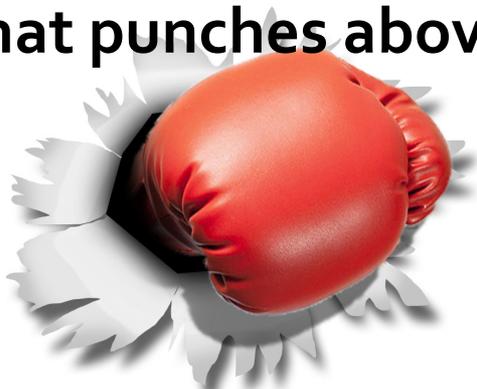




November 2013

A sector that punches above its weight



We know we work in a diverse sector proudly filling the space between Government and the private sector.

The recent Grant Thornton report on a survey they undertook makes interesting reading. Titled "Valuing the Not For Profit Sector" it confirms the NFP sector in NZ is a significant economic force. We are a \$9.8 billion industry, spending \$3.3 billion on employment. We make up 4.9% of our nation's GDP.

These statistics speak for themselves but we need to share them to counter the perception that the community sector is a collection of amateur organisations run by enthusiastic volunteers. We can do more to show that we are network of organisations that underpin the fabric of our society.

The survey also shows that the sector does rely on voluntary input and that's not just those helping without being paid. Employees are 30% less well paid than in the private sector. The flipside of this is that we are highly engaged with our organisations and with the issues that affect our communities.

Top of the list of challenges was money - for 3/4 of NZ NFP's financing is an issue along with the retention of skilled and experienced staff. Of course the endless funding cycles and low wages may aggravate staff turnover.

There is however a responsibility for all of us who work in the sector to ensure we take a professional approach to management, operational and governance procedures.

We are working in a changing environment but it isn't all doom and gloom. There are opportunities for organisations who can adapt their methods while still delivering the outcomes our communities (and funders) want. Retreating into our silos is not a sustainable plan.

There can be a temptation to reflect on the past and take the attitude that this is the way we have always done it. But doing good is no longer good enough, we need to *show* that our actions have good consequences.

Our heritage and identity are important, they give us bonds with our members, clients, supporters and the wider community. These can be used to ensure we deliver what is needed and develop financial and volunteer support. But in itself our history does not deliver outcomes. Organisations can have survival instincts – it is important these don't override our focus on making a difference.

This focus on delivery rather than survival can also be helped by Government actions so that we aren't tied up in constant administrative changes.

But ultimately we must look at our purposes and ensure we are acting to meet them rather than to survive. We may need to partner, merge become sub-contractors, even step aside but definitely we need to come up with smart ways of working.

This applies to COSSD as much as anyone and as we head in to 2014 we are looking at smarter ways of working and partnerships that help us to make sure we meet our goal of helping those that help others.

Alan Shanks
Executive Officer (Acting)

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Balancing discounts and costs

A recent opinion piece published on Pro Bono Australia's website gave me pause for thought. It was written by Ann Gawen, CEO of Connecting Up. Connecting Up is an NFP that works with software firms to encourage Not-For Profits to use their products through provision of, sometimes substantial, discounts.

In the piece Ann emphasises the need for the NFP sector to develop our delivery infrastructure. This was also seen as top priority in a recent Connecting Up survey.

Up to this point I agree wholeheartedly – the sector must invest in delivering more efficiently and it needs tools that work. But there's more than one way to make this happen.

Connecting Up advocates taking handouts from software firms including Microsoft, Cisco, Adobe and more. Receiving this philanthropy can come at a cost to NFPs in various ways.

One is tying us to proprietary formats – necessitating future upgrades to allow us to keep accessing our own documents at a price to be determined by our current benefactors.

Another is in the cost of providing the proprietary software to everyone in the organisation if we'd like to share the tasks or benefits. If you decide that you want to open an Adobe Illustrator document on a PC other than the one you have a license for, good luck – maybe Adobe will offer another license for free or maybe only charge \$150 or perhaps \$500. (Check the figures if you think I'm scaremongering.)

Proprietary document formats exist solely to tie you to a specific software product. And that product costs money.

Luckily there is a community solution to our needs. It's Free and Open Source Software (FOSS). FOSS is free of cost and you are free to do as you like with it – even change its internal code. FOSS uses open formats so if you want to use a different piece of software

Who makes FOSS?

FOSS communities include individuals doing it for kudos as well as people employed to make the software meet company needs. Those firms also sell services to support the software. Who are those firms? IBM, Oracle, Sun, Google, HP, Loomio, Intel and many more.

you can, many also do a great job of letting you access those proprietary format documents you saved before you discovered freedom.

FOSS is built by communities – communities seeing a need and creating a solution. Does this sound familiar?

You can join these communities and help create even better software through your feedback.

Imagine being able to give colleagues and clients the software you use to take home and share with their friends – no need for dodgy downloads or \$250 office suites.

