



Auckland  
**Women's  
Centre**

**Facilitating empowerment  
and well-being for women**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND  
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS  
2011 – 2012**

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**Charities Commission Certificate of Registration No CC27188**



# COMMITMENTS

## **Mission Statement**

The Auckland Women's Centre facilitates empowerment and well-being for women.

## **Philosophy**

Auckland Women's Centre is committed to working for change for women from feminist perspectives.

## **Constitutional Objectives**

The Auckland Women's Centre is working towards a world in which:

1. We recognise Maori as Tangata Whenua o Aotearoa and wholeheartedly embrace and uphold the principles and spirit of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
2. We will create an environment for Auckland women to meet for support, discussion, information, referral, learning and sharing skills.
3. We will provide information on women's rights, healthcare and issues affecting women's lives from a feminist perspective.
4. We support and assist the development of women's self help initiatives.
5. We advocate at local and national levels on women's issues.
6. We network with other women's and community groups to promote women's empowerment in society.
7. We will do all such acts or things as are incidental to, or which will directly or indirectly further, or be conducive to the attainment of the foregoing objects of the organisation or any of them.
8. Any income, benefit, or advantage shall be applied towards the charitable purposes of the Auckland Women's Centre.

## **Targets: July 2012 - June 2014**

1. Deliver sustainable projects to improve the well-being of marginalised mothers and their families.
2. Provide affordable, accessible, quality services, programmes and resources for women in response to their needs.
3. Be an effective voice for women's equality and well-being.
4. Build and foster organisational capability and capacity.

# GOVERNANCE COLLECTIVE REPORT

It is with a sense of pride that we as a Collective look back over the last year and identify achievements, room for improvement and aspirations for the future. This year has been one of consolidation; the gap left by Thrive Teen Parent Support Trust has allowed time for us to reflect on how do we best give voice to women's issues?

Our new SKIP contract has uncovered and supported the experiences of solo mothers. Rochelle Carr very ably picked up this work from Chanel Dodd-Edwards who left in December. Rochelle has established a robust network, and delivered many on-the-ground parenting classes. It is through Rochelle's work at the Ranui Caravan Park that the Auckland Women's Centre has been involved in setting up a playgroup funded by the Ministry of Education, working with families who reside in the park.

We have been very lucky to secure Robyn Lambourne as our Social Worker. The work Robyn has done with women during this time, along with Anne Kelly, the marvellous Playgroup Coordinator, has started to form new thinking from us as a Collective. We can see a gap in the provision of wrap-around support for women and children who are in marginalised situations.

Another new initiative is our Women's Talk evenings: lively topics for women, by women. This had seen an increase in membership and creates a warm space for women to gather and share their thoughts. The Constitution has been updated and work on reviewing policies has begun.



*Staff from left to right: Ellie, Elizabeth, Leonie, Donna, Robyn, Rochelle, Genevieve (a student) and Anne*

As always, the Information, Referral and Advice Service and our community education programme is the mainstay of our work, providing many gateways for women, superbly organised under the watch of Ellie Lim. Elizabeth Morey does an outstanding job as Administrator, with Donna Jaser keeping the grant applications flowing.

Leonie, as our Centre Manager, balances the work of the Centre wonderfully. Leonie oversees networks, campaigns and action groups allowing voice for women in Auckland, alongside managing staff and student placements.

Many volunteers keep the Centre humming, and it is this energy and commitment from staff, volunteers and members that allows the Centre to provide so many different services, programmes, networks and campaigns for women.

As a Collective, we are aware of wanting to develop a strategic plan that addresses:

- Increased membership: giving us a stronger mandate from women.
- Diversifying: making sure we are meeting the needs of marginalised women.
- Outreach: exploring opportunities to offer services and programmes more regionally.

# SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

The Auckland Women's Centre's range of activities falls broadly into the categories of health and welfare services for women, opportunities for personal growth and development, developing resources for the women's communities, partnering with our agencies to provide a voice for women's equality and well-being and delivering a SKIP Positive Parenting Single Mums Project.

