



# NELSON MARLBOROUGH & WEST COAST



**NELSON, MARLBOROUGH AND WEST COAST  
REGIONAL PLAN FOR 2008/2009**  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



**NELSON,  
MARLBOROUGH  
AND WEST COAST  
REGIONAL  
PLAN  
FOR  
2008/2009**



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# WELCOME



I'm pleased to present the Ministry of Social Development's 2008/2009 Regional Plan for the Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast region.

The Ministry's aim is to help New Zealanders live better lives. This requires us to put people at the centre of all we do as we support them to build their security and their welfare. We know that strong people build strong families and that strong families make strong communities and regions.

Covering a broad area geographically, our region comprises diverse communities with quite different social needs. The economically booming Marlborough area faces ongoing struggles to find labour, while housing in the area is becoming increasingly unaffordable. On the West Coast, families are more likely to be living on incomes below the national average and young people are also more likely than other New Zealand students to leave school with few or no qualifications.

While the population is increasing – drawn by climate, scenery and lifestyle

– and will go some way towards meeting the labour shortages, we still need to anticipate and plan for future needs. In the coming year, we'll continue to support labour market forums and workforce development strategies, and influence local training to provide workers with the skills needed by local industry.

In the coming year, we'll also work to improve the wellbeing of disadvantaged individuals and families. Our support of the campaign against family violence will include the co-ordination of responses to ensure the care and protection of victims of violence. Programmes that strengthen families and support parenting skills will build more secure homes for children.

In other work, we'll help people to better connect with their communities, whether through study, training or work – either paid or voluntary. We'll encourage people with ill-health or a disability to plan for their futures and, where appropriate, support them to access treatment that will help them into work that's right for them. We'll encourage our older citizens to participate in community activities, sharing their valuable skills and experience.

All of these efforts focus on overcoming challenges and helping people to be successful in their lives. And that's what this Plan is about – over the next few pages we've set out the priorities and activities for the coming year.

The achievements during the past year pave the way for our progress in 2008/2009. I would like to acknowledge the commitment of our staff who work with the people and communities in our

region – our ability to stay relevant and act on the needs of our region is only possible through their continued efforts.

We are fortunate to have government agencies, community groups, iwi and industries who demonstrate a real willingness to work together for the wellbeing of the people in their communities.

We're looking forward to the coming year as we continue to work together towards the goals of this Regional Plan. I'm confident our combined efforts will continue to make a real, tangible difference to the lives of individuals, families and communities in the Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast region.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janine Dowding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Janine Dowding

**Regional Commissioner for Social Development**

***"While the population is increasing – drawn by climate, scenery and lifestyle – and will go some way towards meeting the labour shortages, we still need to anticipate and plan for future needs."***

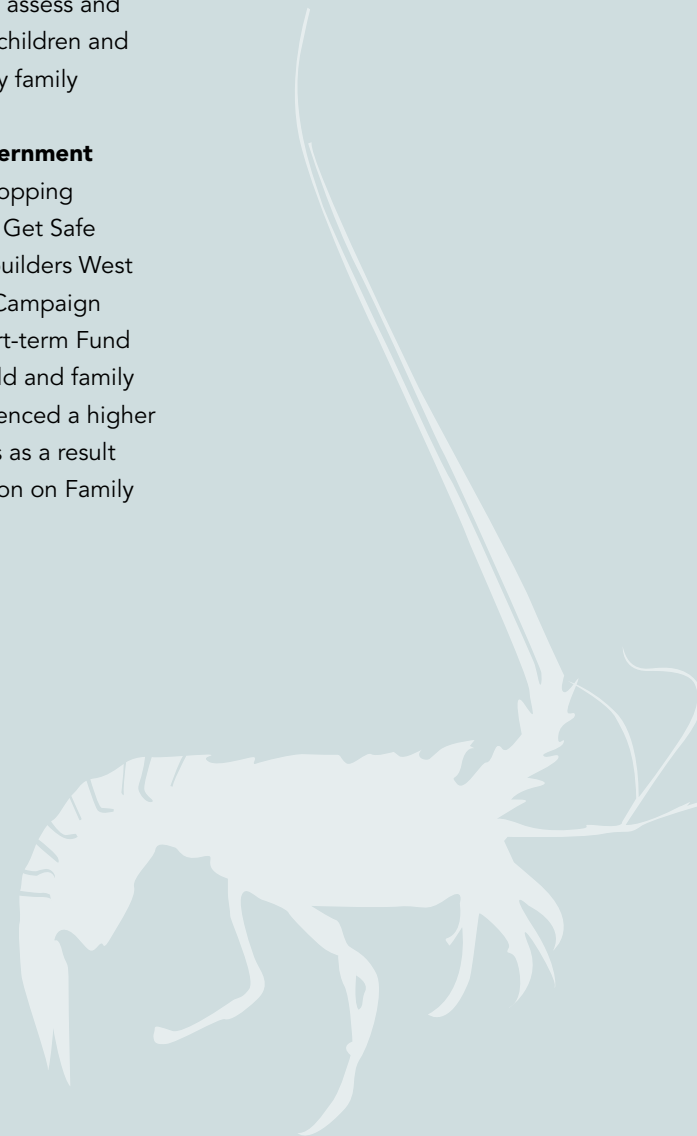
# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2007/2008

