

**✠ Appendix VIII: Roles of Participating  
Government Organisations**



## Roles of Government Organisations

The government organisations which participated in the survey were asked to describe the role of their organisation in each of the six areas highlighted in the questionnaire (see Appendix VII for the specific questions). Participants responded only to questions relating to relevant topics for their organisation. The answers are detailed here under these headings followed by any general comments the organisation may have made about its role.

### Alcohol Advisory Council (ALAC)

#### *Health, safety and wellbeing*

- ◇ One of ALAC's targets for 1997 - 2000 is to reduce the level of binge drinking amongst young people in New Zealand. This has a direct effect on health and safety. ALAC also aims to reduce alcohol related harm across New Zealand.

#### *Physical environment and design*

- ◇ No direct role but issues around Host Responsibility in licensed premises have an indirect effect on the physical environment.

#### *Family*

- ◇ ALAC only has a role if alcohol plays a significant part. This may include advocating for the provision of family-aware services.

#### *General*

- ◇ The role set out in the ALAC Act is "to promote moderation in alcohol use and reduce alcohol related harm". Alcohol and young people is identified as one of eight major project areas. Budget and projects are approved by the ALAC Council and the Cabinet Minister with responsibility for ALAC. The ALAC Council comprises five members appointed by the Director General of Health with approval from the Cabinet Minister.

## ✠ Children, Young Persons' and Their Families Service (CYPFS)

### *Health, safety and wellbeing*

- ◇ Statutory child protection, youth justice and adoption. CYPFS deals mainly with those issues requiring statutory intervention.

### *Education and training*

- ◇ Only role is with those in CYPFS care and in trying to access schooling for them.

### *Family*

- ◇ The role of CYPFS is determined by legislation

## ✠ Community Corrections

### *Health, safety and wellbeing*

- ◇ Within the prison system, the aim is to provide "humane containment" which aspires to protect the health and safety of offenders.

### *Education and training*

- ◇ Community Corrections has a limited role with a part-time remedial reading tutor who also assists with driver licensing and career advice etc.

### *Employment*

- ◇ Community Corrections only has a role in employment with regard to offending. If employment is an issue then the Department would use existing networks/liaison with Employment Services or Actionworks etc. to meet this need.

### *Family*

- ◇ The Department has a mandated role with the young person but not with the family as such. During the preparation of pre-sentence reports for the Court and the administration of the community-based sentences the department often contacts and sometimes works with families as well as the individual. However the practice tends toward problem-solving on an individual level. Many young offenders are disassociated and alienated from family/whanau networks.

## **✠ Community Employment Group - Department of Labour**

### ***Health, safety and wellbeing***

- ◇ No direct role except as a funder of community groups which provide assistance and positive activities for young people in regard to employment opportunities.

### ***Education***

- ◇ Community Employment Group has an indirect role in education by funding community groups to provide services.

### ***Employment***

- ◇ It is the role of the Community Employment Group to increase opportunities and address issues affecting unemployment among young people. This is largely achieved through supporting community agencies in Christchurch.

### ***Family***

- ◇ No direct role but the Community Employment Group staff are aware that family issues often need to be addressed before any positive employment outcomes can be created. The role of the Community Employment Group is to fund community groups to increase employment opportunities and increase employment.

### ***General***

- ◇ Decisions within the Community Employment Group are made in Wellington. There is an opportunity for the Christchurch department to prioritise client groups. Currently the priority groups are Maori, Pacific Island people, women, rural and urban disadvantaged people. Young people fit into each of these priority groups.

## **✠ Department of Internal Affairs**

### ***Health, safety and well being***

- ◇ The Department of Internal Affairs has, as one of its strategic priority areas, to provide "support for community and voluntary organisations to increase their effectiveness in meeting the needs of at-risk youth, ethnic and other groups". The Department administers government funds for these organisations who provide

services to youth through Community Organisations Grants, Lottery Youth Community Project Worker Scheme and the Youth Worker Training Scheme.

- ◇ The Department specifically provide support, information and developmental advice to youth workers and their agencies at local, regional and national levels (see below under General).

### ***Entertainment and recreation***

- ◇ Only role is as a funder and resource for groups providing entertainment and recreation opportunities.

### ***Education and training***

- ◇ The Department funds agencies working in this area and works with agencies to increase their capacity to deliver to young people.

### ***Employment***

- ◇ The Department of Internal Affairs funds and supports community agencies working in this area.

### ***Family***

- ◇ The Department of Internal Affairs has a funding and information resource role as well as a capacity building role with community organisations.

### ***General***

- ◇ Government purchases the services of the Department of Internal Affairs.
- ◇ Needs assessments are undertaken at national and local levels to monitor the needs and issues facing youth and to assist in the distribution of some funds. Other funds are distributed by publicly and politically appointed committee members (eg COGs, Lottery Youth) who bring their local knowledge to bear in prioritising young people's needs.

