



New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services

STORIES FROM OUR MEMBERS

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ISSUE FOCUS: REFLECTION AND
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TOOLS FROM OUR TEAM

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MEET OUR TEAM

Learn more about our
Kaitātari Kaupapa Here
Matua Senior Policy
Advisor Rachel Mackay

OUR MAHI

A new infographic to
illustrate the impact of
the Aged Care Crisis

[Meet long-term Council
Member Carol Barron](#)



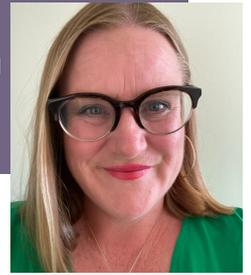
Kete Kupu

KIRIHIMETE 2023



NZCCSS UPDATE

from our
Kaiwhakahaere Matua
Nikki Hurst



Meri Kirihimete, nga hararei koa,

As I look back over 2023, it has been another huge year for us all. From extreme weather events, persisting housing and food insecurity, impacts of cost of living, closures of services and facilities, issues with contracting, changes in Government and the uncertainty that can bring, we continue to be inspired by the dedication and commitment of our members. Truly, our communities are greater for your mahi and aroha.

We know that the work we all do can feel incredibly isolating, overwhelming and undervalued and the team and I genuinely want you to know that your passion and determination to serve your communities is what drives us. And more importantly, that it matters, creates change and helps us move towards a more just and compassionate society.

I'm incredibly proud of the work that our team produce, and hope that you have all found it useful. Our goals this year were to make sure that everything we delivered was accessible, useful and clear. I think we achieved that, and we look forward to continuing this into our work in 2024.

The tīma and I would also love to say a huge thank you to the members who have supported this work through leadership on Council, service on our policy groups, sharing their experiences and knowledge and trusting us to tell their stories.

Our major focus areas for 2024 have been confirmed, and plans are coming together to work in a way that continues to be highly collaborative, responsive and transparent. Next year the team will deliver key work related to tamariki in middle childhood (5-12 years),

challenging structural and systemic issues related to supporting our kaumātua, seeking to make connection with decision makers more accessible, while of course upholding our commitment to the articles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

As we look forward into the coming year, I am so grateful for our amazing team. I'd love to take this opportunity to publicly thank Rachel Mackay, Melanie Wilson, Hamish Jarvie, Kate Hamlin, Karla Sanders, Zoe Lawrence and Kiri Sim for their mahi across the year.

I hope you enjoy this Kirihimete issue of Kete Kupu. Ngā mihi to the members who answered our call and told us about their community projects - we're proud to share them this issue and hope they will inspire you like they've inspired us.

In this issue we also say a fond farewell to long-serving Council member Carol Barron, who is retiring. I'd also like to acknowledge Murray Penman who stepped down from Council at our recent AGM but will continue to be a part of our Older Persons Policy Group.

Sending blessings of the season to you all from the NZCCSS Tīma and our whānau. We are so grateful for your support across 2023, and hope that you are all looking forward to a safe, fun and relaxing holiday season.

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”

Luke 2:10

OUR MAHI

An update on the work of our Secretariat

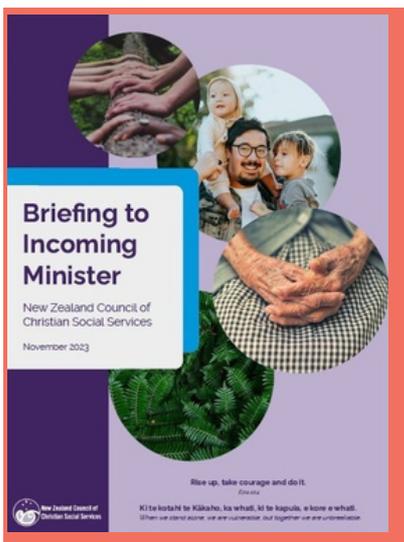
NZCCSS represents more than 230 member organisations providing a range of community, health and social support services across Aotearoa. Our mahi is focused on supporting our members to serve New Zealanders, on giving a voice to those in need and on ensuring that voice is put before the decision makers of this country. We do this through advocacy, collaboration, research, perspective sharing and education. Since Matariki 2023, we have achieved this through:



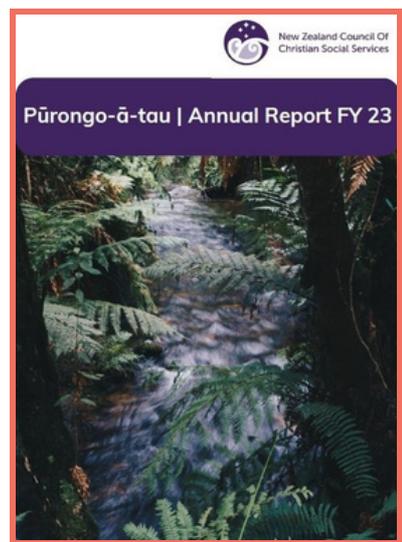
In August, we released Te Kōrero mō ngā Kaumātua. This report provides the fullest possible picture of the social, environment and structural context of older people in New Zealand - as well as what is missing. An easy-to-read guide with links to further information, we hear it continues to be of benefit to our members as well as to the people they serve in their communities. We'll keep referring to this publication in 2024, with the release of The Gaps Report and as part of the Repositioning Dementia: Seeking Solutions event with Alzheimers NZ in March.



We're really proud of the quantity and quality of work produced by our team surrounding Election 2023. We focussed on the things that matter most to us, our members and the communities they serve - Tamariki | Children, Kaumātua | Older People, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and our sector (health, community and social services). We aimed to provide clear, neutral information about policies and promises, alongside personal perspectives from our members out doing the mahi in their communities.



With many people coming into new roles in Government, last month we sent out Briefings for Incoming Ministers (BIMs). You can download the complete set from our [website here](#).



Earlier this month, the Council approved our Annual Report for the year July 2022 to June 2023. As well as financial reporting, this document highlights the work of NZCCSS in 22/23. You can download it [here](#).

In addition to these major pieces of work, over the past six months the tīma have also written 14 submissions. These have covered topics such as electoral reform, grocery supply, crime and corrections, family violence, climate adaptation and the Retirement Villages Act review. Working closely with our Older Persons Policy Group, we also wrote a submission for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review, focusing on the human rights of older people in Aotearoa..

As well as her vast behind-the-scenes work, you may have seen our Kaiwhakahaere Matua Nikki Hurst on a stage or screen near you! She appeared on TVNZ's Breakfast talking about tax reform, and as part of a Better Taxes for a Better Future online panel discussion. She also presented the keynote speech at the Diversional and Recreational Therapy Conference in August.

THE GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE

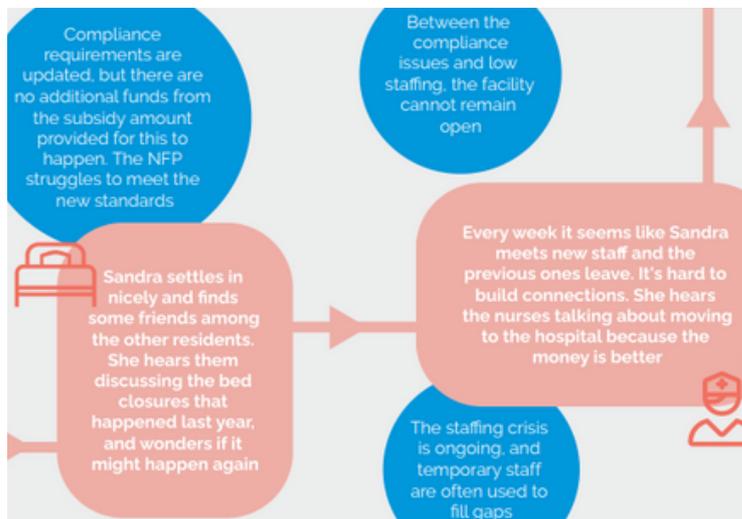
BY RACHEL MACKAY

We hear the phrase “Aged Care Crisis” banded about almost ceaselessly in the sector to the point where the words have almost lost all meaning. How long can something be in crisis before it is simply the new normal?