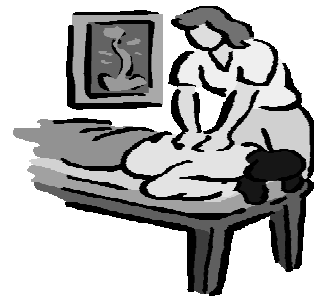
## HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES FOR WOMEN

### Information, Referral and Advice Service

Women from all over Tamaki Makaurau receive a friendly non-judgemental service by phone, email or in person from this extensive service. This service offers women a great deal of information about: women's health services, educational courses and workshops, maternity and mothering, domestic violence support, migrant resource, women's activities and adventures, lesbian events and support, and much more. In the 2011/12 financial year over 13,350 women sought assistance from this service.

### Intensive support for women

Working from a strength-based approach, Centre staff provide intensive face-to-face or telephone support to women experiencing major distress and seeking assistance with immediate needs. The main reasons these women turn to the Centre for assistance are: domestic violence or sexual assault, their acute feelings of isolation and loneliness, needing emergency housing, separating from their partner, parenting difficulties and questioning their sexual orientation. Empathetic listening, support and validation are provided, information is given, and referrals can be made to specialised crisis care services and community service providers for ongoing assistance. This financial year 268 women received this type of intensive support from the Centre, 62 of whom had children under 17 years of age.



### Therapeutic massage

Affordable massage for beneficiaries and other women on low incomes is available at the Centre. This service is very much in demand, with bookings having to be made weeks in advance. A very big thank you to **Zaria Yusoff** for the excellent service she provided until she left to look after her pregnancy and a very warm welcome to **Esme Howard-Anna**, our new massage therapist.

### Free mammograms

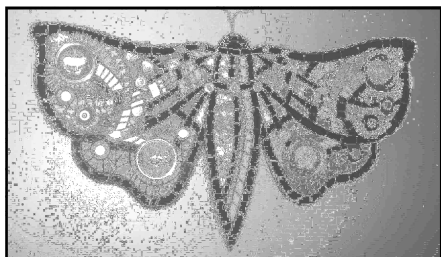
Again this year, the Mobile Breast Screening Unit operated from the Centre for six weeks, providing free screening for women aged from 45 to 69.

### Personal counselling

The Centre has benefited from retaining an experienced and talented counselling team. **Robyn Lawrence** and **Joan Prairie** provide high quality and low cost therapy sessions. Clients have a choice of counsellors and therapeutic modalities. Our counsellors are fully qualified, are members of a professional association and receive clinical supervision.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND SUPPORT GROUPS

This year we continued to meet the needs of women in the community by offering a variety of courses and activities: **belly dancing, yoga, pilates, knitting, crafty goodness, lesbian DVD and games evenings, life drawing, memoir writing, mosaic mash up, girls' and women's self defence workshops and the book club.**



We also continued to provide invaluable support groups such as: **amazing assertiveness for women, ageing well: the art of creating a magical life at midlife and beyond, Questioning? coming out support group, solo mum's: resourcing the source, and**

**separation workshops.** All these support groups have a peer support and preventing violence aspect to them.

We offer courses which raise self-esteem, confidence and aspirations, in a safe and empowering environment. We hold firm to our commitment to provide an all women participant environment in which women of all ages can gain new skills, build their self-confidence and increase their feelings of belonging to their community.

It is a pleasure to be able to offer a **women's self defence workshop** (Barb Wallis) and a **self defence and personal safety workshop for girls** (Morgan Libeau). The feedback from both these workshops is always outstanding, as the participants enjoy learning physical and psychological ways to fend off an attacker. The girls' workshop is aimed at 7 to 12 year olds and is based on the belief that the girls are better able to protect themselves when they know their rights, trust their feelings and have a strong sense of self worth.

Two **solo mums: resourcing the source** courses were held this year. The first was ably lead by Carol Rewega. Unfortunately, Carol was not available for the second course, however we were lucky that Tania Hubber, from the Inner City Women's group facilitated this group. The seven week course has an underlying core of developing confidence and increasing self-esteem with an emphasis on being part of a larger community.

In March, we welcomed back Lisa Dudson from Acumen: Intuitive Financial Strategies to run a very well attended two hour workshop on **budgeting**. This workshop provided valuable tips on how to get on top of and out of debt, and to start creating a future where your goals become achievable.



Both our **yoga** and **pilates**, by Simone Bonny and Marilyn Gravette respectively, classes are tailored to the needs of each participant. Our **women's book club**, facilitated by Susy Carryer, is an excellent forum for discussion of topical issues. **Get knitting** allows new and experienced knitters a chance to be creative and the tutor, Margaret Lewis, works with each person to build on their skills and develop their ideas.