Our goal for last year was to work with individuals, families and their communities to drive positive change – to make a real difference to the lives of children, young people, working age people, older people and families and whānau.

In partnership with other government agencies, individuals and organisations, we developed and implemented a variety of initiatives to address the region's important social issues – and to help build a strong, healthy society for the people who live here.

Highlights of our work include:

- **The approval of Enterprising Communities funding** to implement the Marlborough Workforce Development Strategy. This Strategy aims to attract, train and retain workers in an area of persistent labour shortage.
- **A finalist nomination in the IPANZ (Institute of Public Administration New Zealand) awards for our Great Little Cookbook.** With a fifth reprint, we've now distributed almost 40,000 copies to social support, budgeting, recreation and health organisations across New Zealand.
- **We continued to achieve significant reductions in the number of people in our region receiving an unemployment-related benefit** – with a reduction from 2,163 working aged people in March 2003 to 324 in March 2008.
- **The completion and release of Local Services Mapping profiles** for the Marlborough and Tasman Districts. These profiles identify key issues and opportunities for response. We'll actively support the community responses to these profiles.
- **Funding of Barnardos to support professionals** to identify, assess and respond to the needs of children and young people affected by family violence.
- **The funding of non-government organisations** such as Stopping Violence Service Nelson, Get Safe Motueka and the Homebuilders West Coast Trust through the Campaign Response Fund. The short-term Fund supports providers of child and family services that have experienced a higher demand for their services as a result of the Campaign for Action on Family Violence.



# OUR REGION



NELSON, MARLBOROUGH AND WEST COAST  
AT A GLANCE

**161,397 PEOPLE**  
LIVE HERE

**WE HAVE FIVE  
STUNNING  
NATIONAL PARKS**

– ABEL TASMAN, KAHURANGI, NELSON  
LAKES, PAPAROA AND WESTLAND/  
TAI POUTINI

**THERE ARE  
FOUR MARINE  
RESERVES**

– WESTHAVEN, TONGA ISLAND,  
HOROURANGI AND LONG ISLAND

**PRIMARY  
INDUSTRY  
FEATURES  
STRONGLY IN  
OUR ECONOMY**

– THIS INCLUDES FORESTRY,  
AGRICULTURE, VITICULTURE,  
AQUACULTURE AND MINING

# FACING CHALLENGES, BUILDING ON OPPORTUNITIES

## Why we do what we do

Social sector government agencies must work closely together to achieve the best results for New Zealanders. Often agencies' priorities don't always fit neatly together so we are contributing to the priorities of other agencies where we have shared interests. Sometimes this involves us as a working partner, at other times we lead by co-ordinating, streamlining and monitoring services.

The Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast region faces some challenges that are common to other regions around the country while other challenges are more unique to us. Whether national or local, we need to address all challenges with smart, innovative solutions. We need to explore and take maximum advantage of the region's opportunities to help our people build their lives and livelihoods.

## WHAT WE KNOW...

We have a shortage of childcare and early childhood education services, especially those for children with health or disability needs. While participation in early childhood education is positive, regionally there are rural pockets – such as Buller and Westland – where uptake can be improved.

Young people in some parts of the region are leaving school with low or no qualifications. According to The Social Report 2007, school leavers on the West Coast are the least likely to have higher qualifications compared to the rest of the country.

We are facing an ongoing labour shortage. The Marlborough area has been declared an area with an absolute labour shortage since November 2006.

Our population is ageing – the number of people aged 65 years and over in the region is projected to more than double from 24,200 in 2006 (14.6% of the population) to 52,700 in 2031 (29.1% of the population). The demand for our services will likely rise as these residents deal with the possibility of reduced mobility, increasing health needs and the effects on their economic wellbeing as their ability to produce an income reduces.

## WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT IT...

We'll work with communities and education providers to address the service shortage and ensure the region's children benefit from the lifelong advantages resulting from taking part in education from an early age.  
(Read more on page 19)

We'll work with education and training providers and youth services to ensure students make seamless transitions from study into further education, training or work.  
(Read more on pages 12 and 13)

We'll work with employers and service providers so that people wanting to work are able to build the skills and experience industries need. This will include working with people not traditionally regarded as sources of labour.  
(Read more on pages 14 and 15)

We'll review our services to ensure we can deliver to the changing needs of the region's older residents.  
(Read more on page 15)



WHAT WE KNOW...	WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT IT...
<p>Our local economy is heavily dependent on revenue from exports, and so it is vulnerable to external influences such as exchange rates, energy and oil prices and international competition.</p>	<p>Working with local industry groups and employers we'll continue to monitor the economic health of the region's businesses to anticipate the likely impact of these influences on workers and their families. (Read more on page 15)</p>
<p>Housing costs continue to be an issue – in some areas of our region house prices rose by 70% between 2002 and 2004 and the surge in the region's population has contributed to a shortage of affordable homes.</p>	<p>We'll continue to work with central and local government agencies on developing solutions to the accommodation issues faced by the region.</p>
<p>While some areas enjoy robust economic health, the region has persistent pockets of disparity – for example, approximately a quarter of West Coast households have a real income of less than 60% of the national average.</p>	<p>We'll improve the way we work internally and with other agencies to ensure people receive the right support services at the right time. (Read more on pages 16 and 17)</p>
<p>Family breakdown and drug and alcohol use are fuelling poor educational achievement and an increase in antisocial behaviour among our young people.</p>	<p>We'll work with health and youth service providers to ensure these young people have the support they need to build positive futures. (Read more on pages 12 and 13)</p>

For us to make a difference in the Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast region, all our work requires close collaboration – within the Ministry, with our partners in the health, education and justice sectors and with community organisations and volunteers throughout the region. Strong collaboration is a feature of the initiatives we're undertaking in 2008/2009.

The work we've outlined in this year's Regional Plan fits neatly with the Ministry's 'big picture' strategies and goals. Working as part of a strong, cohesive, nationwide team, we'll also act locally – delivering services that meet our region's unique needs.



# OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2008/2009

The Ministry of Social Development is all about helping to build successful individuals – and in turn building strong, healthy families and communities.

We know we can't do this alone; that only by working with government and non-government organisations, with communities and with individuals can we really make a positive difference.

That's our focus – and it's reflected in our five key priorities for 2008/2009.



## GIVE CHILDREN THE BEST START IN LIFE

Children are New Zealand's future – all children deserve to grow up in a safe and happy environment.



## HELP YOUNG PEOPLE ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

Young people need to be supported to overcome barriers and develop their understanding and ability to make sound decisions about the issues and opportunities they face.





**ENABLE PEOPLE TO LIVE INDEPENDENT LIVES**

All New Zealanders need to have access to services and the ability to gain skills that will enable them to live healthy and productive lives.



**SUPPORT FAMILIES AND WHĀNAU TO BE SAFE AND RESILIENT**

Families and whānau should be able to support their members' wellbeing, identity, participation in society and interdependence.



**STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES**

We need to build our relationships with, and the capability of, volunteers and community organisations to ensure that New Zealand families and communities are strong and resilient.



# GIVE CHILDREN THE BEST START IN LIFE

## Strong and loving families are vital to give children the best start in life.

**Under this priority we aim to help all children to feel valued and respected, and to be involved in decisions that affect their lives. After all, healthy, safe and active children and their families are crucial to our social, economic and cultural strength.**

*You can access SKIP resources and information on the Local Initiatives Fund at: [www.familyservices.govt.nz](http://www.familyservices.govt.nz)*

In the coming year we will:

### **Focus on children**

*In partnership with community social service providers*

We'll provide support to parents to help them build their parenting skills and provide a loving, nurturing home for their children. Initiatives include:

- Our Family Start Programme, through which families with high needs receive intensive, home-based support services. Family/whānau workers in Westport and Greymouth liaise with families to identify their priorities and help them to achieve them. This year we'll expand the Nelson service to Motueka and Tapawera.
- The Strategies with Kids – Information for Parents (SKIP) Programme, which helps parents build their skills to raise their children in a positive, loving way, using limits and boundaries rather than physical discipline. This year we'll review and update our resources for parents and caregivers of children from birth to five years wanting advice and information.
- Through the SKIP Local Initiatives Fund – run locally by WestREAP – we'll support a range of positive parenting initiatives including:
  - Nurturing the Future, a popular parenting course that helps parents build on their strengths and experiences
  - ongoing parenting support groups
  - family activity days

- community network meetings for providers of services to parents of young children
- Brainwave Trust workshops which focus on the relationship between child development and behaviour.