Reports come out regularly itemising how many Standard Beds, nurses, gerontologists, and facilities we are short to meet current need, swiftly followed by how many we will need looking into the future. The numbers are in the thousands, but they are more than just statistics. They reflect thousands of unique, individuals caught up in the perfect storm of ageism, health inequality and systemic underfunding that has left the sector on its knees.

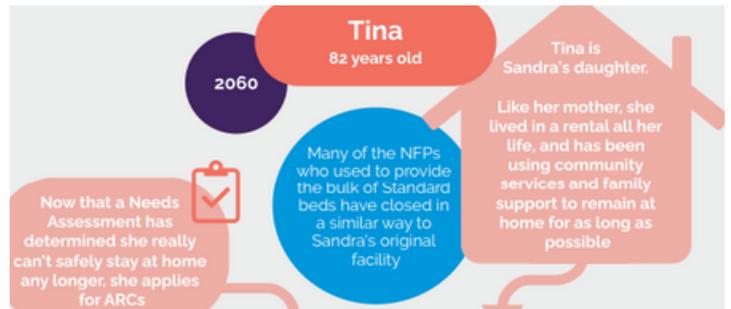
While the data shows the magnitude of the issue, it doesn't reveal individual stories. These numbers cannot convey the experience and emotions of those who are at the mercy of a deprioritised system. For that we need a story. And given so many of these issues stem from a lack of care and funding for Aged Care, and the time of year, what better model than that of Ebenezer Scrooge?

A Story of Two Whānau was created to refocus the crisis from the organisations and departments attempting to manage it back to the people at its core. Just like Ebenezer was forced to see his impact on the people in his community, we wanted to focus on the people feeling the impact.



Our new infographic highlights the human stories behind the Aged Care crisis - and what it might look like in a few decades if nothing changes

It follows two families, a mother and a daughter in each, as they navigate the trials of aged care in Aotearoa. These families have enormous disparity to begin with – one family are life-long renters across both generations, while the other has significant capital from homeownership – and the struggles of aged care affect them differently.



The story occurs across both generations, with the mothers' stories beginning in 2024 to reflect the likely path of care for kaumātua today. Their daughters' stories continue on in 2060, and are a reflection of the sector projections if we do not intercede soon. The experiences of the women in this story are supplemented by comments about what their providers are experiencing, and the impact that it has on the care they can provide.

It is not easy reading at this time of year, but in the tradition of A Christmas Carol, we hope it sheds light on how action can impact outcomes.

Like Scrooge's Ghosts, Sandra and Helen speak for the immense disparity and inequity in healthcare in the Present, and Tina and Kelly stand as grim Ghosts of Aged Care Future for all if the sector is not put back on track.

We hope that having this narrative laid out can encourage better understanding of the issue and open the gates for conversation about how to change these projections.

A Story of Two Whānau is available to download on our [website here](#)



Above: an excerpt from A Story of Two Whānau, part of Sandra's story of experiencing Aged Care in 2024. **Above right:** an excerpt of Sandra's daughter Tina experiencing Aged Care in 2060.

EXPANDING SOCIAL HOUSING

Christchurch Methodist Mission is working to increase social housing through parish partnerships

“Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi.”

Demand for rentals is vastly outstripping supply and rental fees are up, placing pressure on community housing providers to develop innovative responses to this huge problem.

Christchurch Methodist Mission (CMM) Executive Director Jill Hawkey says that the Mission has been focused on how to get people who are unhoused into affordable and healthy homes for many years.

Jill says the Methodist Church of New Zealand (MCNZ) recognises the urgency to find sustainable solutions to this crisis and made a commitment at its 2022 Conference to identify parish land that might be suitable for social housing.