## **PLAYGROUP AT RANUI CARAVAN PARK**

In June, we established a playgroup, Te Paa Whare, at the Ranui Caravan Park funded by the Ministry of Education. At playgroups children are given the opportunity to initiate free play and parents support their children learning by playing. We were delighted to welcome Anne Kelly as the Playgroup Coordinator. Anne was a PlayCentre mum for many years and lived at the Caravan Park for a short time. Te Paa Whare is a great success with all the preschool children taking part and the whānau supporting each other outside of playgroup as well as within. Many of the children have not been involved in Early Childhood Education (ECE) before. The Caravan Park population is transient, so there is a high turnover of children at Te Paa Whare. When the parents leave, they tell Anne that they will be looking for a suitable ECE centre near their new home.



## **NEW POSITON—SOCIAL WORKER**

Last February, we employed a registered Social Worker, Robyn Lambourne, for 20 hours a week. As a mother of Maori and Chinese heritage with four adult children, two mokopuna and nine years' experience in the child protection team of Child, Youth and Family, Robyn is the perfect fit for this role. She provides intensive, whānau-centred case management for 28 predominantly Maori women and their whānau per year. She builds supportive relationships with her clients and their whānau, connects them with other support in their local community, and drawing on their strengths, works with them to develop a pathway to achieve their goals. Providing a social worker gives great back-up support for our Information, Referral and Advice Service, our SKIP project and Te Paa Whare.

## **RESOURCES FOR THE WOMEN'S COMMUNITY**

### **The Women's Library**

The Centre's library contains many hundreds of books written for and by women, both popular fiction and non-fiction. It is a highly used resource for women wanting reading material for pleasure or study. During the last year Sue Mihakis, Bunny Elwell and Judith Humbert have done sterling work in the library, carrying out a stocktake and ensuring the books are catalogued and shelved correctly.

### **GOSSIP (our quarterly newsletter), website and Facebook page**

GOSSIP is now provided free to over 1,800 individuals and to about 250 community organisations each quarter, letting women know about the services and activities of the Centre, and providing a space for others to promote woman-focused events. As well as informing supporters on new developments at the Centre, each GOSSIP features articles on a topical women's issue.

The website [www.awc.org.nz](http://www.awc.org.nz) allows women from all over the world to find out about the Women's Centre, our programmes and services and email us from our site. Visitor numbers continued to increase over the 2011/12 financial year. The Centre also has a Facebook page which is updated frequently.

## BEING A VOICE FOR WOMEN

The Auckland Women's Centre continued to coordinate the Coalition for the Safety of Women and Children, made up of nine preventing violence groups: Auckland Women's Centre, Auckland Sexual Abuse HELP, Homeworks Trust, Inner City Women's Group, the Mental Help Foundation, Mt Albert Psychological Services, SHINE Safer Homes in New Zealand Everyday, Supportline Women's Refuge, and Women's Health Action Trust. The Coalition was heavily involved in improving Auckland Council's Plan, the 30 year strategy to make Auckland the world's most liveable city. The draft plan had no mention of sexual violence and half a sentence on family violence. After numerous representations to Council, we were pleased that the plan now has a substantial statement on sexual and domestic violence and a resolve to work to prevent this violence.

In September, the Coalition organised a protest against the discharge of a comedian who admitted to sexually abusing his three year old daughter. We were outraged that a man who pled guilty to sexual assault was not convicted, and that the Judge stated her decision was influenced by the fact that *"he makes people laugh and laughter's a good medicine that we all need a lot of."*

Subsequently, the Crown won a High Court judicial review over the discharge and ordered the District Court to re-sentence him. This time the Court convicted him and sentenced him to eight months home detention. However, the Coalition remained concerned that the Family Court then granted the sex offender unsupervised access to his daughter.

Feminist Action, also coordinated by the Women's Centre, launched a campaign against the Tui beer adverts, where pornified women run a beer factory. Part of Tui's branding is irreverence. Regrettably, in these ads irreverence is portrayed as laddish, sexist behaviour, ogling women, violating women's private spaces, and the use of deception. Mateship in these ads is portrayed by the privileging of men's uncontrollable "primal desires" for beer over ethical male practices. Tui's response to our campaign was their billboard on this page. The day Feminist Action was to meet with Tui's owners, DB Breweries, to discuss the adverts, DB cancelled the meeting.

