

DUNCAN COTTERILL BUSINESS LUNCH ACHIEVES RECORD PROFIT



On 4 November, as the election campaign swung into action, around 120 members of the Christchurch business community attended the fourth annual Duncan Cotterill Business Lunch.

In 'Food for Thought with Bill English' the Minister of Finance shared insights and observations on the New Zealand economy in the face of earthquakes, heightened global economic uncertainty, and a rapidly fluctuating currency. In his address, the Minister made several direct references to the effectiveness of FHT's service, relating this to the way that the government is approaching welfare issues, and particularly its Green Paper, which is currently out for public consultation. Speaking on behalf of the event sponsor, Duncan Cotterill partner Paul Dorrance reiterated the importance of the local business community supporting philanthropic causes. His words had excellent effect as the profit from the luncheon exceeded \$21,000, a record for the event.

HIPPY COMES TO CHRISTCHURCH

Through its association with patron Lesley Max, and her organisation Great Potentials, FHT is set to become the Christchurch provider for HIPPY (Home Intervention for Parents and Youngsters), a programme developed in Israel to help prepare children from disadvantaged homes to start school.



FHT has appointed Anne Galloway, whose background is in primary education, to co-ordinate the programme, which will initially focus on the Rowley/Hoon Hay area. Anne will appoint, train and support three part-time tutors from the local community to work with around 40 families. Their focus will be on assisting parents and caregivers of pre-schoolers to spend at least 15 minutes per day with their children on fun activities associated with learning, including reading and writing, so that they are ready to make a positive start when they reach school age.

Anne will be located at Rowley Avenue Primary School. The HIPPY programme has significant government funding, which FHT has supplemented through its own fundraising activities.

FELLOWSHIP PROVIDES ENLIGHTENING INSIGHT

Late in 2010, I was awarded a fellowship from the government-funded Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. Building on the ground-breaking work FHT has done with Christchurch Women's Prison, the award covered a study tour of prisons in the United States and the United Kingdom to investigate different ways of working with female prisoners and their infants. Financial assistance for the trip were also provided by CYF, Department of Corrections and the Lottery Minister's Discretionary Fund.

Over three months from late July, I visited and interviewed staff and inmates at five women's prisons in the United States and four in the United Kingdom, plus many community agencies and researchers working with them. It was a fascinating, enlightening and humbling time.

There are two well-established facts in social policy around nurseries in prisons: children of incarcerated parents are six to seven times more likely to be imprisoned themselves; and early mother-child bonding leads to positive future outcomes for both mother and child.

By April 2012 I aim to present a report on my study tour to various relevant ministers, government departments and other interested parties. As I reflect on my various experiences, I am drawn to the following conclusions:

- Maintaining a nursery requires passion and commitment from the prison, in particular the prison manager or governor.
- Mother-infant attachment is significantly greater for nursery inmates than it is for mothers in the general population.
- Future re-offending rates for mothers of prison nursery babies are significantly lower than for those in the general prison population.
- Nurseries help raise the morale of prison staff.
- Due to lower staff ratios for nursery inmates a prison nursery is significantly cost effective.

All prisons with nurseries felt they were cost effective and reduced reoffending rates; and none had an incident where an infant was harmed or the prison exposed.

New Zealand has entered this area relatively recently and has much to gain from the international experiences, mainly that policy makers should only be concerned with what it costs to establish and maintain a prison nursery when they understand what it costs if you do not establish one.

Libby Robins, Director, Family Help Trust

JEANETTE PATRICK, FAMILY HELP TRUST ADMINISTRATOR

I started working at FHT in April 2006. My previous career was in the hospitality sector, in administration roles in brewing companies, as well as owning a hotel in Hokitika, with my husband, for three years.



Working as West Coast publicans we saw a different side of life at times, one that was not pleasant, such as benefits being spent on parents rather than children, neglect and abuse: a side to life we'd had nothing to do with before and knew nothing about. Although we tried to help, we realised the more we gave the more was expected from us. We knew there had to be a better way.

When I saw the FHT administrator's job advertised it was a 'eureka' moment. I thought 'At last someone is doing something positive!' I was keen to be involved in really making a difference in the lives of some of the same kind of families we had met on the Coast.

Seeing the positive changes many of our families have made after receiving help from FHT is a great inspiration.

I do think back, though, to the days when we knew smoking was not OK, although no-one really cared, so not much changed. Back then it took a determined campaign over quite a few years, by both the government, health professionals and the anti-smoking lobby to persuade the majority of people that smoking is not OK. Only then did the public perception of smoking start to change.

We need the same kind of campaign against child abuse. Everyone needs to realise that, sooner or later, both the victims and the perpetrators of child abuse affect the entire population. It really is OUR problem. Only when the majority of New Zealanders understand that will we really be able to prevent child abuse.

On many occasions I have explained where I work and what FHT does only to hear 'I'm glad someone is doing something: all those poor babies dying, thank God it doesn't affect me.'

Well, actually, it does.

CHRISTMAS ANGELS – THANKS TO SPONSORS

FHT's Christmas Angels programme provides gift packs of beauty, health and skincare products to parents and caregivers of the children in the Trust's service. Our grateful acknowledgement to the companies that have donated their wares this year: Ebos, Linden Leaves, Douglas, Antipodes, Evolu, Mylan, Arrow, Tender Love and Carry, McPherson's Consumer Products and Scenic Group.

These gifts recognise the extra effort that each parent and caregiver in the FHT service puts in to learning new skills and caring for their children.

CONTINUOUS SPONSORS



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SUCCESS OF BOOK BENEFITING FHT

All royalties from a book of images shot by police photographers in the Christchurch CBD during the ten weeks following February's earthquake are being donated to FHT. After its publication in September, 'Christchurch 22.2: Beyond the Cordon Through the Eyes of New Zealand Police Photographers' went straight to number one in the NZ Bestsellers Top 10, selling its first print run of 30,000 copies in five days, going to a reprint soon afterwards and remaining in the top ten ever since. With a recommended retail price of \$49.99, the book is for sale in most bookshops. As an added bonus, Whitcoulls are also donating \$10 to FHT from each copy it sells this year. Funds raised are particularly precious for FHT during what are likely to be difficult times for the community sector, especially in Christchurch.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS...

57 New Zealand children are abused each and every day

135,000 Tax dollars to imprison the perpetrators, many of whom were themselves abused as children

21 Years The Family Help Trust has been in existence

1,000 Children have been assisted in that time

6,000 Dollars is all it takes per year, for five years of support and education to break the cycle of abuse

03 365 9912
The number to call to donate, or visit www.familyhelptrust.org.nz and be part of the solution.

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS? WE WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU...

but we also want to consider our environment and cut down on printing and paper costs. Please take the time to email Jeanette on jeanette@familyhelptrust.org.nz with "email address" as the Subject line. We will forward future newsletters and communications to you via email.