

LIGHTING LIVES



FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN TRUST

Official Newsletter February 2012

ABOUT US:

Trust Vision

Our vision is to see New Zealand become a place where our children:

- are safe from harm;
- have a sense of belonging, of feeling loved and valued;
- have access to the necessities they need to engage fully with life and realize their own unique potential.

Trust Mission

We aim to be a "voice" for the "voiceless".

We do this through **educating, promoting and raising awareness** of the **wellbeing** of our **children** in New Zealand and the need for **strong families** and **communities** to support them.

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Delivering Welfare to Lovefare



For the Sake of Our Children Trust (FSOCT) have had discussions on numerous occasions from our Prime Minister to a number of his Ministers, to encourage a rethink/redelivery of welfare. There has been some progress but a very long way to go.

FSOCT have had dialogue with a number of City Councils as part of the social sector youth trials conducted in 7 communities through NZ. Small steps but progress.

FSOCT have been speaking with sectors within Maori leadership, Judges and a convener of a parole board to further discuss social options within this community.

A half-dozen or so discussions over the last year with Maori leadership to how our political leaders should further address specifically the subject of

welfare .

Tuia

FSOCT are continuing to encourage and support this initiative, where over 60% of the Mayors throughout New Zealand have now committed to mentor up and upcoming Maori youth. The key leaders would have also attending the recent Aspiring Leaders Forum in Wellington.

Some exciting things happening and emerging at FSOCT. Increasingly the thinking is starting to finally shift to positive interventions rather than dealing with destruction. The corners are becoming increasingly vocal, which again is encouraging.

There is still intense ideological entrenchment within many of the government departments (negative for our children), however there are some encouraging changes.

We are encouraging the government to "change their language" away from "getting tough on welfare beneficiaries", to providing temporary assistance to ensure our people move into a space of "better outcomes" – hence our wording 'welfare to lovefare'.

Minister Paula Bennett's 'tough love' approach to stopping the onflow of young people going on the unemployment benefit after dropping out of school is not a bad thing in the larger scheme of things.

The Government is actively targeting these young people because it believes that with the right support, they can get the education and training they need to work, keeping them out of the welfare system and stopping that cycle of dependence.

It takes courage and love from our political leaders to get the ball rolling particularly at a legislative level.

It is the community and leaders within our communities to advocate for our future generations and give them hope for a brighter future by not relying on our welfare state but look to education, ongoing training, employment opportunities and if required life skill training to include parenting and budgeting courses.

If you wish to learn more about what we do contact our office.

www.forourchildren.org.nz

Word from the Chair



Since our newsletter FSOCT are continuing in dialogue re welfare reforms and in this regard it is helpful to remind ourselves as to what is our focus.

We are applying our focus essentially into welfare reform with particular application into the following areas;

- Redirecting the domestic purposes benefit – this is contained in the paper attached 'Welfare –to lovefare'
- Redirecting the unemployment benefit – into an employment benefit – 'An unemployment social initiative'
- Redirecting sickness benefit – into a wellness benefit – continuing discussions in this regard with various health/wellness providers.

The above concepts/principles are something we have talked about from the onset and the question now is "how do we effect delivery?"

FSOCT is currently involved in numerous projects and you will be able to read abit more about what we have been up too lately. Your on-going support is required and if you wish to discuss any matters presented in this newsletter please contact our office.

Aroha Nui, John Sax



2012 FORUM on the FAMILY Review

The Trust was very pleased to have supported the Forum on the Family held Thursday 27th June at the Life Centre in Mangere.

FSOCT attended the all day event. The key note speaker Dr Miriam Grossman MD provided a very look insight into 'How Sexuality Education Endangers Your Child'.

Her focus was on the false public information many of our children and parents received from mainstream as a result of liberalism in our society and within our own education system.

Professor David Fergusson highlighted the need for the NZ government to further support programmes that provided empirical evidence for progress in many of its

family intervention programme.

Dr Michael Reid gave a good address on how our young children of NZ are becoming 'units' within the Political game.

FSOCT believe for many who listened to his address went away asking the question again "who's right is more right" in the sight of the Law? the child or the parent?.