“This development has helped boost the Mission’s partnerships with church organisations to expand the social housing stock. For the Mission this started in 2016 when we built five houses on land owned by the Linwood Union Parish, followed by a much larger complex in 2019 on land leased from Anglican Care,” says Jill.

“Work currently underway includes a big project in partnership with the Christchurch South Methodist parish to build five houses (3 x 3-beds, 2 x 2-beds) for families on land they owned next to the Church, and on the West Coast we are exploring leasing a home from the Greymouth Uniting Parish for families that are homeless.”

Conversations with other parishes from various denominations in the region are ongoing, and a combination of MCNZ loans and grants, as well as funding from Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and additional sources, will be accessed to build more homes for people experiencing long-term homelessness.

“There are almost 2,000 people currently on the social housing register in Ōtautahi and in Marlborough it is almost 250 and rising. We are very concerned about children who are living in

emergency motels. While this is better than living in a car, a motel is no place to raise a child. Often they are not close to the children’s school, so education and friendships are disrupted.”

Jill says it is ideal for families to have permanent social housing where the rent is set at 25% of household income and families are able to settle in a safe and secure neighbourhood.

“We are pleased about a major building project for families in Blenheim, where we are building six 2-bedroom houses (see the architect’s visualisation, above). This is significant as we have supported over 1,000 people who have been homeless there in the past five years; more than 3% of Blenheim’s population.”

Jill says that while she is thrilled with the delivery of new houses made possible by the Mission’s partnership approach, it is sobering to consider the long wait lists with housing providers all around the country.

“There were 25,000 households nationwide on the Social Housing Register in September. That’s huge, but what we’ve done over the past eight years gives us hope and shows that everyone benefits when we combine our resources with those of other organisations.



CMM’s Vanya Vitosovich and Andrea Goodman at the site of future social housing in Blenheim

REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Wesley Community Action shares their easy steps to reduce waste in the office

A recent commitment by Wesley Community Action to minimise its environmental impact has seen kaimahi (staff) based at the organisation's central Wellington office reduce the amount of waste they send to landfill by 40%.

Most of the reduction, which took place this year, came about through a concerted effort to collect and compost food scraps. The scraps are now collected in a bin on the bench in the staff kitchen, then taken home by the director, David Hanna, on his e-bike to add to his home compost.

"It's really easy to do – when it comes to food scraps the more the merrier," he says.

Kaimahi have even changed their brand of tea bag to ones that can be easily composted after a waste audit in February found that non-compostable teabags made up a lot of the site's food waste.

All seven Wesley sites in the Wellington region have now had waste audits and are committed to reducing their waste.

The work has been initiated by Team Taiao, which was set up in 2022 to look at what Wesley Community Action can do to lead and foster positive environmental action.

"Our goal is to grow awareness of our environmental impact and implement new measures that reduce our carbon footprint," says Team Taiao coordinator Kirsten Gendall. She says taking steps to help counteract the impact of climate change fits with Wesley's kaupapa on a number of levels. It's a way of setting a good example and "walking the talk" when it comes to reducing carbon emissions – particularly as many of the whānau they work with are likely to be the most affected by climate change.

It also fits with Wesley's commitment to helping build and sustain healthy systems. "By taking action to enable nature to heal we also support good health in our social systems."

Team Taiao, which is made up of staff from throughout the organisation, has identified two key areas to focus on initially – measuring and reducing the organisation's carbon emissions and reducing the amount of waste that gets sent to landfill.

The team is working with two external organisations to help it achieve these goals. EKOS helps organisations to measure their carbon footprint then develop plans to reduce it, while Para Kore is a kaupapa Māori zero-waste organisation.

While most of Team Taiao's work is currently focused on Wesley's internal processes, Kirsten says it is becoming an increasing part of the community work the organisation is involved in. "A lot of what we do is about building resilience – including resilience to cope with climate change."

One example of this is the recent installation of solar panels at Wesley House in Cannons Creek (see picture above). The work was funded by a Green Grant from the Methodist Church.

