

Annual Manager's Report March 2010

Our Place in Christchurch/Canterbury's Social Outcomes:

The Canterbury Men's Centre is accountable to our funders and the people of Canterbury for making real improvements in the lives of men/boys and those they relate to.

We provide drop-in/referral support for men. The men that come to us aren't "shopping" for information, as we had expected. They are dealing with a crisis and need a person to talk to immediately about: housing, medical conditions, trauma, grief, and separation. We typically meet them once then refer them on to appropriate supports. Many of them don't wish to continue with any further services as they have received the support and information they wanted while at our agency. According to different informed sources help seeking behaviour by men is growing, but the pattern of 'too little too late' (compared with women) is still very clear. We hope our presence addresses some of this deficit, and opens men up to other healthy behaviour.

We support the broader social sector's provision for men and boys. We promote and support initiatives such as the Methodist Mission/Salvation Army "Men on a Mission" group. We produce a monthly e-newsletter for male related services/courses to inform community workers (Male Call). We run a monthly forum for male community/health/education workers. We also support one off events that have men as their focus.

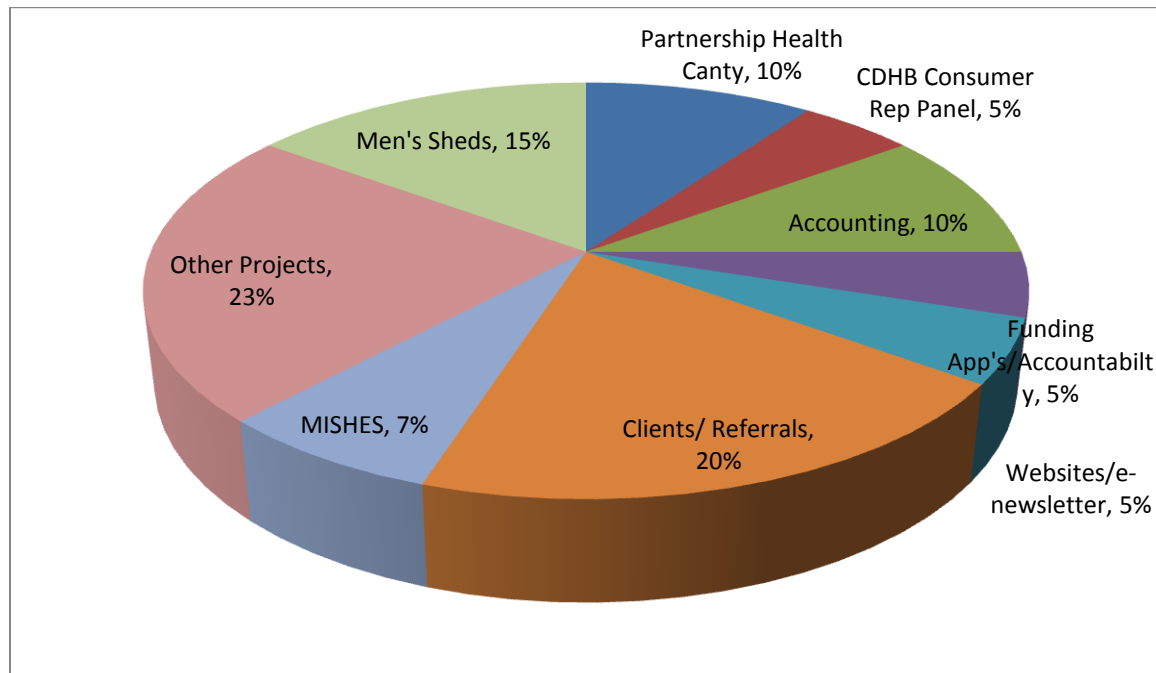
We inform social and health systems about the needs of men and boys. I am actively providing information through my participation on the Partnership Health Canterbury board, the Christchurch Council of Social Services, and the CDHB's Consumer Advisory Council.