Nick Tuitasi was able to engage the audience with a very theatrical delivery using a chair and its four legs demonstrating the four strengths required for a young person to 'live'.

FSOCT identified the importance for the need for

parents to know and engage in any learning curriculum regarding matters of importance that may affect the values and principles of a child and its family.

The need for parents to critically examine what information is currently in the marketplace (ie., school, community, health system) and its effect holistically on children.

And finally the importance of research conducted already by Governments to be annually reviewed to avoid the same funding going to similar research again.

For further information go to www.familyfirst.org.nz

YWCA Auckland — Empowering Women

FSOCT met with CEO Hilary Sumpter in May to discuss the work of YWCA. As a result FSOCT would like to profile this pioneering organisation. FSOCT also supported YWCA's Encore Angels event recently held at Florence Court in May.

The YWCA is an international movement in over 100 countries. It is sustained by a diversity of beliefs, faiths and values and works towards social, political, economic and emotional well-being of women.

The YWCA of Aotearoa New Zealand is committed to the following four Strategic Themes:

- Young Women's Leadership
- Young Women's Safe Spaces
- Young Women's Sexuality and Health
- Young Women's Economic Independence

YWCA's Vision: Empowered Women

YWCA's Mission: To support and nurture women toward greater strength, confidence and success by providing resources, opportunities and guidance to enable them to reach their full potential.

YWCA Auckland office is located at 21 Scanlan Street, Grey Lynn and its hostel at 103 Vincent Street, Auckland City. YWCA Auckland is part of the world's largest women's organisation, a Global network of 25 million women leading social and economic change in over 125 countries worldwide. YWCA have a proud heritage of providing FREE community programmes in Auckland for over 125 years which deliver on its mission to Empower Women. YWCA Auckland are passionate advocates of young women's leadership development, and what we do makes a real difference in New Zealand women's lives. For more information go to www.ywca.org.nz or contact their office (09) 370 075

Why the Early Years Count"

DVD: Recommended viewing:

This DVD is a must see if you are interested in the early development stages of a child.

A child's experience in early life have a profound effect on the architecture of their brain and this helps to customise each child's brain to deal with the environment they grow up in.

"Why the Early Years Count" describes the scientific findings on brain development during the first few years in an easy to understand and easy to interpret format presented by experts in this field such as Dr. Bruce Perry, and Professor Sir Peter Gluckman.

The information is presented in a format that is suitable for people working with children and/or families with children.

The viewer will gain an understanding of the finds from brain research and the important implications of this knowledge on our children's physical, social, intellectual and emotional development.

An impressive group of experts present knowledge from the past decade of research into brain development. The group also includes Dr Simon Rowley, Judy Bailey and Lope Ginnen.



Aspiring Leaders Forum: 26-28 July 2012



The Aspiring Leaders Forum took place last month held in Wellington and FSOCT was pleased to have once again support this great leader's event.

Now in its seventh year the Forum welcomed over 100 young leaders across all sectors who are committed and courageous about making a positive impact within their communities.

This year a great line up of speakers included media personality Kerre Woodham, Hilary Price founder and CEO of Homes of Hope,

Dan Te Whenua Walker (National Sales Manager, Samsung NZ), Dave Atkinson (Attitude Presenter), Jamie Tuuata and a Forum favourite Jock Cameron.

Once again the Forum was well supported by our MPs to include Metiria Turei, Hon. Phil Goff, Hon Simon Bridges, Tracey Martin, Jacinda Ardern, Te Uroora Flavell and Peseta Sam Lotu-linga who participated in small group meetings with the young leaders.

A banquet dinner was held at the Beehive on the first night followed by breakfast in Parliament and seminars.

The Forum had fortunate to have 30 young Maori leaders from the Tuia programme participate in this year's programme provid-

ing a very bicultural atmosphere allowing all the young leaders to share stories and experiences.

Many of the other young leaders were nominated within their communities or from people who identified them as leaders.

Following all Forums all the young delegates are encouraged to be part of ALF's alumni programme which ensure the young leaders keep in touch with each and look to support future forums.

