

The Methodist Mission Strategy 2017-20 – Where Are We Going?



To be read in conjunction with the documents: *Identity – Who are We?*, *Behaviours – What is "Our Way"?*, and *Model of Engagement – What's Our Process?* For the period 2017-20, the Mission has 5 strategic objectives:

Become a bicultural organisation, expressing our aspirations for and responsibilities to Te Ao Māori

The Mission is charged as are all bodies within the Methodist Church of New Zealand with the covenant of the Bicultural Journey. And in particular we recognise the rights of Māori under Article 2 of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) for hapū to retain control over decisions affecting them. The Mission will sustain constructive, collaborative, and above all, accountable relationship with our Manawhenua partner, Ōtākou Rūnaka, and our Treaty Partner, Te Taha Māori of Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa.

New programmes and products will be designed and implemented in bi-culturally appropriate ways; the Mission will work to recruit and retain more Māori staff at every level of the organisation; and we will ensure that each staff member has a minimum cultural competency which we expect will increase over time.

Strengthen our Partnership with Communities throughout Otago and Southland

The Mission is charged by the Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa with responsibility for the Church's social service presence throughout Otago Southland.

The Mission expects that there will be significant change throughout the sector driven by Government starting in 2016. This will present both challenges and opportunities. The Mission has a distinct and leading edge quality assurance and productivity management system – QualityWorks – and a strong model for collaboration with other providers and in communities where we can help. It is expected that the government's changes will impact heavily on the provinces and that QualityWorks may provide some protection from this.

Develop and Maintain Strategic Partnerships with Central Government

Social services logic models and practice tools are in their infancy with almost unlimited scope for improvement to their design, implementation, and impact; and the client voice – the single most valid measurement of need and value – is largely absent from policy.

The fruits of previous strategic plans have resulted in the Mission having, in 2016, a testbed for evolving the design, implementation and impact of social services. The Mission expects that creative collaboration with Government, as the major social services stakeholder, will contribute better services for those that we work with, our staff, and for Government over the period of this plan.

The Mission expects that the development of better services will mean we and our partners will have to face and deal with some uncomfortable truths. The Mission seeks to do this in a spirit of collaboration.

Take up the Opportunities of the Methodist Alliance

The Mission shares in the Alliance's goals of:

- *Supporting the work of members, through the promotion of best practice and professional standards;*
- *Leveraging the collective skills, experience, imagination and resources to work towards building a just and inclusive society;*
- *Increasing the visibility of the work being undertaken by the Methodist Church of NZ;*

- *Ensuring that the voice of those without power is heard;*
- *Enabling members to work collectively.*

Diversify our Business Model

The Mission's ambitions for the work are not well supported by a business model of a high number of relatively low-earning programme lines spread across a significant geographic area, largely funded by government during a time of high politicisation within social services.

The Mission will seek to diversify our funding base, beyond contracting and tenders, to include philanthropic and entrepreneurial partnerships. The Mission will also seek to simplify our cost structures for any given volume of work.

Secure Recognition for our Achievement-Oriented Staff's Contribution to Meaningful Outcomes

The Mission will work to have staff recognised through substantially improved terms and conditions, knowing that our ability to do this is wholly dependent on funders seeing and acknowledging our strong contribution to meaningful outcomes amongst those we work with.