

Report of Presbyterian Support New Zealand to the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand General Assembly 2023

Recommendations

1. That the Assembly asks the Council of Assembly to consider the successes within the innovative partnership between us and lift its support, in the next budget round, the Church's annual contributions to PresCare.

Executive Synopsis of Report

Community based care and support, counselling and social services like all that Presbyterian Support provide are in growing demand throughout Aotearoa. The pandemic and other global economic factors have had severe and far-reaching impact locally, as well have all the local weather disasters and emergencies across the regions. The impacts are economic, spiritual and social: there is worsened food insecurity, material hardship and housing crisis, more financial stress and mental anxiety in households creating more conditions of neglect for children, disputes between parents and worse, family and/or sexual violence.

We are proud of the difference we make with our diverse regional mix of available services for those who need help most. Over the last two years we have been responsive in every region to the heightened mental health needs of our community, growing our variety of mental health services to cater for all ages of tamariki, rangatahi, parents and grandparents. With our services we also see ourselves doing much to prevent family and sexual violence and break intergenerational violence for some whānau.

None of the global contributing factors to the heightened need in Aotearoa will go away any time soon: We continue to see the spread of Covid 19 across the country, wars in other parts of the world continue to threaten our food supplies, and climate change science alerts us that flooding events and storms will only become more frequent in years to come. That is why collectively, Presbyterian Support leaders have developed position statements on Housing, Poverty and Mental Health. We see it our duty to reflect, as one of New Zealand's largest and longest-standing community based social service organisations, on the difference we successfully make - yet the difference we must still make - to improve conditions among those we serve. These positions support the advocacy of all our Leaders and are proudly published on our national website.

Presbyterian Support has made significant progress in its cultural development and Te Tiriti o Waitangi journey. At national office and in each region, we learn new ways of operating and leading to make Māori team members feel valued and help us serve Māori whānau honourably. We keep learning that across Aotearoa, iwi's values and objectives are similar to our own and there is great opportunity in partnering with them, as we do the Church. All of us mean to serve and protect Aotearoa's people, so we seek ways to understand and incorporate the necessary tikanga and te reo to do this appropriately for tangata whenua.

We are so grateful for the volunteer support and donations from church members that enable us to continue our regional services. Many different government agencies fund the varied elements of our work, yet none of their funding matches the demand we see for support and care in our communities. We welcome all the more volunteers to come, and we raise funds from our communities locally to ensure government's dollar goes all the way to meeting regional demand, also sustaining our staff and volunteers' wellbeing, supervise and train our specialist or new team members, and provide some programs that government doesn't fund at all.

We remain committed to engaging with and working alongside the Church, through both our Prescare initiatives in each region and as a local donations manager for the Tindall Foundation. With Prescare, we aim to accumulate power that comes from both the Church and Presbyterian Support sharing similar values and objectives. Through partnerships between us incredible things have happened and there is so much opportunity for us to achieve more. For example, in our Northern region time and resources is concentrated on managing a pilot scheme in Mt Roskill, Auckland, built from the partnership between Presbyterian Support and the local church community. Our wish is for the success of this initiative to be duplicated in more regions, with the promise of enormous long-term benefits for communities across Aotearoa.

Disaster Response and Community Resilience

The unprecedented snowfall and gale force winds of August 2021 affected most parts of the South Island, while heavy rains a month earlier had seen widespread and severe flooding in the West Coast, affecting Westport particularly harshly when the Buller River broke its banks and inundated the town. While there is an organised crisis response for such devastating weather in the immediate aftermath, it was in the long months afterwards where our services in Southland, Otago, South Canterbury, Upper South Island and Central were met with increasing demand and saw increasing complexity of needs within the households they were serving.

In 2023 New Zealand has suffered ongoing flooding in the Northern and East Coast regions, and we anticipate long aftermaths of increasing unmet economic, social and spiritual needs in these communities, similar to the demand we saw in the south. Meeting this need out in the community became more difficult for both regions however, due to flooding and storm damage to many of their own facilities and also vehicles.

Cyclone Gabrielle caused flood damage to around a third of the rooms in Presbyterian Support's Enliven facility Rowan House, in Taradale, for example. All 22 young disabled people had to be evacuated during the cyclone. The top priority still is to get those young residents back into their homes as soon as possible. Unfortunately, due to the urgency in the region, there isn't a suitable temporary accommodation available for them, but we also need to ensure that the repair work is not rushed and done thoroughly so that there are no moisture-related problems down the track.