Kirsten says that as well as cutting electricity use at Wesley House the solar panels mean there will be a local electricity source in the event of a disaster or emergency such as flooding.

"People in the area will still have somewhere to go and charge their phones."



Wesley Community Action kaimahi taking part in a waste audit earlier this year.

COMMUNITIES FEEDING COMMUNITIES

Presbyterian Support Northern tells us about their project which is so much more than a communal garden

A seed of an idea planted during the first days of the Covid pandemic has grown and flourished in the Puketāpapa Mount Roskill community in Tāmaki Makaurau - with more growth planned.

Presbyterian Support Northern noticed the huge increase of new people accessing their foodbank in March 2020 and while they were able to meet the demand, Anne Overton (Community Relationship Manager) wondered if there was a way to create something more sustainable and supportive within the community.

Not long after this, Anne heard that St Giles Church in Puketāpapa would be closing - "it was almost as though God had given me a window of an idea" she says, so she approached Northern Presbytery to find out plans for the land. A covenant was agreed to use the land to nurture the Mt Roskill community, with core values of food security, reciprocation, spirituality, and a place to belong.

Working with local schools, suppliers and volunteers, the land was transformed into community gardens which opened in mid-2022. The gardens are full of veges and herbs, with opportunities to learn about them from volunteers and from the QR codes next to the plants.

Allotment gardens have been created too, with local families coming in over 12 months to learn the seasons of preparing, sowing and harvesting. These new skills allow them to begin their own gardens at home.

A multilayered food forest is also in place. These are different from traditional garden beds- it really is like a forest but with produce growing on all levels, from mushrooms in the ground to apples up high, with herbs, blueberries and citrus in between. Rimu donated locally was cut into rounds to create a pathway through the forest for tamariki to explore.

As a Child Rich Community project, tamariki are at

the core of what is being created in Puketāpapa. A nurture playspace complete with mud kitchen and playhouse is an integral part of the garden, purposefully placed next to the very climbable feijoa trees. Children play and learn within the outside space, and in 2024 will be able to do so in the new inside space as well.

Victoria Hall was due to be demolished in Avondale but instead was transported to the gardens where renovations are currently being completed. Once this is fully open, the community will have an urban living room to share, complete with a welcoming semi-commercial kitchen perfect for learning and tastings, a play area, and rooms for sharing knowledge. Future plans include deck overlooking the gardens, a pizza oven, and a refillery so people can buy only the amount of ingredients they need to improve affordability and reduce waste.

The beauty of this project, according to Community Coordinator Pascal Gillies is that everyone involved is always learning, from each other and from the whenua. With over 140 dialects spoken in the area, it is rich in culture and knowledge to be shared. His advice for anyone wishing to start a similar project is to "connect with the community, see what else is happening and what you can collaborate on - but you have to go out there, don't wait for people to come to you".



A glimpse of the community vege gardens and play area at Puketāpapa

A FOND FAREWELL TO CAROL BARRON

BY RACHEL MACKAY

A profile on one of our long-standing Council members who retired this month

Carol Barron, National Coordinator of the Methodist Alliance, is stepping back from her role for her first Christmas as a retiree. As a member of the governing Council of NZCCSS, and an active and engaged member of our Older Persons and Equity & Inclusion Policy Groups, we wanted to take a moment to look back at her career and time with us.

Carol began her working life as a radiation therapist, qualifying in one of the last cohorts to go through English Exams through the London School of Radiographers. She found the combination of her love of maths and physics and her natural inclination to care for people made her perfect for the role.

The on-the-job training was perfect too, for someone who professes to “get bored easily”, and the engagement with the patients was motivating and rewarding. She worked in oncology departments both here and overseas, and it really hammered home that the human experience is a universal one – the cancer patients she had cared for here in Aotearoa were going through the same deeply human thing as those overseas.

After a successful stint in this field, it was time for something new, and so Carol retrained as a lawyer at Canterbury University. She timed the birth of her children for semester breaks, and was supported by her tutors to bring her children to tutorials with her – sometimes to the surprise of her fellow students.

