



iosis
transforming
family life for good

Turnaround

The Iosis Newsletter – July 2021



Our dream project is happening!

In 2019, the Iosis team and board began exploring opportunities to further expand the support we provide for families in the South Auckland community.

We identified an urgent need to provide quality community housing for people living in vulnerable situations in South Auckland, and began exploring how land owned by Iosis in Manurewa could be used to meet this need.

Three years on, we're very excited to announce that the ground on our new social housing complex will be broken next month! Our dream project has been realised through a strategic partnership with other companies and not-for-profit organisations, whose philosophies are closely aligned with our purpose of transforming family life for good.

For Iosis, the project not only allows us to deepen our support of vulnerable families in South

Auckland, it also provides a new revenue stream which allows us to continue to grow, develop and deliver family social services for South Auckland families.

The current housing crisis means there is enormous demand for housing for families in South Auckland, especially for quality housing that also meets the healthy homes standards. That's why we're taking an active approach to counteract this growing problem by developing much-needed housing for families in our community.

"Those living in the complex will also be able to access our wrap-around services if needed," says Iosis CEO, Tracey-Leigh Peters.

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A message from our CEO

We're already midway through 2021 and what a transformative year it is shaping up to be for our organisation! A huge milestone



Tunumafono Tracey-Leigh Peters

for Iosis is starting on our 'dream project' of building a new community of quality social housing for vulnerable South Aucklanders who are struggling to find homes (see lead article). We're thrilled to be contributing towards solving the housing problem and supporting Iosis families in a new and meaningful way.

Speaking of transformation, our involvement in the inaugural MDCAT programme is going from strength to strength (see back page) – not only

responding quickly to situations of family harm, but in some cases setting people on a pathway to change.

Developing a Māori voice is important for Iosis so we can better connect with and respond to Māori in our community, so one of our staff members, Teina, has been appointed to develop a Māori framework for Iosis (more on page 3).

We also welcome a new board member, Justine (Jay) Martin, who brings a wealth of knowledge from the public health sector and her experience in an NGO.

Lastly, I was deeply inspired by Danielle's story on page 3. It's a wonderful story of a young woman who has truly turned her life around – and, in doing so, given her daughter the gift of a loving mother and a better future. With God's blessing, we can continue to help people in our community like Danielle to transform their lives.

Tunumafono Tracey-Leigh Peters - CEO

Our dream project is happening

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"Iosis will maintain the quality of the housing to a high standard and support the building of strong community connections within the social housing complex."

The development team includes representatives from Christian Savings, Built by Home and members of the Iosis board and management team. Built by Home will build the social housing complex comprising 21 two-bedroom units, which is due to be completed in December 2022. 🌀



Prayer needs

We pray for those involved in our property project, the new foster carers who've recently been trained, the families who are struggling over winter, and to recruit more social workers to help transform the lives of families in our community.

“Merivale has given me back my family.”

32-year old Danielle had been in and out of jail several times before she arrived at Merivale in June 2020 with her new baby, Jade. She had started using meth when she was just 14 years old.

“Things went from bad to worse and I got involved with gang members,” explains Danielle. “This time when I fell pregnant, I knew I didn’t want to lose my baby. I realised that I needed help to get off meth and change my life to keep her – so my mum suggested that I try a parenting programme.”

Oranga Tamariki put Danielle in touch with Merivale, a residential parenting programme in Auckland for mothers struggling with abuse, addiction, or domestic violence – and with the challenges of parenting. Women receive counselling and attend a range of life skill, self-development and parenting classes.

“I have never felt so supported or welcome in my life,” says Danielle. “The staff were amazing and with the tools I’ve learnt I have changed the way I parent. I value myself now and my self-esteem has improved so much.

My mum and my nan are really proud of me and they love spending time with Jade. Merivale has given me back my family.” ©



Danielle and Jade



Prayer partners wanted

If you would like to pray for Iosis, our staff, volunteers, caregivers and the many people we help in our community, please email supporters@iosis.org.nz and we will send you prayer requests.

Teina Mita - a voice for Māori

Teina Mita has been with Iosis for five years as team leader of the Counselling and Men’s programme. He was recently appointed to a new position to develop a Māori framework for Iosis. “I think of it as being a Māori voice within the organisation,” says Teina. “It will help us to deepen our understanding of Māori culture and the way we go about our work.”

Working with other team members, Teina has developed a framework based on eight concepts or ‘pou’. “One of the most important pou is whakapapa, or ‘making connections’. Success

comes from establishing a strong connection with our clients so they trust us,” he says. “The second pou, ūkaipō, is based on developing nurturing relationships, which reflects how Iosis works with our clients.”

Another aspect of Teina’s role includes strengthening relationships with other Māori groups within the local community. “It is a privilege to have the opportunity to shape the organisation in this way,” says Teina. “For me, success will be having instilled Māoridom as an enduring part of our culture.” ©



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MDCAT – safety, support and a path forward

A year ago, we profiled Tania Da Encarnacao, who had just joined MDCAT (multi-disciplinary cross agency team) as the team member from Iosis.

MDCAT is a collaboration between Government agencies and non-government agencies established to respond quickly to situations of family harm, and Tania works as a family harm social worker. Iosis works alongside the Papakura Police, MSD, Kāinga Ora, Mahi Tahī, Corrections, Counties Manukau DHB and Papakura Marae.

A year on, MDCAT's work is going from strength to strength. The team meets every morning and cases are discussed and picked up by the team member best able to help. Tania believes one of the benefits is the speed with which solutions can be found through less duplication. "Typically, a case will go to a team member who has already been working with the family - which saves a lot of time as they know the history and can focus on finding a solution."

Tania cites a recent case where a young woman had started sleeping in a car as her stepfather had been released from prison and she didn't feel safe being around him. Within a few hours she had safe housing, financial support, a mobile phone and had self-referred to a support programme offered by Iosis.

"MDCAT is focused on quick response, but we are also setting people on a pathway to change – if they want to. We make them safe, put in place immediate support, and provide them with the information they need for the next step in their journey," says Tania. "I love my job – it's very rewarding to help transform lives." 🌟



A warm welcome to board member, Jay Martin



Jay Martin

Justine (Jay) Martin recently joined the Iosis board and she is looking forward to using her public health, NGO and te reo experience to contribute to our work.

Her whakapapa is Te Ātuhāunui-a-Pāpāurangi and Ngāti Tama.

Jay initially trained as a physiotherapist, which led to her to develop an interest in public health. More recently she has worked part-time as a debt coach with CAP (Christians Against Poverty), while focusing on connecting to her whakapapa and learning te reo. "I wasn't aware of Iosis, but I quickly discovered what an amazing organisation it is," she says. "It's an honour to be involved with an organisation that is truly transforming family life." 🌟



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