Under such conditions, it is impossible for Presbyterian Support to continue under "Business as usual" paradigms. Everything has had to adjust, in all regions, to meet the new demands of aftermath and recovery within households and across communities. When our Upper South Island region was grappling with the flooding in 2021, the East Coast regions' CEO sent staff down to support the teams with their extra work supporting whānau in crisis. In 2023, the favour could be returned: Upper South Island's CEO donated \$10,000 from its reserves to help purchase Rowan House's emergency generator, so that the residents could at least have power again in parts of their homes.

Looking forward, all our Centres need to invest in emergency generators for this likely loss of power during future climate events. Future-proofing our own facilities and adopting and training staff in new adaptive models of operation are significant investments we need support to make, if we are to continue being effective across New Zealand.

Some of the ways we're addressing the increased mental health need within communities, for all ages

- Family Works Counselling for Children – If there are concerns about a child's behaviour, or emotional wellbeing, and the child is struggling, our confidential counselling and social support services help. The Family Works team includes trained counsellors, programme facilitators for children and their parents,

and social workers who can work on a range of issues such as anxiety, phobia, panic attacks, grief, loss and depression, sleeping and eating problems, anger, violence and the effects of abuse, behavioural and relationship issues.

- **Mana Ake** – Presbyterian Support Upper South Island partners with Mana Ake to provide mental health and wellbeing support to children in primary school years 1-8 across Canterbury. Mana Ake include psychologists, social workers and counsellors who help support schools and whānau when children are experiencing issues such as relationships and bullying, managing emotions, grief and loss, parental separation.
- **Mighty Minds** – A new initiative created by Presbyterian Support Upper South Island's child and family psychologists Gabby Begg and Jillisa Wainwright. It is a six-week program for children aged 12-14 who are referred to Presbyterian Support in Otautahi Christchurch or are currently on the waiting list for individual therapy. The sessions teach strategies for dealing with emotions, behaviours and thoughts.
- **Whānau Ngāhau – Playful Families** – In South Canterbury the Family Works teams found that many tamariki referred to them had experienced developmental and/or relational trauma and had behavioural, emotional, and/or developmental issues and lack a secure relationship with their parent(s). Theraplay is an approach to tamariki and family therapy that aims to address these issues and improve the parent/tamariki relationship through play and healthy interaction by enhancing attachment, self-esteem, trust in others, and joyful engagement. It is based on the natural patterns of playful, healthy interaction between parent and tamariki and is personal, physical and fun.
- **Buddy Programme** – Presbyterian Support Otago's Buddy Programme runs in six locations across Otago and contributes to the emotional and social well-being of children by matching them with carefully selected and trained adult volunteers in a well-supported mentoring relationship. The programme aims to increase children's self-esteem; develop social skills and help children make positive choices; provide opportunities for new social experiences and different activities; offer friendship, support, guidance and encouragement; and help increase their levels of fun and happiness. Similar programmes are offered in other Presbyterian Support regions.
- **Youth Transition to Adulthood** – In partnership with Oranga Tamariki we provide rangatahi from the age of 15 with a gradual and supported transition from care, giving them a helping hand into the next stage of their lives. Young adults can keep requesting advice and assistance until they are 25. The team assists young people in the development of skills and knowledge and supports them to develop and learn from their experiences. It is a youth-led approach allowing the young person to have more say and increasing responsibility.
- **Lifeline** – a 24/7 helpline and textline offering free, anonymous and confidential support, committed to providing safe, effective and confidential support for emotional and mental wellbeing. Lifeline calls typically cover stress due to isolation and loneliness, grief or loss, relationship difficulties, mental health concerns including anxiety and depression, employment or financial concerns and helping those at risk of suicide and co-constructing safety plans.
- **Specialist counselling and 0508 Tautoko** – Part of Lifeline's work is to triage and keep engaging with callers past their initial call, either to get them talking to a specialist counsellor ongoingly or directing them to the suicide crisis helpline for immediate support to save lives. Lifeline's suite of services receives no government funding and rely entirely on donations and bequests.
- **The Community Wellbeing Initiative** - A wellbeing programme offered free of charge by Presbyterian Support Northern to the Presbyterian/Cooperating congregations in its region. It aims to help grow emotionally resilient communities by strengthening people's confidence and skills to 'be with' people who are in stress or distress.

