



DIOCESAN YOUTH & FAMILIES COMMITTEE

REPORT TO THE WAIAPU DIOCESAN SYNOD 2012

This Committee has been seen in several forms over the last few years as it has sought to answer questions about its role in the Diocese and relationship to the paid youth staff, both diocesan and regional. 2012 has seen this uncertainty begin to settle to a pattern which will be helpful to everyone involved in Children, Youth and Families work within the Diocese of Waiapu.

The committee meets approximately four times a year. For the last year of reporting the committee has comprised: the Diocesan (Jocelyn Czerwonka) and three Regional Youth Facilitators (Sandi Hall, Frank Ngatoro, Jo Keogan), the Diocesan Children & Families Enabler (Jo Crosse); the Bishop and both Bishop's Chaplains, one of whom is the chairperson; the chairs of the three Regional Youth Committees; a Standing Committee representative. Into the future this will alter slightly and the regional staff will not attend every meeting, but rather will be invited to attend when the committee meets in their region. An addition, to be elected at this Synod, will be a youth representative from each region who again, will only attend when the committee meets in their region. Skype conversations between groups will be encouraged.

A new accountability structure has also been established for clarity for all staff with the Diocesan RYF reporting to the Bishop directly, likewise the Children & Families Enabler, whilst the three Regional Youth Facilitators are now directly accountable to the Diocesan Youth Facilitator. The regional committees provide regular and ongoing support and advice within the broader Diocesan policy framework, and are able to identify the work which is uniquely regional in nature, and where possible assisting the regional staff with this work.

The conversation about the balancing of larger event work (such as Parachute, Top Parish, Forum, Three-tikanga Pilgrimages) to 'grass roots' ministry with local parishes is an ongoing one which needs to continue to be uppermost in the committee's mind.

The overall vision of the Committee which is consciously part of all meetings is: *that every praying community has children, young people and their families as an integral part of every aspect of that community's life.*

Key areas of work have included a decision to adopt, as a diocese, Childsafe – a programme designed to ensure the safety of children and young people developed for Australia and New Zealand, which parishes will find out more about in the coming months. With an increase in the budget at the last Synod for the Children & Families work it has been decided that this will enable the employment of a person for a few hours each week to implement the programme. The Committee has also supported the youth staff with policies related to the internship programmes each year. A decision was made to not have summer interns for the 2011-2012 period. However in both 2011 and 2012 we have seen two interns working successfully in several parishes throughout the Diocese. It is intended that this programme continues with two interns per year.

Also being offered to the parishes in the diocese is the 'Black Dove' programme, brought to the diocese by the new Vicar at Mount Maunganui, Richard Vialoux. It is anticipated that this will dovetail into another new initiative (LT4Youth) which is being launched at this Synod. This resource - LT4Youth (Leadership Training for Youth) will enable parishes to offer leadership training to their young people at a local level with the support of the RYMFs.

Finally we give thanks to God for the work in Children, Youth and Families ministry which has continued in the long tradition of this diocese and which we trust will go from strength to strength into the future.

The Reverend Adrienne Bruce (Chairperson) 3rd July, 2012