

2021  
Annual Report  
Pūrongo-ā-tau



PRISON  
CHAPLAINCY  
SERVICE  
of Aotearoa  
New Zealand

*Haere mai  
ana koutou ki aha*



# Introduction

## He kupu whakataki

**Tēnā koutou, and welcome to the third public annual report by the Prison Chaplaincy Service of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCSANZ).**

PCSANZ, with the oversight of the churches, under contract to Ara Poutama Aotearoa Department of Corrections, provides religious and spiritual services to all New Zealand prisoners (paihere). PCSANZ is also contracted by Serco New Zealand to provide chaplaincy services to Auckland South Corrections Facility. The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference works closely with PCSANZ to provide Catholic chaplaincy in all prisons throughout Aotearoa, New Zealand.

**Being the  
Hope That  
Transforms  
Lives**

This Annual Report is based on the 2021 calendar year and our financial year 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021.  
Published January 2022.

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**The last year has been another challenging year for PCSANZ but also a year of achievements. Many of those achievements are daily occurrences hidden from view inside prisons, as chaplains go about their ministry. The nature of the ministry means that very few people know about the interactions of chaplains with the people they serve. For those who do, it is an inspiring story.**

## Board Chair's Report

### Te Ripōata a te Poari Matua

PCSANZ has embarked on the lengthy process needed to obtain accreditation with the Ministry for Social Development, which provides assurance that an organisation can safely deliver services to its community. We were pleased to recently deliver the documentation required, and look forward to discussions with them.

COVID-19 has been the background to the year, with this very unusual and historic time requiring constant adjustment by the chaplains, especially in Auckland as they went in and out of the higher Alert Levels. Ara Poutama Aotearoa has kept the prisons nearly Covid-free – a remarkable achievement given the situation in many prisons overseas. The price has been a more constrained environment for paihere (prisoners), and less personal interaction with their families. For the chaplains, this has been a creative if somewhat frustrating time, as they sought ways to tend to their flock despite the restrictions. We thank both the chaplains and regional managers for their work in the last year, as they have never faltered in their commitment despite the obstacles which came their way.

The Board has this year finalised a modernisation of the PCSANZ Trust Deed. As part of that process, we have also agreed on a name

change for PCSANZ which will be made public shortly. The new staff who joined the National Office in the last 18 months have brought gifts and resources which were very much missed in the previous year when the office was seriously under-resourced. Chief Executive John Axcell has continued to provide organisational and ministry leadership during a very demanding time. We are fortunate to have his very unique combination of skills and experience, especially in ordained ministry.

My thanks to everyone who is part of PCSANZ, chaplains, national office staff, volunteers and Board members who contribute in so many ways, directly or indirectly, to the welfare of the people we serve, the paihere in our prisons. Thanks also to the Ara Poutama Aotearoa national office staff for their ongoing support and advice. May God bless you all.

Anne Dickinson

# Chief Executive's Report

## Te Ripōata a te Kaihautū

Tēnā koutou katoa.

**2021 has been another successful year for PCSANZ as we worked towards a service that is defined by professionalism, a clear sense of purpose, sensitivity to Māori, and our team work. Highlights on the journey include our new Code of Conduct and completion of the first big stage of our MSD accreditation process. The improvements we have made in these areas have come despite another year with the uncertain, stressful and restrictive effects of COVID-19.**

Alongside our technical capability, we want our chaplaincy to be known for its spiritual depth, and the maturity of our pastoral care. It is these goals that get to the heart of our work. Prison chaplaincy is ultimately about helping all the various individuals and communities that make up the prison system experience the love of God, and feel the hope and creativity that arises when the Spirit of God is encountered.

At PCSANZ we know that nurturing an awareness of God's love, and being able to see the Spirit at work in ourselves and the people around us, usually requires an inner calm and a sense of spaciousness. This is not easy to achieve when work is complex and stressful, and the environment is uncertain

and frequently changing. This is why one of the most important developments of the year was setting up a framework of spiritual direction for helping chaplains to regularly reflect on their faith and nurture a deeper intimacy with God.

PCSANZ is a relatively small organisation and to help us do our work well we need the support of external agencies. Ara Poutama Aotearoa is our primary funder and alongside their financial commitment to us, they worked hard to help us develop as an organisation and also assisted us in resolving operational challenges. The firm of Allen and Clarke led our accreditation process and helped us design and refine a full suite of policies and procedures and that went towards meeting our MSD social service accreditation requirements. The churches, as always, continue to supply our volunteer cohort, despite the challenges of volunteers not being able to get on site for lengthy periods due to COVID-19.

Thank you to all of our supporters, and contributors to our service over the year – we can't do chaplaincy without you. And thank you to everyone in PCSANZ for your patience and commitment to our ministry in this challenging time.