We bolster services that support men and boys. Father and Child Trust, Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse, the Men's Advocacy Network, Mensline, MensTrust, Tracks, and the Men's Sheds groups have all expressed their gratitude for our support and are keen to see us to continue in our current role.

My last annual report noted that we hoped we were making a difference to men's suicide statistics especially with the economic downturn. Two men have told us in 2009 that we made the difference to them with this decision, and though there is room for more I'm glad to say we made this difference.

More than anything about 2009 I'd note that it has been rewarding to find that men are picking up the resources we hand out and seem to be acting on them. Agencies tell us clients reach them through our work, and that is something that may not have happened without our effort.

What do Simon and Donald do With Their Time?



The above chart shows an estimate of how we are spending our time. At our AGM and strategy meeting this coming week I hope to have some clarity as to whether this is the proper mix to meet our agency objectives and where we should be going over the coming years.

Health Sector work requires approximately 15% of our time and provides 7% of our income. This is down from last year's effort as I'm more knowledgeable about the health system and quickly get through any reading required. While doing this work I am focussed on the community sector. I see my role in health forums as one that will result in improved community outcomes for men and boys. If because I am on these panels more organisations are running effective programmes, in a more male inclusive way, then we are adding something useful to both men's health and their well-being.

Funding:

It is a tight funding environment currently and we had to at one point decrease our hours to make up the shortfall. Despite this, I think we have done very well for a new agency and I believe that we are still able to fulfil our purpose in the foreseeable future.

I'd like to thank the following funders for their support in 2009;

Christchurch City Council
Canterbury Community Trust
Lotteries New Zealand

For Canterbury Men's Health and Well-being

Community Organisations Grants Scheme
Southern Trust
Alcohol Advisory Council
Pub Charity
Eureka Trust
NZ Post Community Post

Summary of January to December 2010:

We have increased the amount of time we spend with clients or talking to community workers about a client in the last year from 5% to 20%. We expect this will continue to grow in the coming years as we develop our profile in the community.

Staffing:

Our Office Coordinator Simon Gurnsey has stepped into his role very well and has been a useful addition to our effort. Due to the funding shortfall near the end of 2009 Simon and I both decreased our hours with him going from 16 to 8 and I going from 32 to 24. This has been reinstated as of last month.

Drop-in Support

We expect to expand our drop-in/assessment/referral support for men in 2010. We expect more referrals and drop ins as a natural result of our being better known in the community but also through a broader distribution of our flyers through a six monthly mail out to agencies. Up until now we have only been sending flyers to agencies and workers that request it.

Our one on one work has relied on men's perceptions of us being a "male friendly" agency. We use a peer based approach, sharing stories of other men leading into informing male clients about relevant services. This has been adequate up until now but I expect to improve on it by searching out more appropriate models.

Men that come to see us have been predominantly dealing with the following issues;

- Domestic violence as perpetrators, victims and more often as some combination
- Separation
- Depression, suicide and mental health issues

The men that show up at our door aren't "shopping". They are usually in some crisis. This is partly due to our location, and partly due to men's help-seeking behaviour patterns. I expect to have more of a feel for this issue in the coming year.

Promotion of Community Information to Men and Boys:

We have distributed 7,000 of our flyers related to social and health services for men in Canterbury with limited effort. Community and Health workers as well as clients have demonstrated a sincere interest in these flyers requiring a third round of printing which we did in glossy format.

Feedback about our web site has been very flattering from a range of providers and male clients, though we do limited maintenance. Our understanding of the research is that men are more likely to use computers to access community and health information and that this is an important doorway. The following chart shows the number of daily unique viewers of our site.



The main search terms for the past week have been:

Support for Men	14 views
Our Services	5 views
Male Call	5 views
Our Manager	4 views
Christchurch City Council	4 views
Our Board	4 views
Contact Us	3 views

Our **Fathers and Separation** flyer has been very well-received (700 sent out) and after an initial release for 3 months is now ready to be printed in bulk in glossy format. This flyer came out of a **Christchurch City Council** project funding project. The agencies listed on the flyer tell us men have been turning up at their doors with the flyer in their hands, and we expect are having better outcomes as a result.

