



JUNE 2021 | ISSUE 3

TŪMANAKO TE ORA

Catholic Family Support Services Official Newsletter



KEEPING HOPE ALIVE

Catholic Family Support Services is the Social Service arm of the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton. We provide a very unique wrap-around service that puts into practice the leadership of Pope Francis, working alongside and creating a safe environment for the poor and vulnerable families and whānau in our communities.

Our ultimate goal is to empower families and whānau to regain control of their own lives. We are committed to fostering independence and confidence. It is not about a "hand-out" but a "hand-up". We welcome and work with everyone.

CONTACT

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MANAGER'S CORNER

Kia ora koutou,

It's June already and half way through 2021. June is the month when Aotearoa - New Zealand celebrate Matariki - Māori New Year (19 June -11 July 2021). It is a time for celebration, growth and renewal. It is a time for whānau, families and friends to come together reflect on the year that has been, share kai (food), tell stories, waiata (sing), play music and remember those relatives, friends who have gone. There is no one way to celebrate Matariki, but here at Catholic Family Support Services, the team will share kai (food) with approximately 20 Kainga Ora team members. It will be a time to connect, korero (talk) and build relationships around the table. On the menu this year, is a hangi (some as last year) and puddings which we are all looking forward too sharing. There is more information about Matariki on page 2, under Mātauranga Māori (Māori Knowledge).

The last two months have just flown by and the team have been busy working alongside our families and whānau. In April-May 2021; the financial mentor team hold approximately 199 sessions (meetings) with people needing financial support and guidance; the family support team spent approximately 204 hours with family and whānau in need (this includes supervised contact with their beautiful tamariki (children); and 139 families and whānau needing basic resources such as food. It is anticipated that July and August will also be a busy time.

This month I was been appointed to the FinCap Board to provide a perspective for Māori interests. FinCap is a non-government organisation that which supports 200 free financial capability and budgeting services. The FinCap team advocate for change in the financial capability sector and financial hardship in Aotearoa - New Zealand.

In July, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting, the Catholic Family Support Services Hamilton office, at 12pm-1pm. All are welcome attend. Please send your RSVP to Theresa 09 856 3760 or admin@cfss.org.nz by Friday 9th July, 12 noon for catering purposes.

Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi (with your basket and my basket the people will live).

Ngā manaakitanga (with best wishes)
Renee Rewi





MĀTAURANGA MĀORI (MĀORI KNOWLEDGE)

MATARIKI

Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars visible in our night sky at a specific time of the year. In June/July Matariki would reappear in the dawn sky signalling the start of the Māori New Year. Māori looked to Matariki for help with their harvesting. April/May was time to preserve crops for winter. June/July Māori would read the stars to predict the upcoming seasons. Clear and bright stars promised a warm and abundant winter while hazy stars warned of a bleak winter.

According to Dr Rangi Matamua, Matariki has nine visible stars, each star holding a certain significance over our wellbeing and environment.

1. **Matariki (Alcyone)** - the mother of the other stars in the constellation. Rehua (Antares) is the father but is not considered part of the Matariki constellation.
2. **Pōhutukawa** - connects Matariki to the dead and is the star that carries our dead across the year (Sterope/Asterope).
3. **Tupuānuku** - is tied to food that grows in the ground (Pleione).
4. **Tupuārangi** - is tied to food that comes from above your head such as birds and fruit (Atlas).
5. **Waitī** - is tied to food that comes from fresh water (Maia).
6. **Waitā** - is tied to food that comes from salt water (Taygeta).
7. **Waipunarangi** - is tied to the rain (Electra).
8. **Ururangi** - is tied to the winds (Merope).
9. **Hiwaiterangi/Hiwa** - is the youngest star in the cluster, the star you send your wishes to (Celaeno).