## **✠ Education and Training Support Agency (ETSA)**

### ***Health, safety and wellbeing***

- ◇ ETSA purchases life skills courses as part of the Training Opportunities Programme and Commissioned Youth Action (funded by NZES). These courses include modules

on nutrition, personal wellbeing, fitness, etc tailored to individual needs. All other Training Opportunities courses include learner support promoting health, safety and wellbeing.

### ***Education and training***

- ◇ See above. ETSA also promotes training in the workplace linked to the National Qualifications Framework (Skill NZ) for young (and older) people.

### ***Employment***

- ◇ Training Opportunities Programmes are focused on skills development for work. ETSA purchase work based training programmes. Skill NZ's work fosters employment and training.

### ***General***

- ◇ ETSA is a Crown entity established under the Education Act, 1989. It reports directly to the Minister of Education through its Board. Young people are a target group set nationally for Training Opportunities Programmes.

## **☒ Health and Disability Commissioner**

### ***Health, safety and wellbeing***

- ◇ See below for a full description of The Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights. Right 1(3) of the Code states that every consumer has the right to be provided with services that take into account the needs, values and beliefs of different cultural, religious, social and ethnic groups, including the needs, values and beliefs of Maori. Right 4(4) of the Code states that consumers have the right to have services provided in a manner that minimises the potential harm to, and optimises the quality of their life. This involves taking an holistic view of the consumer's needs in order to achieve the best possible outcome in the circumstances.

### ***General***

- ◇ The Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights gives rights to all consumers when they are receiving a health and disability service.

- ◇ The Code of Rights is established as a regulation under the Health and Disability Commissioner Act 1994, and its application is determined by that Act. The duties and obligations in the Code apply to all providers of health and disability services. The Code provides that consumers have the right to:
  - be treated with respect
  - be free from discrimination or exploitation
  - receive services which respect their dignity and independence
  - be communicated with effectively
  - be fully informed
  - make informed choices
  - take the appropriate support person or persons and
  - complain about any aspect of the service they receive, and have their complaint taken seriously
- ◇ The Commissioner is charged with the role of promoting and protecting the rights of health and disability services consumers and, to that end, facilitating the fair, simple, speedy and efficient resolution of complaints relating to the infringements of those rights.

## ✠ Hillary Commission

### *General*

- ◇ The Hillary Commission did not respond directly to the questionnaire but instead sent a copy of 'Moving through Sport' (1997). This document notes that the principal function of the Hillary Commission is "to develop and encourage sport, fitness and leisure". 'Moving through Sport' addresses (amongst other issues) "the role of sport in the education and development of young people" and "the place of sport within the Health and Physical education curriculum".
- ◇ Further information about the role of the Hillary Commission in addressing the areas identified in the Christchurch City Council's Youth Strategy Study is available in 'Moving through Sport', Hillary Commission, 1997.



## ✠ Human Rights Commission

### *Health, safety and wellbeing*

- ◇ The Human Rights Commission investigates complaints of discrimination and harassment in education, employment and public places and promotes human rights for young people through schools, TOPs etc.

### *Physical environment and design*

- ◇ Promotion and monitoring of access for young people with disabilities. For example supporting accessible bus transport provision.

### *Education*

- ◇ The role of the Human Rights Commission is limited to education about human rights.

### *Employment*

- ◇ The Human Rights Commission takes complaints of discrimination in employment.

### *General*

- ◇ The role of the Human Rights Commission is determined by the Human Rights Act 1993 and the Commission's Strategic Plan.

## ✠ Income Support

### *Health, safety and well being*

- ◇ See below under General.

### *Education and training*

- ◇ In the form of local Income Support Initiatives like 'Smartstart' (Canterbury wide).

### *Employment*

- ◇ Indirectly with customised service delivery and the 'Compass Programme'. Facilitate and direct customers to training, goal setting, lifeskills and future work.

### *General*

- ◇ The Department of Social Welfare's agreement with government is set out in "From Welfare to Well Being". This document articulates the Department's vision and

direction. Income Support is responsible for providing customised service and specialist teams which administer the Independent Youth Benefit alongside the Special Education Service. The National Strengthening Families Project is being jointly implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and the Ministries of Health and Education. This is an initiative which has been progressively implemented around the country and has been in progress in the Canterbury area over the last few months. It involves agencies working together and with their respective sectors to improve co-ordination of services in an effort to achieve more positive outcomes for families at risk. This will involve 120 agency and community groups from throughout the region.

- ◇ The fourth edition (1997) of 'From Welfare to Wellbeing' is called 'Wellbeing for our children and young people'. Income Support is one of the areas of activity undertaken by the Department to fulfil the 'From Welfare to Wellbeing' vision.

## ✠ Ministry for the Environment

### *Health, safety and wellbeing*

- ◇ Indirect involvement in these issues.

