

# Christchurch Women's Refuge

**For Immediate Release**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Pub Charity Support for Family Violence Work**

Pub Charity recently showed its on-going commitment to families in Canterbury by making a grant of over \$146,000 to Christchurch Women's Refuge, the single biggest grant that Christchurch Women's Refuge has ever received.

The grant money will cover six months of family support work which refuge workers currently undertake and will also provide the seed money for a new and innovative model of service that Christchurch Women's Refuge is currently developing.

"We know that since the earthquakes, family violence has been an even bigger issue than usual in Canterbury" says Pub Charity CEO Martin Cheer. "Pub Charity was in the fortunate position to be able to support the work of Christchurch Women's Refuge in a way that we think will make a difference to families not only right now, but also into the future through this new service model."

"Pub Charity has been a faithful supporter of Christchurch Women's Refuge for many years, but this grant has really blown us away" says CEO Nicola Woodward. "It is a real relief to have some essential wage funding secured for the next few months, and we are even more excited to be able to start a new project. It's not often that as a charity we have the resource to do that, so we are very grateful to Pub Charity for their faith in us and the difference we can make with their support."

For any concerns related to family violence, please call our 24-hour free-phone 0800 1 REFUGE (0800 1 733 843)

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**For further information contact:**

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# Christchurch Women's Refuge

## **Facts About Christchurch Women's Refuge**

- Christchurch Women's Refuge is the first Refuge established in New Zealand (1973)
- Most clients do not use the Safe House – they engage in support, advocacy or undertake education and safety programmes while staying in their own, or another, home
- Many women contact Christchurch Women's Refuge directly. However, many others (especially since the earthquakes) engage after being contacted as a person named on Police Reports of Family Violence

### Christchurch Women's Refuge Services:

#### **Early Intervention and Prevention Services**

Support, advocacy, assistance with accessing essential services and professional referrals.

Ministry of Justice approved women's & children's group, & women's individual, education programmes.

Community liaison, education and partnership

Creating or linking to inter-agency collaborations and networks

Research and service development

#### **Crisis Management Services:**

A free 24-hour crisis and support line, and emergency residential services in our Safe House.

### Key Statistics

In the year 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 Christchurch Women's Refuge:

- Supported 1,135 women, children and young people with face-to face service
- Supported 3,500 women, children and young people with phone support when they called our Crisis line
- Offered support to 2,580 women, children and young people named in Police Reports of Family Violence
- Kept 130 women, children and young people safe in our Residential Safe House
  
- Referrals from Police (POL 400s and Police Safety Orders) increased 7% – an actual increase of 171 more referrals.
- Approximately 15% more staff time required to process and action POL 400s, which also shown a significant increase in the severity of violence.
- Crisis calls rose dramatically – over 48%.