I am typing on a FOSS word processor, LibreOffice Writer, running on a FOSS operating system – Ubuntu Linux. I'm going to email it using an open source browser, Chromium. At work, colleagues can open the file in MS Word on Windows if they want to, or LibreOffice on Windows or... Well, you get the picture: freedom.

A donation is not free money, it only means something if you needed the software in the first place.

If you do a comparison of software and the current and future costs of using a closed, paid for solution comes out top only then do the discounts mean something. Otherwise there is simply a cost.

After the plug for her organisation Ann gets back on track and supports improving the use of software by increasing the skills of our workforce. Again I agree but let's make it *our* software rather than *theirs*.

www.osalt.com offers up FOSS alternatives to the software you are currently paying for.

Rob Tigair
COSSD Projects Officer



Fears, constraints and contracts

Voluntary sector organisations play a very important role in New Zealand society. We can speak out on issues that others may not be able to talk freely about. We have expert opinions on wide variety of issues. Getting unbiased information out to interested parties is very important for our society.

The research took the form of a survey of voluntary sector organisations in late 2009. It looked at the interaction of the sector with government decision-making processes and any impact that the government funding had on this.

Responses showed that organisations see themselves as having a major role to play in democratic decision-making by speaking up for the most marginalised in our society; ensuring policy meets the real needs of New Zealanders; and ensuring a better society. They also highlighted that the role of the sector in public debate has not been actively welcomed by governments in recent decades. Respondents said that the nature of their relationship with the state has contributed to an environment in which debate is discouraged in some cases and barely tolerated in others.

The researchers found that the 'contract' relationship between many of the respondents and the government was a major discouragement to debate. The terms of the contract are set by the funder, who specifies the duration, outcomes and sanctions for non-compliance. Responses to the survey showed that the mechanism of

the contract generates fear, focuses minds on the survival of the fittest and forces the attention of the organisations onto meeting the demands of the government funders. Public debate becomes sidelined in this dynamic.

In some instances public debate was explicitly prohibited in the contracts—15% of respondents reported that they had gag clauses in their contracts. Respondents without overt gag clauses still felt inhibited from speaking out because they did not want to draw attention to themselves or create distrust that may jeopardise contract negotiations.

Our presenters concluded that insufficient knowledge exists about the economic inputs/outputs and outcomes provided by voluntary sector organisations regardless of whether they have contracts or not. As a result insufficient value and recognition is given to the sector, and minimal contributions are sought on key issues in processes such as task forces, ministerial working groups, etc. Our sector plays a unique and crucial role in New Zealand. Our contribution to the political decision-making is currently undervalued and under-utilised. We are under-resourced and therefore undermined. Government needs to value us more.

Source: COSS NEWS Christchurch, November/Whiringa-a-rangi 2013

COSSD thanks our many sponsors for their ongoing support, including the following main sponsors:



Council of Social Services (Dunedin) members are invited to promote issues and events in the next edition of *Newslink*. Please email your articles to admin@councilofsocalservices.org.nz for consideration.

Community Development—Insights for Practice in Aotearoa New Zealand

We asked Peter Walker of the University of Otago to tell us about his upcoming book:

Community Development- Insights for Practice in Aotearoa New Zealand (edited by Jenny Aimers and Peter Walker) outlines the theoretical underpinnings, skills and processes used by community workers to facilitate community development. First and foremost the book captures the depth and breadth of experience of community work practice in the Otago & Southland region as a resource for new and future practitioners. This knowledge is born out of practice over three decades; practice that interacts with and reacts to local conditions.

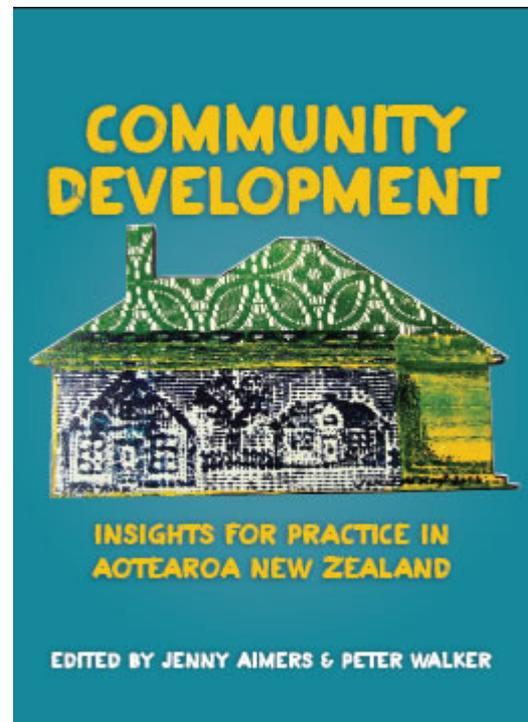
The book was conceived in three parts: contextualising community development; interviews with practitioners; and applying an academic lens to cultural considerations of practice in Aotearoa New Zealand and, the academic's favourite, the role of power in community development.