Tui then withdrew the adverts from TV and replaced them with another sexist advert, 'Halftime distraction'. While this ad doesn't

put women in the pornographic poses of the earlier ads, the women are portrayed as just as stupid and helpless. What ties these ads together is that the only people equal to the lead male characters are their mates. Women are persistently excluded from equality in Tui ads. Feminist Action put out a media statement calling on Tui to have a drink with them and discuss their advertising strategy. Unsurprisingly, Tui have not responded.





## SKIP SINGLE MUMS POSITIVE PARENTING

We were thrilled to have a SKIP Single Mums Positive Parenting Project begin in July 2011, allowing us to utilise our experience with SKIP projects, focussed this time on single mums. Our project engages single mums and their children in fun, creative, informative activities and leadership opportunities. It also develops collaborative partnerships within the Auckland community, strengthening our collective response to meeting the needs of single mums and their children.

### SKIP outcomes and achievements

- We provided six free positive parenting workshops and a series of programmes offering 35 single mums an opportunity to explore positive parenting principles and strategies and to introduce SKIP resources.
- Through door knocking and a craft day, 21 parents and caregivers had an opportunity to explore positive parenting principles and strategies and were introduced to SKIP resources.
- We offered six single mums an opportunity to hold leadership roles and advise the Coordinator on the content and direction the project could take. This allowed single mums to view themselves and their peers as a resource to support positive parenting.
- We were part of five open community events which enabled 302 single mums, partnered parents and caregivers to celebrate parenting and child development, by normalising support through socialising with other single mums, parents and caregivers.
- Our project has allowed children of single mums to explore new surroundings and feel comfortable in different settings, including enjoying our crèche while their mums were attending the workshops. Many of these children had never been left with others before.
- Many workshop tools and activities were created for use by parents. A One Thing Plan was developed to strengthen the focus of a chosen parenting strategy and to increase the reflection and awareness of the parenting outcome. The Tree of Knowledge was also a great creative tool for single mums who shared the positive parenting strategies they wish to try after the workshops.



- Through the four Single Mums Agency Network meetings, 27 community agencies have contributed to the initiative by meeting together and sharing ideas and resources, and developing good working relationships with each other.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work of the Auckland Women's Centre is made possible through the generous support and assistance of many individuals and organisations.

### ***WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE THE FOLLOWING WOMEN:***

Members of the **Governance Collective** provide the Centre with guidance and support within a collective framework. Members provide invaluable knowledge, skills, perspective and ideas. We wish to thank **Christy Parker** (Secretary), **Emily Trent** (Chairperson), **Jude Lainchbury** (Employment Subcommittee), **Caroline Fergusson** (Treasurer), **Nicola Whyte** and **Aorewa McLeod** for their huge contributions. At our AGM in December the talented **Natalie Thorburn** and **Katie Palmer du Preez** were elected to the Governance Collective and **Cissy Rock** replaced Emily as Chairperson. Cissy has a deep knowledge of feminism, community development and many skills. We were sad to say goodbye to Emily who has given much to the agency for over five years. Jude and Caroline also finished their fabulous work on the Collective this year and Nicola took on the role as Treasurer.



Nicola, Aorewa, Ellie, Cissy, Jude, Christy, and Natalie

We are extremely pleased to have **Marilynn Johnson** at the Centre as she brings her long involvement in feminism and lesbian rights as well as her warmth and compassion.

Our wonderful frontline volunteer **Joanna Easingwood** was invaluable this year, helping to run the Information, Advice and Referral Service and picking up extra jobs that need to be attended to. We were sad when Jo left to take up paid work in June. Thanks to **Maria Anzola** and **Liesa Walter**, who, week in and week out, kept our Centre spotlessly clean.

Other women who have generously contributed their time and effort to our crèche, mail-outs and library include: **Angela Thorogood, Anna Creery, Anya Zvezdina, Barbara McArdle, Cathy Holland, Dawn Whitford, Donogh Rees, Geraldine Whiteford, Judith Mori, Leticia Castro, Lil Convery, Loretta Verry, Lorna Karayiannis, Mary-Ann Kostanich, Mihi Eruera, Nicola Kawana, Nina Coker, Nomes Lorimer, Rosiena White, Silke Hartung, Stacey Arnold, Tiara Betham, Wendy Rowe** and **Zita O'Neil**.

