

Elder Abuse prevented

Wesley Community Action Newtown staff recently played a key role in the apprehension (and subsequent prosecution) of a (non Wesley) Caregiver who had stolen \$33,000 from an elderly person.

In sentencing the Caregiver, Judge Tuohy noted she had committed a serious breach of trust, "you were employed to look after him, not thief from him."

Wesley Newtown Team member, Tom White who assisted in bringing this matter to the attention of the Police noted, "unfortunately this is not an isolated case. In our work assisting the elderly to retain a quality of life while living in their own home, we find such things happening on average a couple of times a year and we have no hesitation in reporting it to the Police"

Another case of financial abuse of an elderly person has been reported recently by Wesley staff and is currently being investigated



Diving course boosts confidence

During August and September 2009 Rob Sarich and Wayne England (WATCH Link Workers – working with young offenders that have drug and alcohol issues,) ran their first scuba diving course in association with New Zealand Sea Adventures, Pilmerton.

Five young men currently working with WATCH took up the opportunity to work together to learn a new skill and experience a whole new underwater world that most of us never see.

The course was run over four days and was instructed by Andrew Lett and overseen by New Zealand Sea Adventures Director Tony Howell. Both Andrew and Tony attended our graduation ceremony at Tapu Te Ranga Marae in Island Bay.

One of the participants has gone on to further training, while another is in employment.



Fear Overcome – Health regained

Wesley Porirua staff recently recounted the tale of a 74 yr old client who had a major infection in both of his legs which he had attempted to self cure over several years rather than seek medical care, because of his overwhelming fear of doctors and hospitals.

His infection grew so bad that he was in constant pain. His legs were so swollen and infected he could only wear shorts and could not walk without the aid of sticks or crutches.

As a result of odour problems associated with his infections he was banned from many public spaces including public transport.

Several health providers had previously tried to intervene but had failed to overcome his fears.

A Wesley Social Worker used a Strength Based process to allow the client to view his problems from another perspective which gave the client an appreciation of just how much his poor health was effecting his quality of life. As a result the client agreed to try and overcome his fears and seek medical help.

The Wesley Team supported the client during the lengthy hospital admission process, and the client spent almost a month in hospital getting his infections under control. Indeed, having overcome his fears, he became so comfortable in hospital that he wanted to stay their longer.



Wesleyhaven honoured

Wesleyhaven has been honoured as winner of the **Telecom Community Connections Award** and also joint winner of the **INsite Overall Excellence in Aged Care Award** announced by Health Care Providers NZ at its September 2009 conference.

The 'Overall Excellence' award means that Wesleyhaven has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to achieving excellence in aged care, and the Telecom Community Connections Award recognises ex-

ceptional effort in catering for residents needs and preferences by creating an environment which promotes inclusion and choice for older New Zealanders.

This also includes the creation of a feeling of community within a facility, or the outreach of a facility to the surrounding community, to connect residents with their families and friends.

Congratulations to the team at Wesleyhaven!



Symposium Success

Wesley Community Action's two day symposium featuring Dr Barry Duncan has been rated as a great success by the majority of people attending.

The Symposium which was held in Wellington on 14 and 15 September introduced participants to the CDOI (Client Directed, Outcome Informed) evaluation processes.

Based on extensive research CDOI significantly increases the

effectiveness of services by enabling the client to guide the process.

Wesley Community Action is committed to introducing CDOI into our work as a valuable tool to both empower the client, and to ensure our service is effective

Over 90 participants from throughout the North Island attended the symposium representing organisations which included; Barnardo's, Child Youth &

Family, Ministry of Social Development, Families Commission, Youth Horizons Trust, Presbyterian Support, REAP, Wellstop, and a variety of Community Health organisations.

Whilst in New Zealand, Dr Duncan also conducted training for The Methodist Mission in Otago. Robyn Pope, WCA Practice Manager, will be outlining CDOI to the Methodist Conference on Christchurch in mid November 2009.





Strength Based approach works wonders

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Wesley's Strength Based practice was highlighted recently in the case of a young 12 yr old foster care client who had been removed from his mother.

At that stage he was considered 'out of control', and he had missed school for over 7 months and was out every night.

A placement was found for him in Wesley's 1-2-1 Foster Care programme where his Social Worker using Wesley's Strength Based framework, noted the young person's interest in Rugby and enrolled him in the local rugby club.

In his first game he won 'player of the day'

and his Wesley Social Worker noted he had "real talent."

In the following weeks his rugby skills became more apparent to others, and he was selected for the Club's Under 13 Representative Team as well as being made Captain of the School team. By the end of the season he had also been selected to represent the Region in his age group.

The changes and the improved self belief in this young person have been particularly noticeable and next year, with the assistance of the Wesley 1-2-1 team, he will transition back to his home where he is already enrolled in the local secondary school.

Life Changing Care

Peter (not his real name) had spent the last 20 years living in a WCC flat that was extremely cluttered, and rather depressing. Access was not good.

When Wesley first encountered Peter he was quite depressed, 'closed down,' reclusive and some would say 'suicidal'. He had stopped cleaning himself, was not eating properly and living a very marginal existence.

In a team approach involving both Wesley and the Wellington City Council's Tenancy Support Officer, a review of his accommodation was carried out. Eventually, a new flat was found, and his old flat was scheduled for major redecoration/alterations.

When introduced to his new accommodation, Peter was in tears and overcome with emotion (as was one of the Wellington City Council's Team.)

Since he shifted into the new accommodation, Peter has been transformed. He now takes great pride in his new 'home', and has much more 'self belief' than he did before.

As Wesley Community Worker Peggy Sironen observed, "he is now like a different person, he looks better, he is taking a pride in himself and he is initiating social contact with his new neighbours."

YES! I would like to make a Donation

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Donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible . Please post this form to Wesley Community Action. PO Box 9932, Wellington. 6141.

Thank you!

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