


## 5. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

### INNER CITY INTER AGENCY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION



Lisa Mora, Community Development Worker, was granted speaking rights to present the Inner City Community Development Interagency Project/Research. The project/research was initiated in April 2002 by the Richmond Fellowship in conjunction with the Family and Community Division of Anglican Care. The primary aim was to identify those most at risk and develop initiatives for working alongside people.

Interviews took place with 45 social service delivery agencies. Lisa noted that there is a need for agencies to collaborate and communicate more. Sometimes agencies are competing for the same funding stream so there is often a duplication of existing services.

Three gaps in current service provision were identified:

- Single men 40 years plus;
- Solvent users 25 years plus; and
- People with mental health issues who fall outside the 3% threshold for specialist services

The second phase of the research was gathering information from people living on the streets of the inner city from September 2002 to April 2003 on their perspectives, aspirations and challenges.

Key issues identified included: accessibility to welfare assistance, Latimer Square safety, police, social service agencies and hygiene.

Some of the key initiatives identified were availability of affordable accommodation, a drop-in centre, contact person, practical facilities and daily activities.

A focus has been to keep agencies and organisations informed of the work undertaken to ensure transparency, encourage communication and collaboration. A group of agencies are forming a trust and exploring establishing a daytime drop-in centre for the homeless population in Christchurch to address multiple issues identified in the research. An interagency partnership agreement has been signed by 12 agencies to date.

The primary objectives of the centre include:

- to promote a sense of belonging and participation
- provide a non-judgemental and safe place to be which does not require entry criteria or referrals
- ensure access to a range of practical facilities (laundry, shower, toilet, coffee and a book corner)
- ensure the full involvement of people accessing the centre in the day-to-day running and planning of services.