

Annual Report 2005-2006



Downtown Community Ministry

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**DOWNTOWN
COMMUNITY
MINISTRY**

Compassion House Lukes Lane
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Downtown Community Ministry

OUR VISION

Wellington is a community in which collective responsibility and interdependence and the valuing of diversity are seen as the keys to a fair and just society.

OUR MISSION

DCM works to make a difference in Wellington through:



- providing practical assistance and advocacy for people in need
- advocacy for social and political change
- developing new services and projects for people in need
- working with others to find long term solutions to problems of poverty and social exclusion



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DCM: CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

While I am a recent arrival to the Board I have been honoured to be elected Chairperson. This is particularly so as there are many illustrious predecessors.

2006 has been quite some year. DCM moved for the second time in the space of 12 months, but to a location that can at last be called "home". It is with real gratitude that we acknowledge the very generous support and accommodation provided by the Wesley Methodist Church during the interlude between Walter St and Luke's Lane.

It is a delight to now be in Compassion House in premises that have been customised for the use of our staff. We look forward to a lengthy and productive association with the Sisters of Compassion.

It is a tribute to the calibre of our staff, and to the strength and support provided by Stephanie's leadership, that not only have they survived a stressful period, but have also continued to maintain their quality service and professional delivery. Well done. Our thanks and gratitude goes to each one of them. We are also delighted that DCM provides opportunities for its clients to move from dependence to contribution, and to see how treasured those contributions are.

It is especially gratifying to have a person of Stephanie's calibre as the Director. As you know Stephanie has been instrumental in revitalising the ministry and that it is so well placed now is a tribute to her endeavours.

The success of Project Margin and the increasing likelihood that a "wet hostel" will soon materialise in Wellington are strong indications of the continuing

'grassroots' focus of DCM. The awarding of a Churchill Fellowship to Stephanie to undertake further study of the operational issues associated with wet hostels indicates that we will be able to function effectively at an early stage.

The revision, and ultimate acceptance, of our updated constitution was successfully completed at a special general meeting held on 20 September. There were a number of significant changes, and one of the most significant is the institution of a "consensus model" of decision making as an Appendix to the constitution.

I record my thanks to Stephanie and her colleagues, to Board members for their attendance and contributions, volunteers without whom our efforts would be in vain, and to all other who helped in a variety of different ways.

A special thanks to Graham Booth who resigned during the year. Graham has served DCM wonderfully well over many years – as Board member, as Board Chairperson (on 2 separate occasions) and as convenor of the Bookfair. DCM has benefited greatly from his generous contributions.

A special thanks, too, to Myra Giese who has just moved from Wellington. Myra has also been involved with DCM over many years, and her wisdom and insightful views of life and living are unique and unable to be duplicated.

Finally, may you all have a blessed Christmas and a rewarding 2007.

Kevin McCormack



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DCM: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A year of growth

We have had a fantastic year! In contrast to last year's constant change it's been a year of greater stability and consolidation. At the same time we have experienced new growth as we have expanded services to better meet the needs of those who come to us for help.

The year's successes have largely been due to the high calibre of staff we attract to DCM. In June and July 2005 we welcomed David Cross in the role of Events and Communications Coordinator, Di Landy as Project Margin Coordinator and Jen Long as Street People Coordinator. As the year progressed we were joined by Paul Gray, Graham Anderson, Dougal Speir and Anna Costley. My special thanks goes to our vibrant and committed team for their hard work over this past year.

New ventures

It has been exciting to add new services to the practical programmes already on offer to our clients as we seek to improve the quality of life for people who come to DCM.

A good example of this has been our successful new venture with the Work and Income Service centres that our clients typically use – Wellington, Newtown and Kilbirnie. Now, instead of DCM staff making numerous visits to each of these service centres, we have a case manager from one of these agencies visit us for an entire morning each week. The case manager is able to process benefit related matters remotely with a laptop and can also be available for any



on-the-spot queries that clients need addressed.

In another new development we have recently signed a contract with the Ministry of Social Development to expand our Street People Project to offer more assistance to a range of the programme's users. Some need help getting into training and paid work but for others they need support to access health or addiction services. For others it is about increasing their access to other services or breaking down barriers that prevent them from getting a fair deal.

