



Community Networks Wellington Inc.

Co-chairs Report

Community Networks Wellington Annual General Meeting

22nd August 2018

The last year has been one where Community Networks Wellington has enjoyed being at the centre of many important discussions for the Wellington community sector.

We are really fortunate to have a strong and connected Executive Committee with representatives across the scope of community social services in the region.

There is no doubt the current environment has a number of challenges for community organisations. More than ever it feels that there is a need for organisations that bring together people working in community to connect, share information and collaborate.

Our annual network survey was conducted in a person again this year, during our March hui. The results collated and gave clear messages on the direction for work this year and a basis for our discussions with WCC and other government organisations.

COMMUNITY NETWORKS WELLINGTON – TOP 5 PRIORITIES 2018	
<p>1. Mental Health and Addictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Not enough services ➤ Inadequately funded ➤ Complexity of access ➤ Only crisis provision not enough longer-term therapeutic support ➤ No strategic approach to liquor/gaming licensing 	<p>2. Housing & Homelessness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of the following types of housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency ○ Permanent ○ Specialist ○ Social ➤ High rental costs ➤ Poor housing quality ➤ Lack of information on housing services
<p>3. Social Isolation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Across generations ➤ Urban and sub-urban ➤ Across cultures ➤ Isolation of former refugees 	<p>4. Poverty and Financial Inequality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Growing/new poor due to rising costs of living <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working poor ○ Separated families ○ People on low wages coming up to retirement ➤ Child poverty ➤ Reduced access to dental and medical care

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transport costs ➤ Lack of sustained support for vulnerable groups e.g. former refugees, homeless, Mental Health and Addiction service users
5. Funding for the Community Sector:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Underfunding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10 years since any review ○ Fully funded statutory services vs. partially funded NGOs ○ Lack of money to cover costs e.g. technology, enough staff, training ○ Pay equity, staff are overworked and underpaid ➤ Time spent on applying for funding ➤ Time spent on government reporting 	

Our relationship with WCC continues to grow and we have had 4 meetings this year. From this relationship and discussions at the meetings we have been commissioned to host (in partnership) a 2 day Wellington City Social Forum. This is an exciting opportunity for the people working across Wellington’s social sector to come together to discuss important social issues that affect our city.

(For more information contact Julia Burgess, Social Forum Project Administrator at socialforum@cnw.org.nz)

Some of the highlights from the year include:

- Overall increase in network meeting attendance and participation
- Regular meetings with the Wellington City Councillors
- Request from WCC to convene a 2 day Wellington City Social Forum in partnership with them
- Ongoing and increasing demand for our newsletter – increasing submissions and content
- Increase in membership from a range of organisations
- A joint CNW submission to the Wellington Regional Council on the cost of public transport, an issue indicated to be a member priority last year
- A workshop hui and joint CNW submission to the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addictions
- Building on connections with the CCDHB as a major player in the health of our community
- Strong executive representing the diversity of the community sector and gaining 3/4 new Executive members:
 - Kirsty Buggins, Manager, Wellington Night Shelter
 - Manda Grubner, General Manager, Community Law and
 - Mike Hinton, General Manager, Restorative Practices Aotearoa (RPA)
 - Geoff Curson, Newtown Budgeting and Advocacy Service (outgoing at this AGM)

Community Networks Wellington is an organisation built on goodwill, generosity and passion. Consequently there are many people to thank for the successes of the year.

Thank you to:

- Wellington City Council – for the funding we receive and the use of the council meeting rooms
- Lotteries and COGS and for funding contributions
- Deb Delaney – CNW’s coordinator who keeps the organisation running in a day-to-day way

- Janette Ritchie – the woman behind the CNW ever popular newsletter
- Anna Symons – CNW’s Project Coordinator who connects CNW with a range of community organisations and organises our guest speakers
- Nikki Geeson and Xiaotong Yang - our volunteer writers for our newsletter
- All of our guest speakers from throughout the year:
 - Housing – Lisbeth Gronbaek, Policy Advisor, Citizen's Advice Bureau NZ, Scott Figenshow, Community Housing Aotearoa
 - Mental Health – Catriona McLagan, Platform Trust, Bron Poad, Pathways, Deidre Dahlberg, Pablos Art Studios
 - Youthline Wellington
 - Samaritans of Wellington
 - Money Matters – Darien Mahony, Community Law, Geoff Curson, Newtown Budgeting and Advocacy Service, Lyndy McIntyre, Living Wage Movement, Tim Barnett, National Building Financial Capability Trust
 - PSC Family Works’ Out of Gate programme
 - Electoral Commission and Regenerate Magazine
 - Justice – Dr. Ian Lambie, Chief Science Advisor to the Justice sector, Aphra Green, Ministry of Justice, Jacqui Moyes, Arts Access Aotearoa, Mike Hinton, Restorative Practices Aotearoa
 - Matariki – Moira Wairama, Storyteller
- The CNW executive – a group of busy community leaders who find time to give to CNW
- Our network members who take time out of their busy work lives to participate in our network meetings and read and share in our newsletters

Community Networks Wellington is in a positive position to face the year ahead. We look forward to working and sharing with you all for another exciting year.

Deidre Dahlberg and Julia Hennessy
 Co-chairs Community Networks Wellington
 August 2018

<i>What do network members value about our joint network in 2018?</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection • Opportunity to meet others/network • Face to face meetings in real connection rather than emails • Faces to names • Growing relationships between organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time and space to focus on the bigger community issues and reflect • Sharing information and finding out what’s happening in the community • Information sharing • Network is good at putting out information • Newsletter x 2 • Newsletter is great – informative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective voice for our community • Collective voice of the network – to advocate • Proactive – doing something with the feedback we provide • A focus/theme for each meeting/external speakers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing what’s happening in the community • Reminding of what services exist • Finding out what’s happening in Wellington