Contextualising community development

Here we offer some definitions for community development, drawing on theoretical and other material within the historical and political context surrounding community development in Aotearoa New Zealand. These definitions outline the rise of citizen-initiated social action, some of the problems that community development seeks to address and, finally, the influence that the governments over the last thirty plus years has had on community development practice and the wider community and voluntary sector. In addition we explore the history of community development practice both nationally and in the southern region.

Interviews with practitioners

The second, and arguably the most important, section is given over to a series of interviews with respected community work practitioners who are currently working, or who have worked, in the southern region. It is from these perspectives we see the true variability and form that community development can take. Through these narratives we can understand the value,



power and problems of community development within specific contexts.

Cultural considerations and Power

In this section we explore in more detail some of the issues raised in section two where we highlight skills for community development practice. We also outline the unique approach Māori bring to community development (Anaru Eketone) and a Pacific peoples' approach (Patrick Vakaoti). We also offer a strategic model for community development practitioners to understand power and engage with power structures that was derived from a series of case studies from the region. We conclude by highlighting some of the issues and underpinnings of community development practice.

Community Development- Insights for Practice in Aotearoa New Zealand will be published in late November 2013, RRP \$49.99. There's an early bird deal if you buy direct from Dunmore Publishing. Order before 28 February 2014 and pay \$44.99 delivered. Contact them on 09 521 3121 or email books@dunmore.co.nz.

Unitec learning opportunities

What fosters the growth of leadership in our communities and community organisations? There are likely many answers to that question as we think about what has supported each one of us to lead from wherever we are: in our families, neighbourhoods, workplaces, networks and more formal community development or community organisation initiatives. What I have found from my research is that three factors often support leadership learning and growth within a community context:



- Collaborative learning as peers, reflecting on practice and inquiring together to find effective pathways forward
- Engagement with different ways of thinking and new ideas for responding to the complex issues we face
- Opportunities to try out new ideas in practice and take on new roles, often stretching ourselves outside our comfort zones

These three factors might be present in a very informal way in how a strong community group functions. When any one of the ingredients is lacking, we might look to external learning resources or simply notice how we could make better use of what we already have. It's a bit like an unstable triangle that shifts and changes over time, as we try to bring out the leader in everyone.

The Unitec learning community (Graduate Diploma in Not for Profit Management) is designed to support the growth of community leadership and organisational capability. It's success over the last 15 years across NZ and the Pacific can be contributed at least in part to its design around these three adult learning principles, practiced in a highly interactive, supportive learning environment. We have just had a great intake of 9 new students in Dunedin who are now completing their *Values Based Management and Leadership in the Not for Profit Sector* course.

Next year's timetable is out, and includes course offerings in Dunedin of:

- *Leading and Facilitating Teams*: 19th-21st March and 14th-16th April
- *Financial Management in the NFP Sector* : 19th- 21st May and 25th-27th June
- *Influencing Public Policy and Social Change*: 6th - 8th August and 10th -12th September

For those wanting to start on the programme, the *Values Based Management and Leadership in the Not for Profit Sector* course will be available in Christchurch, 9th -11th April and 21st – 23rd May

For more information, contact Margy-Jean Malcolm:

Email mmalcolm@unitec.ac.nz
Website www.nfp.unitec.ac.nz .

This column provides a snapshot of selected bills before parliament and consultations currently open for public feedback on issues of interest to our community, in addition to information on developing projects and upcoming law changes.

Vulnerable Children Bill

This is an omnibus bill that proposes amendments to the Vulnerable Children Act and the Child Harm Prevention Orders Act. The purpose of the proposed amendments is to protect and improve the well-being of vulnerable children and it is one outcome from the *Green Paper for Vulnerable Children* project.

This Bill makes provision for the safety checking of people from 'specific organisations' who work with children (paid or unpaid). The aim of this process is to reduce the risk of harm to children. Specified organisations are:

"... the State services (as defined in the State Sector Act 1988), and individuals and organisations funded by any of the State services to provide regulated activities, that employ or engage children's workers to perform regulated activities. Local authorities, and individuals and organisations funded by local authorities to provide regulated activities..." (Bills Digest)

Under the Act a regulated activity is defined as child welfare and protection services, health and disability support, child care and early year's education outside a child's home, schooling and education, child residential services, youth justice services, child social or support services. Family arrangements and non-commercial arrangements, ie: informal child care, baby sitting or ride shares are not considered regulated activities.

Safety checking will be required before employing a person, and specified organisations must ensure that all children's workers are regularly safety checked at intervals of three years or they will be penalised up to a maximum of \$10,000.

The Bill also provides for Child Harm Prevention Orders.

