



Volunteering Canterbury

Submission to the Christchurch City Council Long Term Council Community Plan.

From: Volunteering Canterbury
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Phone: 03 366 2442
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Signature: Ruth Gardner Ruth Gardner, Manager

[REDACTED] between
(Please note I will be out of the country 1-8 Jan 2004.)

This Submission

- Warmly affirms the recognition of Voluntary work as an indicator to track progress towards achieving the outcome of Inclusive and Diverse Communities (volume 2 page 13). Volunteering Canterbury's Core Activity is to promote voluntary work, and we look forward to working in close association with the Council. The Profile of our current activities is attached.
- Asks that the City Council formally adopts our definition of Voluntary Work, viz:
 - *Voluntary Work is done of one's own free will, unpaid, for the common good.*
 - *Aroha ki te Takata a Rohe.*
- Supports the recognition of the Voluntary sector in the LTCCP Outcomes. Promotion of the way this sector stands alongside the Government (local, regional and central) sector, the Commercial sector and the Household sector is vital for ensuring a vibrant voluntary sector. (The attached paper "Supporting Volunteering" is offered as further information about the value of understanding the role of the sector alongside and independent of the other sectors)
- Asks that the request made to the City Council in 2002 and 2003, to become a signatory to our Memorandum of Understanding, be followed up. We are very pleased to have formalised our relationship with the Ministry of Social Development, Department of Work and Income, Canterbury Development Corporation, Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce, Community Employment Group and Environment Canterbury with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. This sets out the ways we would work together in areas of mutual interest and has already proved to be a valuable asset to our efforts to uphold the integrity of volunteering. We would really value the City Council's expression of commitment to this relationship. (A copy of the MOU is attached)

We would appreciate the opportunity to talk to the main points of our written submission.

Mgr/Ruth/CCC Submission 04.05.04

Christchurch Community House Te Whakaruruhau ki Otautahi, 141 Hereford Street, Box 13-698, Christchurch 8031
Phone 03 366 2442 Fax 03 366 0117 Email vc@volcan.org.nz Website www.volcan.org.nz

Supported by: Chch City Council, Govt. 'Support for Volunteering' Fund, The Community Trust, NZ Lottery Grants Board
Founding member of Volunteering New Zealand



Volunteering Canterbury

PROFILE
22 April 2004

- VISION:** Supportive communities where voluntary work is understood, recognised and valued
- DEFINITION:** Voluntary work is done of one's own free will, unpaid, for the common good
Aroha ki te Takata a Rohe
- MISSION:** To promote, support, and uphold the integrity of voluntary work with commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- VALUES:** These Values along with our Vision, Definition, Mission and Objectives reflect our commitment to sustaining, nurturing and carrying volunteering into the future.

We will openly, willingly and honestly share our unique gifts and skills with others as a way of serving the common good.

We will value and support the contributions individuals, groups and organisations make to our society.

We will strive to creatively enable volunteering to develop and expand.

The Vision, Definition, Mission and Values underpin the following OBJECTIVES:

1. To uphold the rights and responsibilities of volunteers
2. To provide and promote information and resources on volunteering
3. To encourage the community to understand and value voluntary work as part of a wider definition of work
4. To promote cross cultural understanding where the special role of tangata whenua is recognised

Volunteering Canterbury is an Incorporated Charitable Trust which has been operating since September 1988. We support all volunteering – in whanau/hapu/iwi, in the voluntary (third) sector, the government (public) sector (local, regional and central), the commercial (private) sector (e.g. employee volunteering) and the household sector. This support is essential in upholding the integrity of voluntary work done informally as well as formally.

Awareness and Recognition In association with Te Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu we present Volunteer Recognition Awards during Volunteer Awareness Week in March and Youth Volunteer Awards on International Volunteer Day in December.

Information and Referral Agency, Associate and Affiliate members of Volunteering Canterbury can receive referrals of volunteers. Supporters (being Business/Commercial For-Profit Organisations and Personal Members) cannot. Members who require referrals provide us with descriptions for the volunteer positions they have available. Voluntary positions must be for less than fifteen hours a week and must not have been undertaken by a paid worker within the previous six months. We provide people who wish to undertake voluntary work with an outline of the opportunities available and assist them to choose one or two that suit them. Volunteers are then referred to those organisations for a further interview and final decision. Volunteers are always welcome to return to the Centre for further information and another referral if the first is not successful. Since our inception we have registered over 12,750 volunteers. In the last year 45% of these volunteers were from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Interactive Website Volunteers can register and be referred "online" at www.volcan.org.nz This facility is unique in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Employee Volunteering This Programme assists and advises Businesses/Organisations (Employers) on encouraging and supporting their employees to carry out voluntary work. This includes identification of suitable projects and encouragement of existing projects. Promotional and procedural material is available and the Programme Co-ordinator can provide further information.

