



Newsletter

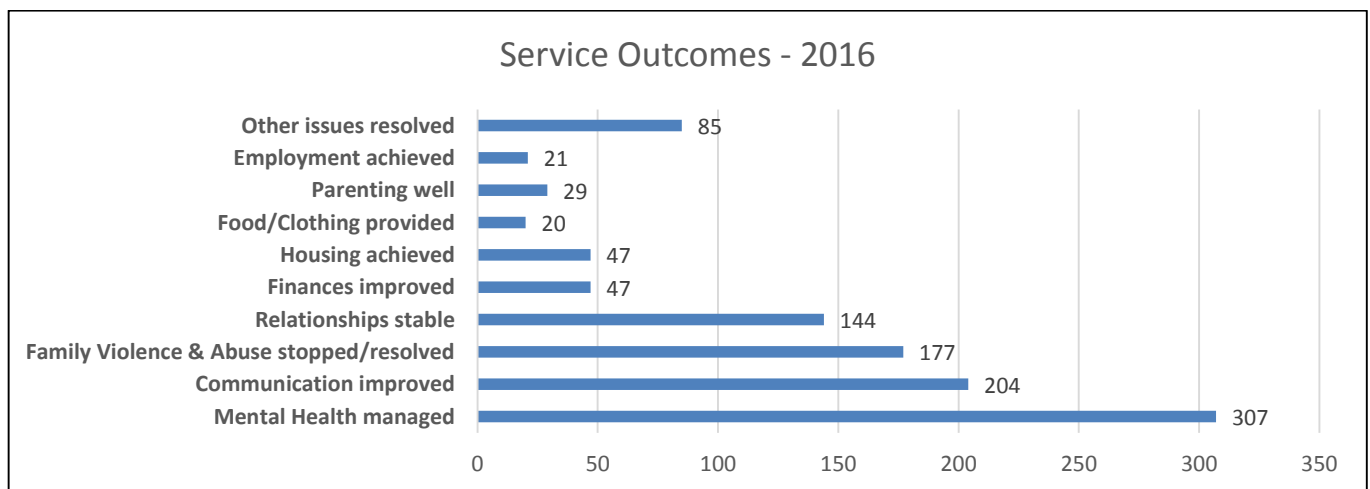
March 2016

Greetings,

Last year the show of generosity from the community through donations of food, clothing, household furniture and financial support was overwhelming and a real helping hand to vulnerable members of our community experiencing hardship, especially families and their children during Christmas. This show of generosity is evident throughout the year. It is a demonstration that we are living Pope Francis's call for a missionary Church that supports those most in need "We are called to give of our substance and not only of our surplus" (Fr, Arupe sj).

This agency supported 415 clients who presented 1081 issues of various concerns in 2015. Our work has resulted in helping these people, families and children to achieve their goals (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Service Outcomes - 2016



The highlight of these achievements has been the gradual decrease of family violence cases undertaken by this agency; 15% on prior years. This is in spite of increasing statistics across New Zealand.

Making a Difference to Family Violence Sufferers



Cabrini Makasiale facilitates Living Without Violence programme

The decrease in family violence could be attributed to many reasons, but one of these reasons could be the development of "Living without Violence" Programme developed specifically for different ethnic groups. We have piloted the first programme for our Pacific community, where we have partnered with Waitemata and Auckland DHB to work with community and Church leaders in West Auckland and North Shore. The programme comprised workshops, supervision of community workshops, social work

and counselling support. We are at the supervision stage where Church Ministers and community leaders take the tools learnt from the workshop to teach and support their communities. It is also the work we do in partnership with Police Family Violence Inter-Agency Service (FVIARS) in Central Auckland, where many families, children and individuals have been helped and are now safe and free from violence.

Homeless Children in Safe Housing

Another problem as indicated by our statistics is the increase in housing issues, which is at an all-time high. Last year our workers were able to house 47 clients (including family clients) and their children.

A priority outcome for this agency is always the safety, care and wellbeing of children. So when a mother and her children at risk of eviction were recently referred to us by Mercy Hospice, we were fortunate to find them a 3-bedroom, safe and affordable house. This outcome was achieved by working with community and housing providers. Mary, (not real name) was referred by Mercy Hospice, then caring for her father, who previously was living with Mary and her children. Mary was her father's caregiver for several years prior to his admission to Mercy. When she and her children were asked to leave the Housing NZ home rented by her father, they found it extremely difficult to find decent housing in Auckland.

Our clients are homeless mainly due to the shortage of affordable rental housing and the need for more social housing. This affects all demographics, with a growing need among the elderly. Our clients are experiencing significant hardship and are living in sub-standard conditions. Our concern is the health and safety of children and the elderly who are more prone to illnesses caused by inadequate living conditions. Our Social Workers are working with housing providers and community to help and find solutions.

Become a "Friend of Catholic Social Service"

CSS is calling on supporters that can be a "Friend" of this agency. Being a "Friend" would mean receiving regular newsletters and other notifications of events or news items of interest. But most importantly it is being involved and supporting our vision; having "Christ's compassion in our communities". We look forward to receiving your details.

We are also seeking people who are interested to volunteer their time (2-4 hours minimum a week) to work with us and support Our "Fit for Mission" contribution.

Warmest Regards

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I would like to be a: (tick box) ☐ "Friend" ☐ Volunteer

Name _____

Address _____

Contact Phone _____ Email: _____

Please send your form in the postage paid envelope provided to:

Catholic Social Services, PO Box 47118, Ponsonby, Auckland 114

Or call us on: 09 378 9650 or visit our website: www.cssauckland.org.nz