- Enliven counsellors – Older people experience a set of different mental health issues related to their loss of mobility and increasing isolation. Grief and loss may be coupled with anxiety over the changes in family dynamics. Often our counsellors support older people in situations of elder abuse, or who show low self-esteem and a lack of self-confidence in today's modern world. Access to free counselling helps older people develop wellbeing strategies and healthy family relationships.
- Enliven Tōtara Club – Being socially active is essential for health and wellbeing, so providing day activity programmes for over 65's in a safe, warm and friendly environment supports people to stay connected, meeting others and sharing activities and experiences.

Some examples of regional innovations to serve greater complexity within households.

- Whakakaha Te Whānau – For prisoners at Rimutaka and Manawatu prisons, Family Works Central offers a parenting programme designed by Māori practitioners and framed within a Māori world view to work with people referred to them by the Department of Corrections. The goal is to create and maintain positive whānau ties, improve outcomes for the children of prisoners and prevent intergenerational offending.
- Social Workers in Early Childhood Education SWiECE – This initiative receives no government funding and relies on charitable donations from the community. Since Easter 2022 Presbyterian Support Northern has been able to employ a Social Worker in Te Puke to work in partnership with families and ECE centres to provide a range of support for preschool aged children and their whānau. There are several other areas across the region they've identified have need for a similar position. One of the most pressing areas is Rotorua where access to affordable housing continues to be a huge issue.
- School Start First Impressions Project – Presbyterian Support Northern have partnered with this initiative to help children turning 5 in the wider Whangārei area. Too many children in this region are starting school without a school bag or school uniform and this negatively impacts their feelings of belonging among their peers. This can drastically affect their attitude towards the rest of their schooling. After a referral is made, we provide school bags filled with goodies including school supplies, a lunchbox and water bottle, a school uniform and shoes, socks and underwear and a swim bag with togs, towel and goggles.
- Awhi Mai Awhi Atu – Family works Tairāwhiti – Te Whare o te Pa Harakeke identified a need among the nannies and koro raising their mokopuna in the Gisborne Tairāwhiti district and set up a support group. The Family Works team identified that these mokopuna have often been exposed to the effects of domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse and nannies and koro have become involved because the parents are unable to care fulltime for their children.
- Poi Poi Mokopuna – Presbyterian Support East Coast provides this program in Hastings. Poi Poi Mokopuna educates and assists parents who care for children with trauma and attachment related behaviours. Through this programme the parents are helped to manage their child's behaviours through understanding critical areas such as attachment, child development, trauma impact, self-care for parents and learning/sharing behaviour management strategies.
- Refugee Settlement Services – In 2022 Presbyterian Support South Canterbury took on the contract to support a Syrian community in Timaru. By the end of the year there were three families settling in and by the Autumn of 2023 three more. Another five families will arrive over the winter of 2023 bringing this community to 27 adults and 34 children. One example of success is a member working now part time as a barber, the job he held before he fled Syria to seek refuge in New Zealand.
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren - Presbyterian Support South Canterbury's Family Works services have co-ordinated a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) support group for the past 17 years. Over the past 6 years we have seen the number of GRG support group increase significantly from between 25 – 35 members, to our current number which is now over seventy. This growth is being seen Nationally in GRG groups and it is not anticipated that this is going to change.

- Response and Quality Initiative – Presbyterian Support Northern’s response to the intense workloads of their Enliven Service Coordinators. As demand keeps increasing, it was difficult for them to quickly respond to support workers in need of additional clinical help or advice while working with clients. The team was set up to alleviate this with one support role in Auckland and one more in the Bay of Plenty. The role also helps to lift overall consistency and clinical standards by removing additional pressure from Enliven support coordinators, allowing them to focus on their core tasks without interruption.
- Food Rescue – Presbyterian Support Southland’s Family Works team became a KiwiHarvest recipient in August 2021. KiwiHarvest is a national food rescue organisation which collects surplus and donated food and distributes it to community organisations to pass on to those in need. It now receives weekly deliveries of packaged foods, dairy, meat and fresh produce and passing these on, are feeding nearly 3000 people each week. *“The need is still growing”*: Initially the Southland branch received MSD funding to purchase food through the Covid 19 Relief fund. Since November when this funding ran out, we have had to rely on donations from the community.