### **Ensure the right response at the right time**

*In partnership with non-government organisations*

In 2008/2009 we'll implement the new Differential Response Approach in all Child, Youth and Family sites in the region. The Approach will help us ensure we respond appropriately to notifications of children, young people and families needing our help. With increasing notification numbers, it's vitally important that any actions we take – and services that we and other agencies provide – are appropriate to families' circumstances and delivered promptly and effectively.

### **Ensure children in care enjoy a stable home**

*In partnership with families, caregivers and other agencies*

We'll work to ensure children and young people move into stable and enduring placements with family or permanent caregivers. To help caregivers who commit to these children long-term, we'll provide:

- advice and support from social workers
- some assistance with legal fees
- ongoing financial support through the Unsupported Child Benefit, the Care Supplement and any other support they're entitled to.



### **Grow healthy children through participation in sport**

*In partnership with the Nelson/Marlborough District Health Board, Rotary, the Department of Corrections and Storage World*

Improving the health and wellbeing of the region's children requires a holistic approach. This year we're involved in two initiatives that aim to get more children involved in physical activity.

- The Participation Fund – a joint project with the Nelson/Marlborough District Health Board – helps families who can't afford to pay the costs for their children to participate in sport. This year, fundraising options to build the service's sustainability and improve its distribution system will be developed so that more children can have access to this support.
- The Replay initiative which recycles publicly-donated sporting equipment and clothing to give to children wanting to participate in sport. This year will see

the project improve its distribution systems and be implemented across the Nelson/Tasman area.

### **Check the health of children in our care**

*Working with the Nelson/Marlborough District Health Board, public health nurses, and schools*

Caregivers may not always be aware of the health needs of children placed into their care. Often these children have missed treatments or had them delayed, compromising their long-term health and wellbeing. This year we'll pilot a programme of health checks for children entering our care to ensure they receive the medical support they need. Our pilot will involve:

- establishing a standardised referral process
- improving communication between health professionals, parents, caregivers and schools
- developing a comprehensive records collation and storage system.

### **Support Māori families and children**

*Working with primary health organisations, the Te Korowai Trust, kōhanga reo and other education and health service providers*

This year, we'll support the Whakatū Hearing Early Education and Literacy (WHEEL) project which aims to improve the support for young Māori and other children experiencing hearing difficulties (Glue Ear) through early detection and intervention. Two language and speech therapists will work with the families identified through kōhanga reo, preschools and the Te Korowai Trust. Funded mainly through public health funding, WHEEL:

- shows parents how to help with their child's literacy
- educates parents on how to provide a healthy home
- works with families and their doctors to deal with hearing impairment.

# HELP YOUNG PEOPLE ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

**By helping young people to strengthen and develop their self-esteem and resilience, we're encouraging personal development and achievements as well as better health.**

**Through our own services and with help from partner organisations, we're committed to helping young people to connect to their families and communities and develop pathways to further education, training or employment. This is also an important strategy for reducing re-offending and helping at-risk young people to turn their lives around for the better.**

In the coming year we will:

## **Support young people to make positive transitions**

*In partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Nelson Connections Steering Group, local government, youth service providers, secondary schools and training organisations*

The transition to adulthood can be tough for some of our young people. We want to help as many of them as possible to make the transition successfully. In 2008/2009 we'll increase our efforts to provide support to young people at risk of falling through the gaps by working:

- with the Nelson Connections Steering Group, to build on existing services to develop a joined-up youth transition service in the Nelson/Tasman area
- with the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs, to explore opportunities to develop additional transition services for the West Coast and Marlborough communities
- with the Ministry of Education, through Schools Plus, to ensure young people stay in school or participate in appropriate training until they are 18.

## **Help young people to make better choices**

*Working with local government, the New Zealand Police and education and community service providers*

Strong family support and access to education and employment opportunities are important factors in connecting young people to their communities and reducing youth offending. Under our Youth Justice Plan we'll work with the New Zealand



Police, and more closely with the Tasman District Council and the Motueka and Golden Bay communities to support young people involved in offending to make better life choices. We'll seek to identify at-risk youth to help them redirect their energies into more productive activities that build their long-term independence.

## **Build a collective response to help young people**

We'll establish an internal youth network to draw together all parts of the Ministry that provide support to young people in our region. This collaboration will allow us to be more effective in our work through:

- sharing research to help identify the transition points in young people's lives
- using a shared model of practice to improve our responsiveness



*schools* plus

For more information visit:  
[www.schoolsplus.govt.nz](http://www.schoolsplus.govt.nz)

- building a more comprehensive evidence base of what works
- sharing our network of contacts.

#### **Provide young people with a voice**

*In partnership with youth councils, local government and schools*

Young people need a sense of being valued, of being connected with others; they also need to be included in the decision-making process on issues that affect them.