Source and link to make a submission:
<http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/sc/make-submission/>

Submissions close Wednesday 30 October 2013.

Te Puni Kokiri: Discussion Paper on Proposed Changes to the Maori Community Development (MCDA) Act 1962

The MCDA established three mechanisms to support Māori community development; the New Zealand Māori Council (supported by three levels of Māori Associations), Māori Wardens and Community Officers. An Inquiry into the Act in 2010 recommended that changes be made. The Government is currently consulting to find out views on:

1. options for the future of the New Zealand Māori Council
2. options to improve arrangements for Māori Wardens
3. Community Officers.

Note that the submission deadline has been extended to Thursday 31 October.

Source for information and submission details:
<http://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/consultation/mcda/>

Submissions close Thursday 31 October 2013

Credit Contracts and Financial Services Law Reform Bill

This Bill aims improve upon and provide protection for vulnerable people. It proposes to introduce "lender responsibility rules", or principles, and makes provision for the formation of a "lender responsibility code" with the view to protecting vulnerable people.

Key lender responsibility principles include:

- lenders are responsible to make general inquiries before entering in to an agreement so that the credit or insurance provided is suitable for the borrower;
- the borrower is be reasonably expected by the lender to make the payments under the agreement without suffering substantial hardship;
- lenders are responsible to ensure that the agreement or the circumstances surrounding its conclusion are not oppressive to the borrower;
- lenders are responsible to ensure that the agreement is clearly drafted;
- lenders are responsible to assist the borrower to reach an informed decision on entering the agreement; and
- lenders are responsible to assist a guarantor under an agreement to reach an informed decision as to whether or not to enter into a guarantee. (Bills Digest No. 2090)

Source and link to submission form:

<http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/sc/make-submission/>

Submissions close Friday 1 November 2013.

Public Safety (Public Protection Orders) Bill

This bill proposes amendments to empower the High Court to issue a public protection order to detain a person in a secure facility, when, at the end of a finite prison sentence, or subject to the most intensive form of an extended supervision order, they pose a very high risk of imminent and serious sexual or violent reoffending.

Source and link to submission form:

<http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/sc/make-submission/>

Submissions close Friday 1 November 2013

Focusing on the Future: A Discussion Document on the 2013 Review of Retirement Income Policies prepared by the Commission for Financial Literacy and Retirement Income Retirement

This document represents Phase II of the Commission for Financial Literacy and Retirement Income's (CFLRI) 2013 review into retirement income policy. The first phase of public consultation on retirement income policy closed in May 2013. This document is the culmination of that research and consultation process, it will form the final document to be submitted to Government by the end of this year. A key recommendation is raising the age of eligibility for NZ superannuation.

It is proposed to change the age of eligibility age for NZ Superannuation to 68 by 2056; this would be phased in gradually. Those born in 1968 would be eligible at 65 years and 9 months, the 1978 cohort would be eligible at 66 years 11 months, and those born in 1988 would be eligible at 68 years.

Other proposals include:

That the Government provide the CFLRI with a mandate to lead the provision of financial education for New Zealanders

That the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment report by 1 December 2014 on ways to increase the supply of age-friendly housing.

There are two ways to make a submission, you can make a

long submission, or complete a short online response. To have your say, and download the discussion document, visit the website: <http://www.cflri.org.nz/>

Submissions close Monday 4 November 2013.

Sentencing (Protection of Children from Criminal Offending) Amendment Bill

The Sentencing (Protection of Children from Criminal Offending) Amendment Bill seeks to amend the Sentencing Act 2002 to make criminal offending in the presence of a minor an aggravating factor at sentencing, and where the offending endangers or exposes a minor to potential adverse effects from that offending, the sentence should reflect this.

Source:

<http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/sc/make-submission/>

Submissions close Thursday 7 November 2013

Inquiry into Engaging Parents in the Education of their Children

The terms of reference for the inquiry are to investigate the elements of an effective strategy:

1. for engaging parents, families, whanau, aiga, and communities in education;
2. to identify the best practice examples of approaches, locally and internationally, that support parents and communities to encourage their children's learning;
3. and to identify ways to leverage the strength of communities to lift the educational achievement of children and young people in their community.

Source:

<http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/sc/make-submission/>

Submissions close Thursday 7 November 2013

Law Commission: NZLC IP34 *The Legal Framework for Burial and Cremation in New Zealand: A First Principles Review*

The review is premised around the idea that until we are tasked with arranging the burial or cremation of a loved one we are generally unaware of the laws and regulations that control where, when and how these processes can

take place, and our legal responsibilities for making arrangements on behalf of the deceased. Some key reform options include:

Opening the cemetery sector up to independent providers, which may include the establishment of eco or natural burial grounds, and/or cemeteries which meet the diverse needs of ethnic groups.

Enabling New Zealanders to be buried on private land such as the family farm.

Requiring local authorities maintain cemeteries to a suitable standard and ensure that heritage values are protected.

