



CHAPLAINCY MESSENGER

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

Vol 10 #5 15 June 2009

ICHC Trust Board Executive Committee makes significant decisions

At its meeting on 11 June, 10 months after signing a new funding contract with the Ministry of Health in August 2008, the Board has been able to bring to completion a number of projects. This has been aided by a return to a more stable financial position for the Board over the past 10 months thanks to a cautious approach and some key strategic planning.

The Subsidy for full-time Chaplaincy positions which was set at \$25,000 p.a. from 1 October 2008 will increase to **\$30,000 p.a. from 1 July 2009**. It is hoped this will go some way to redress there being no increase in the government subsidy from 1997 to 2002 and a significant reduction in the subsidy for many chaplaincy positions during the years of government imposed "population based subsidies" from 2003 to 2008, which placed strains on most LSP committees to raise extra funds to meet the shortfall. This should be a considerable help to LSP's. In the foreseeable future such a large increase is unlikely to be repeated.

The Common Stipend for Hospital Chaplains will increase by 3.3% from 1 July 2009.

The new rate will be **\$43,506.28 p.a.** Those chaplains who have achieved Accreditation as a "New Zealand Healthcare Chaplain" will receive an allowance of **\$2,064 p.a.** (which is unchanged) making a stipend rate for accredited chaplains **\$45,570.28 p.a.** The maximum rate for locum chaplains increases to **\$20.90 per hour.**

Housing Allowance. In response to submissions on the inequity of some of the housing allowance rates, by LSP chairpersons at their last years annual meeting with the board, the Stipend Review Group has looked at a new formula which includes the urban areas where the chaplains live and work rather than just a regional approach. A booklet

with the new stipend and allowance rates from 1 July 2009 is included with this Messenger.

Sick Leave - The committee approved a change in the policy from the current 14 days a year entitlement which includes Saturdays and Sundays and accrues up to 42 days, to read **Full-time chaplains shall be entitled to 15 working days (3 weeks) sick leave a year which may accrue up to 45 working days. Part-time staff have a pro rata entitlement.** This is to apply immediately and should stop the past problems of interpretation.

Code of Ethics - The Committee thanks all those who made submissions on the Code. The Code has now been approved and a copy is enclosed with this Messenger.

Chaplaincy Week Appeal - The Appeal graphics which include a child with her teddy bear have been approved for posters and envelopes for **Hospital Chaplaincy Week** which will run from **Sunday 20th to Sunday 27th September 2009.**

Refreshment Leave - A copy of the **Refreshment Leave policy and procedures** is enclosed with this Messenger. The new Refreshment Leave policy which comes into operation from 1 January 2010 replaces the denominational Long Service, Sabbatical and Study Leave provisions for Ecumenical Chaplains in the Personnel Policies for Hospital Chaplains handbook sections 3.4 to 3.4.6. The handbook will be amended shortly.

Annual meeting of LSP chairpersons

(or their representative) with the ICHC Trust Board. This meeting which is becoming increasingly important as a forum for the exchange of information and views between ICHC and the 25 Local Chaplaincy Committees, will again be held in Wellington on **Wednesday 7 October from 10am to 4pm.** ICHC will reimburse the cost of travel to and from Wellington for each chairperson. A new venue is being sought hopefully nearer the airport, otherwise in the CBD. Details will be supplied in due course. Please make your air bookings etc as early as possible to take advantage of cheap fares.

Seafarers Welfare Board of NZ - the International Christian Maritime Assn

The Seafarers Welfare Board which provides welfare services to seafarers visiting NZ ports, has asked that we remind Hospital Chaplains who may become aware of seafarers who are hospitalised, that they are available to assist. If hospital chaplains could please contact (with the patients consent of course) the Welfare Board representative in the area, they can offer to visit the seafarer, help them with any with basic needs and assist with communication to their ship or their family in their own country. The Seafarers Centres around NZ are listed with their contact details on their website www.swb.co.nz, or chaplains you can contact Seafarers Welfare Board Chairperson, Commander Larry Robins OBE RNZN (Retd) on 09 478 4782 or 021 182 4545 if you are unable to contact one of their centres

Chaplaincy Chat

The Otago Chaplaincy Support Trust, the LSP for the Chaplains at Dunedin and Wakari Hospitals, has this year started a newsletter to help in its extensive efforts to raise funds within the Otago community to maintain its chaplaincy services. I thought it may be of interest and help as an example for other LSP committees. The Otago folk have kindly agreed to let me send you the copy which is enclosed with this Messenger.

Hospital Accreditation

All hospitals are subject to accreditation and members of the Chaplaincy Team are usually required to take part in the process by being interviewed or lodging a report on their work. Two chaplains in Christchurch have recently undertaken this process in very different ways. Both have been commended for their very good reports. A copy of their reports is enclosed with the Messenger, as they may help others asked to undertake this task.

Office Staff Movements and Changes in June & July

National Executive Officer

17 June Wellington regional chaplains potluck dinner
23 June Interviews at North Shore Hospital
1 July Chaplaincy Assistant commissioning Tauranga Hospital
6-17 July On annual leave
28 & 29 July Central regional chaplains gathering at Hutt Hospital

National Administrator/Trainer


15-18 June with Chaplaincy Teams in Northland DHB
19-21 June Maori Chaplains training in Invercargill
22 June Meeting with Bishop John Gray in Christchurch
23 & 25 June Hutt Hospital Chaplaincy Assistant appraisals
29 June - 2 July with Chaplaincy Team at Auckland City Hospital
7-10 July with Maori Chaplains in Christchurch
28 & 29 July Central regional chaplains gathering at Hutt Hospital

Staff Changes

In mid July we will be welcoming two new Administrative staff to the ICHC Wellington Office. Susan Davey, a writer, artist, former Chaplaincy Assistant and church administrator will be working Mondays and Tuesdays, job sharing with Doreen Hakeagaiki who has reduced her hours to Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Stuart Mountjoy who has a background in computer operating over the past 24 years with government departments and private companies will join us full-time replacing Joanna McGuire who will be leaving in July.

Thought for the month:

"Jesus wept; Voltaire smiled. From that tear and from that human smile is derived the grace of present civilisation."


Ron Malpass
National Executive Officer