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Promotion and Recruitment The centre advertises regularly, distributes posters and pamphlets and is happy to provide speakers for any occasion. Our most successful method of recruitment is through "word of mouth".

Advocacy We provide an advocacy service for volunteers, for our Members and for any voluntary organisation/project. We respond to issues arising in the wider community which affect volunteers by promoting discussion and lobbying decision makers. We have a particular focus on increasing the understanding of the definition of voluntary work.

Volunteer Co-ordinators' Network We run free monthly support sessions which are open to anyone involved in volunteer administration. Network members are encouraged to provide suggestions for topics for these sessions.

Support and Training We offer a comprehensive programme of low cost learning workshops and a personal consultation service. The full and half day workshops are suitable for volunteers carrying out tasks, and/or those taking responsibility in voluntary organisations as well as for co-ordinators of volunteers. The Manager can provide supervision for Volunteer Co-ordinators and for Managers of not-for-profit non-government organisations and projects.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed November 2001 by Volunteering Canterbury, with the Ministry of Social Development Department of Work and Income, Canterbury Development Corporation, Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce, Community Employment Group, and Environment Canterbury. We will all continue to work together to advance the vision of supportive communities and to be clear about the interface between voluntary work and community economic development and/or employment.

Resources We sell books on the organisation and administration of volunteering and small items suitable as gifts for volunteers. Our resource library which includes material on the wider aspects of volunteering is available.

Funding/Staffing We depend on grants from a variety of sources, particularly those mentioned on our letterhead, and also on our members who pay a small annual fee. The centre employs a paid Manager, Centre Co-ordinator and Employee Volunteering Programme Co-ordinator, and has about twenty volunteer staff as well as our volunteer Board and committee members.

Hours The centre is open from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Current initiatives include:

1. Supporting volunteering throughout the wider Canterbury area with an 0800 number (0800-865-268) and interactive website. A subgroup of Volunteering Canterbury has been formed in Timaru.
2. Profiling volunteering in Arts/Heritage/Tourism, Environment, Sport and Recreation, Education and Information, and Emergency Services as well as in the more commonly understood Social Services and Health sector.
3. Encouraging the wider community to understand and value voluntary work as part of a wider definition of work.

Volunteering New Zealand We are founding members of this national association, incorporated in 2001, which provides us with opportunities for networking and peer review. Membership of Volunteering New Zealand is open to Volunteer Centres and national organisations which strongly support volunteering. Volunteering Canterbury was the host for a national conference *Inspiring Volunteering Whakamana te Kaupapa Aroha ki te Takata a Rohe* held in Christchurch in 2002. This conference built on the legacy of Government support for International Year of Volunteers 2001. We hope future developments with the Department of Internal Affairs will enhance communication between the currently separate Maori/Pacific/Ethnic and Volunteering New Zealand frameworks.



Volunteering Canterbury

Supporting Volunteering

07.03.03

Definition of Volunteering

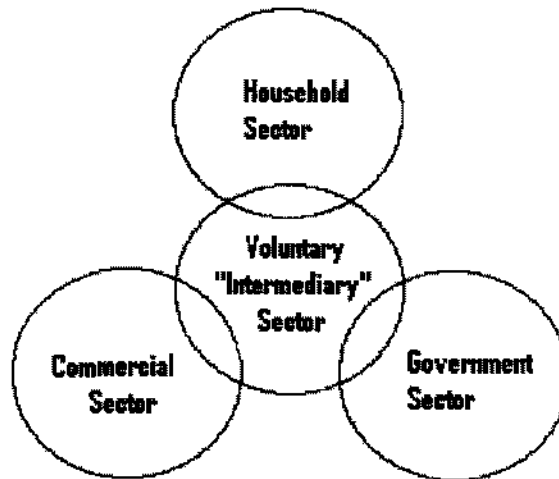
The definition of voluntary work being upheld by members of Volunteering New Zealand (VNZ) is that it is done of one's own free will, unpaid, for the common good.