Through our Youth Participation training we'll provide an opportunity for the region's young people to take part in discussion forums and national networks, contribute to the development of educational resources, newsletters and websites and have face-to-face contact with us. In 2007, we hosted a Student

Decision-maker Forum and a Youth Council Forum and we have more planned in the coming year.

#### **Help young people to live independently**

Securing the safety of young people who can't live at home is vital. Our Care to Independence Programme helps young people aged 15 years and over to make the move from our care to permanent independent living. Without traditional adult support, these young people need extra help to achieve that independence. Through the Programme we'll ensure they have access to the social services for which they qualify, and they acquire the essential skills they need to support themselves and make their own decisions.

# ENABLE PEOPLE TO LIVE INDEPENDENT LIVES

## Paid work provides the foundation to wellbeing for New Zealand families.

**Through this priority area we aim to support all New Zealanders in contributing to their own lives and to their communities, the voluntary sector and the economy.**

**We'll be developing our services to ensure we provide the right support for people starting work or taking up other opportunities – and we'll be learning more about older people's issues, so that we respond with the right services at the right time.**

In the coming year we will:

### **Help more people into paid work**

*Working with the Nelson/Marlborough District Health Board and primary health organisations*

As part of Working New Zealand: Work-Focused Support we'll ensure that people receiving a Sickness or Invalid's Benefit, who want to work, are given every opportunity to do so.

We've introduced a number of advisory roles to provide the right service and support to people with ill-health or a disability. This year advisors and co-ordinators will work with the individual and their health professionals to identify their needs and goals – then establish the most appropriate support and services to help them move into suitable work, as their circumstances allow. Where work isn't an option, we'll support people to participate in their community.

This year we'll also introduce a number of new services that support people to realise their work goals. An example is the introduction of the mild to moderate health services that will provide people with mild to moderate mental health conditions with tailored packages of health services to help them to move towards employment.

In 2008/2009:

- our regional Health Team will promote best practice services for people with ill-health or a disability
- knowledge cafes will be held to inform Ministry and Accident Compensation Corporation staff of the services that both organisations provide to support people to move into or return to work

- we'll develop and fund strategies that promote employers' acceptance of people with ill-health or disabilities as workers.

### **Help tertiary students make good decisions**

*In partnership with prospective and current students, parents, teachers and influencers*

We help current students and potential students to make informed decisions about their study options, the types of financial assistance available and how to keep their borrowing as low as possible. We also provide students with the information they need to understand the financial realities of student life and how to get the most out of their investment.

In 2008/2009 we'll continue to develop and enhance our programmes including:

- On Course – an informative presentation helping mainly secondary students take the step up to tertiary education
- StudyWise – an in-depth session advising on study choice, costs of studying, StudyLink and Work and Income assistance, other funding options such as scholarships and grants, and the impacts of taking on a Student Loan
- StudyLink Expos – an opportunity for prospective students to get advice on the financial options including student loans, and discuss career choices
- MyStudyLink – an online service through which students can view and update their personal details
- two StudyLink scholarship programmes: the Bonded Merit Scholarship for

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students in their second year of study and the Step Up Scholarship for students in the first year of a degree who qualify for a Student Allowance.

We'll also provide a transition service to ensure people moving from a benefit to study are receiving all the support they're entitled to and are able to make good study choices for their circumstances.

### **Support local employers**

*In partnership with local industries, employers, training providers, local authorities and economic development agencies*

Recruitment remains an issue for key employers, with skill and labour shortages constraining the region's opportunities for economic growth. To address the shortage of skilled labour and other labour market issues such as participation, productivity, and skills and talent, we'll:

- Build employers' confidence in our recruitment services by matching their vacancy requirements to job seekers and providing professional support and advice.
- Develop Industry Partnerships with the mining, aquaculture, caregiving, customer service, administration and trade industries. Through these

Partnerships we'll work with key industries and employers to identify their needs and hiring requirements to develop tailored training programmes – such as Straight 2 Work – to ensure that job seekers are trained and ready for entry-level positions in these industries.

- Support initiatives that promote the development of local businesses.
- Capture local labour market intelligence through Labour Market Forums in Nelson, Marlborough, Kaikoura and the West Coast.
- Provide labour market input to regional reports such as the Regional Economic Development Strategies.
- Continue our Town to Town project, where we bring unemployed people from other areas within our region to Marlborough to meet their ever-growing seasonal and full-time labour needs.

### **Value our older people**

*In partnership with other government agencies, local government, local industries, employers and community organisations such as Age Concern and Grey Power*

Given the rising number of people aged 65 and over, we'll review our services

to people in this age group. We'll trial a new service approach in our Stoke Service Centre and use the results to develop an appropriate, integrated service that provides older people with improved access to timely, relevant information on our services and the social services available in their communities. This support will also improve their ability to stay in their own homes and participate in their communities.

