

REPORTS TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**COMMUNITY SERVICES
DIRECTORATE**

FOR MONTH: Nov. 97

STRATEGIC ISSUE: 1. RESPONDING TO POVERTY

HIPPY New Zealand Visit

Annette Mutimer visited New Zealand HIPPY projects in her first week with BSL. She was able to visit 2 programs, gain operational and fundraising tips and attended the annual conference of HIPPY co-ordinators. It was an extremely successful visit which will assist greatly the implementation of the program. Key outcomes were:

- the NZ Co-ordinator will send Annette their monthly reports
- Lesley Max, a co-ordinator, will probably be visiting Australia and she is happy to meet with the Department of Human Services, potential funders and perhaps a corporate lunch
- program will enroll 22 children instead of 12 due to expected attrition rates and capacity within the budget
- a network of support for Annette

Dental Assistant Traineeships

16 trainees commenced the Dentistry Access Training Course that will run for 12 weeks before the trainees take up positions at the Dental Hospital and 2 participating community health centres. This project is a partnership between STEP, the Dental Hospital and RMIT and is particularly exciting as it has targeted young people from NESB as many of the clients of the Dental Hospital are also from NESB. The group is made up of the following ethnic groups countries:

2 Hong Kong	2 East Timor	2 Greek
1 Macedonia	4 Middle East	3 English Speaking
1 Romania	1 Somalia	

A very successful launch of the program was held where the CEO of the Dental Hospital and Bishop Michael Challen spoke of their excitement about this project and the possibility of undertaking further joint ventures in the future.

Maria Alibrando and Peter Grant have done an excellent job in putting together this joint venture, attracting the funding and ensuring that young people from NESBs have access to a growth area in employment.

More Traineeships

Maria and Peter are exploring further traineeship partnerships with RMIT in the health and aged care areas while the Peninsula team are working with Peninsula TAFE to promote traineeships in rural studies.