To be a voluntary activity there should be no coercion involved, for example, from peer/family pressure or statutory regulation. The activity should also not be for personal benefit (financial or similar). It should benefit a wider group but also be for the good of society generally. Upholding the integrity of volunteering requires close attention to this definition. The VNZ constitution to which all its members are committed reflects the vision, beliefs and values that underpin this definition.

While volunteering must avoid coercion, people nevertheless often feel a strong sense of responsibility, even obligation in their volunteering. Doing something of one's own free will is different from doing something simply as a matter of choice.

Volunteering in Sectors

Volunteering can occur in any sector of the community. "The Community" actually includes everyone – whanau/hapu/iwi, the government sector (central, regional and local), the business and commercial sector, the voluntary sector and the household sector.



Hilkka Pietila

The government sector, for example, relies on volunteers in areas such as the Conservation Department, the Fire Service, schools, libraries, and so forth. In the business sector there are 'employee volunteers'. All volunteers come from the household sector. They volunteer with and for their family, for example, on the PTA, helping at Kindergarten, sports coaching etc. There are also communities of interest and of locality between the different sectors. Many people volunteer with and for their whanau, hapu and iwi. Work on relationships between the above sectors (see model), and whanau, hapu, iwi structures, is being explored in Treaty based developments. For example, the definition of Volunteering has been given expression in Maori as aroha ki te takata a rohe by the local Tribal Council, Te Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu. This is a result of the working relationship between Volunteering Canterbury and Te Runaka. It was given in the context of commitment to the vision, values and beliefs of Volunteering New Zealand.

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Maori and Volunteering

The concept of "volunteering" as understood in contemporary society had no direct equivalent in the Maori traditional world. Voluntary activity – acts of service to the people of the whanau, hapu and iwi – was seen as an expression of the Maori philosophical cornerstones of collective consciousness, well-being, and responsibility. Maori structures of whanau, hapu, and iwi add another dimension. Treaty based relationships such as those between Te Runaka and Volunteering Canterbury give a framework for further work on Volunteering (or whatever emerges as the term as these relationships develop).

Naming the Sector

It would be helpful if the word "community" was not used to refer to the Voluntary Sector. Putting community/voluntary together draws attention away from the key elements of what Volunteering means, and can cause confusion about the meaning of Volunteering. Another issue lies in referring to the Voluntary Sector as the "third" sector. This is inaccurate (at least historically) as it is really the "FIRST" sector, having been there before either government or business! It is useful, however, to name the voluntary sector as the "third" in relation to levels of power in that Commerce and Government are now always more powerful. Recognition that the Voluntary Sector has less power needs emphasis so that its role in creating new services (which may be better taken over by Government or Commerce) and in responding to injustice highlights the particular quality of the Voluntary Sector as "intermediary".

The Voluntary Sector and Volunteering

The last Census and the 1999 Time Use Survey demonstrate that New Zealand is a country of Volunteers. In the four weeks before the census 1.1 million of us did some form of unpaid work outside the household. While unpaid work is not always the same as Volunteering (e.g. slavery is unpaid work) there would be value in expanding the Survey to discern the impact of volunteering or lack of it on all sectors (government, commerce, household, voluntary) as well as on whanau, hapu and iwi.

Volunteering occurs across all sectors, and whanau, hapu, and iwi. Volunteering projects in, for example, Arts/Heritage/Tourism may be located in the Government (local, regional, central), Commerce/Business, Household or Voluntary sectors or in whanau, hapu, iwi. These projects may also be in other areas such as the Environment, Social Services and Health, Sport and Recreation, Emergency Services, and Education/Information

A growing trend in Volunteering is involvement by employees or employers. This is being referred to in various ways, for example, Employee Volunteering, Employee Community Involvement, and Corporate Volunteering. It needs to be seen as offering employees work experience in a Sector that is distinct from that of their employment – in a project or organisation in the Voluntary sector. Some will take up the option by company agreement within office hours, others in their own free time but with company support for the project of their involvement.

Conclusion

The major concern for Volunteering is to maintain its independence and integrity across all sectors, so that it is not taken over to serve only the interests of the household, commercial and/or government sectors. It cannot be emphasised enough that all sectors need to understand and respect the definition of Volunteering. In addition, by working together, a spirit of co-operation, understanding and respect will be enhanced across the sectors.

