

Christchurch

Methodist Mission

MAY 2011
UPDATE

We at the Christchurch Methodist Mission thank you for supporting the work we've been doing after the Christchurch earthquakes. We couldn't have done it without you.

Christchurch today is in the process of emerging from a unique and tragic set of circumstances which hopefully will not be repeated in this generation or the next. The demands it has placed upon government, social service agencies and the community are beyond anything any of us might have previously provided for. None of us were really "best-equipped" for the extraordinary consequences of these awful events.

But the Christchurch Methodist Mission is proud to report on what has been possible and the extraordinary achievements of our services and staff.

On 22 February, quietly and all but unnoticed by the media, the Christchurch Methodist Mission became one of the first organisations to be up, running and ready to respond to needs that were instantly emerging.

The financial support of a number of funding agencies, businesses, parishes, communities and charitable trusts and many gifts from both within and beyond New Zealand, meant the Christchurch Methodist Mission could immediately redeploy all its free resources to earthquake relief.

We want to acknowledge your extraordinary generosity.

This document will provide you with a glimpse of our response to the earthquakes. Together we can ensure a brighter future for Christchurch and all who live here.

Thank you.


Christchurch
Methodist Mission

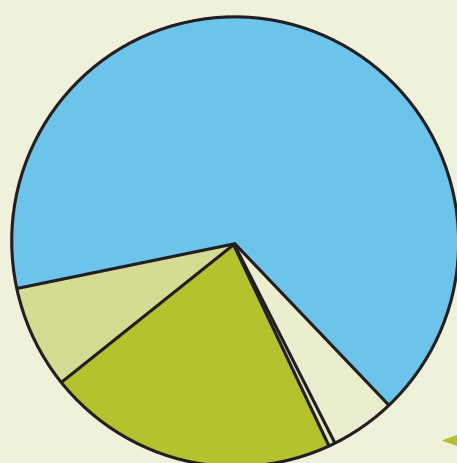


Our earthquake **RESPONSE:**

Your generosity allows the Christchurch Methodist Mission to respond to rapidly changing needs. Here are some of the services we are providing, in addition to our usual programmes.

Mission Support for Operation Suburbs

Operation Suburbs involved building inspectors, welfare officers and volunteers, coordinated by the city council, going door-to-door to check on the welfare of people in their homes. People requiring support were referred on to organisations such as ours to follow-up



Social service response
to Project Suburb referrals

Methodist Mission
66% (548 referrals)

Other agencies
34% (280 referrals)

Support for children and families in schools and local settings

Methodist Mission is providing and coordinating social services for children and families in schools and local settings. We are providing programmes for children and parents, support for teachers and services for families, including social worker support, child counselling, budget advisory services, support-to-work, liaison and support with government agencies and creditors.

Our emphasis is on building resiliency rather than retraumatising or pathologising families.

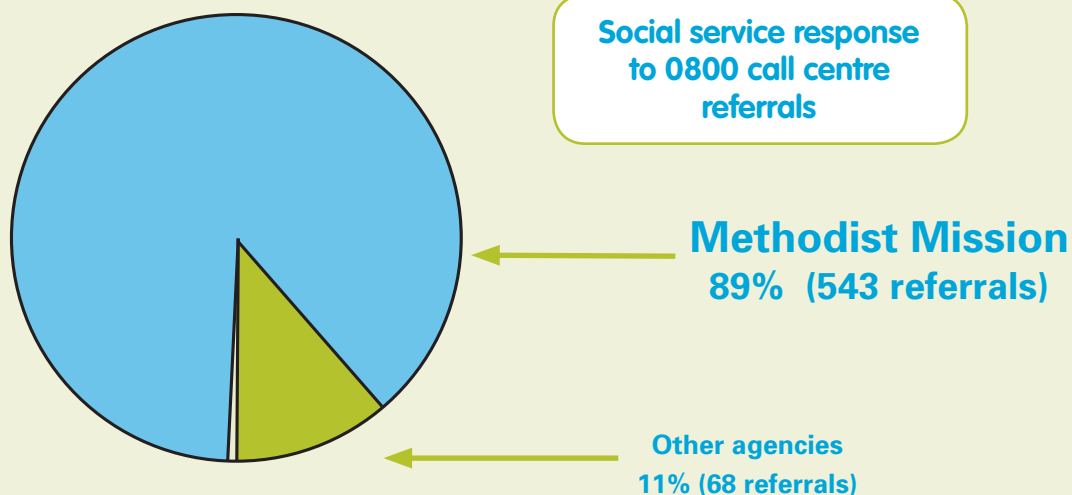
Police Response

One immediate response to the events of 22 February was the coordinated services established between New Zealand Police, Ministry of Social Development and Christchurch's social services agencies. The Police immediately allocated experienced staff to act as a Family Liaison Officer to each family who had suffered a death in the earthquake, or for whom there was a person missing, presumed deceased.

Within days and at the request of the Police, a small and highly specialised Trauma Support and Counselling Team was established. The Christchurch Methodist Mission is proud to have been part of those vital services. Over the past months, each member of that team has worked intensely alongside those families, often in very demanding circumstances.

Mission response to calls to central 0800 help line

The central government 0800 Helpline is a point of first-response to urgent emerging needs. People requiring a social service response are referred to agencies such as the Christchurch Methodist Mission to follow-up.



Back to School & Family Support programmes

The widespread consequences of the earthquake created complications and problems that families had not previously encountered. Many families lost basic household items and children lost their treasures. Others faced loss of income or increased expenses related getting to and from work. In response, generous donations enabled the Methodist Mission to establish a Back-to-School fund and expand the Family Support fund in response to the earthquake.

Through these two funds the Methodist Mission has provided assistance to families and individuals to purchase new school uniforms for children; baby clothing, cots, prams; funded petrol vouchers for job seekers enabling them to travel to interviews; buy bedding and fund birthday presents for children. For many families this small fund has been of vital importance.



Our earthquake **RESPONSE:**



Christmas Support-a-Family programme

Looking back to post the September quake, the Christchurch Methodist Mission's Support-a-Family programme supported many families through what can be a very difficult moment of the year. But more importantly, it supported them with dignity. Our donors provided the most spectacular hampers of food and Christmas gifts which enabled the recipient families and individuals to celebrate Christmas in their own home among their own people.

Last Christmas because of the generosity of our donors, the Methodist Mission was able year to extend the programme to support families and individuals affected by the September earthquake. And for the first time the programme was extended to provide Christmas hampers for older people living alone.

Hosting 'Right Service Right Time'

We are hosting the Right Service Right Time service. Through the RSRT pathway people access the full range of accredited NGO services in Christchurch. Calls are received from government agencies, schools, primary health and families. Each call is assessed allocated to the appropriate organisation to respond.

Working for a brighter future

Our dedicated staff are able to work across a wide spectrum of concerns. We have skilled, highly qualified and experienced social workers, psychologists, teachers, community recreation specialists, counsellors, community development workers and financial advisors working together to support individuals and families. We don't limit ourselves to working with just one community, one issue, one age or population group. Thus we are well placed to serve in a city now faced with high and complex needs.

**We couldn't do it
without your support
Thank you**



Christchurch
Methodist Mission

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