To ensure older people in our region are (and feel) valued, enjoy the best possible health and safety and continue to participate in their communities, this year we'll:

- encourage them to participate in our SAGES (older people as mentors) programme through which they have the opportunity to provide practical support to families needing skills in home management and parenting
- develop employment opportunities and provide job-search support for those who can and want to work after reaching retirement age
- encourage local employers to consider employing older people to meet their labour needs
- support those who are raising children of other people.

### **Expand SuperGold Card benefits**

*In partnership with the business sector, business associations and local government*

The SuperGold Card offers older people discounts and concessions on a range of products and services. We'll work to increase the number, location and value of these savings.

# SUPPORT FAMILIES AND WHĀNAU TO BE SAFE AND RESILIENT

**Strong, resilient families that know how to look after themselves are vital to New Zealand's economic, social and cultural wellbeing.**

**While most Kiwi families cope well with the pressures of today's world, some do not – and they need our support.**

In the coming year we will:

## **Build families' financial wellbeing**

*Working with budgeting service providers*

Low incomes, financial burdens, unemployment, family changes and work demands can all affect the resilience of families and their ability to provide for their needs. To help families better cope with life's demands we'll ensure families qualifying for Working for Families are receiving their full entitlement. We'll also establish a funders forum to:

- identify the key contributors to financial burden within our region
- identify effective local and national support initiatives
- build our working relationships with budgeting services so we are working in an effective and joined-up way with mutual clients
- build best practices internally to reduce the likelihood of overpayments.

These efforts will help the region's families to manage their incomes and financial obligations, make good spending choices and provide for their future financial security.

## **Bring families and support agencies together**

*Working with other government agencies, non-government organisations and community service providers*

This year we'll provide lead-agency funding to support community organisations to participate in the whole-of-government Strengthening Families initiative. The initiative helps families access the services they need by bringing together a family

and all the agencies that play a part in helping them. At an initial meeting, the family talks about their priorities and the agencies plan how they can work together to help support the family to achieve its desired outcomes. It allows families to get better access to information and services to develop their own goals and solutions.

Locally, we've funded:

- the Te Tai O Marokura Charitable Trust in Kaikoura
- Family Focus, Homebuilders and Rata Te Awhina on the West Coast
- Bread of Life, Barnardos and Open Home in Marlborough
- the Golden Bay Community Workers Trust, the Motueka Family Service Centre, Te Awhina Marae, the Manuka Community Centre, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Plunket, Presbyterian Support, IDEA and the He Matapuna Ora Charitable Trust in Nelson/Tasman.

## **Identify families with multiple and complex needs**

*Working with other government agencies such as the New Zealand Police, the Housing New Zealand Corporation, district health boards and non-government organisations*

Our recently implemented Integrated Service Response identifies families with multiple and complex needs and provides them with services that aim to reduce their level of risk and build on their strengths. The programme builds stronger links to a range of existing processes and services including our Family Violence Intervention Programme, the work of our Strengthening Families Co-ordinators and our Family



Start Programme. This year, Integrated Service Co-ordinators will work across the Ministry, and in partnership with other government agencies and non-government organisations to support our most at-risk families by providing a co-ordinated interagency response to ensure they receive the right support at the right time.

#### **Help families who experience violence**

*Working with the Families Commission, the New Zealand Police and community providers*

We'll work on a range of initiatives to reduce family violence in the region. Work for 2008/2009 will include:

- Continued support for the 'It's not OK' family violence prevention campaign.
- The Community Action Fund, which provides financial support for community-led initiatives. Currently, we're funding:
  - Get Safe Motueka
  - the Marlborough Violence Intervention Network
  - the Golden Bay Community Workers Trust
- the Kaikoura Family Violence Network
- the Greymouth and Buller Family Violence Network.
- Our Family Violence Intervention Programme, through which frontline Work and Income staff are trained to identify family violence and to refer people to the services and support they need.
- Our continued involvement with Te Rito family violence response groups in Nelson, Marlborough and the West Coast and the ongoing building of collaborative services under this programme.
- Funding Barnardos to support and advocate for children and young people in Nelson/Tasman and Marlborough who witness family violence. The Barnardos advocate will ensure children and young people affected by family violence are identified, assessed and their needs responded to, and that parents and caregivers receive appropriate advice and information.

**For information on the national 'It's not OK' campaign and the Community Action Fund visit: [www.areyouok.org.nz](http://www.areyouok.org.nz)**

# STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES

**This priority recognises and responds to the enormous contribution made by volunteers and community organisations to New Zealand's social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing.**

**By building our relationships with this sector, we can work together to develop strong, resilient New Zealand families.**

**For more information on Pathway to Partnership visit: [www.msd.govt.nz](http://www.msd.govt.nz)**

Over the coming year we will:

## **Strengthen community providers**

*In partnership with community service providers*

Pathway to Partnership is a long-term plan that will make sure community organisations have the funding they need to deliver high-quality, effective services. At its core are the strong, supportive working relationships between government and the community sector.