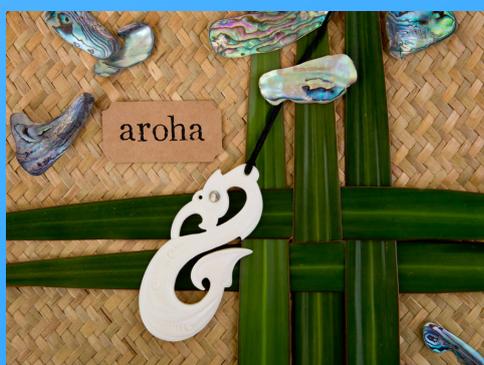
Stories of Hope

FAMILY SUPPORT

A single mum and her 4-year-old child required ongoing support and monitoring as result of a Family Group Conference. The plan included, assisting enrolment in Te Kohanga Reo and helping Mum (living in emergency accommodation) to access support. There had been significant family violence issues and alleged drug use. There was no contact with family members who were a risk to the family and other agencies were involved. CFSS helped Mum to develop a plan to provide appropriate care consistent with the Family Group Conference plan and through their own networks was able to locate private rental housing for the family. The family had previously been on the Kainga Ora waitlist for 2 years. CFSS liaised with Work and Income and with other services over the transition and costs to move to rental accommodation. Enrolment at Te Kohanga Reo was completed. CFSS and other service coordinated home visits with the mum.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Many people come to our Financial Mentoring services because of a financial crisis they are facing. In this case, we had a woman who had numerous loans and debts worth approximately \$39,500 and she was not able to see her way out. One loan in particular had a very high interest rate being calculated at 49.95%. Her payments for this particular loan was approximately \$86.00 per week. There has no way she was able to get on top of this particular loan. She worked with our Financial Mentor and identified potential options. Discussions and arrangements with other debtors were made. MSD assisted with part payment of rental arrears. Nga Tangata Microfinance who assist with high interest loans through their Debit Relief Loan (DRLS) was applied for and approved with repayments of approximately \$28 per week over a two-year period. She was able to pay off her very high interest loan of 49.95%. She was also able to put away a small amount for saving. She is extremely happy with this outcome and continues to work with her Financial Mentor.



*"We cannot all do great things,
but we can do small things with
great love"*
(St Mother Teresa of Calcutta)



TEAM NEWS

SOCIAL WORKER/COUNSELLOR

We are looking for an experienced registered Social Worker and/ or Counsellor.

The role requires:

- Working one-one with whānau/families/children and young people
- Completing assessments/ plans alongside family/whānau
- Excellent relationship-building skills
- Ability to set clear boundaries, self-manage and be highly accountable
- Knowledge of family violence practice and/or trauma informed work
- Practical written and oral communication skills
- Ability to identify and understand the needs of our communities
- Understanding of tikanga Māori
- Competent crisis and risk management skills
- Ability to build effective working relationships
- Proven experience working in a bicultural and multi-cultural context.

You will need to have:

- Relevant experience and a Social Work/ Counselling qualification.
- Full NZ Drivers Licence (Clean - Class 1)

For a job description and an application form, please contact Graeme at Catholic Family Support Services, ph. 07 8563760 or graeme@cfss.org.nz

FINANCIAL AND WHĀNAU SUPPORT MENTOR

We are looking for a proven experienced/trained financial and whānau support worker, in the field.

The role requires:

- Providing specialist Financial Intervention (financial/budget support) and whanau/family support to families and whanau with complex need through intensive, individual case management;
- navigation, co-ordination of client needs; and
- capability building of Clusters of BFC Providers.
- Proven financial and budgeting skills and knowledge
- Proven family support skills and knowledge
- Evidence of excellent people and communication skills
- Ability to set clear boundaries
- Proven ability to self-manage and be highly accountable
- Organisational and negotiation skills
- Proven written and oral communication skills, sound computer literacy skills.
- Ability to identify and understand the needs of our communities
- Understanding of Tikanga Maori
- Competent and proven crisis and risk management skills
- Ability to build effective working relationships with clients, team and external agencies
- Strong communication and relationship management skills.
- Proven experience working in a bicultural and/or multi-cultural context.

You will need:

- FinCap Training (training can be provided if required)
- Full NZ Drivers Licence (Clean - Class 1)
- Minimum of 1-2 years field experience

For a job description and an application form, please contact Theresa at Catholic Family Support Services, ph. 07 8563760 or theresae@cfss.org.nz

STAFF COVID-19 VACCINATION

Under the COVID-19, group two vaccine roll out, arrangements were made for members of our team at Catholic Family Support Services to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations. The first around of vaccines took place between 9-10 May, with the 2nd round completed between 28-29 May. While there were some minor side-effects or reactions (sore arm and headaches etc.) experienced by different team members (some experienced nothing at all) overall it was pretty uneventful, and just how we like it at Catholic Family Support Service.

For more information on COVID-19 Vaccines go to Ministry of Health website <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines>



COMMUNITY NETWORKING

Catholic Family Support Services has had the privilege of meeting and connecting with other services in Wellington during the Te Ao Mārama, Te Ao Rangatira - The Social Sector Leaders' Summit which was a wonderful opportunity to talk about changes and direction the sector is heading in over the next year or so. Wonderful korero (talk) by Nigel Latta around leadership and building culture. Even got to hang out with wonderful ladies from SuperGrans (photo below).

In Hamilton, the team were invited by Waikato Mental Health Service team to whakawhānaungatanga with them and other community health services. It was valuable opportunity to mingle and talk about how we can work together to support the wider community, whānau and families that we all serve. We look forward to the next gathering and talking more over the year.