### *Physical environment and design*

- ◇ The Ministry has a role in ensuring that the Christchurch City Council's and Canterbury Regional Council's resource management is consistent with the purposes of the Resource Management Act. The Ministry also has a role in producing national environmental standards and national policy statements. The needs and interest of young people, however, are not prioritised as they are assumed to be the same as everyone else.

### *Education and training*

- ◇ Involved in the development of local and national environmental education programme. The Ministry is regularly invited to lecture to University and Polytechnic classes and also provides resources for teachers and pupils. The Ministry is also involved in the development of a national qualification framework for resource managers and in increasing environmental awareness.

### ***General***

- ◇ The role of the Ministry for the Environment is determined through the Resource Management Act. The purpose of the Act is the promotion of sustainable management of natural and physical resources. See comments under Physical environment and design for specific activity.

## **✠ Ministry of Education**

### ***Health, safety and wellbeing***

- ◇ Indirect involvement through the education system (see under General below).

### ***Physical environment and design***

- ◇ Provision of school property and facilities.

### ***Education and training***

- ◇ The Ministry's role is as funder and regulator.

### ***General***

- ◇ Legislative requirement through the National Education Guidelines and National Administrative Guidelines. These Guidelines are a mandatory part of every school's charter with government. This charter includes a requirement to provide a safe physical and emotional environment and to follow the Curriculum Framework.
- ◇ The Ministry's role is to provide a legislative and regulatory framework. Meeting the needs of young people is delegated to the Boards of Trustees. Education Act funding is provided on a formula basis to individual schools who have the responsibility and requirement to meet the education needs of all students.
- ◇ Funder of schools and the Career Education Service. The National Education Guidelines require each school to ensure the career guidance and counselling needs of students are met.

## Office of the Commissioner for Children

### *Health, safety and wellbeing*

- ◇ The Commissioner's Office has a role under Section 411 of the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act, 1989. The Commissioner for Children is the statutory advocate for children.

### *Physical environment and design*

- ◇ The Commissioner's Office has a role limited to monitoring safe practices in terms of its statutory obligations.

### *Education and training*

- ◇ Providing information on national programmes and initiatives (on issues such as bullying and suicide).

### *Family*

- ◇ Development of a national forum in March 1998 called Fathering the Future.

### *General*

- ◇ The Officer of the Commissioner for Children is guided fundamentally by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified by New Zealand in 1989). The Commissioner for Children is the statutory advocate for children under Section 411 of the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act, 1989.

## Police

### *Health, safety and wellbeing*

- ◇ A limited role through the Youth Aid Section when dealing with young offenders. The Police Youth Education Service plays the main role with the 'DARE' programme and the 'Keep Ourselves Safe' programme in schools.

### *Physical environment and design*

- ◇ The Police do have a role through the Christchurch Safer Community Council.

### ***Entertainment and recreation***

- ◇ A limited role. Youth Aid staff have been involved on camps for 'at risk' young people.

### ***Education and training***

- ◇ The Police Youth Education Service is actively involved in Christchurch schools.

### ***Employment***

- ◇ The Police have no direct role but Youth Aid staff are occasionally involved in attempts to assist young offenders into jobs and/or training.

### ***Family***

- ◇ Police Youth Aid staff visit the homes of young offenders and attend Youth Justice Family Group Conferences for young offenders. They also attend some Care and Protection Family Group Conferences and are presently actively involved in the 'Strengthening Families' protocol.

### ***General***

- ◇ The Children Young Persons and Their Families Act, 1989 is the legislative framework that guides the Police. The Police are increasingly becoming aware of the need to deal with youth at risk and young offenders in a meaningful way. Additional resources have been put into the youth area.

## **✠ Southern Regional Health**

### ***Health, safety and wellbeing***

- ◇ Southern Regional Health provides funding for the wellbeing of young people. For example:
  - a primary care service for at risk young people: Youth Health Centres
  - public health nurse service to schools including contraception clinics
  - health promotion aimed at young people
  - co-ordinating services for young people.

### ***Physical environment and design***

- ◇ Southern Regional Health promotes access to all as an ideal and purchase specialised services for people with disabilities and therefore have physical environment and design issues.

### ***Education and training***

- ◇ Southern Regional Health purchases:
  - health education and promotion
  - some education and information provision in regards to health and disability

### ***Employment***

- ◇ Only through analysis of health needs eg pointing out that health of young people is strongly dependent on high employment.

### ***Family***

- ◇ Southern Regional Health has a role with family issues particularly through:
  - Purchasing services, including co-ordinated care services for families at risk of poor health outcomes (in need of additional care and support)
  - Participation in strengthening families project
  - Funding for sexual and reproductive health services
  - Funding for child and family health support services
  - Funding for primary care and well child services eg Plunket
  - Purchase support mechanisms/people, information, services for young people with disabilities