children of Prisoners Week activities.
- Twice weekly family / whanau support at Serco's Auckland South Corrections Facility.
- A weekly Te Awhi Whanau Group for parent / caregivers residing in Christchurch and Manukau.
- A children's health clinic in Christchurch.



- A nation-wide helpline to provide assistance and support for the families of prisoners.
- A children's website www.justus.org.nz to provide education, support and activities for the children.
- Fourteen specific information resources online and in print that assist families from arrest through to post release. Through collaboration with the Department of Corrections these are available in every New Zealand prison.

As well as catering to new and emerging opportunities, Pillars is also focussed on the sustainability of the current proven services and programmes already in place for families.

This is important factor to bear in mind during decision making for future growth.

Training and Toolkits

"Invisible Sentence" is a training course for all professionals whose work brings them into contact with children of prisoners and their families, including children's centre workers, school staff, prison staff, social service workers and communities. It provides a range of strategies and resources to help them support children of prisoners within New Zealand.

Successful training sessions have been conducted in Auckland, Christchurch, Gisborne and Dunedin and the training will continue to be provided for NGO's and institutions working with children of prisoners nationwide.



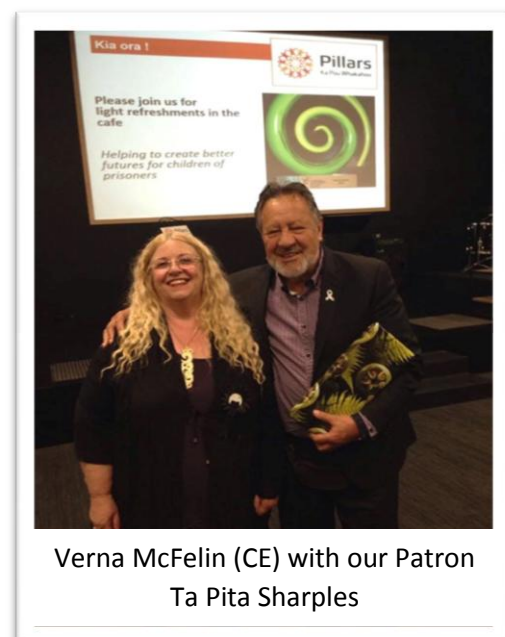
Jennifer Leahy, trainer

Alongside the training Pillars Practice Manuals and Education, Health and Lawyer's Toolkits will be provided to assist professionals working in their field.

Knowledge Development

We believe that much of the current strength of Pillars comes from our research programmes and evidence-based practice. This has been proven in the past with well-received Pillars publications such as:

- Two pilot programmes at Christchurch Men's Prisons: "Formative Evaluation of the Activities Centre at Christchurch Men's Prison 2012" and "Close to Home" 2012 a Whānau/family Reintegration Programme". The Fathers and Children Activity Centre (now Whānau/family Pathways Centres) continue in Christchurch and Invercargill Prisons.
- "Evaluation Report 1: Together Programme" – a partnering for schools mentoring Pilot 2011
- "Formative Evaluation of the Together Programme Part



Verna McFelin (CE) with our Patron
Ta Pita Sharples

II" 2012

- "A Study of Children of Prisoners" – a two-year ground breaking research which included three reports and four published documents:
 - 1st Year: "Invisible Children" 2009
 - 2nd Year: "Causes and Solutions to Intergenerational Crime" 2011
 - "Findings from Māori" data June 2011 – commissioned by Te Puni Kokori
 - "Working with the Families and Children of Prisoners in Aotearoa / New Zealand" – A guide to effective practice to ensure good outcomes for the children.
 - "Law Tool Kit" to assist criminal lawyers supporting whanau / families
 - "Schools Tool Kit" to assist teachers in the classroom
 - "Health Tool Kit" – to assist medical practitioners

We will develop a five-year research and development plan, including evaluation of all our programmes. We will share and gain research more widely. We will ensure all our data gathering systems are optimized to be purposeful.

The next level of research will be conducted on outcomes and impact of Pillars programmes, and funding has already been secured to specifically carry out this important research.

Pillars will strengthen its internal evaluation processes and use the data to increase learning, review and improve delivery of programmes.

Child Advocacy

Pillars is a charity whose primary purpose is to provide programmes and services.

Alongside of these programmes we provide a small piece of advocacy work to Government and other networks to ensure the rights of children of prisoners are recognised and taken into account in any decision making.

Overall, we advocate that children of prisoners will have a stronger voice. Advocacy is not ancillary to our main charitable purpose.



Darryn and his mentor Punnet