Require local authorities to work closely with their communities and local ethnic groups in the management of cemeteries.

The discussion document also looks into the establishment of a statutory body to deal with serious disputes which may occur between families. (NZLC IP34)

Source: http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/project/review-burial-and-cremation-act-1964?quicktabs_23=issues_paper

Submissions close Friday 20 December 2013

Upcoming Law Changes and Works in Progress

Law Commission: Study Paper, *Maximum Penalties for Criminal Offences*

The Law Commission has issued a study paper examining how maximum penalties for criminal offences might be "conceptualised and dealt with." To download the Study Paper, *Maximum Penalties for Criminal Offences* (NZLC SP21, 2013

To download the paper visit:
http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/project/review-maximum-penalties?quicktabs_23=study_paper

Law Commission Report: *A New Act for Incorporated Societies* (NZLC R129)

In 2011 the Law Commission released Issues paper 24: *Reforming the Incorporated Societies Act 1908*. The Commission recognised that the original Act had become outmoded and reform was needed to ensure minimum standards for operating societies across the sector from small scale community organisations to larger societies. The report stated: The current Act "lacks guidance about the obligations of those running societies and about how disputes are to be dealt with." (NZLC R129)

Over 200 submissions were received and in June 2013 the Law Commission released its report: *A New Act for Incorporated Societies* (NZLC R129). The overarching recommendation of the report is that the 1908 Act be replaced by "clear, modern legislation that gives members of incorporated societies more guidance and assistance to achieve their goals." This report was tabled in Parliament on 21 August 2013.

Key recommendations include:

A minimum membership requirement of 10: Currently, there must be at least 15 members before a society can incorporate under the 1908 Act. It is recommended this be reduced to 10 members, and that all societies be required to maintain this minimum level at all times. The reduction from 15 – 10 accommodates smaller societies.

Establishment of a committee of officers: The report recommends the Act require a society to have a committee of officers to make decisions and run its affairs, most societies do, but some smaller ones do not. It will be up to the society to determine what that committee will look like, but there should be a clear set of basic duties for committee members to follow.

Appointment of a Statutory Officer: It is recommended that each society appoint a statutory officer who would be the Registrar of Incorporated Societies' main point of contact.

Duties of officers and conflicts of interest: The current legislation lacks guidance as to the obligations of those running societies. The new statute should contain both a list of officers' duties along the lines of directors' duties in the Companies Act, 5 and a set of rules governing the disclosure and management of conflicts of interests.

A requirement that every society have dispute resolution procedures

The development of a simple model constitution which a society could adopt if they prefer not to draft their own.

Mandatory financial reporting: Incorporated societies will not be able to opt out of preparing and filing at least simple annual financial reports. This will ensure members receive financial information about their organisation annually, and to enable the Registrar to identify societies which may have ceased to operate.

Source *A New Act for Incorporated Societies* (NZLC R129). The full report can be downloaded:
<http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/>

Legislation	Stage / Progress	Impact
Administration of Community Sentences and Orders Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 14 October 2011. First reading 8 May 2012, Second reading 20 March 2013.	This bill amends legislation around the management of offenders in the community.
Building Amendment Bill (No. 4)	Government Bill. Introduced 6 September 2011. First reading 1 May 2012. Second reading 2 July 2013.	This bill implements policy decisions of the Building Act Review to incentivise building professionals and trades people to take responsibility for their work.
Construction Contracts Amendment	Government Bill. Submissions closed 25 th July 2013. Report due 11 December 2013	Amendments to speed up the adjudication process and make it more cost effective and efficient for people with disputes under construction contracts.
Consumer Law Reform Bill	Government Bill. Submissions closed 29 March. Select committee report was due 9 August, delayed until 2 October. Reported back. Second reading 11 December 2012	Introduces a number of reforms to existing consumer laws.
Credit Contracts and Financial Services Law Reform Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 18 April 2013. First Reading 17 September. Submissions due 1 November 2013	Revises and updates the law governing consumer credit and financial markets to ensure responsible lending and to provide improved protections for vulnerable consumers.
Employment Relations Amendment Bill	Government Bill. Submissions closed 25 July 2013. Report due 12 December 2013.	Introduces a raft of changes to existing employment legislation includes provisions on: good-faith requirements in an employment relationship (confidentiality); rest breaks; collective bargaining; obligations of employers in a transfer situation; strikes and lockouts
Families Commission Amendment Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 28 May 2012. Second reading 2 July 2013.	Reforms and restructures the Families Commission. Proposed new features include a single Families Commissioner and the appointment of a Social Science Experts Panel to provide academic peer review and guidance.