Our **Men's Shed** flyer has also been very useful. We have so far distributed 900 of them and need to print another edition. The various men's sheds have been using them for their own purposes, and the web site we maintain www.menssheds.org.nz has been useful at a regional as well as a national level by men to find their local shed.

Male Call, our monthly e-newsletter has hit saturation point locally with most community workers and many health workers knowing about it. It has been a useful vector for us to keep relationships fresh with most editions of the e-mail prompting a range of request from workers for either more information or for support to improve the outcomes for a particular male client.

The **Man Board** is a flyer stand outside our office which has 50 slots with relevant flyers about men's issues and groups and we find that the flyers often need to be restocked.

Support of Local Men's Groups:

1. MensTrust: I've provided peer supervision to the new employee, Gordon Hamblyn, while he finds his feet.
2. Father and Child Trust: I am on the board and this keeps us working closely with each other to meet the needs of fathers.
3. Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse: I work very closer with Ken Clearwater and find that many of my clients benefit from a referral to his agency. Statistics show that between 10% and 25% of men experienced some sexual abuse in childhood and many of the men that present to us identify their early abuse as limiting their current mental health.
4. Mensline: We refer men to the Mensline group and also support them by recommending men in the community to volunteer as group facilitators.
5. Tracks: Tracks is forming in Canterbury and needs some help to keep their local team true to their vision. They run "Transition to Manhood" 5 day events for boys. I've met with their team 5 times this year and provide supervision to their leaders as they require it.
6. Men's Advocacy Network: We inform them of any political issues and forward requests to them for consideration.
7. Men on a Mission: Run by the Salvation Army and The Christchurch Methodist Mission this group comes to the CMC for one of their sessions in which I talk about local services for men and boys. The tutors tell me that the men make very positive comments about the visit.

Men's Sheds

Our work to support the Men's Shed movement has been very rewarding this year with the first shed opening in early 2010. Eight other sheds are under development in Canterbury, though three of them seem to have stalled for now. We produce and distribute the flyers, talk about the sheds at events, act as an information sharing place for those building sheds and for those looking to find a shed. As the sheds develop I expect our role will be more about making offers to them from health promoters. An example of this is our current partnership with the Heart Foundation to run three healthy dinner fundraising events for older men using the shed groupings.

Men in Risk

This monthly group is for social workers and agencies concerned about **male victims of domestic violence**. Nationally, 8% of police arrests involve female perpetrators with a male victim. This project was prompted by a request by Victim Support to address the issue and slow progress has been made. We have set up a draft web site but further work is needed on this, and some clarity about how to manage the response from male victims. We have agreed that Victim Support, Father and Child Trust, and the CMC will take male victims of domestic violence as clients.

Tane Ora

For Canterbury Men's Health and Well-being

I have been supporting a range of Maori male workers to run a Tane Ora event in June 2010 during Men's Health Week and have started monthly meetings with a range of parties to support this happening.

Men in Social/Health/Education/Employment Services

This group has been running for 20 months and is a monthly catch up place for male workers. There is usually a speaker from amongst the group or we bring someone in from outside. 90 men are on the contact list with 12-20 attending each month.

Koru Men's Group

Meeting monthly we formed this group for gay men leaving heterosexual relationships in conjunction with the New Zealand Aids Foundation and Richard Tankersley when they found this to be a growing need. The group is small but the attendees say it is useful to them.

Speaking/Promotion Events

Our Men's Health Week 2009 was very successful at bringing together a range of services to show what they are doing for men's health. Dr Doug Sellman spoke briefly about alcohol use and the services reflected on the impact on their males. Mayor Bob Parker also spoke at the event. This event was useful in educating the male workers and forming links. It was not very useful in reaching men in the community, partly because of my limited promotional skills and effort.

Best wishes

Donald Pettitt
Manager