

## **Appendix VI: Roles of Participating Community Agencies**



## **✠ Roles of Community Agencies**

At the end of the community agency interviews participants were asked to describe the role of their group in addressing the issues they had raised during the interview (see Appendix V). The responses reflect the differences between groups which work solely on youth issues (for example youth mental health or youth work) and those which have a broader focus (for example employment or disability issues). The following responses give an incomplete but useful indication of the diversity of community activity surrounding youth issues in Christchurch.

### **✠ Association of Canterbury Youth Groups**

- ◇ Co-ordinate uniformed groups (eg. Guides and Scouts) to promote communication
- ◇ Lobby on issues of concern
- ◇ Possibility of combining training opportunities (and joint funding applications) to enable the best use of available resources

### **✠ Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce**

- ◇ Support business and promote business success. Important to this is a healthy community, keeping young people well satisfied and making sure there are activities for young people
- ◇ Liaise with the Canterbury Development Corporation on employment issues
- ◇ Working hard to protect good things and enhance the community

### **✠ Canterbury Youth Workers' Collective**

- ◇ Ensure that youth work is carried out in a planned and efficient way by co-ordinating relevant skills training
- ◇ Meet monthly to support and share information with other youth workers
- ◇ Provide networking opportunities for skills, information and resources
- ◇ Provide advocacy on behalf of youth and youth workers
- ◇ Aim to improve the average length of service of youth workers through stress management, support, social activities and professional advice
- ◇ Foster the credibility of youth work as a profession

### ✠ **Child and Family Services**

- ◇ Co-ordinate and make sure child and family services (Level 1) are not doubling up
- ◇ Meet monthly to provide support for members
- ◇ Potential for a more political role in the future

### ✠ **Christchurch Safer Community Council**

- ◇ 'Watch dog' role for the Christchurch City Council and other large agencies
- ◇ Provide independent advocacy and challenge to government on youth issues
- ◇ Promote discussion on issues through forums
- ◇ Play small funding role (mostly evaluations) to strengthen organisations

### ✠ **Community Employment Initiatives Group**

- ◇ Work with young people directly and indirectly through the 17 member organisations
- ◇ Lobby on employment issues (from a community perspective)
- ◇ Work in co-operation instead of apart
- ◇ Community agencies working in partnership with government

### ✠ **Council of Social Services**

- ◇ Provide facilitation, co-ordination and an overview of issues
- ◇ Support agencies delivering services for young people (for example provide information and link groups together)
- ◇ Provide networking opportunities
- ◇ Advocate to central and local government on major issues
- ◇ COSS would like to do more on the issues identified

### **✠ Disabled Persons' Assembly**

- ◇ Advocate locally and nationally on issues of concern (DPA is currently contracted to work with young people)
- ◇ Provide training for consumers

### **✠ Ecumenical Youth Leaders' Group**

- ◇ Support and co-ordinate regional organisers of mainly church based youth groups

### **✠ New Zealand Association of Adolescent Health and Development**

- ◇ Provide networking and educative opportunities for people involved in youth health issues (defining health very broadly)
- ◇ Lobbying government and other decision makers on youth health issues

### **✠ Secondary Schools Counsellors**

- ◇ Support School Counsellors
- ◇ Focus on issues for 'at risk' young people (due to limited energy and resources)

### **✠ Youth Mental Health Forum**

- ◇ Encourage the co-ordination of youth mental health services/ agencies
- ◇ Encourage communication among all agencies within Christchurch working with young people
- ◇ Provide youth mental health workers with the opportunity to liaise with others
- ◇ Provide an opportunity to heighten awareness of the significant issues affecting the mental health of young people in Christchurch
- ◇ Advocate for young people/ young people's issues by lobbying relevant parties where advocacy is seen to be appropriate.