

PETERSGATE COUNSELLING CENTRE

Client statistics

Comparative figures for 2009 are shown in brackets.

Number of counselling sessions: **October 635 (630). Year to date: 6,749 (6,361)**

Number of new requests for counselling: **October 124 (111). Year to date: 1,250 (1,268)**

Since my last article for Parish Newsletters we have experienced a noticeable rise in the number of requests for earthquake-related counselling. We are continuing to offer FREE counselling to those suffering from the effects of the September 4 earthquake and the continuing aftershocks. If you know of people who are particularly anxious or nervous about the aftershocks invite them to phone Petersgate on 343 3391 to arrange to see a qualified counsellor.

We have again been very pleased to welcome a new Office Volunteer, this time with connections to St Barnabas Parish. The support we receive from the Parishes is very much appreciated.

We had a most enjoyable refresher training day for our Office Volunteers on Saturday morning 30 October. Nearly all volunteers were able to attend and we received positive feedback about the value of these 6-monthly sessions.

The past month has been another wonderful one for us as the Friends of Petersgate have continued their incredibly generous support for our counselling service. The total donations made this year by our Friends to the end of September has risen to over \$9,200. A huge thank you for your generosity.

If you would like to consider becoming a Friend of Petersgate please give me a call on 347 4700 and we can share the benefits together.

Last month we noticed a deposit in our bank account from someone we couldn't identify and we were slightly concerned the money may not have been intended for Petersgate. We discovered the deposit was from a person resident overseas, who wished to remain anonymous, whose relative had benefited from our services, and who simply wanted to make a donation as a way of saying thank you. Isn't that a motivating story.

Another good news story! We have been awarded a Westpac Counselling Student Scholarship worth \$1,000 per year for the next five years. The scholarship will be used at Petersgate's discretion to assist one or more counsellors' professional development. A special thank you to our bankers, Westpac, for their most welcome sponsorship.

In case there isn't a chance for another Newsletter article before Christmas, from the staff and volunteers at Petersgate to all Parishioners, please accept our very best wishes for Christmas and may 2011 be a slightly more stable year for all Cantabrians.

Denis Warren
Manager