



Judgement day: celebrating transformation

Saturday 4th November was a very memorable and inspirational day as Iosis hosted forty female judges who preside over family, criminal, and high courts around New Zealand and Australia. Many of these judges had encountered parents who have gone through Iosis programmes, and they praised the positive changes they've noticed.

Our CEO, Tracey started with a presentation on how we support families in our community through the services of Iosis with a particular focus on Merivale. A highlight of the day was Merivale mums who shared their stories of transformation.

They shared how Merivale had helped them overcome drug and alcohol use, toxic relationships and emotional abuse for the good of their whanau.

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“The Judge’s visit highlighted the importance of the relationship Iosis has with the courts and that together we can create positive transformation amongst our families.”

- Iosis CEO, Tunumafono Tracey-Leigh Peters



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One of the mums, Tasha* spoke of how she had found herself in trouble and was sentenced to prison just as she discovered that she was pregnant. She delivered her baby while in Wiri Women's Prison and was soon transferred to their Mothers with Babies unit. There she made a conscious decision that this wasn't the life she wanted for her and her son.

The Family Court judge acknowledged her desire for change, and ruled that she could be released into Merivale for the next six months. During that time, Tasha made massive strides in transforming her life.

Both the judges who had sentenced Tasha to prison and the judge who released her were in the audience and everyone celebrated together as they expressed their joy to see that Tasha had made such a vast difference to her life from the time they saw her in court.

All in all, it was a very memorable and inspirational morning, filled with warmth, laughter and the heartfelt stories of our Merivale mums – incredible stories of transformation.

**Name changed to protect privacy. ©*



CEO's message

This month has been one of inspiration. The visiting Family Court judges highlighted the importance of our work in providing a pathway for change for the young people they see in court. Hearing first-hand the journeys they've been on with involvement of the courts and probation to entering Merivale to learn to parent their children was extremely rewarding. And for Iosis staff in attendance, it was a reminder of the importance of our work to those facing significant challenges in our community.

In this issue, you'll also have the opportunity to read about the Paniani family. Tilisi and Paulo have both recently attended our Parenting programmes and 'loved the programmes'. This is something we hear often but more importantly is its effectiveness at transforming family life - providing them and their family with a new way forward.

Our work with mothers like Tasha and Tilisi and Paulo, is made possible by the dedicated staff at Iosis and the support of our generous donors and partners. Thank you for your ongoing faith and support.

Tunumafono Tracey-Leigh Peters
CEO



Stay current with what is happening at Iosis. 'Like' our Facebook page www.facebook.com/iosisLtd

Your support is welcome

If you're involved in a business, church or service organisation and would like to support the work of Iosis and the families we work alongside, please call us on 09 269 0050 or email supporters@iosis.org.nz



Meet the Paniani family

“We didn’t know what support there was out there for us. If we had known from the get go, maybe life would have turned out differently” – Paulo Paniani.

Tilisi and Paulo migrated from Rarotonga in the hope of creating a new beginning in New Zealand and looking after some of their elders. For any family, migrating to a new country comes with its challenges and Paulo and Tilisi were unaware of the huge setbacks they would face in the space of a few years. In Paulo’s words, “Life was just spiraling out of control and we didn’t know how to handle it.”

Better every day: Tilisi & Paulo are much happier since taking the step of asking for help.

Paulo struggled to find full-time employment, which caused tension in their relationship and strain on the family. Continued stress kept pushing them to breaking point until one day, Tilisi snapped.

“I got angry at my daughter that afternoon and I ended up smacking her. I didn’t know how to react afterward. I wanted to get help. So I picked up the phone and dialed 111. When I reported myself to the police, I knew I had to do it for my daughter and for my family,” said Tilisi. From that day, Tilisi and Paulo began the journey that would help them get back on track.

Through parenting programmes and social work support from losis, they learnt ways to address their issues as a couple and deal with conflict. Most of all, they learnt strategies to improve their relationship and translate those skills into their relationship with their children.

Says Tilisi, “We loved the programmes. We feel

supported enough to be able to parent our children with boundaries. We support each other and the communication between us is growing better every day.” ☺



Tilisi and Paulo as new parents back in Rarotonga.

Prayer needs

- We have four new staff members at losis and we pray for them as they settle in and begin to work alongside the many families we help.
- Our staff frequently go above and beyond the call of duty. We pray for their health and wellbeing as the festive season approaches.

Meet our staff

Pearl Segi, Family Learning Centre (FLC) Coordinator



Pearl has worked at Iosis for the past 4 years as PA to the CEO and has recently moved to a new role as the Family Learning Centre Co-ordinator. “I’m looking forward to working alongside the facilitators and to interacting with our clients. I’ll be assisting the facilitators so that they can focus on the groups they’re working with, as well as helping to find new and better ways of doing things.

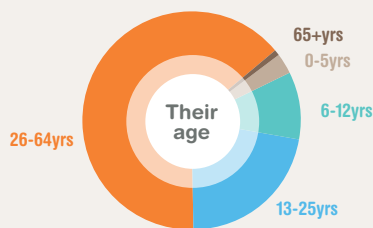
I’m looking forward to being exposed to different areas such as working with other agencies, networking with local community groups and meeting community leaders who are passionate in their work – and learning what works and what doesn’t.”

Pearl is also excited about giving the FLC a new look and feel. “The plan is to have resources available that fit with our client’s needs, ensuring their experience at Iosis is pleasant and non-judgmental and that they’re welcomed and know that they matter.” ☺

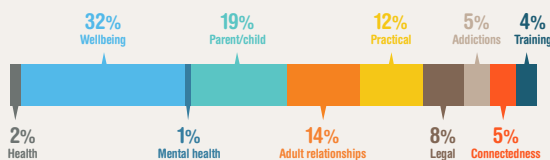
A snapshot of the people Iosis helped last year



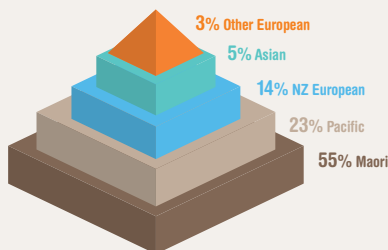
Their gender



Their age



Their need



Their ethnicity



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