Another wonderful initiative has been our "cooking from the foodbank" classes that Di conducts producing delicious, nutritious meals from the simplest of ingredients. A group of clients attend to prepare and then eat the results! The Wesley parish has generously supported us by hosting these classes in their kitchen and hall complex.

Addressing homelessness

Our work in this area continues to be a key focus. Project Margin, our homelessness project, commenced in August 2004 staffed by two members of our team. We base our work addressing and preventing homelessness on an internationally recognised "housing first" philosophy. This has produced outstanding results as in our first year 153 people sought our help and we were able to support 77 into housing. This included 38 from rough sleeping. The numbers showed a similar pattern through the second year.



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The value of this work to the city has been recognised by the Wellington City Council. Whereas the project began as a two year pilot, in June 2006 WCC adopted the ongoing funding in their long term plan.

The Wet House Project

In our work addressing homelessness we constantly find one group whom it is very hard to assist. This comprises the chronically relapsing alcoholics whose alcoholism sees them repeatedly evicted onto the streets. Over the past year we have been promoting an innovative form of accommodation for this group called “wet housing” where the consumption of alcohol is permitted as part of a well supported and managed “harm reduction” strategy. It has been heartening to see this project gain momentum and widespread support.

Calling for change

DCM has always sought to combine practical down to earth services with drawing public attention to the need for change. In the past year much of our activity in this arena has focused on our calls for a wet house but we have also been instrumental in other change agent and advocacy roles.

DCM has been a key player in setting up a network called the Homelessness Prevention Strategy Group where representatives from a range of government and social agencies work together to find relevant solutions to this pressing issue.

We have continued our advocacy work through participation on various working parties including the Capital Coast District Health Board’s Journey Forward Leadership Group that was established to lead the development of services for people with a mental illness or addictions.

We are also a member of the National Advocates Group that meets regularly with the Ministry of Social Development to examine the impact of policy on beneficiaries and advocate for positive change.

A special thanks to our volunteers

Volunteers play a key role in our life at DCM. This is most apparent with the generous support we receive for our annual Bookfair but others also assist with our food day appeals and with sourcing food for our food-bank.

Over the past year DCM has greatly benefited from the special contribution that past and current clients have made as they too get more involved in the organisation. We have been able to recognise this by inviting two people to join us as paid members of the staff. These new staff members have added a wonderful dimension to our hard working team.

My warm thanks goes to all who have given their time and support as volunteers or donors or funders – you all make this significant work possible.

Stephanie McIntyre



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DCM: COMMUNITY

BOARD MEMBERS

Kevin McCormack (Chair)
Jason Darwin
Carolyn Goudswaard
Nick Jennings
Marie Russell
Joan Tyler
David Zwartz
Graham Booth (Resigned)
Myra Giese (Resigned)

STAFF

Current

Stephanie McIntyre (Director)
Graham Anderson
Patricia Booth
Anna Costley
David Cross
Paul Gray
Di Landy
Jen Long
Alan Norman
Dougal Spier

Resigned

Monique Edlinger
Richard Noble

MEMBER CHURCHES

St Andrew's on the Terrace (Presbyterian)
Wesley Wellington (Methodist)
St Peter's, Willis St (Anglican)
St John's In the City (Presbyterian)
St Joseph's Mt Victoria (Catholic)
The Wellington monthly meeting of the Religious Society
of Friends (Quakers)

REGULAR VOLUNTEERS

Gaynor Stewart
Joseph Wilson
Eugene Poinga
Mark Ingram
Karen Ng
Kaeti Rigarlsford
Karl Townsend

Bookfair Committee

Graham Booth (Convenor)
Lindsay Clark
Wendy Nelson
Neil and Barbara Robertson
Joan Tyler
Kaeti Rigarlsford

We also acknowledge the tremendous efforts of all our
midweek, Saturday and Bookfair weekend volunteers.



