



Downtown  
Community

PO Box 6133,  
Marion Square,  
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75 Taranaki St  
Ph. 04 384 7699  
[www.dcm.org.nz](http://www.dcm.org.nz)



**Downtown Community Ministry**  
Wellington Incorporated

**2004 – 2005**

**Annual Report**



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## 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: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is with very great pleasure that I can introduce this Annual Report.

Last year I was able to report that Downtown Community Ministry was well on the way to working through a number of challenges.

This year I can report that Director Stephanie McIntyre is now well established with a stable staff and well thought out future work programme. Our finances are in a satisfactory state, although they can always be improved.

We have successfully made the transition from two premises to a building on the Wesley complex on Taranaki St, and have an agreement with a new landlord for a long term lease on a central city premises which is at present being modified and will be ready for us to occupy in 2006.

My thanks are here recorded to:

- Stephanie and her staff for their dedication in working through some troubled times to the present very satisfactory situation;
- The Board members and their disciplined attention to the needs of the organisation and successfully meeting those needs;

- The volunteers who provide the essential support for much of DCM's work;
- To all the other supporters who contribute financially and in other ways help to provide our necessary services and funds; and,
- The Wesley Church community for their generosity in making their building available to DCM as a temporary home for several months while more permanent premises are modified to meet our needs.

In addition, the Board and Director have had thorough discussions with our initial Church members on a revised constitution which I believe is in a format which is now acceptable to all. It is my hope that the new Board will be able to present that draft to a Special General Meeting, in the first quarter of 2006, for adoption.

Nick Jennings



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# DCM: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## **A YEAR OF CHANGE**

What a year we've had! It's been a period of fast paced change for Downtown Community Ministry - changes in services, changes in staff, changes in premises. This time last year we were struggling financially, searching hard for a new home and feeling the need to refocus services. Given this recent situation, I take great pleasure in telling you that, not only have we survived this turmoil, we've thrived!

## **MEETING NEEDS**

At the beginning of June 2004, as the staff team spent time planning the year ahead, we commenced by reflecting on the people who come to us seeking assistance and support. Today, as has been the case for DCM's 36 years of operation, we are consistently working with those who are among the poorest and most marginalised in Wellington city. Those who come to DCM are often in desperate circumstances. The less "visible" ones have serious income inadequacy, and are mostly beneficiaries, the more "visible" include a number with gambling, alcohol and drug addictions. A very high number are either currently homeless or have a long history of homelessness.

With this in mind, we have realigned our services to ensure our work better supports the people who "come through

our front door". Consequently, over this past year, we have had a strong focus on addressing homelessness but we have also continued to provide a range of advocacy, agency, and banking services as well as community support and of course the foodbank.

## **ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS**

While issues related to homelessness have been of long term interest to DCM, the topic surfaced on the public agenda following the death of Robert Jones and concerns regarding people living in Glover Park.

In August 2004 WCC provided DCM with funding for the provision of two community outreach workers to coordinate and access services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The service, named Project Margin, has been challenging yet rewarding as we have sought to accommodate and support people whom many judged unable to be housed. The success of the project speaks volumes as 77 people were housed in the first year of operation and, due to the very high level of support provided by the DCM staff engaged in the project, only a small handful have been unable to sustain their tenancies.

## **RESEARCH PRIORITIES**

Increasingly, it seems that those who need to use DCM services, are people with severe alcohol, drug and/or



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gambling, and in a few cases shopping, addictions. It is also evident that these addictions are a key obstacle to successfully maintaining a tenancy. Over the past year we have greatly increased our advocacy work around these issues, in particular we have endeavoured to draw attention to the lack of access to treatment services and facilities, for this group of people.

DCM has a long standing reputation for producing high quality research. Throughout the past year this tradition was continued through a research project on homelessness in which DCM collaborated with a group of fifth year students from the Wellington School of Medicine. This resulted in the students producing a publication entitled *Slipping Through the Cracks – A Study of Homelessness in Wellington*. The report was released in May 2005. We have also commenced some work exploring the links between addictions and homelessness.