John Axcell



**"Prison chaplaincy is ultimately about helping all the various individuals and communities that make up the prison system experience the love of God, and feel the hope and creativity that arises when the Spirit of God is encountered."**



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# Year in Numbers 2020-21

AN AVERAGE OF  
**19.5%**  
OF PAIHERE  
(PRISONERS)  
ATTENDED A GROUP SERVICE  
AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH

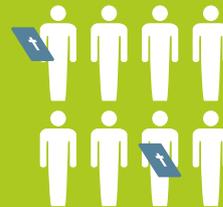


**27,012**  
INDIVIDUAL  
SESSIONS  
WERE PROVIDED  
TO PAIHERE

**7,576**  
GROUP SERVICES  
WERE DELIVERED  
IN ALL NZ PRISONS



THE TOTAL PAIHERE NUMBERS AS AT  
30 JUNE 2021 WAS



**8,397**  
(ARA POUTAMA  
AOTEAROA)

**CHAPLAIN**

WE PROVIDED  
 1 FULL-TIME CHAPLAIN  
 PER 285 PAIHERE



PCSANZ HAD 48 STAFF



800 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS WERE ON OUR DATABASE  
 (AS AT JUNE 2021)



AN AVERAGE OF 16.5% OF PAIHERE RECEIVED INDIVIDUAL CARE AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH (OUTSIDE OF THE COVID-19 AFFECTED PERIOD)



IN A TYPICAL MONTH - 1,466 INDIVIDUAL PRISONERS RECEIVED ONE OR MORE SUPPORT SESSIONS



IN A TYPICAL MONTH - 1,736 INDIVIDUAL PAIHERE ATTENDED GROUP SERVICES





# About Us

## Ā Mātou

### The Trust

In 2000, churches formed a charitable trust known as the Prison Chaplaincy Service of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCSANZ).

This new organisation set up a different structure for providing religious and spiritual services to paihere (prisoners) in New Zealand, under contract to Department of Corrections Ara Poutama Aotearoa, which is also its main funder. The Trust now employed and supplied chaplains, where previously they were employed by Corrections.

The Trust took over responsibility from Corrections for the faith-based volunteers in 2015. In August 2020, a new five-year funding agreement was settled between PCSANZ and Corrections.

PCSANZ is governed by a Board comprising representatives from the Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia, the Associated Pentecostal Churches of New Zealand, the Baptist Churches of New Zealand Ko Ngā Hāhi Iriri o Aotearoa, the Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa, The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, The Roman Catholic Church of New Zealand, The Salvation Army Te Ope Whakaora, and Te Rūnunga Whakawhanaunga i ngā Haahi o Aotearoa (National Council of Māori Churches). Up to five members can be nominated onto the Board.



# Where We Work

## Ngā wāhi mahi

### Northern Region

Northland Region Corrections Facility  
Spring Hill Corrections Facility  
Waikeria Prison  
Hawke's Bay Regional Prison

### Auckland Region

Auckland Prison (Paremoremo)  
Mt Eden Corrections Facility  
Auckland South Corrections Facility  
Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility

### Central Region

Tongariro Prison  
New Plymouth Remand Centre  
Whanganui Prison  
Manawatu Prison  
Rimutaka Prison  
Arohata Prison

### Southern Region

Christchurch Men's Prison  
Christchurch Women's Prison  
Rolleston Prison  
Otago Corrections Facility  
Invercargill Prison



# An Introduction to Prison Chaplaincy

## Koinei te Kaupapa

### What is Prison Chaplaincy?

The origin of the term 'chaplain' comes from the French word 'chappelle', which is a coat or covering.

The term originates from the old Christian story of St Martin who offered his chappelle to someone in deep distress and gave him a covering, a lifesaving protection, in a similar manner to the parable of the Good Samaritan; offering kindness, compassion and a Christ-like presence. Prison chaplaincy is focussed on providing that covering or care to those in prison, regardless of their faith or spiritual identification.

Our organisation is dedicated to supporting some of the most disadvantaged and hurt people in our society. For many of them, this disadvantage has been experienced since birth and that has led them to prison.



## Prison Chaplaincy in Action

**Our chaplains and volunteers journey with paihere as they encounter the challenges of incarceration and separation from loved ones and whānau.**

Prison chaplaincy has two areas of focus: ministry with individual paihere, and building a healthy spiritual community at each prison site. This ministry is delivered both intentionally and serendipitously, through good organisation and unintended encounters as chaplains offer a ministry of presence.

Day-to-day, chaplains have a critical role in facilitating the building of a Spirit-filled community at their site and ensuring that all who wish to can contribute to that community – whether they are paihere, volunteers, chaplains or prison staff. Chaplains ensure the service at each site is of the highest quality and reflects PCSANZ's values, while also leading and managing volunteers. They offer expertise in the core chaplaincy disciplines of pastoral care, delivering worship and

occasional services (for example, cell blessings), and giving opportunities to study the scriptures and other religious and spiritual material.

Joining alongside chaplains are the volunteers, who are a critical part of service delivery. There are rules and processes that volunteers are subject to in a prison setting, which adds a level of commitment not found in other forms of volunteering. There are around 800 faith-based prison volunteers across the country.