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DCM: ACTION

PUBLICATIONS

www.dcm.org.nz

Active in the City (bi annual)

The Bulletin (weekly)

RESEARCH

Member food bank of the NZ Council of Christian Social Services' (NZCCSS) Poverty Indicator Project.
Contributor to Wellington School of Medicine's *Slipping Through the Cracks – A Study of Homelessness in Wellington*.

WORKING PARTIES

Ministry of Social Development National Advocates Group

Ministry of Social Development/Advocates Disability Allowance Working Party

NZCCSS Poverty and Housing Policy Group

Capital Coast District Health Board Journey Forward Reference Group

Wellington Homeless Prevention Strategy Group

EVENTS

Coordinator of Winter and Christmas Wellington Regional Coalition of Food banks' Food Day Appeal Bookfair

U.S. Embassy sponsored Thanksgiving Community Lunch

Cooking from the Food bank

NETWORKS

Work and Income Wellington, Kilbirnie and Newtown Service Centres

Work and Income Regional Office

Aro Valley Community Centre and CAB

Beneficiary Advocacy Federation of New Zealand (BAFNZ)

Benefit Rights Service

CADS—Community A & D Services

City Housing (WCC)

Coalition of Wellington Regional Food Banks

Easy Access Housing

Housing New Zealand

Hutt Valley Benefit Education Service Trust

Inner City Project

Key Property Management

Night Shelter Wellington

Problem Gambling Foundation

Salvation Army: The Hope Centre

SF Wellington

St Vincent De Paul

Suzanne Aubert Compassion Centre /The Soup Kitchen

TACT

Te Aro Health Centre

Wesley Community Action

Wellington City Mission

Wellington Council of Social Services (WELCOSS)

Wellington Peoples Centre



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DCM: SUPPORTERS

ORGANISATIONS, TRUSTS, CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

CH Izard Estate
Community Organisation Grants (COGs)
Fullbright New Zealand
JR McKenzie Trust
Ministry of Social Development
Ngaio Union Church
St John's Willis St. Outreach Trust
St John's Trust Karori
TG Macarthy Trust
Wellington City Council
U.S. Embassy

FOOD BANK

Goulds Fine Foods
Pandoro Bakery
Sealord
Tip Top Wellington
Woolworths Kilbirnie
Island Bay Presbyterian
Ngaio Union Church
Unilever
Wellington City New World

FOOD APPEAL

NewstalkZB
Wellington City New World (Chaffers St)
Newtown New World
Metro New World Willis Street

PUBLICATIONS

Prestige Print
Datastream Instant Print

BOOKFAIR

Bob's Bins
BP Oil NZ
Cash Register Doctor
Chubb Protective Services
Carton Brokers
Dunbar Sloane Auctions
EFTPOS NZ Ltd
Fullcircle
Hiremaster
Jets Transport
Mac's Engineering
MB Canvas
Phantom Bill Stickers
Riegers Copy Centre
Recycled Books
Signs Talk
The Wheelibin Company
Thorndon New World
Wellington City New World
Wellington Waterfront
Wellington City Council



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DCM: VALUES

CHRISTIAN ETHOS

DCM aligns itself with the poor and disadvantaged.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The organisation is committed to addressing the root causes of poverty and injustice.

PRACTICALITY

The organisation is small and focused, and targets scarce resources wisely.

EMPOWERMENT

DCM helps people find and use their latent strengths, so that they can better control their environment.

PARTICIPATION

DCM works with people, not for them. Service users are involved to the greatest extent possible in DCM's activities.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Parishes and the greater community are kept informed about DCM's activities and are invited to become involved.

DIVERSITY

DCM values the mix of cultures, races, beliefs, abilities and lifestyles which make up the Wellington community.

COMMITMENT TO THE TREATY OF WAITANGI

DCM is committed to the Treaty of Waitangi as the founding document for modern New Zealand.

COMMUNITY BASE

DCM is part of the Wellington community and it represents groups and individuals within it.

INDEPENDENT

DCM is not "owned", and will not be directed, by a particular funder, group or section of society.

ACTION FOR PEACE

"There is no way to peace. Peace is the way."

ENVIRONMENT

DCM aims to minimise the adverse impact of its activities on the environment.

GOOD EMPLOYER

DCM is a good employer.



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