

PETERSGATE COUNSELLING CENTRE

Client statistics 2011. Comparative figures for 2010 are shown in brackets.

Number of counselling interviews conducted: **Jul 544 (681); YTD 3,797 (4,759)**

Number of **new** requests for counselling: **Jul 110 (131); YTD 807 (900)**

The client statistics for the first seven months of 2011 illustrate the impact on our clients of the earthquakes and aftershocks. After the 22 February earthquake our client numbers dropped off markedly and then the reasons why people sought our services changed. The requests for earthquake trauma counselling have increased every month since February and we have responded to those needs.

We feel very fortunate to have secured funding for earthquake trauma counselling; firstly through a contract with Relationship Services which is co-ordinating this service on behalf of the Ministry of Social Development, and more recently through Rotary. This funding has enabled Petersgate to continue to offer FREE earthquake trauma counselling to all those who seek our help.

Several Rotary Clubs have supported our work, both earthquakes related and generic counselling, and we are truly appreciative of their assistance.

While we're on the GOOD NEWS track, it is a real pleasure to acknowledge the hugely generous donation of \$10,000 we have received from the Methodist Church of New Zealand to meet some of our operating costs. This donation is of major significance in the current uncertain financial climate.

Another consequence of the earthquakes has been a reduction in our volunteer ranks. We now have opportunities for suitably skilled and motivated people to volunteer their services as Office Volunteers. The main responsibilities are to provide a reception service for our clients and to support our counsellors. We are looking for people who can commit to half a day per week or fortnight, on a morning, afternoon or evening. We are particularly interested in hearing from people who are available for one evening per week. New volunteers are placed with an experienced person for six sessions of training and are then allocated a half-day on the volunteer roster. If you would like to volunteer, or find out more about what is involved, please call Denis on 347 4700 or Susan on 343 2932.

Our AGM was well attended and our guest speaker Professor Bob Manthei was very well received. He fielded many questions about his evaluation of our services and systems and confirmed the counselling we provide does make a positive difference to the lives of so many people.

The AGM accepted the 2010 Annual Accounts which showed a slightly higher than usual deficit of \$13,361 before the write off of \$4,374 of our investment in the Canterbury Mortgage Trust.

Paul Dawson, our Honorary Treasurer, included in his Annual Report an analysis of the monetary value of the discount provided to the community by Petersgate. The items that contributed to the discount included payments to our counsellors being significantly lower than market rates, volunteer input, reduced operating costs and donations and grants. Paul estimated the value of the discount at \$404,604 compared with \$382,180 the year before. In other words without these discounted items we would have had to generate extra income of \$404,604 to cover market rate costs.

Denis Warren
Manager