Memorandum of Understanding

between

Volunteering Canterbury

and

**Department of Work and Income (WINZ)
Canterbury Development Corporation (CDC)
Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce (CECC)
Community Employment Group (CEG)
Environment Canterbury (ECan)**

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This Agreement is made

Between **Volunteering Canterbury**

And **Department of Work and Income (WINZ)**
Canterbury Development Corporation (CDC)
Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce (CECC)
Community Employment Group (CEG)
Environment Canterbury (ECan)

This agreement records the relationship between Volunteering Canterbury and other organisations interested in community economic development and or employment.

The term "relationship" for the purposes of this document means a relationship between parties who acknowledge their equal standing in this relationship, and who undertake to co-operate with each other, to negotiate in good faith, and to advance the vision of supportive interdependent communities.

Volunteering Canterbury and WINZ, CDC, CECC, CEG, Ecan, wish to record their joint intention, in Canterbury and elsewhere as appropriate, to promote co-operation in upholding volunteering, where *voluntary work is work done of one's own free will, unpaid, for the common good*. In Maori, this is represented as *Aroha ki te Takata a Rohe*.

Nothing in this memorandum shall invalidate any existing agreement or preclude the establishment of any further understanding between parties.

1 Background

Volunteering Canterbury

Volunteering Canterbury is a Charitable Trust, operating since 1988. It supports all volunteering – in the Voluntary sector, the Government sector (including local Government) and the Commercial sector (e.g. employee volunteering).

Vision: Supportive communities where voluntary work is understood, recognised and valued.

Definition: Voluntary work is work done of one's free will, unpaid, for the common good, *Aroha ki te Takata a Rohe*.

Mission: To promote, support, and uphold the integrity of voluntary work with commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The Vision, Definition and Mission underpin the following objectives:

- To uphold the rights and responsibilities of volunteers
- To provide and promote information and resources on volunteering
- To encourage the community to understand and value voluntary work as part of a wider definition of work
- To promote cross cultural understanding where the special role of tangata whenua is recognised

The Other Parties

The other parties to this agreement represent those organisations that have an interest in community economic development and or employment. In this case, the other parties to this agreement include:

- Department of Work and Income (WINZ)
- Canterbury Development Corporation Limited (CDC)
- Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce (CCEC)
- Community Employment Group (CEG)
- Environment Canterbury (ECan)

Although the other parties to this agreement detailed above is not an exhaustive list of organisations that have an interest in community economic development and or employment, they do represent major organisations considered appropriate to work in collaboration with Volunteering Canterbury.

2 Relationship Purpose

The relationship has the following purposes:

- **To promote supportive, interdependent communities**
- **To advance the common good**
- **To promote and support each other's distinctive roles**
- **To collaborate on joint projects**

There is no intention to create a legal relationship between the parties.

3 Protocols

The basic protocols of this agreement are:

- Each party recognises and respects the autonomy and wider responsibilities of the other.
- Each party will identify the contact point for their respective organisation.
- Volunteering Canterbury will consult the other parties to this agreement on matters, where appropriate, that relate to economic development, economic growth and employment.
- The “Other Parties” to this agreement will consult, where appropriate, with Volunteering Canterbury on matters relating to volunteering and voluntary work.

4 Term of Agreement

This Agreement is regarded as enduring and will be reported on annually, but may be amended from time to time as agreed between the parties.

The Agreement may also be re-negotiated as a result of any changes to government policy. Where this occurs, the Party immediately affected will inform the other parties of that change as soon as reasonably practicable.

5 Execution

Executed at Christchurch on the dates listed below.

Signed by and on behalf of
VOLUNTEERING CANTERBURY



Katherine Peet
Chairperson

28/11/01

Date

Signed for and behalf of

Her Majesty The Queen of New Zealand acting by and
Through the Chief Executive of the MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF WORK AND INCOME



Bruce Ash
Regional Commissioner

28/11/01

Date

Signed for and on behalf of
THE CANTERBURY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

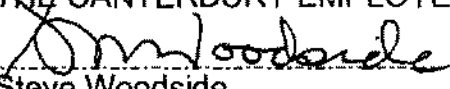


Deborah Beesley
Employment Services Manager

28/11/01

Date

Signed for and on behalf of
THE CANTERBURY EMPLOYERS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Steve Woodside
Business Adviser

28/11/01

Date

Signed for and on behalf of
THE COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT GROUP

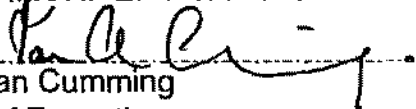


Jay Sepie
Southern Regional Manager

28/11/01

Date

Signed for and on behalf of
ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY



Dr Ian Cumming
Chief Executive

28/11/01

Date