Importantly, the relationship between PCSANZ, Ara Poutama Aotearoa, and Serco is a partnership. The work chaplains and volunteers do helps with the tensions that can arise, as paihere struggle with issues that are difficult to resolve while in prison. Every day, prison staff also help facilitate the chaplains' ministry and programmes in numerous ways across the country. Government-church cooperation is truly at its best in prisons.





## Pona Solomona

### Regional Manager, Central – Whanganui

"I see hope in all paihere. No matter where they are in life, there is always hope."

#### Describe your journey into prison chaplaincy.

My parents were ministers of the Gospel with the Congregational Christian church in Samoa, and I was taught Bible principles and Christian living from a very young age. I was born again in 1974. Throughout my life journey, I made numerous mistakes and had failures. However, God used those experiences to shape me as a prison chaplain.

I began as a chaplain in Rimutaka and Wellington prisons, then Mount Eden, Spring Hill, and finally to Whanganui. As a Regional Manager, I really enjoy my role, especially working with chaplains and other colleagues throughout the region. While there are challenges in our work, we always discover our way through the help of God, and by supporting each other as chaplains.

#### What stands out to you in your role?

God has blessed me with much love and care for all the paihere I work with. I can relate to many of the problems they face because of my own life experiences. I use my story to bring hope to those I am called to care for, and spending time with them fills me with energy as well.

I've seen so much success over the years. Lots of people have left prison to start

new lives, and seeing someone move on is rewarding for me. Some try but end up coming back to prison but on lesser charges, so then they try again. I see hope in all paihere. No matter where they are in life, there is always hope. Being there in someone's time of struggle, and sharing that, is inspiring for me and I really love what I do!

#### What advice would you give to our new chaplains?

I would encourage chaplains to commit to daily prayer for wisdom and guidance. They should work hard towards building good relationships with other chaplains, prison staff, and paihere. It's also important to be open to learning new skills and modifying their behaviours and attitudes to align with the culture of the environment.

#### What do you do in your spare time?

I love spending time with my family. I also really enjoy working in my garage servicing cars for my family, looking after tools and doing carpentry work. I also like doing jobs around the home, like mowing the lawn, and it makes for good exercise for me. It keeps me busy; and working with my hands gives me a good break from the work too.

# Alison Robinson

## Chaplain – Rimutaka Prison and Arohata Prison

### Describe your journey into prison chaplaincy.

I was on Sabbatical 12 years ago discerning my next season of work and ministry. Whilst in Cambodia a friend recommended a book called 'Reading the Bible with the Damned'. I had a sort of 'God experience' when my friend explained the content of the book which was written by a prison chaplain in the States. There was a moment where I felt this deep sense of 'this is for you'. Soon after returning to New Zealand, there was a job advertised at Rimutaka. This year I've started working at Arohata as well.

### What stands out to you in your role?

There are many misconceptions around what 'criminals' are like. This is fostered by some damning news reporting that makes people look like monsters. When I'm sitting in front of a paihere I see a human being who is both beautiful and broken just like me. People don't just wake up and decide to be a criminal. Life's experiences create scars that are often enormously complex to heal. I feel called to live a life of justice: sharing my plenty, seeing others as equals, and helping them to become their best selves.

### What advice would you give to our new chaplains?

I think it's important for us chaplains to have perspective on the complexity of change for paihere. Every day requires significant psychological effort for someone who is trying to live into their change. There are times when we have really beautiful conversations, but it is a very long journey. Many people want to change but fall back into old patterns. It doesn't mean they weren't genuine or that no growth has happened. Long-term change is made up of many moments and choices, and we are simply supporting them on this lengthy journey to greater wholeness.

### What do you do in your spare time?

I run St David's Anglican Church with my husband in my home community of Naenae. Our church also runs Te Puna Manawa (meaning 'a wellspring of the heart'), which is a Drop-in Centre for the neighbourhood. My family is very important to me. We enjoy tramping, biking and holidaying. We celebrate life well together. We often get together around food, and endeavour to live life with gratitude and joy.



"Long-term change is made up of many moments and choices, and we are simply supporting them on this lengthy journey to greater wholeness."



# Our Vision, Mission and Values

Anei o mātou pūtake

## Our Mission

Being the hope that transforms lives

## Tū Rangatira - Professionalism

He aha te kai o te rangatira?  
He kōrero, he kōrero, he kōrero.  
What is the food of the leader?  
It is knowledge.  
It is communication.

## Haumarū - Keeping Safe

Waiho i te toipoto,  
kaua i te toiroa.  
Let us keep close  
together, not  
wide apart.

## Mahi Tahī - Teamwork

Naku te rourou nau te rourou  
ka ora ai te iwi.  
With your basket and my basket  
the people will live.

## Our Vision

Every prisoner has the opportunity to have  
their spiritual and religious life enriched

## Pononga - Servants of God

He taonga rongonui te aroha ki te tangata.  
Goodwill towards others is a precious treasure.

## Whakaute - Respect

He aha te mea nui o te ao?  
He tāngata! He tāngata! He tāngata!  
What is the most important thing in the world?  
It is people! It is people! It is people!

## Aroha - Compassion

Aroha mai, aroha atu.  
Love received, love returned.



