

# Greater Christchurch Psychosocial Committee Report

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July – December 2016

**The greater Christchurch Psychosocial Committee plans, coordinates, promotes, and monitors the psychosocial recovery and wellbeing of the population of greater Christchurch.**

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## Background

The Psychosocial Committee is an interagency group which came into existence in September 2010 with the aim of ensuring appropriate supports are in place for the population to recover from the earthquakes. Together, we are responsible for overseeing the delivery of the Community in Mind Strategy's Shared Programme of Action which includes numerous initiatives, services and supports, including the 0800 Canterbury Support line, the Earthquake Support Coordination Service, free counselling, and the 'All Right?' campaign.

The Committee meets monthly and convenes more frequently if needed. Meetings focus on surveying the psychosocial landscape to identify emerging or ongoing wellbeing issues within greater Christchurch and how to address these. As the Hurunui / Kaikoura earthquake sequence has repercussions for organisations around the table which are involved in the wider region, the Committee takes an interest in the recent events from a psychosocial recovery perspective.

Current members of the committee are: 'All Right?', Canterbury DHB (Allied Health, Community and Public Health, Planning and Funding), Christchurch City Council, Earthquake Commission, Earthquake Disability Leadership Group (now called Christchurch for Everybody), Earthquake Support Coordination Service, Land Information New Zealand, Mental Health Education and Resource Centre, Mental Health Foundation, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, Ministry of Education, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Ministry of Social Development, New Zealand Red Cross, One Voice Te Reo Kotahi (NGO delegate), Pegasus Health, Selwyn District Council, Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu, Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Raranga Interchurch Forum, University of Canterbury, and Waimakariri District Council.

The Psychosocial Committee escalates issues to the Psychosocial Governance Group as appropriate. Governance Group members are: Canterbury DHB, Christchurch City Council, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet Greater Christchurch Group, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Development, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Police, Selwyn District Council, and Waimakariri District Council.

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## Achievements

- Response to Hurunui / Kaikoura earthquake sequence. A special meeting was held on 15 November to map the responses carried out by Committee members, and to identify emerging needs and resources required.

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- In response to the Hurunui / Kaikoura earthquake sequence the 0800 Canterbury Support line was renamed the Earthquake Support Line and is now available nationally.
- Successful release of the 2016 Canterbury Wellbeing Index and Canterbury Wellbeing Survey in September 2016. The Canterbury Wellbeing Index is a set of measures or indicators from over twenty local and national agencies across a diverse range of fields including health, education, housing, and employment. The Canterbury Wellbeing Survey is a representative sample of greater Christchurch residents undertaken every six months. The Survey shows continued improvements in wellbeing across many of the measures, but a number of Cantabrians are still struggling with earthquake-related stressors.
- MSD Community Investment incorporated Psychosocial Committee advice into its funding assessment process for allocation of residual funding.
- The review of the Community in Mind Shared Programme of Action was completed and the Committee released the revised Shared Programme.
- Supported existing monitoring of youth wellbeing by sending a letter of support for the Youth2000 survey series.
- Workforce wellbeing – a cross government working group is developing a paper for the Canterbury Government Leaders Group and Psychosocial Governance Group.

## Continuing conversations / challenges

- Resource needed for work being done in North Canterbury / Kaikoura by organisations already at capacity.
- Workforce wellbeing a continuing concern.
- Concern regarding high demand for services where there is insufficient funding for provision.
- NGOs and NGO networks with referral challenges given youth mental health waitlists.
- People exceeding threshold for earthquake counselling but not meeting criteria for more intensive support.

## Presenters

- 0-18 report – analysis of mental health and wellbeing chapter – Michael Butchard, Community and Public Health
- EQC update on 14 February earthquake and claims - Jayne Lapin and Keith Land, EQC
- Older People and the Canterbury Earthquakes – Sally Keeling, Otago and Massey Universities
- Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Learning and Legacy Programme – Hilary Blake, DPMC
- LINZ Update – Jeremy Barr, LINZ
- Geography of Mental Health Post-2010/11 Earthquakes in Canterbury – Simon Kingham, University of Canterbury
- Canterbury Wellbeing Index – Emma Kenagy, CDHB

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## **Find out more**

Revised Community in Mind Shared Programme of Action

[www.cph.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/CommunityInMindSharedProgrammeOfAction.pdf](http://www.cph.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/CommunityInMindSharedProgrammeOfAction.pdf)

Community in Mind strategy

[www.cph.co.nz/your-health/community-in-mind/](http://www.cph.co.nz/your-health/community-in-mind/)

Canterbury Wellbeing Survey

[www.cph.co.nz/your-health/wellbeing-survey/](http://www.cph.co.nz/your-health/wellbeing-survey/)

Canterbury Wellbeing Index

[www.cph.co.nz/your-health/canterbury-wellbeing-index/](http://www.cph.co.nz/your-health/canterbury-wellbeing-index/)