The Forum is fortunate to be run largely by community volunteers to include past delegates.

Chairman John Sax was a group facilitator again this year who thoroughly enjoyed contributing to discussions and activities with the young leaders.

Solo parent trap widens gap for rich and poor

Sunday Star Times 12 August 2012

Growing up with two parents in a stable family, Cassandra Faithfull never envisaged the life she now leads. She would study, work hard, find a partner, have children and own a home. But the plan broke down. As a "naive" 22-year-old, she fell pregnant and her study plans went on hold. Five years later, another child to a different father. Down the track, two more to another man.

....Statistics show her married counterparts have the advantage, both in terms of income and time spent raising children. Their children are in turn statistically more likely to finish university, find good jobs, and make stable marriages. Faithfull is far from unique.

A Families Commission report last week showed steady decline in two-parent families since 1976, and an almost tripling of solo-



parent families between 1976 and 2006. Nine out of 10 one-parent families earn well below the median household income, and their children have significantly higher poverty rates. Nearly half of all births in 2010 were to unmarried women, compared with about 10 per cent in 1964, and research from the United States suggests half of unmarried parents living together at a child's birth split up within five years.
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FSOCT Recent Events

FSOCT were pleased to have attended the "Building Business, Building Hope" breakfast event in July to hear Hon. Paula Bennett speak about a unique community initiative to equip disadvantaged youth in West Auckland with valuable life and work skills.

Vision West delivers a youth initiative where young people work within a café to gain further education. The breakfast ended with Murray Thom leading a charitable auction to raise funds for the café.

The event was very successful further highlighting the emerging successful partnership between businesses and community groups.

Calendar of Events @ FSOCT

August 27th

First Deadline for Marriage Petition signatures.

Go to <http://www.protectmarriage.org.nz/sign-the-petition>

August 29th

A meeting with Chief Coroner Judge McLean to discuss potential support towards a Coroners Research Report.

September 4th

Special e-newsletter: Marriage

October 16th

FSOCT Board Meeting

October

A meeting with Dr Patrick Kelly Paediatrician, Clinical Director Te Puaruruhau how to discuss matters on advocacy against Child Abuse and Neglect.



PACIFIC CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS FAMILY VIOLENCE IN NEW ZEALAND

FSOCT was pleased to have been invited to attend the launch of the Pacific conceptual Framework to address family violence in New Zealand held at Maelaeloa Hall in Mangere, Auckland.

On Thursday 17 May, Hon. Tariana Tu-rei in her key address identified the day as a significant one in which Pacific Nations established a platform for change for all of Aotearoa to learn from.

The framework developed was a comprehensive one addressing family violence in Pacific communities—with seven ethnic specific reports for Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Fiji, Tokelau, Niue and Tuvalu.

The framework dismantles any illusion that violence is acceptable, natural or culturally valid.

The relevance of attending this event is an important one when it comes to better understanding how specific communities work through family violence and identifying the significance accorded to the cultural values for each Pacific Nation.

The Pacific Framework provides a literature review which is one of eight key documents that informed its development.

The outcome is a literature review that includes identifying, reviewing and analysing:

- Perceptions of and cultural beliefs on family violence
- Concepts that promote the wellbeing and 'sacredness' of Pacific people
- Contemporary influences on families
- Relationships between culture, religion, social norms and family violence
- Impacts of family violence on family members and communities
- Relevant international and national literature on:
 - indigenous people and family violence
 - migration
 - inequalities
 - identity
- Information gaps and areas for further research and exploration.

Copies of the various ethnic frameworks can be requested by the FSOCT office.



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The push for women to get educated has made it harder for women like Faithfull to break out of the solo-parent trap. Instead, educated, well-off people are marrying, widening the gap between rich and poor families.

New Zealand is becoming a society of family haves and have-nots, with marriage and its benefits increasingly confined to the prosperous. "In the past the theory was educated women would have more choice, so wouldn't need to get married," commission lead researcher Jeremy Robertson said. "But the trend is counter to the early theories. We didn't really predict that."

If you wish to read the full report go to

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/sunday-star-times/latest-edition/latest-news/7462170/Solo->