Communities Feeding Communities – a radical food security solution for Mt Roskill

Partnering with Presbyterian Church’s Northern Presbytery, Presbyterian Support Northern’s foodbank moved premises at the end of 2021 to the former St Giles’ church site in Mt Roskill. Rather than reverting to traditional foodbank lines, the partnership piloted a new approach focused on helping people achieve food security, including learning how to grow food. Community Minister Fa’amanū Akeripa, Community Coordinator Grace Mua, and Kai Transitioner Amy Kyrien are on site to help strengthen relationships with the local community. Initial rapid success is thanks to the connection with Presbyterian Support Northern’s Social Workers in Schools (SWiS).

The vision for the initiative was to create a vibrant community space, establish a thriving community garden, grow fruit trees, run cooking lessons and commercial kitchen, share ideas on how to cook food from the garden, and create a well-stocked pātaka kai (pantry or storehouse). Te Pātaka kai, full of both fresh produce and dry goods like canned food, pasta and rice, accessible to all. People welcome from the community, to take what they need and bring what they can in exchange, to help foster community participation.

The CFC team connect through “Welcome Wednesdays” communal lunches, also providing community dinners, establishing a financial mentoring programme and hosting family volunteer days during the school holidays. In the last year four allotment gardens have been installed and work is in progress with local landscapers to develop the community garden. Victoria Hall, a building of significant history, has been relocated onto the site for turning into a commercial kitchen.

Victoria Hall was a longstanding part of Avondale’s epicentre. It was purchased for forty pounds in 1897 through the contributions of around 90 Rosebank residents. It was originally sited in Eden Terrace but was transported by horses to the corner of Orchard St and Rosebank Rd. Originally developed by Quakers the hall was used for interdenominational use, so Presbyterian Support Northern were excited to be able to rescue and steward the building for the next phase of its life within a new community.

The vision is for Victoria Hall to be a vibrant community space with commercial kitchen installed in the rear, double doors opening out on the allotment gardens, food forest and nature play area. Presbyterian Support Northern continues to fundraise for the local initiative and to employ a manager to oversee its development. At national office PSNZ funds a national Prescare manager to support all Presbyterian Support regions to develop similar scalable partnerships. Our recommendation to the General Assembly is to consider the scalability of this initiative: as its pilot’s success begins to take root for one community, we see the scale and the potential, if only partnerships between us fostered community dreams in more places, in every region.

With the CFCI the Northern foodbank has been transformed from a place that feeds people for one day at a time, to somewhere that people can feed themselves, ongoingly, and teach their children also how to be sustainable. It is a matter of honouring the dignity of the people we serve, while we resolve their food insecurity. There are so many halls like Victoria Hall, and churches like St Giles Church, that could be repurposed for this kind of community development, or for more, such as community housing developments. Our recommendation to the General Assembly is to consider all contributions it can make, within stronger partnership frameworks with us.

The Tindall Foundation local distribution

We are thrilled to see more applications for this fund come from our Church partners and we take our decision making seriously, considering there are applications for more funds now than we can distribute. A panel of now three PSNZ representatives and one PCANZ representative preside over the applications. The administration of the fund including promotion, collation of applications, facilitation of decisionmaking process, execution of grant decisions and reporting is led by PSNZ national executive assistant Vicky Prout.

In this period Carolyn Cooper (CEO for Presbyterian Support South Canterbury) resigned as Chair of the panel and Dr Sanja Mastorovich (CEO for Presbyterian Support East Coast) has taken her place. Panellists also noted the absence of tangata whenua on the group and invited Jim Berry, Te Manukura o Te Kahui Rangatira for Presbyterian Support New Zealand, to join the panel from 2023.

Vicky Prout and Jim Berry will represent PSNZ at the Tindall Foundation's Local Donations Managers' Conference in August.

Alongside a few of the initiatives listed in other sections above, over the past two years we have been honoured to contribute Tindall Foundation grants to the following initiatives:

- Mahu Vision Community Trust – Youth Mentoring in Warkworth, Rodney
Targeted youth programs both in and out of school that provide opportunities for youth workers to walk alongside young people while encouraging and advocating for them. The programs are GIRL (out of school); Inspire (in school mentoring); 24/7 Youthwork (in and out of school mentoring and leadership development).
- Presbyterian Support Northern – No Excuses! In Whakatane
No Excuses! Is part of Shine's positive change programme for those who have abused their partner, children or family members. The program's purpose is to enable perpetrators of violence to change their behaviour, and end their abuse and violence. Despite domestic violence remaining at epidemic levels in New Zealand, few programs aimed at perpetrators exist.
- Eastern Bay of Plenty Presbyterian Church – Lifting People Out of Debt and Poverty
This is a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) initiative providing a Debt Help Centre and CAP Money Management courses. The Debt Help Service provides long term support to families who are living in poverty due to unmanageable debt. CAP Money Courses offer a chance for everyone in the community to learn managing their own finances sustainably prior to getting into financial difficulty.
- The Wellington Boys' and Girls' Institute – Challenge for Change initiative
Challenge for Change is a camp programme for young people with limited confidence and motivation, and those who are isolated from their friends because of mental health issues. Many come from families where violence is the norm. Volunteer mentors needed to first be trained to help young people deal with their issues, then supervised.
- Island Bay Presbyterian Church – Tēpū Mō Tātou in Wellington
Tēpū Mō Tātou is a wider community development project in the high-density Council flats in Berhampore, Wellington. This project has seen good results among the single adult community, and wished to expand

this to families and youth. There are not many opportunities for the youth resident in the flats, there are temptations towards anti-social or addictive behaviour, and there have been tensions between youth and adults. The intent of the youth program was to bring youth together from within the flats and beyond, give them positive life experiences, teach skills, provide a safe space and a place of meaning, and to mentor them and give them opportunities to discuss the challenges and pressures of life.

- Presbyterian Support Central – Helping Rangatahi Thrive in Upper Hutt
The purpose of this initiative was to give vulnerable rangatahi in Upper Hutt extra supports to thrive and reach their full potential. Too many in this region are growing up surrounded by violence, gangs, drugs and crime. Family Works' waiting lists for family violence and peer mentoring services have never been higher. Presbyterian Support Central's mentors, social workers and counsellors are funded primarily through govt contracts from MSD and MoJ. Unfortunately this funding only goes so far and the Helping Rangatahi Thrive initiative is not covered by this government funding.
- Presbyterian Support Central – Focus on Marton
This rural town has high numbers of people living with mental health challenges, large instances of family breakdown, and a lack of counselling services for children. There is currently no dedicated support agency in Marton that can supply wrap-around, meaningful, and sustainable assistance to tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau. Presbyterian Support Central received many referrals from Marton, usually from NZ Police, often regarding family harm. To overcome the limited services available and the increasing number of referrals, Presbyterian Support Central's proposal was to "*Focus on Marton*" which includes a safety programme for adults, partnerships with the local school and a social worker who could be based in the area.
- Hornby Presbyterian Community Trust – Te Whare Awhero
Te Whare Awhero provides services to clients and families from low socio-economic areas in the Hornby and greater South-West areas of Otautahi Christchurch. Clients experiencing emotional and mental distress, grief and hopelessness, and the aim is to provide affordable professional counselling, Mana Ake workers in schools and a safe and fun place for children to be before and after school and during the school holidays.
- Knox Presbyterian Church Waitara – Community Services Support
The Tindall Foundation grant covered the cost of the salary for the coordinator of the children's programs and family support services. This includes a pre-school Rainbow playgroup run once a week and pastoral support to families struggling with navigating life and/or facing health crises or life changing events.
- Presbyterian Support Otago – Reaching Rural, Social Work services in rural Waitaki
To meet the needs of rural families in outlying areas of the Waitaki district, where services are scarce and the need for help is growing, the primary school in Kurow provided a space where a clinic could be provided, but staff also visited individual clients on an appointment basis. Transport was a problem for struggling families because of the cost of fuel to come into Oamaru so bringing support to the area was the solution.
- Wanaka Presbyterian Church – Precious beginnings
This programme is designed to support parents/caregivers with a baby that is approximately 12 weeks and under (at the start date of the cohort). Through conversations and activities, parents will develop their own understandings on how to support their babies through the first 1000 days. There are a number of guest speakers who share their expertise in various postpartum areas.
- Presbyterian Support Southland – Overcoming barriers for migrant families in Invercargill
The aim is to deliver a roadmap helping settled migrant families in Southland to identify social services, overcome barriers, and better meet their needs in a culturally appropriate way. Southland is home to newcomers from many countries, including those on employer assisted work visas, people on Immigration NZ's Work to Residence pathway, and current tertiary students enrolled at the Southern Institute of Technology in Invercargill. Many visa holders have their families with them. In addition, Invercargill is a settlement centre for former refugees from Colombia and has welcomed more than 200 people (about 50 families) since 2018.
- Presbyterian Support Southland – He Kete Matauranga Kaupapa Māori training
Nationally, all seven Family Works organisations have committed to completing cultural training with their staff. Presbyterian Support Southland sought funding to upskill all Family Works staff (currently

numbering 50) by assisting them complete the He Kete Matauranga three baskets of knowledge cultural training and workbook. The goal was to increase staff confidence and skill about engaging with whānau Māori to ensure they were working in culturally appropriate ways with whanau in the Murihiku/Southland setting.