# Prisoner (Paihere) Story

## One woman's story – he kōrero ā tētahi wahine

I am privileged to be able to visit with the chaplains to share my spiritual growth, and to rest my mind and thoughts from jail culture. I came in with a NIV Bible, but I have loved reading with understanding the 52 lessons in the introduction of the ERV Prison Bible.

Like 'The Parable of the Sower', I have experienced the path, the rocks, the thorns, and now good soil. Reading that parable has brought me to tears.

Prisons need chaplains for they are the 'sower' and give women in this prison a chance to "instead be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what He requires of you, and He will provide you with all these other things". Matthew 6:33 (GNB)

I have grown from strength to strength, from faith to faith and from glory to glory with the help of the chaplains. God bless them and keep them.

## One man's story – he kōrero ā tētahi tāne

It means a lot to me being able to access support from the chaplains. There are prisoners like myself who don't have whānau who can visit them, or can support them mentally and physically.

The support aspect has been really good. I don't speak for the church attendance side, because church for me is inside – I have my faith. But if I need to discuss things or vent I can come to my chaplain and share, and I feel comfortable doing that with them. Having that connection and being able to have an intelligent conversation with someone else, other than an officer or another paihere, is very valuable.



# Our Volunteers

## Anei ō mātou Kaiāwhina

### The Role

PCSANZ offers spiritual and religious support to all paihere (prisoners) inside prisons. To provide this service, PCSANZ relies on faith-based volunteers to come into prisons to help deliver group worship, group study and individual pastoral care to paihere every week. Our volunteers enable us to reach more of those paihere who choose to begin or continue their spiritual journey.

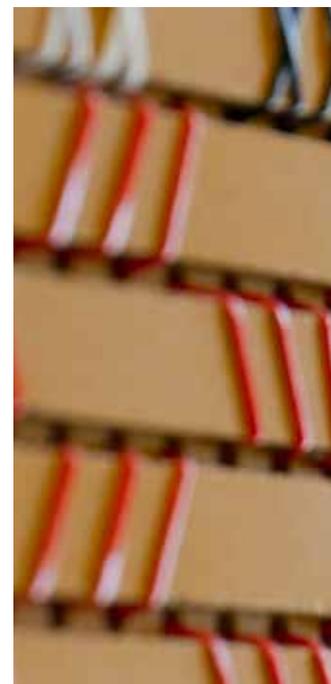
Volunteers are managed by our chaplains at each prison site. Our professional chaplains provide leadership to the volunteers' chaplaincy activities in the prisons, maintain relationships with key Corrections staff, and liaise with the local church and faith communities.

We value the commitment of our volunteer network. They work with our chaplains to deliver religious and spiritual services to groups of paihere, provide individual pastoral care (assistant chaplains), and facilitate Bible studies and other faith-based study groups.

### Who Our Volunteers Are

Our volunteers come from all walks of life. They vary in age, ethnicity, faith and denominational background. Most are Christian, and some are of other religions (e.g. Muslim or Buddhist). They are all endorsed members of a faith-based organisation. All are welcome and important for the service.

As at June 2021, there were 800 active volunteers on our database. This is an astounding number of people who have chosen to offer their skills, experience, faith, and time to paihere. The diversity of gifts that volunteers bring to prison ministry could never be provided by the chaplains alone.





## Safety and Relationships

The process to become a volunteer is comprehensive. Every person is vetted by PCSANZ, with commendations from their respective church or faith-based community, and there are extensive requirements from Ara Poutama Aotearoa and Serco to gain access to the prison.

When organising the volunteers' activities at prisons, the chaplains are constantly aware of the need to be prepared for disruptions. The main disruptions include sudden prison or unit lockdown, or there being too few prison staff on site at a given time to facilitate the volunteers' activities and/or ensure their safety.

Being a PCSANZ volunteer is different to being a personal visitor to a paihere. As a member of the public, you may be able to become a visitor to a paihere. However, this relationship is initiated by the paihere and must be approved by prison management (Corrections or Serco). Generally, PCSANZ does not allow its volunteers to also be a personal visitor to any paihere.

"I am blessed to be able to see God work in their hearts, and I am grateful to be a small part of God's bigger picture in their lives."

## Genia Huffman

### Volunteer – Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility

#### Describe your journey into volunteering as an assistant chaplain.

I started my relationship with the paihere at Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility in 2015. A friend from church who was volunteering there pulled me along because she knew it would be a good ministry for me. I know a little about what some of the wāhine (women) are going through, as I've had personal experiences with family members who have served prison time, struggled with drug and alcohol issues, and I even lost a close relative because of it. Our family has also had the privilege of seeing first-hand how God's love can transform people's lives and will change hearts and minds for the better!

#### What do you do in your role?

I have the privilege of being able to minister in many ways. I get to lead a monthly church service, and I do weekly Bible studies and one-on-one discipleship with prayer and encouragement. I also help with the Mums and Babies unit in weekly nanny volunteering. I absolutely cherish this role, as I get to spend time loving on these precious babies, and building friendships with the wāhine.