Legislation	Stage / Progress	Impact
Family Court Proceedings Reform Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 27 November 2012. Second Reading 2 July 2013. Bill divided.	Implements reforms resulting from a review of the Family Court conducted by the Ministry of Justice.
Food Bill	Government Bill. First Reading 22 July 2013. Submissions currently open, submission close 16 August 2012. Report due 2 January 2014.	Introduces reforms to the regulatory regime for food safety and suitability.
Government Communications Security Bureau and Related Legislation Amendment Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 8 May 2013. First Reading 8 May 2013. Second Reading 1 August 2013. Bill divided.	An omnibus bill proposing amendments to the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) what will "enhance the external mechanisms for the oversight of the New Zealand's intelligence agencies."
Health and Safety (Pike River Implementation) Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 24 June 2012. First Reading 27 June 2013. Submissions closed 25 July 2013. Report due 20 October 2013.	The Bill proposes legislative changes to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Pike River Coal Mine Tragedy.
Housing Corporation Amendment Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 5 April 2011, First reading 12 April 2011. Select Committee reports 12 May 2011.	The Bill amends the Housing Corporation Act 1974 to consolidate housing policy advice to Ministers within the Department of Housing and Building.
Human Rights Amendment Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 13 October 2011. First Reading of Bill 29 November (Interrupted)	Establishes the position of full-time Disability Commissioner within the Human Rights Act.
Insolvency Practitioners Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 27 April 2010. First Reading 24 April 2010. Referred to Commerce Committee, reported 9 May 2011.	Bill creates powers to restrict or prohibit individuals from providing insolvency services, strengthening measures to disqualify insolvency practitioners.



Legal update

Legislation	Stage / Progress	Impact
Land Transport and Road User Charges Legislation Amendment Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 5 August 2013, First reading 27 August 2013. Submissions due 17 October 2013. Report due 27 February 2014.	Bill proposes to amend the Land Transport Act 1998 and the Road User Charges Act 2012.
Legal Assistance Amendment Bill (formerly Legal Assistance (Sustainability) Amendment Bill)	Government Bill. Introduced 11 August 2011. First Reading 16 August 2011. Referred to Justice and Electoral Committee. Second Reading 16 April 2013. Bill divided by committee 2 July 2013.	Bill proposes changes to the provision of legal services paid for by the Crown, including legal aid and lawyers for child and youth advocacy services.
Natural Health and Supplementary Products Bill (formerly Natural Health Products Bill)	Government Bill. Introduced 11 September 2011. First Reading 15 September 2011. Second Reading 20 March 2013.	Proposes to establish a system for regulating low-risk natural health products.
Objectionable Publications and Indecency Legislation Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 27 May 2013	Proposes to increased the penalties for trading, producing and/or possessing child pornography.
Parole Amendment Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 26 September 2012.	Amends the Parole Act 2002 to reduce the number of parole hearings where the offender has little prospect of release.
Public Health Bill	Reported back from Select Committee 28 June 2008. Reinstated into current Parliament.	Revises and updates public health legislation.
Public Safety (Public Protection Orders) Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 18 September 2012. First reading 18 September 2013, submissions due 1 November 2013. Report due 18 March 2014.	Empowers the High Court to issue a public protection order to detail a person in a secure facility when, "at the end of a finite prison sentence" they post a very high risk of "imminent and serious sexual or violent reoffending."
Royal Succession Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 18 February. First Reading 2 July 2013. Submissions closed 23 August, report due 2 January 2014.	Implements changes to the rules of Royal succession, so that succession is no longer based on gender.

Legislation	Stage / Progress	Impact
Social Housing Reform (Housing Restructuring and Tenancy Matters Amendment) Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 16 May 2013. First Reading 16 May 2013. Submissions closed 27 June 2013. Report due 1 October 2013.	Introduces changes to the future provision of social housing.
Social Security (Fraud Measures and Debt Recovery) Amendment Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 20 February 2013. First reading 27 August 2013, submissions due 10 October 2013. Report due 27 February 2014.	Amends Social Security Act 1964 to create a new offence making partners as well as beneficiaries accountable for fraud. The aim of the amendment is the more effective recovery of debt.
Student Loan Scheme Amendment Bill (No. 3)	Government Bill. Introduced 19 August 2013, First reading 27 August 2013. Submissions due 11 October 2013. Report due 27 February 2014.	Amends the Student Loan Scheme Act 2011 to improve repayments from overseas-based borrowers and to increase personal responsibility for debt.
Taxation (Income-sharing Tax Credit) Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 16 August 2010. Reported back March 2011. Reinstated.	Makes provision for an annual tax credit for couples who are married, in a de facto relationship, or civil union and who have a dependent child aged up to 18 years.
Victims of Crime Reform Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 16 August 2011. Reported back 27 June 2012.	A package of reforms for victims of crime.
Victims' Orders Against Violent Offenders Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 27 May 2013. First reading 27 August 2013, submissions due 10 October 2013. Report due 27 February 2014.	Will enable a victim of a violent offence to obtain a non-contact order against an offender sentenced to imprisonment for five years or more.
Vulnerable Children Bill	Government Bill. Introduced 2 September 2013, first reading 17 September 2013. Submissions due 30 October 2013, report due 17 March 2014.	An omnibus bill that proposes amendments to the Vulnerable Children Act and the Child Harm Prevention Orders Act to protect and improve the wellbeing of vulnerable children.