True to her nature, Carol managed to arrange a small cohort of other parents of young babies in her civil liberties class, getting the lecturer to agree to put them all in a group together for an effective and understanding “divide and conquer” approach. It was proof Carol has a knack for creating communities that understand differences and nurture success – they all completed the paper with an A grade.

Carol’s law career spanned personal, properties, commercial and elder care, with her first clerking job being at the New Zealand College of Midwives.

The difference between the clients in her two professions were stark, she noted “I didn’t see my law clients naked, and they gave far less chocolate than the cancer patients ever did.”

A variety of steps, including redundancy, administration for telecommunications, and time as a funding contracts manager at MSD and what was then Child Youth and Family, finally brought Carol to her role as National Coordinator of the Methodist Alliance in 2017. The Alliance itself was established at conference the year prior, and so Carol is the first person to have held the role and sculpted what kind of position it is.



Carol (centre) with NZCCSS council and secretariat colleagues earlier this year.

Over the last six years, the Methodist Alliance has injected an enormous amount of good into communities across the country, but there are a few things that Carol notes as being particularly proud of. Within her first six months in the role, she had arranged national forums for the organisations under the Methodist Alliance banner and has successfully run another two since then.

She uses the network to produce “videos from the front line” to show at the National Conference of the Methodist Church to keep those on the

theological side of things up to date with the work being done on the social service side. And she has written The History of Methodist Social Services of Aotearoa – an excellently referenced overview of the impact that the services that would become the Methodist Alliance have had since the earliest missionaries arrived in Aotearoa in 1822.

Throughout her work history, Carol has been deeply involved with the Methodist church, as a parishioner, a Parish Steward, on various Committees, and as a Sunday School teacher. Carol's engagement with her church and the core values of the Methodist Church is where she thinks her own strong sense of social justice came from.

“We've had a long a strong history of social justice in the Methodist Church. It's part of how I was brought up.” She notes with pride that the Methodists have been actively engaged with co-governance since the 1980s, when the whole church committed to the Treaty of Waitangi as a covenant relationship at the 1983 Conference. She was thoroughly engaged in protests on key issues when she was younger – such as the anti-nuclear marches and the anti-racism protests around the Springboks tours.

This lens has allowed her to provide clear leadership in the Alliance on issues such as climate justice, housing issues for Māori and Pacific Peoples, and communication on political party policy. It also afforded the NZCCSS secretariat the combination of her excellent wit and humour, and her critical eye over much of the work produced while she was part of the policy groups and Council.

Despite a full and meaningful career, there are a few other projects Carol would have liked to put her orderly and detail-oriented stamp on before leaving. The newly-established Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation holds so much potential for the sector, it would have been fascinating to be involved with its progression.

In addition, the reports coming out from the Royal Commission on the Abuse in Care are important, and the necessary changes for continuity, fairness and independence are critical. Working with those documents to advise the Methodist Church on the changes and processes would have been deeply meaningful and important work.

Now a very active early retirement is planned. She is taking on a volunteer role within the Transitional Team for Mission Resourcing, a small team working to ensure that the systems of the Methodist Church function for the future, as well as returning to Parish Stewardship at her local church.

She is also bringing her father, in his 90s, to come and live with her and her husband. She had been encouraging him to move in sooner, but he wouldn't do it until she retired, so she has. “This time is precious,” she said. “I want to help him have the best quality of life for the rest of his time with us” Her father is also encouraging her to write the family history of her mother's side of the family, so she is looking forward to hearing all his stories about them and getting them down on the page.

That might leave a spare afternoon here and there for any of Carol's other hobbies. “If there's a craft, I've tried it,” she said, outlining her fondness for watercolours and acrylics, pyrography, and needle and yarn crafts.

The Secretariat of NZCCSS wishes Carol the very best as she embarks on this next phase of life, and is committed to continuing her legacy of social justice, compassion, order, empathy and humour in the work we produce and the connections we make within the sector.