#### What stands out to you in your role?

What means the most to me in this ministry, is the look of hope on the women's faces, and seeing new light in their eyes when you share God's unconditional love. Through Him, they are worthy and their life has great purpose and meaning. I am blessed to be able to see God work in their hearts, and I am grateful to be a small part of God's bigger picture in their lives.

#### What would you say to other potential volunteers?

I would say that if you have any inkling in your heart you should explore it, and we definitely need more volunteers! It is a very rewarding opportunity. It's also definitely helped to grow my own faith, and have a greater prayer life. Also, as I seek to help these wāhine, they in turn have blessed me greatly. It brings me great joy to know that if I can just reach one paihere with God's love, the effects are so far-reaching – to her partner/husband, children, extended whānau, community, and beyond. There are highs and lows along the way, but as we help the wāhine grow we also grow. God can do amazing things in the hearts and lives of these women, and that excites my heart!

# Father Mark Beale

## Volunteer – Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility

### Describe your journey into volunteering as an assistant chaplain.

Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility was built while I was vicar of St Elizabeth's in Clendon. As it was within my parish, I felt that I should become involved with it. So a fellow parishioner and I volunteered to lead Bible studies and Sunday services. I've retired from St Elizabeth's now, but I still live in the local community so I enjoy continuing with the ministry we started in the prison.

### What do you do in your role?

Every Tuesday I do studies with the paihere. I go with another woman, Anita, who was once a paihere there and did studies with me in the early days. I supported her in her parole hearing, then, after being released, in finding employment and getting her life back on track again. After some eight years, with the prison's blessing, she began volunteering, and has been helping me there ever since!

### What stands out to you in your role?

Something that's really special has been seeing paihere like Anita change their lives. When Anita tells the women that she was once in their position, they are often astounded! You can see how it brings the

women hope because they too can get their lives in order and lead a meaningful life.

That really is the motivation for me. I have seen the fruit that this work bears, and I know that it's worthwhile and of value. Often in life, you never see the consequences of what you're doing, but I find that for those in prison, anything you do is returned with a great sense of gratitude. Even something as small as leaving behind a leaflet that is relevant to someone's life is really treasured.

### What would you say to other potential volunteers?

I think the attitude you bring with you is really important. When you show that you will treat each woman with great respect, and begin to share more about yourself, the lines of difference between the paihere and chaplains becomes very small. These are people who are no different from any of us – we're all on a life journey together. These are just ordinary women, whose lives have become dysfunctional or have become out of kilter with what they once envisioned. A lot of them have also been victims themselves. Once you understand that, you can really relate to them and be there for them. It becomes a meaningful experience for both their lives and yours!

"I have seen the fruit that this work bears, and I know that it's worthwhile and of value."





## Prison Director Profile

Viv Whelan, Prison Director, Kai-arahi, Rimutaka Prison

"The chaplains are phenomenal at what they do. They have such graciousness, and have big hearts for everyone here"

**We're blessed to have four prison chaplains here at Rimutaka. Their team members come from different denominations and cultures, and they really complement each other and the site as a whole. Our staff and paihere really value our chaplains' contribution, and they are part of our whānau. Their presence is felt, and they are making a difference.**

A crucial part of prison chaplaincy's success at Rimutaka has been how the chaplaincy team has established an amazing relationship with Rimutaka's staff. They have made a point to build trust and understanding, so we can best work together as one team. That respect flows out to the paihere we care for, and creates better access for those who are looking for the support our chaplains offer.

The chaplains are phenomenal at what they do. They have such graciousness, and have big hearts for everyone here. Lots of people have built walls around themselves, so I really value the way they quietly and unassumingly break down the barriers to personal growth. They embrace anyone for who they are – no matter their religious beliefs or what they have done. They truly live out the caring, compassionate, and humanitarian approach, in what can be a very tough environment.

It's also important to recognise that the nature of how they operate is well in line with the Department of Corrections Ara Poutama Aotearoa Hōkai Rangi Strategy. They live and breathe the principles of Hōkai Rangi – and were even doing so before it was implemented. When there is a person or even a whole unit struggling, our chaplains can see that and will reach out in various ways. For example, one of our chaplains goes out of his way to use special kai (food) to bring people together.

Prison chaplaincy has made our site feel a lot healthier – from both a spiritual and mental perspective. In a way, I see them as unsung heroes of the rehabilitation process. Often I find out about something amazing they have done after the fact, because they are so gracious and unassuming. And I'm sure there are many significant things that my staff and I will never hear about, because they are just out there doing it. They don't look for recognition, they just quietly go about helping to make huge changes in people's lives.

It's also important to realise that the chaplains here are dealing with some tough men. Whether they are in a group or one-on-one setting, they don't shy away from the hard stuff and face heavy issues head on. They build healthy and respectful relationships with paihere, and can appropriately



Rimutaka Prison

challenge them. One recent example is when one of our chaplains asked a gang leader to consider how he could use his influence in a positive way – namely to help our community make more informed decisions about vaccination. Seeing the way she went about working with someone who is widely seen as an ‘anti-social presence’ in our society, to achieve something positive, was really inspiring.

