



CHAPLAINCY MESSENGER

For: All Hospital Chaplains, Chaplaincy Assistants, LSP and Trust Board Members

Vol 9 #4 1 May 2008



30 years a Hospital Chaplain

Rev Ian Bayliss celebrated 30 years as a Chaplain at Porirua Hospital in April. A special lunch was held at the hospital to mark the occasion. The Wellington Region Chaplains 6 weekly potluck dinner in April was held at the Bayliss home and included some of the now retired chaplains, Ian had worked with during his 30 years. Congratulations Ian on a job well done.

The Ecumenical Healthcare Chaplaincy Service

The current ICHC / Ministry of Health contract for the Hospital Chaplaincy Service expires on 30

June. As I have prepared for the negotiations on behalf of the Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy Trust Board, the body which on behalf of the nine partner denominations contracts with the government to provide this service, I have reflected a lot. What is it that has enabled this churches / government partnership of 36 years to continue, when so many other ecumenical ventures started in the heady days of ecumenical co-operation in the 1960's and 70's have foundered?

Even the continuation of the ICHC partnership of 9 denominations is amazing. How is it that in these days when there is generally a lower level of belief in denominational partnerships; when most of the denominations have fewer members than they had in the 1960's; when all struggle with the wide range of theological, spiritual, cultural and ministry understandings within their congregations; not to mention the diverse views among clergy and lay members on sexuality and leadership, the place of women in ministry and multi-language worship, that ICHC continues to offer an authentic ecumenical service in our nation's hospitals? However it happens, the answer I believe is that what the churches are offering through their chaplains working ecumenically in the country's hospitals today is as important as it ever was.

There are however challenges!

Can we be sure we will have the clergy to fill the existing number of chaplaincy positions as the number retiring increases sharply?

Can we provide extra chaplains in the larger centers to cater for the population growth?

Will the local Hospital Chaplaincy Support Committees, (on which the local branch of each denomination's church should be represented) still be

able to raise 50% of the funding, if we get the government and the DHB's to continue to contract to meet the other 50% of the national cost?

Since 2002 we have held a contract valid for 1 year, then 2 years, then 3 years, can we now push for a longer period to obtain more stability for our chaplains?

In the last 8 years, 10 pieces of new government legislation have added to the costs and administration both for the ICHC nationally and many of the local Chaplaincy Support Committees. The latest of these required each Committee to become a legal entity and to register with the Charities Commission to maintain a tax free charitable status and to be able to apply for additional funding from community groups and trusts.

36 years ago the Chaplaincy service consisted of mainly Catholic and Anglican chaplains. Certainly every hospital had a Catholic Chaplain and in the larger centres an Anglican Chaplain funded by their diocese, with often an "ecumenical chaplain" funded by a mix of money from the other partner churches. Today there are Catholic positions in each hospital but only 4.5 FTE Anglican positions are still "fully funded" by two Anglican dioceses, all the rest are ecumenical positions funded from a much wider mix of sources. All chaplains are required to work ecumenically and one of the ways this has been achieved, and one of the successes I believe in holding the parties together so long, has been the Agreements the Catholic and Anglican Churches have negotiated with the ICHC Trust Board at varying points of tension in the journey.

The 1992 Agreement between the Catholic Bishops conference and the ICHC Trust Board provides for Catholic Chaplains and Assistants whether full or part-time, to have total responsibility for all Catholic patients in hospitals and they are to be available to those belonging to other denominations, or not belonging to any denomination, if their attendance is requested. A selection of other things covered by this agreement include: ICHC

Interchurch Council for Hospital
Chaplaincy Aotearoa New Zealand
Charitable Trust

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203-209 Willis Street
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recognizing the special role that Catholic Chaplains exercise with regard to the sacramental needs Catholic patients and ensuring that other chaplains respect this. The ICHC Executive Officer consulting with bishops in any situation that may involving mediation; appointment of Chaplains and advising bishops of any complaint received concerning a Catholic Chaplain or Assistant and discussing how it will be dealt with. (Case law precedents and the conditions of indemnity insurance policies make this not as clear cut a procedure in 2008 as it was in 1992).

The 2004 Agreement between the Standing Committee of the Anglican General Synod and ICHC provides that any Anglican clergy candidate applying to be appointed to Ecumenical Healthcare Chaplaincy positions must get the affirmation of that call, by applying for a license from the Bishop in whose diocese the position is located. A selection of other things include: authority to establish and appoint Anglican Healthcare chaplaincy positions. Anglican opposition to the appointment of lay

persons to ecumenical Chaplaincy positions, except where there is an ordained member who is licensed to offer sacramental ministry. Anglican Chaplains needing to meet ICHC Accreditation and training requirements, except for Anglican Tikanga Maori positions, who may develop their own training, qualification and accreditation processes.

We have gone into this year's negotiations with the Ministry of Health expressing a need for increased security for our chaplains and seeking a realistic level of funding to cover the legislative requirements and accountability that must be provided nationally if the Service is to continue.

When the Leaders of the 9 partner churches spoke to the Chairpersons of our Local Chaplaincy Support Committees 18 months ago we were all encouraged by their support of the Chaplains and the pastoral and spiritual care they offer ecumenically. They all believed this is still as important as it ever was.

Otago Hospital Chaplaincy Street Appeal

The annual street appeal on Friday 11 April raised over \$9,000. Well done to the Otago Hospital Chaplaincy supporters for their efforts.

Thank you to all the LSP's who have contributed towards the cost of the 2007 National Fundraising Appeal.



Office Staff Movements in May

National Executive Officer

9 May Contracting meeting with Ministry of Health
21-22 May Midland Regional Chaplaincy Training days at Tauranga Hospital

National Administrator / Trainer

5 May Fund raising meetings in Auckland
6 May Auckland Hospital Chaplains, team re-formation day
7 May Tairāwhiti Chaplaincy Committee Special General Meeting
9 May Contracting meeting with Ministry of Health
15 May Meetings with Waitemata LSP, attend Rev Joan McIntosh's farewell
16 May Afternoon meetings with Blenheim and Nelson Maori Chaplains
21-22 May Midland regional Chaplaincy Training days at Tauranga Hospital

Chaplaincy Movements:

Retirements and resignations

Mrs Leone Salisbury, voluntary Chaplain at Kenepuru Hospital retired at the end of March.

Rev Jack Wirihana, Chaplain to Maori at Waikato Hospital has given notice that he will retire for the second time in July 2008.

Rev Dr Jim Robb, Ecumenical Chaplain, Christchurch Hospital has given notice of his intention to retire on 3 November 2008.

Rev Dr Tony Martin, Ecumenical Chaplain, Dunedin and Wakari Hospitals has resigned. His last day in the hospital will be 13 June 2008

Rev Alan Leadley, Ecumenical Chaplain, Waikato Hospital has given notice of his intention to retire on 25 December 2008

Vacancies

Ecumenical Chaplain **Christchurch Hospital** (Full-time). Applications close Friday 6 June.

Ecumenical Chaplain **Dunedin and Wakari Hospitals** (Full-time). Applications close Friday 6 June

Ron Malpass
National Executive Officer

Thought for the month:

"Sainthood emerges when you listen to someone's tale of woe and don't respond with a tale of your own."

Andrew Mason