Everyone at NZCCSS will miss Carol's sense of fun, captured here, with Jack Hurst and another friend

MEET THE TEAM

A conversation with NZCCSS'
Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua,
Senior Policy Analyst Rachel Mackay

How long have you been part of the team?

I joined the NZCCSS Secretariat in February of 2022, originally as the Data Analyst, and then as the analyst for the Impacts of Poverty and Inclusion portfolio, before moving to the Older Persons portfolio in 2023.

What drew you to apply for the role?

The mission of NZCCSS, to speak for the amazing kaimahi across the country doing the hard work of social service, was something that really resonated with me. The role of data has such power, and I wanted to help with the kinds of projects we do.

As Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua, Senior Policy Analyst, Rachel provides policy and research expertise to identify and analyse social issues and their impacts to inform our lobbying, advocacy, communications and research.

What other roles have you had?

It's a bit of a hodgepodge! I actually have a BSc and PostGradDipSc in Physiology and Zoology, and I've been a cafe manager and a property manager. I've also been involved in community groups for over a decade, including Parents Centre, and was part of the team that established the Whāngai Ora Milk Bank in Te Papaioea.

What other work do you do?

I have three children - Izzy who is 6, Liam who is 3.5, and Evie who just turned 1 - they keep me pretty busy! I'm also a calligrapher, and love making things for the people in my life.

If you had a magic wand, what would you make happen tomorrow?

About 2,500 Standard Aged Care beds and the staff to support them would appear in the Aged Care Facilities around the country!

What do you love to do when not working?

I love a good book, and half a moment alone to do some crafting without a small human asking for a snack.

Ko Wēra te whakapaparanga mai,
Engari, Ko Papakura te
whenua tupu,
Ko Manawatū te kāinga,
Kei Matamata au e noho ana.
I te tau rua mano i haere mai
au ki Aotearoa.
Ko Daniel tāku tāne.
Ko Isobel rātau, ko William,
ko Evelyn āku tamariki.
Ko Rachel Mackay au.

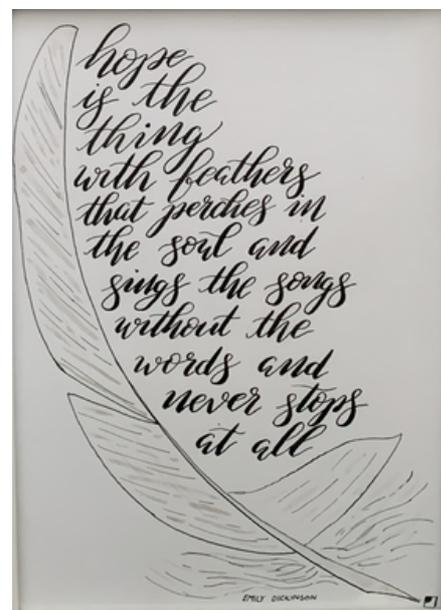


What's been your highlight since joining NZCCSS?

Getting to write our report to the UN this year about the human rights of kaumātua in Aotearoa was amazing. To get to tell that story to that kind of audience wasn't something I thought I would get to do.

What's a poem/saying/whakatauki/bible verse that is important to you in your life and why?

I particularly love Emily Dickinson's 254 - "Hope is the thing with feathers". It was one of the first things I made for myself when I was learning calligraphy, and it sits on my desk to remind me that our hope needs to be tenacious, especially in trying times like these.



What energises you?

Collaboration is where I get my motivation. I want to tell the stories and speak on behalf of others - and I can only do that if I'm in touch with them!

How will you be doing for your summer break?

We're looking forward to exploring some of the camping sites in the South Waikato this summer - we bought a caravan last year and promptly fell pregnant with our youngest child so didn't really get a chance to get out there last summer!

OUR TOP TOOLS

KIRIHIMETE EDITION

Tips from our team about resources they always use that you might find helpful.

All I Want For Christmas...



You may have heard of the “Need, Want, Wear, Read” idea for buying Christmas presents for kids. Children get four presents - something they want, something they need, something to wear, something to read. To mark Christmas 2023, we at NZCCSS have created our own version - please enjoy the insights from our tīma below, as a gift from us to you.