With that in mind, I think the public sees a lot of negative representation of prisons and people who have committed crimes, but miss out on seeing the many amazing things that happen here too. As a prison, our job is not to judge paihere or punish them further. We’re obligated to return them back to our communities as better people than when they came in. And I see prison chaplaincy as

making a huge contribution to that. Rimutaka has really come a long way in developing prison chaplaincy’s place within our community. In my time I have seen them grow into a pivotal part of what we do, and I would love them to not only have a bigger role in prisons but also to be recognised for the amazing value they add to both paihere and staff. I believe that we need to integrate more of the work they do, because to create a place of humanising and healing within a prison environment we need to create a sense of whānau and togetherness.

In the year ahead, we are looking forward to coming up with exciting ideas to build our chaplains’ presence here, and for Rimutaka to become a healthier place to be as a result.



# Prison Chaplaincy Through COVID-19

## I tēnei wā o te Mate Korona-19

The impacts of COVID-19 continued to be felt through 2021. New Zealand experienced a relatively quiet period through the start and middle of this year until the arrival of the Delta variant in August 2021. Since then, the country and especially Auckland and then the Waikato region have operated under another regime of Alert Levels – with even higher levels of restriction than experienced in the 2020 lockdowns. This was due to the increased infectiousness of the Delta variant.

Prisons were again affected, and while

most chaplains returned to site under Alert Level 2 (early September), the chaplains in Auckland, Northland and Waikato have had very limited or no access since August. Nearly all volunteers have been unable to access sites since August.

The chaplaincy service, as in 2020, used the hiatus to prepare site resources, offer an on-call service to sites, and provide written material to paihere. Chaplains did occasionally return to deal with emergency and critical incidents during the lockdown period.



In early November the Government and Ara Poutama Aotearoa introduced mandatory vaccination for all staff and contractors (PCSANZ is in this category) entering a prison. This decision was part of the ongoing activity to reduce the potential effects of COVID-19 on the very vulnerable prison population. This mandate was subsequently extended to all persons wanting to enter a prison, including private visitors.

PCSANZ supported mandatory vaccination and also decided that it should apply to all staff and volunteers regardless of whether they needed access to the prison or not. This decision was to ensure that PCSANZ safeguarded all its members and had no points of vulnerability.

The mandatory vaccination decision was well-received by most staff and volunteers. Some have found the decision difficult to accept, on

grounds of personal belief or concerns about the effect of the vaccination on their health. Despite the COVID-19 crisis, we have observed again that nearly all people in the prison setting have risen to the challenges and dealt well with all of the uncertainty, anxiety, and disruption. But there has been considerable cost in terms of fatigue and a general 'fed-upness' with lockdowns. The traffic light system will hopefully allow the country to move towards a gentler rhythm and some much-needed rest.

Considerable uncertainty remains about how 2022 will unfold but there are signs that chaplaincy will slowly increase its presence at sites in the New Year. Meanwhile, PCSANZ is giving more thought to how it can better support its staff and volunteers in this difficult time and find new and innovative ways of providing support to paihere and staff at the various sites around the country.



# PCSANZ Strategy in Action

## Mahia te mahi

**As part of the strategic plan issued by our Board in 2019, we continue to focus on the four key areas of strategic development. They are: developing our chaplains, strengthening volunteer participation, increasing Māori involvement, and community building.**

The chaplains are the core of our service delivery, and a big focus of their development has been ensuring they have a strong set of professional skills and practices that equip them for providing general pastoral care and for dealing with the more acute conditions and situations they come across. To that end, two key activities for the year included running a very successful national training event for chaplains in July and setting in place regular attendance at spiritual direction to complement the professional supervision that chaplains receive.

Volunteer development has been very limited over the year, due to long periods of restricted volunteer access to prisons. Consequently, the main focus has been on developing volunteer processes and resources to support the volunteer work.

The key area of Māori development for PCSANZ has been strengthening the Māori participation in our Trust Board. It has been great to have Bishop Te Kitohi

Pikaahu, Te Aroha Rountree, and Shaun Baker join Bishop Richard Wallace on our Board. More broadly, many chaplaincy teams are working hard to understand the application of Hōkai Rangī at their site and grow their skill in te reo.

Within the fourth area of development, community building, the most significant improvement during the year was issuing a new Code of Conduct. This new, more aspirational and values-centred document supports our mission and defines the kind of organisation we want to be. The Code also complements the work of Ara Poutama Aotearoa to establish a healing and humanising approach to its work.

We recognise that prison chaplaincy is not a one-size-fits-all kind of service and so our development work always has an eye on how our chaplaincy can be more flexible and multi-dimensional. This is so we can respond to the complexity and demands of a large variety of prison contexts. These contexts differ in terms of security setting, site size, number and proportion of remandees, as well as the particular gender, age and health needs of paihere at each site. Our service also needs to be responsive to national trends such as the introduction of 12-hour shifts for Corrections staff, and the reducing prison population from a steady 10,100 (March 2020) to the current figure of 7,700 (December 2021).