### **MOVING PREMISES**

After our nine year lease at Eva Street expired we were faced with the difficult task of finding new premises. Changes in the inner city environment have pushed up rental costs and very few agencies continue to operate in the heart of the city, but we were convinced that DCM must remain accessible to those who need our services.

We were greatly relieved to find premises we thought were suitable and affordable and moved to Walter Street in October 2004 with high hopes of having found a new long-term home. Nothing prepared us for the reaction of neighbouring tenants who strongly objected to the arrival of our clients! We

remained at Walter Street for a year but, as the Chairman's introduction indicates, are very grateful to the Wesley Methodist parish for their hospitable offer of a temporary home while we await the refurbishment of a more permanent home.

### **FAREWELLS AND NEW FACES**

In April 2005 we bade farewell to Pam Whittington who had finally decided it was time "to hang up the cellphone". Pam received some wonderful accolades in the press recognising her long service and outstanding contribution to people in need.

We also had a number of other comings and goings with the departures of Bruce Cone, Phil Walker and Graham Howell and the arrival of Monique Edlinger, Alan Norman, Di Landy and Jen Long. Since the end of the reporting year we have been joined by David Cross and Paul Gray taking overall staff numbers back to the 03/04 level. During the fluctuations we also had three temporary staff, Pip Desmond and Chris McCarrison in the office and Darrell Haddon working on the Bookfair.

We are very fortunate that we currently have an outstanding group of people working at DCM. My special thanks to our highly professional, talented, warm-hearted and hard-working team – Richard, Di, Alan, Jen, Pat, Dave, Monique and Paul.

### **THE SPECIAL ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS**

Again we relied heavily on the support of volunteers who helped the organisation in a myriad of ways. Thousands of hours of volunteer time generated a substantial portion of DCM's income through the annual



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Bookfair, volunteers took to the streets for the street day appeal or stood outside supermarkets encouraging contributions to our food day appeals. Our “bread” volunteers picked up bread from bakeries and others bagged this up for clients, while others have faithfully staffed our reception desk. Our hearty thanks goes to all who gave their time so generously.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

A number of clear challenges lie ahead. In terms of work with our clients, we have committed ourselves to advocating for safe, alternative accommodation options for those who are struggling with addictions. We are already seeing some positive indications that DCM will succeed in ensuring Wellington gains some form of “wet” housing – a “harm minimisation” model of hostel accommodation that tolerates the consumption of alcohol in a controlled manner.

We are also grappling with how we might address gambling addictions amongst the DCM clients, but first we need a more accurate notion of the size and scale of this issue. We have begun to experiment with including some optional questions in the foodbank interview process – a questionnaire that all people coming to the foodbank undergo, in an effort to identify those with gambling addictions.

Within the organisation we intend to make some big improvements to our data recording systems to ensure we more effectively capture the information that comes through our doors each day. This will give even greater credibility to our public statements and give us a better platform for lobbying for change.

With these few mentioned and numerous other improvements, I want to affirm that DCM looks well poised to continue to do what we do best - offering practical, much-needed hands-on support to those in need; working at sorting out the causes or reasons why people come to us for help; and doing whatever we can to bring about positive change.

Stephanie McIntyre



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# DCM: COMMUNITY

## BOARD MEMBERS

Nick Jennings (Chair)  
Graham Booth  
Rendall Conwell  
Myra Giese  
Carolyn Goudswaard  
Alison Handley  
Iona Pannett (resigned)  
Chris Pinfield (resigned)  
Kevin McCormack  
Joan Tyler  
David Zwartz  
Carolyn Gould (Secretary to the Board)

## STAFF

### *Current*

Stephanie McIntyre (Director)  
Pat Booth  
David Cross  
Monique Edlinger  
Paul Gray  
Di Landy  
Jen Long  
Richard Noble  
Alan Norman

### *Resigned*

Bruce Cone  
Graham Howell  
Phil Walker  
Pam Whittington

### *Temporary*

Pip Desmond  
Darrell Haddon  
Chris McCarrison

## 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

### *Reception*

Gaynor Stewart  
Ellen Millar

### *Foodbank*

Graham Cameron  
Mataroa Grace  
John Afamasaga  
Scott Sinclair  
Monique Leather  
Becky Mawson

### *Bookfair Committee*

Graham Booth (Convenor)  
Lindsay Clark  
Wendy Nelson  
Neil Robertson  
Joan Tyler  
Katie Zwartz

And thank you to the many other volunteers who have given their time to DCM over the past year.