Legislation	Stage / Progress	Impact
Care of Children Law Reform Bill	Members Bill (Jacinda Ardern, Labour). Introduced 30 August 2012.	Bill requires the Law Commission to update earlier reviews on adoption laws, then to report to the Minister of Justice with recommendations and a draft Bill for the House to consider.
Conservation (Natural Heritage Protection) Bill	Members Bill (Jacqui Dean, National). Introduced 20 September 2012. First reading 14 November 2012, second reading 4 September 2013.	Makes changes to the existing law to increase penalties to better protect natural and historic resources, and protected wildlife.
Education (Breakfast and Lunch Programmes in Schools) Amendment Bill	Members Bill (Hone Harawira, Member for Te Tai Tokerau, Mana). Introduced 8 November 2012. First Reading postponed.	Makes provision for the introduction of state funded breakfast and lunch programmes in all decile 1 and 2 schools, and other designated schools.
Electronic Data Safety Bill	Members Bill (Clare Curran, Labour). Introduced 15 November 2012	Establishes a Commission of Inquiry into privacy breaches within government agencies.
Electronic Transactions (Contract Formation) Amendment Bill	Members Bill (Paul Goldsmith, National). Introduced 8 November 2012. First Reading 15 May 2013. Report due 15 November 2013.	Establishes laws around the growing tendency for electronic contract formation.
Employment Relations (Continuity of Labour) Amendment Bill	Members Bill (Jami-Lee Ross, National). Introduced 13 June 2013.	This bill repeals section 97 of the Employment Relations Act 2000, which prevents the use of volunteers, contractors and casual employees during a strike or lockout.
Land Transport (Admissibility of Evidential Breath Tests) Amendment Bill	Member's Bill. (Scott Simpson, National). Introduced 30 August 2012. Report due 24 March 2014.	Widens the circumstances in which a positive evidential breath test is admissible evidence in a prosecution.

Legislation	Stage / Progress	Impact
Lobbying Disclosure Bill	Member's Bill (Holly Walker, Green Party). Introduced 5 April 2012. Order of the day for second reading discharged, 28 August 2013.	Seeks greater transparency around lobbying activity. Requires paid lobbyists to register and abide by a Code of Ethics and disclose which MPs they meet with.
Parental Leave and Employment Protection (Six Months' Paid Leave) Amendment Bill	Member's Bill (Sue Moroney, Labour). Introduced 5 April 2012. Report due 19 December 2013.	Extends paid parental leave to 26 weeks.
Sentencing (Protection of Children from Criminal Offending) Amendment Bill	Member's Bill (Le'aufa'amulia Asenati Lole-Taylor, New Zealand First). Introduced 6 December 2012. First reading 25 September 2013, submissions due 7 November 2013. Report due 25 March 2014.	Amends Sentencing Act 2002 to make criminal offending in the presence of a minor an aggravating factor at sentencing.
Social Security (Clothing Allowances for Orphans and Unsupported Children) Amendment Bill	Member's Bill (Tracey Martin, New Zealand First). Introduced 6 December 2012.	Proposes to give the unsupported child or orphan clothing allowance parity with the foster child.
Summary Offences (Possession of Hand-held Lasers) Amendment Bill	Member's Bill (Dr Cam Calder, National). Introduced 15 November 2012. First reading 25 September 2013, report due 25 March 2014.	Makes it an offence for a person to have a hand-held laser in their possession without a reasonable excuse.

Source: NZ Parliament website: <http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/>



COSSD/DCLC Consultations Unpacked: Community Meeting

Thanks to everyone to everyone who came along and joined in the lively discussion. For your opportunity to join in and create submissions watch www.councilofsocialservices.org.nz for details of upcoming events.

Council of Social Services Dunedin and Dunedin Community Law Centre hosted an open discussion of the possibility of a Warrant of Fitness for Housing on Thursday 3 October 2013. The following is a summary of opinions expressed at the meeting:

DCC

- DCC is interested in minimum standards of rental accommodation, but haven't settled on best way to achieve this.
- It was clear from the DCC's Social Wellbeing consultation that the quality of housing stock was a concern; residents want warm and adequate housing.
- OUSA interested in student housing stock, and thinking of the best way forward – one idea is introducing a local Bill re: minimum standards. OUSA has drafted local Bill, DCC may or may not go with it.
- DCC cannot develop a bylaw that encourages minimum standards because this would be *ultra vires*
- Internationally the UK has minimum housing standards
- Green Party has a Private Members Bill re: minimum standards
- Need to be mindful of unintended consequences.

