

Government Cuts Women's Centre's Positive Parenting Single Mums' Project

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) informed us in May that our contract with it for our SKIP Positive Parenting Project would not be renewed beyond 30 June. The contract had run for six years so we were shocked and devastated by this news. The project was supporting more than 600 single mum families in low income suburbs, almost half of whom were Māori and Pasifika.

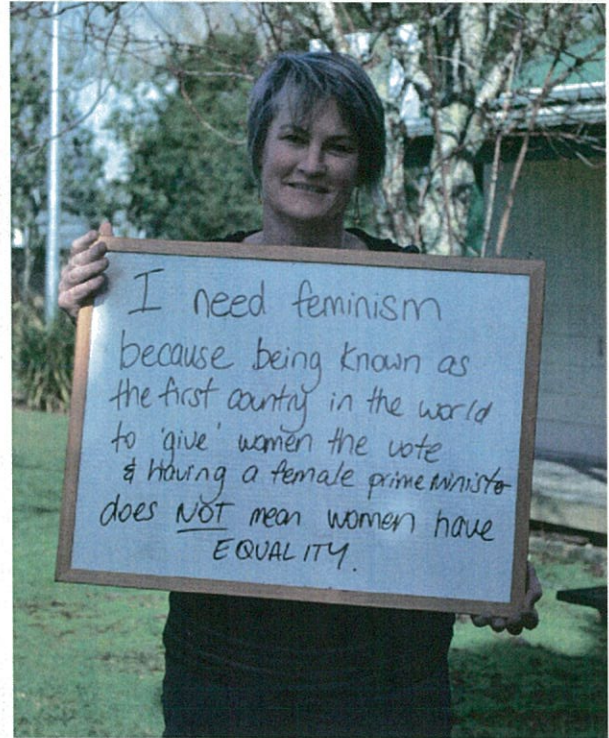
MSD assured us that it did not have concerns about our project but wanted to spread the small amount of Positive Parenting funding around other community groups.

The closure of the Single Mums Parenting Project is a significant blow to AWC and to the community. The project worked to reduce child maltreatment across Auckland by enabling single mums to build support networks, gain parenting strategies, learn from each other, and access community support, including food from the community garden and recycled goods and clothes.

AWC Manager Leonie Morris said "Parenting is the hardest job in the world and single mums are doing it on their own with few resources. The child poverty rate for children in single parent households is 47%."

AWC is going to keep a small part of the project operating – Single Mums on Sundays. This is a support group held on the last Sunday of the month from 1pm – 3.30pm at AWC. Mums can share their concerns and successes and learn from, and support, each other. Children are welcome and the focus of this group is on single mums with children between 0 and 5 years old.

We have reluctantly made our Single Mums Coordinator,



Rochelle Carr, redundant and thank Rochelle for the generosity, wisdom and creativity she gave to the job. We wish her all the best for the future.

Now that AWC receives no funding from the Government we need your support more than ever. Please consider using the donation form and FreePost envelope enclosed to become a regular donor. ■

New Centre Counsellor, Crystal Margaret McLean



We warmly welcome Crystal to our team as a counsellor. Crystal identifies as lesbian and offers counselling specific to rainbow women as well as general counselling. Crystal has worked with women with a range of issues including; sexual identity, transgender women, relationships, substance use, addictions, trauma, anxiety, depression and stress.

Depending on the client, she can offer them help by using a variety of approaches for example; narrative, CBT, DBT and recovery model. Each client is unique therefore each one would have a personalised plan that would suit them.

Crystal holds a degree BPoSP (Bachelor of Social Practice) majoring in Counselling (Unitec). She is a registered member of New Zealand Association of Counsellors and continues to do professional development courses. To view her website, go to www.therapeuticlifecounselling.co.nz

Crystal offers daytime appointments within a sliding scale of \$40 - \$80, and some after hours and weekend appointments for \$80. For appointments with Crystal, please call us on 376 3227 x 0 or email: info@womensz.org.nz. ■