Our Senior population is growing and without adequate funding, this presents an emerging issue

Two compounded situations affecting us throughout the pandemic has been the ageing population in Aotearoa and the shortage of nurses and caregivers in our country. Our Enliven services were hit hard by the pandemic and its subsequent impacts on the economy. We struggled to keep our specialist nurses because the DHBs needed them for primary care and there was pay inequity between our Sector and Public Health's. The longer Covid-19 continues, the more staff shortages we face across all our service teams. As a result, in two regions we had to close doors at some of our Enliven services and give notice to the public that we could not take on new clients. We are heartened by government's announcements regarding a green light to residency for internationally qualified nurses; we are confident also that recent pay parity and pay equity settlements will revive our capability to attract the staff we need and also pay them what they deserve. But these measures alone are not enough to ready us for the tsunami of need coming as the population ages, and the proportion without equity expands.

Currently, 40% of people aged 65 and over have virtually no other income than NZ Super. Another 20% have only a little bit more. With a declining home ownership rate and the rising costs of living, more people do not have enough money to retire. Māori, Pasifika, and women are over-represented among older people with little to no equity at retirement. This is because generally speaking these groups earn less over their working life, an inequitable condition of New Zealand's work environment certainly not of their own making. Similarly, it should be noted that most people with disabilities are older people (who become disabled later in life) and their numbers will increase as the proportion of the population aged 65+ increases. Households that include a person with a disability tend to have lower income due to lower labour market participation, which limits their ability to save for retirement.

Those capable of cashing in equity at retirement have a for-profit model of aged care flourishing in the business of providing bespoke residencies catering to their needs. We are not among them, although in three of our seven regions, Presbyterian Support also provides retirement villages. Any revenue collected from those regions' units feeds into broader care budgets, as we've outlined above. We believe we have a role to play in improving retirement outcomes not just for older New Zealanders retiring with equity, but all older New Zealanders, including those living alone in the community, relying on social housing, the care of social services, with families and whānau also needing support.

Presbyterian Support's leaders have been advocating consistently and collaboratively to government during this period for greater planning and funding for the Aged Care Sector. Together National Council and National Executive Group most recently met with Te Whatu Ora's CEO Margie Apa and held an election forum for the five Parties currently in government, to tell us how each would address the rapidly growing population of poorer older people retiring without equity in Aotearoa.

We invited Right Reverend Hamish Galloway to respond to the Parties at the end of our election forum, who expressed on behalf of us all, disappointment that our Leaders do not show enough urgency and strategic planning regarding this issue. An article summarising the forum is published on our website and we highlight it here because there is more we must do to support and inform our government on the matter of meeting this growing population's demands for equitable care and safe, affordable and suitable housing.

We sincerely appreciate PCANZ support for our work

PSNZ will continue to support the Church Leader to raise this issue with government, knowing that our collaboration and collective voice make us more influential before decision makers. Presbyterian Support New Zealand's national advocacy and policy work receives no external funding and is fully funded by our regional organisations.

Over the past three years, PCANZ has financially supported our PresCare work as well our membership to the NZCCSS with a contribution of \$15,000 per year. This contribution is now just half of our NZCCSS subscription alone, as fees have risen year on year due to CPI adjustments. So we pay the difference for managing Prescare out of the regional levies we receive from the regions, meant to support national advocacy and overheads. This diminishes our capacity to undertake national projects on behalf of the Federation.

Our regional work delivering social support and developing more innovative programs for vulnerable communities across Aotearoa is more necessary than ever before, in a world plagued with pandemic, economic recession and climate change. The national office cannot ask the regions to increase their levies for its national work, when times are so tough everywhere across the country.

We ask the General Assembly then, to consider not only contributing more financially to cover the rising costs of NZCCSS membership and status quo management of Prescare, but also; consider what other forms of capital investment could be unlocked for scaling up our community development work across Aotearoa. There is so much more we can do in partnership and with more resources going forward. The difference we make already only indicates what more we could do if we partner effectively with greater resourcefulness.

Yours Faithfully,



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Chair Presbyterian Support New Zealand



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