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# DCM: ACTION

## PUBLICATIONS

- 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/Advocates Disability Allowance Working Party
- NZCCSS Poverty and Housing Policy Group
- Capital Coast District Health Board Journey Forward Reference Group

## EVENTS

- Coordinator of Winter and Christmas Food Day Appeals for Wellington region
- Street Appeal
- Bookfair

## NETWORKS

- Advocates / Work and Income Regional meetings
- Aro Valley Community Centre and CAB
- Beneficiary Advocacy Federation of New Zealand (BAFNZ)
- Catholic Social Services
- City Housing (WCC)
- Coalition of Wellington Regional Food Banks
- Easy Access Housing Project
- Evolve
- Housing New Zealand
- Hutt Valley Benefit Education Service Trust
- Inner City Project
- Key Property Management
- National Advocacy Network/Ministry of Social Development Consultation Group
- Newtown Heights Lodge
- Night Shelter Wellington
- Salvation Army: The Hope Centre
- Salvation Army: The Inn
- St Vincent De Paul
- Suzanne Aubert Compassion Centre /The Soup Kitchen
- Te Ata Hou
- Te Aro Health Centre
- Wesley Community Action
- Wellington City Mission
- Wellington Council of Social Services (WELCOSS)



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Wellington City Council  
Wilson's Parking

# DCM: SUPPORTERS

## **ORGANISATIONS, TRUSTS, CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

CH Izard Estate  
Community Organisation Grants  
(COGs)  
JR McKenzie Trust  
Ministry of Social Development  
Ngaio Union Church  
PAC Media and Communication fund of  
the Methodist Church  
Sargood Bequest  
St John's Willis St. Outreach Trust  
St John's Trust Karori  
TG Macarthy Trust  
United Way (NZ)  
Wellington City Council

## **BOOKFAIR**

Anglican Chinese Mission  
Bob's Bins  
BP NZ  
Chubb Protective Services  
Carton Brokers  
Dunbar Sloane Auctions  
EFTPOS NZ Ltd  
Fullcircle  
Hiremaster  
Jets Transport  
MB Canvas  
Paper Chain  
Signs Talk  
Stagecoach  
The Wheelibin Company  
Thorndon New World  
Tillco  
Wellington City New World  
Wellington Waterfront

## **FOODBANK**

AroBake  
Goulds Fine Foods  
Lollipops Playland  
Pandoro  
Tip Top Wellington  
Woolworths Kilbirnie

## **FOOD APPEAL**

NewstalkZB  
Wellington City New World (Chaffers St)  
Newtown New World

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Prestige Print  
Datastream

And thanks to Broadmore Barnett and  
Luke Cunningham and Clere for their  
valuable legal assistance.



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## DCM: Finance Committee

At the end of 2003/04 DCM's financial reserves were non-existent due to various factors covered in last year's report, mainly additional expenses and a reduction in grants received over the previous year. Happily, in the year under review, the Project Margin contract with the Wellington City Council and some generous donations received from other sources have enabled DCM to finish the year with an excess of income over expenditure and restore in some part the reserves necessary to provide some ongoing financial stability.

In achieving this result special thanks are due to both our Director, Stephanie McIntyre, and our Treasurer, Pat Booth, for their fund raising ability, prudent management and careful monitoring of the finances on a day by day basis.

An organisation such as DCM, which is totally dependent on grants, fundraising and donations, will always be vulnerable to financial ups and downs as projects or programmes are commenced or completed and as donor sources change from year to year. DCM is most fortunate in the many donors who give of both time and/or money on a regular basis to help in ensuring our ministry to the city is able to continue. Also of note is the amount raised by the annual Bookfair which provides approx 20 - 25% of our annual income. This is a staggering amount and DCM is most grateful to all those who donate books and to the many volunteers who make it all possible.

Joan Tyler, CA (Retired)  
Finance Committee Convenor



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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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