The funding package – \$446 million nationally over four years – will be progressively introduced from July 2008. The new funding will enable us to:

- begin to move essential children, young people and family-focused services to full funding by 2011
- provide for annual cost adjustment payments
- address forecast volume increases
- focus more on achieving results and less on inputs or programmes
- enable providers to build their workforce capability and capacity
- support organisations to work more closely together to reduce duplication and get more resources into services.

The funding also builds on work that we're already doing, like simplifying our funding and contracting processes, moving some contracts to grants to reduce compliance costs and providing organisations with multi-year funding.

## **Support local-level planning**

*In partnership with local government, community organisations, central government agencies and iwi*

Local Services Mapping helps communities identify ways to improve the development, planning, delivery, effectiveness and funding of social services for families. Working with the various agencies and service providers within communities, it 'maps' the services available and then seeks to build strong links between these services and between community and government.

During 2008/2009, we'll complete a Local Services Mapping profile for the Grey District.

## **Improve rural access to government services**

*In partnership with government agencies, non-government organisations and local communities*

Heartland Service Centres are a one-stop-shop offering government information and services, and often community support services, for people in provincial and rural New Zealand.

Our Heartland Service Centre in Kaikoura is going from strength to strength. This year, we'll relocate the Takaka Centre to provide for an expansion and greater mix of services in the Golden Bay community.

## **Support migrants to settle in**

*Working with other government agencies, local councils and community providers*

The populations of Nelson and Marlborough are becoming more diverse, raising a number of social issues as migrants establish new lives in a new country. Working alongside local councils, we've helped to facilitate Settling In reports for these communities resulting in the establishment of migrant services



in Marlborough and the enhancement of existing services in Nelson. This support focuses on helping migrant communities to build their capacity and capability to provide their own services to meet migrant needs.

This year we'll carry out Settling In research on the West Coast. We'll work with local bodies, government agencies, economic development agencies and industry to build and further develop migrant services based on the research findings.

### **Improve community capacity**

*In partnership with local authorities, economic development agencies and community groups*

We'll work to help communities build capacity to respond to labour market constraints and generate employment in areas of disadvantage. This year through our Enterprising Communities Grants, we'll provide funding to non-profit organisations to develop and grow community-owned businesses that provide employment opportunities for people who might otherwise have difficulty finding work.

Examples of projects we're funding include:

- supporting the co-ordination and implementation of the region's workforce development strategies
- increasing childcare services across the region, including funding a KidStart Training Co-ordinator to support more people to provide home-based childcare services in Marlborough and Motueka
- contributing to the co-ordination costs for an eco-sanctuary project based in Nelson
- providing financial support for an Environmental Manager responsible for the recruitment and training of local iwi employed as monitors and advisors.

### **Build stronger community connections**

*Working with the Department of Labour, the Marlborough District Council, the wine industry, the Pacific Island community, the Office of Ethnic Affairs, the Marlborough District Health Board and primary healthcare organisations*

While Marlborough's booming viticulture industry is a boost to the local economy,

the influx of workers is impacting on the social fabric of the area, with increased demands on health and social services and affordable housing. We'll work with government agencies, local government and a range of community services to seek solutions to alleviate or address issues faced by these communities.

### **Bring services together in one place**

We often work with people at critical times in their lives. Our research and experience tells us that the best results are achieved when these individuals are the ones making informed choices about how to make their lives successful.

At our new Linwood Community Link in Christchurch – government and community agencies work together to achieve positive results for these individuals and their families. Community Link wraps the right mix of services and supports around individuals and their families in a way that suits their particular needs and circumstances. The approach we're testing at Linwood is a new way of working which enables us to address the underlying needs of our clients. While it's early days and there's still a lot to learn, we're committed to using the aspects of the approach that are effective in our region.