A policy or review we want.



A policy or review we need.



A resource or tool to share.



Something of ours to read.

Want: The new version of [Mahi Aroha - The Carers Plan](#) (2019-2023)

Need: Aged Care funding reassessment, both the amount being paid out now and how we calculate the increases in future

Share: [Grey Matter](#), the Manatū Hauora | Ministry of Health Library's newsletter of NGO, Think Tank and International Government Reports about health (with our own Te Kōrero mō ngā Kaumātua in the November issue)

Read: Our [election blog series](#) - especially Nikki's "[The Cost of Complexity](#)," which we reference in almost all of our submissions!

**Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua,
Senior Policy Analyst Rachel Mackay**

Want: Rather than a repeal of Section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act, a review of how this legislation is implemented in practice would be beneficial and would enable better honouring of our tamariki and their rights under Te Tiriti.

Need: A comprehensive and coordinated Children's Policy that is holistic and goes beyond simply focusing on education sector.

Share: I've been learning more about the importance of play for children's development. I'll be reading this new resource over summer: [Hautaka Tākaro, A Play Aotearoa Journal](#).

Read: I really enjoyed this [blog post](#) on the value of intergenerational spaces by Children & Families Policy Group member Steph Brook.

**Kaitātari Kaupapa Here Matua,
Senior Policy Analyst Mel Wilson**

Want: A giant spreadsheet holding all work across government, so people could clearly see where collaboration could be maximised, which overlaps exist, and so completed work could be utilised to inform current and future projects.

Need: An Aotearoa hou, and action to address the costly, inequitable [complexity in our financial support systems](#)

Share: I'm enjoying reviewing some reports and guides from major lobbying firms. It's interesting to see what is shared in these guides, and gives us all an opportunity to see how others approach things.

Read: Don't make me choose! Kate Hamlin's [submission for Women's Health](#) - a huge topic but it feels cohesive, accessible and authoritative.

Karla Sanders' update post-election on what the [change in government might mean for Children](#) also stands out, particularly as many then showed

Want: A review into the consultation and engagement policies of government departments and agencies.

Need: An ongoing commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Share: [The Kāka](#) - Bernard Hickey provides accessible and regular NZ economics coverage:

Read: NZCCSS blog [Seeking Full Manifestos from all Parties](#): Visionary work from Rachel Mackay.

**Kaitātari Kaupapa, Policy Analyst
Hamish Jarvie**

up in the coalition agreements. Hamish Jarvie's [Debt to Government submission](#) was concise, accessible and made our points clearly and plainly.

**Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Executive Officer
Nikki Hurst**

KANOHI KI TE KANOHI

The Secretariat and Policy Groups met in person in Wellington in November

With members of the Secretariat and our Policy Groups based all across the motu, we embrace online meetings but also know it's important to meet face-to-face (kanohi ki te kanohi) every so often too.

Unfortunately Wellington's fog and cancelled flights in the last week of November meant we couldn't all get together as planned so we held online meetings for our Equity & Inclusion and Children & Families Policy Groups.

With flights resuming later in the week, our Older Persons Policy Group could meet together in person, and our Secretariat enjoyed their year-end celebration together as well. Our planning day was interrupted by the new Government ministers and coalition agreements being announced.

As always, our tamariki were welcomed as part of the team and we were lucky to share our time together with Evelyn, Emily and Jack.



Evelyn making sure her mum Rachel accurately captures the 2024 plans of the Older Persons Policy Group



The Older Persons Policy Group met in Wellington in November to reflect on 2023 and make plans for 2024.



When you work in social services and a new Government announces coalition agreements and new Ministers during your planning day...



The Secretariat with some of their tamariki celebrating their mahi of 2023.

We'd love to hear from you...

Please get in touch if you have a community initiative that you'd like to share with the readers of Kete Kupu. We also welcome feedback!

Email comms@nzccss.org.nz



"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13