We also wish to express our special thanks to **Bronwyn Banks**, our highly-skilled, conscientious and compassionate crèche supervisor.

We sincerely thank all the **tutors** of our courses, activities and workshops, listed on the following page.

Also listed on the next page are our **funders** whose generosity enables us to provide a wide range of services, resources and programmes for women.

# **AUCKLAND WOMEN'S CENTRE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING WOMEN AND ORGANISATIONS THAT SUPPORTED OUR WORK:**

<b>FUNDERS</b>	<b>TUTORS contd</b>	<b>AGENCIES contd</b>
ANZ New Zealand Staff Foundation	Kathryn Tulloch	Inner City Women's Group
ASB Community Trust	Lisa Dudson	Lesbian Education and Support Organisation
Auckland Council	Lisa Williams	Massey Community House
Child, Youth and Family	Margaret Lewis	Mental Health Foundation
Creative New Zealand	Marilyn Gravette	Mt Albert Psychological Services
Department of Internal Affairs	Morgan Libeau	National Council of Women
Family and Community Services	Rosanna Marks	New Zealand Families Violence Clearing House
First Sovereign Trust	Simone Bonny	North Shore Women's Centre
Four Winds Charitable Trust	Susy Carryer	Plunket
John Ilott Charitable Trust	Tania Hubber	Raeburn House
Lesbian Education Support Group (LESO)	Vicky Wood	Rape Prevention Education
New Zealand Lottery Grants Board	Wende Jowsey	Rainbow Youth
New Zealand Post	<b>AGENCIES</b>	Ranui Baptist Community Care
Oxford Sports Trust	Auckland Council	Ranui Hub, Ranui Caravan Park
Pub Charity Inc	Auckland PlayCentre Association	Shakti Women's Centre
SKIP, Family and Community Services, MSD	Auckland Sexual Abuse HELP	Roskill South Early Years Services Hub
United Way (NZ) Inc	Anglican Trust for Women and Children	SHINE
Waitemata Local Board, Auckland Council	Auckland Women's Refuge	St Vincent de Paul, Otahuhu
<b>TUTORS</b>	Barnardos	Stop Demand
Barb Wallis	Campus Feminist Collective	Supportline Women's Refuge
Carol Rewega	Charlotte Museum	Tamaki Makaurau Lesbian Newsletter
Cissy Rock	Child Poverty Action	The Hand Mirror Blog
Elsbeth Fougere	Community Alcohol and Drug Services	Violence Free Waitakere
Fran Marno	Child Youth and Family, Grey Lynn	Waitakere Anti-Violence Essential Services
Jenny Naea	EDEN Eating Disorders Network	Women's Health Action
Joan Prairie	Family Planning Association	WONS: Nursing Education and Health Promotion Services
Kate Millington	Glendene Hub	
	Grey Lynn Community Centre	





Auckland  
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**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS  
2011 – 2012**

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# **A PROUD HERSTORY**

## **A CELEBRATION OF THE AUCKLAND WOMEN'S CENTRE 1975-2010**

**Top image:** Centre workers in 2010. Back left: Zee Pogai, Teen Parent Service Co-ordinator; Ellie Lim, Women's Services and Community Education Co-ordinator; Heather Keats, Teen Parent Community Researcher; Marilyn Johnson, volunteer. Front left: Annalise Myers, Teen Parent Centre Development Manager; Sarita Divis, Funding Administrator; Leonie Morris, Centre Manager; Elizabeth Morey, Administrator; Gaby Ugalde, SKIP Project Co-ordinator. Photo by Meagan Kerr, 2010.

**Bottom image:** The first Auckland Women's Centre at 125 Ponsonby Road. From left: Joan, Maureen Jaggard, unidentified woman, June Percy, Glenda Northey, Linda Holmes, unidentified woman, and Joan's child. Photo by Robin Morrison, printed in a 1977 Ponsonby Business Association Christmas calendar.

For a copy of this publication, please contact the Auckland Women's Centre, ph 376 3227 x201 or [info@womens.org.nz](mailto:info@womens.org.nz).



# A Celebration of the Auckland Women's Centre 1975-2010

Margie Thomson



## A PROUD HERSTORY