# Chaplaincy at Women's Prisons

## Kei ngā hapori wāhine

Women's prisons are a particular setting where ministry needs to be carefully designed to meet the unique needs of that context. While wāhine (women) in prison share some of the challenges of the male prison population, they also have some very distinct and different needs and respond differently to the prison experience. It is critical that our chaplains and volunteers understand the difference gender and culture makes in the pathway of wāhine to prison and their experience while in prison.

Because there are just three women's prisons in the country, women are more likely to be housed away from their families and whānau. The uncertainty surrounding the care of their children is particularly stressful. Women are more likely than men to be caring for children, to have experienced significant trauma, and to have mental health and substance use disorders. Compared with men in prison, women in prison are more likely to have experienced violence from a younger age and for a longer period of time.

Pastoral care and group services by our chaplains and volunteers in women's prisons plays an important part in the healing and restoration of wāhine. Our service looks to provide both a flexible service in relation to the specific needs of women paihere, and to collaborate with the new initiatives that Ara Poutama Aotearoa and Serco are developing to support wāhine in prison – such as the Hōkai Rangi Strategy and the new 2021-2025 Women's Strategy: Wāhine-Erere ana ki te pae hou.

## Here are some of the things wāhine have said in our Bible study groups:

"I have seen a personal change in my daily life since I began reading God's word every day – I am learning to forgive!"

"I finally found the strength to forgive my mother, and now I can sleep at night."

"I have grown so much since coming to Bible study, and discovered the real truth – I feel loved! And I am now holding to and walking in the truth of God's word. I feel so much more patient, humble and gentle and am not so influenced by people who are trying to deceive me."

"My anger no longer controls me, it's still there but I know that God's love is more powerful, so I pray when I get angry and try to find His peace instead of responding in anger."

## Another woman's story – he korero ā tētahi atu wāhine

The role of the Chaplaincy Team has been instrumental in my pursuit of developing a closer relationship with our Holy Father. The weekly Bible Studies (with dedicated volunteers) taught me a lot. Seeking trusted wise counsel helped me to stay focussed on what is really important and to put things in the correct perspective. I still have a long way to go though.

The Sunday church services are important, and having fellowship with other 'sisters in Christ'. I especially enjoy the worship songs and the chance to share and learn from others. During the COVID-19 lockdowns, these services were not available, but I'm looking forward to the day when they resume!

# Staff Recognitions

## He mihi maioha ki ēnei kaimahi

This year, we recognised chaplains celebrating milestones in their years of service with PCSANZ. We are grateful for the significant contribution these men and women have made to the organisation, and for the aroha (love) they have shown to paihere across Aotearoa.

### 30 YEARS

Pamela Sims

### 20 YEARS

Rangihono Huirama  
Perema Alofivae  
Pona Solomona  
Jeffery Low

### 15 YEARS

Viliame Tuisoso

### 10 YEARS

Maurice McLaughlin  
Graham Lapslie  
Alison Robinson  
Pita Makalio  
Veronica Casey

### 5 YEARS

David Marshall  
Reginald Wills  
Richard Ward  
Peter Hay-MacKenzie  
Sean Ryan  
Ramon Manaloto  
Paul Colvin



*Chaplains who were recognised for their significant years of service.*



## Regional Teams

Thank you to all our chaplains who work in our four regions!



Chaplains from the southern region.



Chaplains from the central region.



Chaplains from the Auckland region.



Chaplains from the northern region.



# Funding

Pūtea



**Sources of Funding**  
1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021

● Contracts	\$2,943,108
● Investments	\$5,685
● Other	\$23,766
● Donations	\$14,751



**How funds were spent**  
1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021

● Personnel	\$2,669,374
● Operating Expenses	\$279,403

This financial information is extracted from the audited financial report of Prison Chaplaincy Service of Aotearoa New Zealand Trust. A full set of audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021 is available on request.

Charities Services Registration: CC24724.



# Thank you

## Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou

We sincerely thank the following donors and churches who supported PCSANZ during the past financial year. Their regular contributions toward our work are very much appreciated.

Crossroads Methodist Church, Auckland

Manukau City Baptist Church, Auckland

Village Baptist Church, Havelock North

St Aidan's Anglican Church, Remuera

St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Invercargill

Tasman Smith Charitable Trust Hawkes Bay

JP Axcell & AJ Shrapnell

L Henare

Anonymous via payroll giving and other

### Serco

Thank you to Serco for their funding of chaplaincy at Auckland South Corrections Facility.



### Volunteers and Supporters

We thank all our faith-based volunteers, and those in the volunteer network, who dedicate themselves to helping us to deliver prison chaplaincy, through their time and skills. We are continually amazed by our many volunteers!

### Department of Corrections Ara Poutama Aotearoa

A very big thank you to Department of Corrections Ara Poutama Aotearoa for their support and funding of our service. This year they renewed their arrangement with PCSANZ and generously increased their level of funding.