Presbyterian Support Otago

In 2004 Presbyterian Support Otago published *Old, Cold and Costly? A Survey of Low Income Private Rental Housing in Dunedin*

(otago.ps.org.nz/sites/all/files/u14/Old%20Cold%20and%20Costly_o.pdf), they are currently revisiting homes they visited 10 years ago, looking to see if there are improvements.

Opinions expressed

If a WoF is introduced there are some unintended consequences for elderly folk:

- Elderly residents, are now being encouraged to stay in their homes for as long as possible, there is pressure to be independent for as long as possible.
- Elderly residents feel they need to keep up with the maintenance of their homes or they are letting their children down (ie: in terms of inheritance).

WoF is only a small part of the picture, we need a holistic view. Poverty is an issue; 60-70% of people's income is going on rent.

- If you instigated a housing WoF it would result in a rent increase. Median rents would start to climb.
- Should encourage new builds, if there is new housing stock on the market the quality rises and old houses will drop off the market.
- Regulatory problems with renovating older housing stock – problems re: Historic Places Trust saving older Dunedin homes.
- Questions around where the standard is set, and time frames, ie: 5 – 10 year compliance, possibility of a star rating system.

Idea of a star rating system:

- would apply to landlords and not to private home owners;
- some private home owners cannot afford the upkeep of their homes.

General Discussion

- Need to educate tenants in what to look for, Otago Polytechnic has guidance online: www.opsa.org.nz/accommodation.php
- Issue of what new migrants think of Dunedin's housing stock; New Zealanders tend to put up with poorer housing stock.
- Students choose location over housing stock.
- Unintended consequences (ie: rent increases) versus a moral issue (good quality homes for families). Is legislation a way of dealing with morality?
- Compliance is a way to weed out rogue landlords.
- We can't legislate private home owners, some private homeowners are bringing up children in substandard housing and the health system has to pick up the pieces.
- International models: Scotland Scottish Housing Quality Standards, requirement that these be met by 2015. (www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/16342/shqs)
- Landlords need to be supported to bring homes up to standard in a way that does not increase the cost of rent.
- Over time minimum standards will become the norm. Two – three years ago you could charge extra if you put a heatpump in, now the market has created heatpumps as a minimum standard so you cannot charge more.
- Dunedin is an old city, need a localised WoF and some sort of benchmark and more research.
- Good quality housing is a Human Rights issue and a mark of civilised society.

- Needs to be some education around what to look for in rental accommodation, and also education for landlords, asking them the question "if I am renting would I live like this?" If landlords look after their premises they will find that their tenants will too.



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Website www.councilofsocalservices.org.nz

dunedinconnect.org.nz

COSSD and Hub174 of the Malcam Trust are working together to develop a central online calendar.

dunedinconnect.org.nz will automatically bring together information on Dunedin events and meetings from across the web. We're working with trial organisations at the moment to iron out any technical problems. Check out the site for more information.

Would you like your community events to be publicised online for free? If so give Rob a call on 03 471 6177 or email rob@dunedinconnect.org.nz We can discuss adding a calendar to your site or using the central calendar directly.



Becoming smarter with your smart device

Introductory classes for:
Android phones/tablets & iPhones/
iPads

Level 1 class:

This class will help you be a smart user of your smart device and bridge the gap between what you currently do with your device and what your smartphone or tablet is capable of.

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- Personalising your device
- Battery tips
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What people have said about the classes:

"I now know what the technical names mean and how they work like apps and widgets."

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"I'm loving using my phone now. Feel that I didn't waste my money on something that wouldn't be used to capacity."



**DUNEDIN COMMUNITY
LAW CENTRE**

Consultations Unpacked The Legal Framework for Burial and Cremation in NZ: A First Principles Review



Council of Social Services Dunedin & Dunedin Community Law Centre invite you to discuss the Law Commission Issues Paper *The Legal Framework for Burial and Cremation in New Zealand: A First Principles Review* and assist with formulating a possible submission.

12 - 1:30 Thursday 5 December 2013

**Dunedin Community House
301 Moray Place, Dunedin 9106**

Bring your Lunch, Tea & Coffee provided

The Legal Framework for Burial and Cremation in New Zealand: A First Principles Review is being undertaken by the Law Commission. Submissions close on 20th December. The Law Commission is hosting an event at Dunedin Museum 1-3pm 28 November.

We've prepared a quick guide to the proposals and some pointers to information to help us get a handle on the topic. You can download it from

www.councilofsocialservices.org.nz

Contact: Rob Tigear projects@councilofsocialservices.org.nz 03 471 6177



COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DUNEDIN)

Notice of 33rd

Annual General Meeting

Guest Speaker:
Murray Kirkness
Editor Otago Daily Times

20 November 2013
12pm - 2pm

Venue: Alexander McMillan Room
Dunedin Community House
Corner of Moray Place & Great King Street