***If your organisation would like to find out more about Enterprising Communities visit: [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz) or call 0800 779 998***

# THANKS

**The details in this Plan reflect one aim: to help people in the Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast region to find solutions to live better lives.**

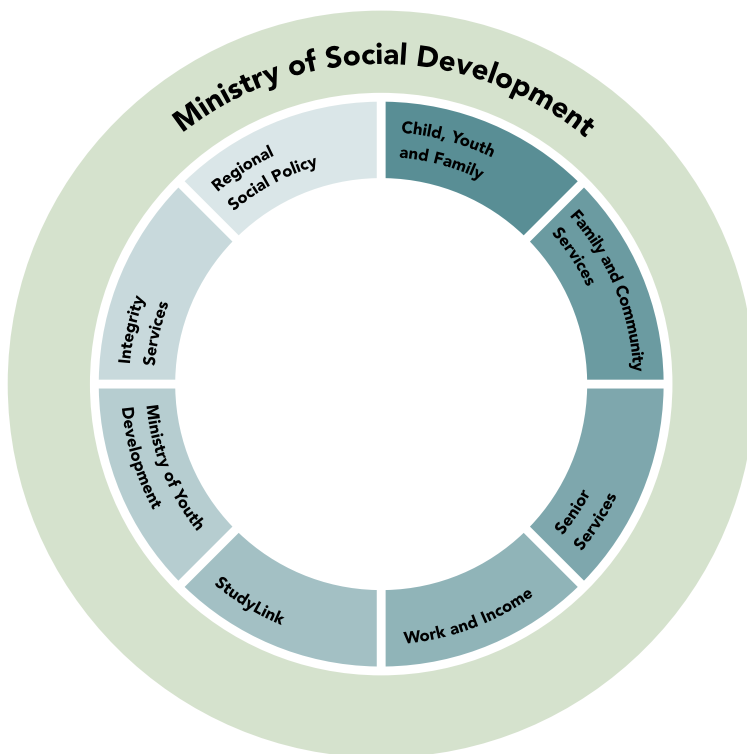
This is not always a simple job. There are no quick-fix solutions to the many issues some people face – and it's not a job we can do alone. Success requires our collective efforts with other government agencies and non-government organisations, along with communities and individuals. Working together provides New Zealand families and communities with the benefit of our combined skills and resources.

The great results already achieved in the region have been made possible through the efforts of our staff in conjunction with our partners in central government such as the Ministries of Education, Health and Justice, the New Zealand Police and the Housing New Zealand Corporation. Local iwi and hapū, district health boards, primary health organisations, local government and numerous voluntary and community-based organisations have also contributed in making positive, tangible differences in the lives of people in Nelson, Marlborough and the West Coast.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in 2008/2009.

# OUR ORGANISATION

## How the Ministry operates in our region



### ● Child, Youth and Family

Helps children and young people who are abused or neglected, or who commit offences by working with their families to help make them safe or to keep them from re-offending. We also provide adoption services. We have:

- 1 Service Centre
- 3 Sites.

### ● Family and Community Services

Helps to build connected communities and strong, resilient families by co-ordinating government and non-government organisations to support families to be well resourced, violence-free and connected to their communities. We have:

- 4 Heartland Service Centres.

### ● Senior Services

Administers the Community Services Card and the SuperGold Card and includes International Services and War Pension Services.

### ● Work and Income

Offers a single point of contact for people needing work-search support to secure employment; in-work support that assists people to stay in employment; and income support to people who require temporary assistance or additional income to supplement their earnings. We have:

- 9 Service Centres.

### ● StudyLink

Administers financial assistance to students and works in co-operation with secondary schools, tertiary education providers and student bodies to ensure students get the finance they are entitled to so they can complete their study. We have:

- 1 Outreach Site.

### ● Ministry of Youth Development

Promotes the interests of young people aged between 12 and 24 years so that they are valued, nurtured, and challenged to reach their full potential.

### ● Integrity Services

Helps to ensure people are receiving their correct entitlements to financial assistance with an emphasis on preventing and minimising overpayments and fraud.

### ● Regional Social Policy

Connects the regions and National Office by providing early warning of the big risks that are emerging on the ground, supporting Regional Commissioners to achieve regional priorities and bringing issues to National Office that require a national policy response.

## Ministry of Social Development

Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast  
Regional Office  
Level 1  
22 Bridge Street  
Nelson  
[www.msd.govt.nz](http://www.msd.govt.nz)

## Community Services Card

0800 999 999

## Child, Youth and Family

[www.cyf.govt.nz](http://www.cyf.govt.nz)  
0508 326459

## Family and Community Services

[www.familyservices.govt.nz](http://www.familyservices.govt.nz)

## Integrity Services

0800 558 008 (Debt Enquiries)  
0800 556 006 (Allegation Line)

## International Services

0800 777 117

## Ministry of Youth Development

[www.myd.govt.nz](http://www.myd.govt.nz)

## StudyLink

[www.studylink.govt.nz](http://www.studylink.govt.nz)  
0800 88 99 00

## SuperGold Card

0800 25 45 65 (Card Holders)  
0508 65 00 00 (Business Partners)

## Work and Income

[www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)  
0800 559 009

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Telephone: +64 4 916 3300

Facsimile: +64 4 918 0099



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