### Bible Society New Zealand

Thanks to the support of the Bible Society, 1,125 Bibles, 81 New Testaments and 104 other resources were distributed to paihere in New Zealand prisons this year. The Bible Society's mission is to "make the Bible accessible to everyone" and we are grateful that this includes providing Bibles and associated reading material to paihere. These books and resources are some of the few items that paihere can keep in their cells while in prison, and are greatly valued by them.

# Our Board and Management

## To Mātou Poari

### Trustees

Anne Dickinson - Board Chair

Peter Williamson

Murray Cottle

Seth Fawcet

Richard Wallace

Te Kitohi Pikaahu

Shaun Baker

Te Aroha Rountree

Stephen O'Connor

### Appointed by

Nominated by Trustees

Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa

Baptist Churches of New Zealand Ko Ngā Hāhi Iriiri o Aotearoa

Associated Pentecostal Churches of New Zealand

Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia – Te Hāhi Mihinare ki Aotearoa ki Niu Tirenī, ki Ngā Moutere o Te Moana Nui a Kiwa

Te Rūnanga Whakawhanaunga I Ngā Hāhi o Aotearoa – Māori Council of Churches

The Salvation Army

Te Rūnanga Whakawhanaunga I Ngā Hāhi o Aotearoa – Māori Council of Churches

Roman Catholic Church of New Zealand

### Our Management



Chief Executive  
John Axcell

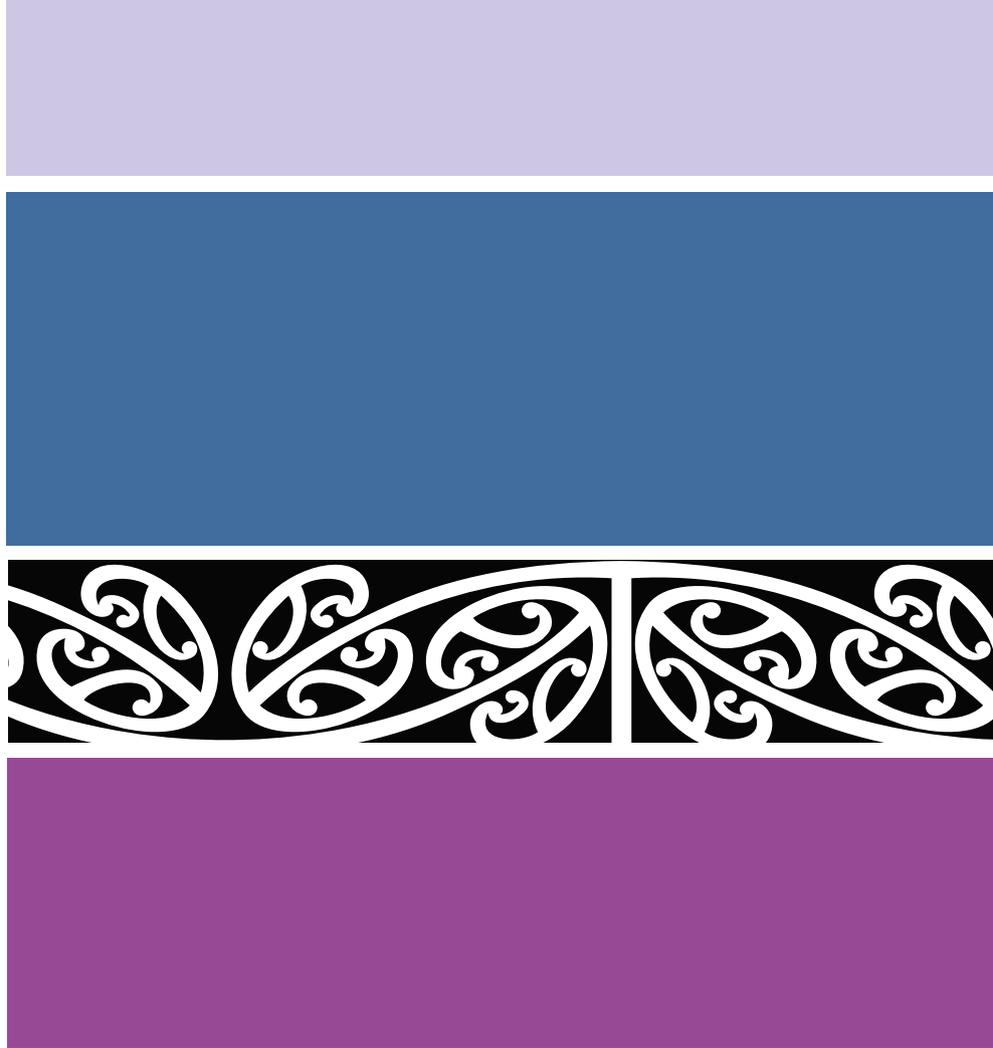
Senior Catholic  
Chaplain  
Veronica Casey

Regional Manager  
Northern  
Maurice McLaughlin

Regional Manager  
Auckland  
Richard Ward

Regional Manager  
Central  
Pona Solomona

Regional Manager  
Southern  
Colin Morrison



[www.prisonchaplaincy.org.nz](http://www.prisonchaplaincy.org.nz)