



Ngā Pākihi-whakatekateka-a-Waitaha
–'the unbelievable open spaces of the Waitaha people' or 'the
open spaces that are the pride of the Waitaha people'

Sissons, D, (2011),

The Making of the Canterbury Plains Landscape, p.3

INTRODUCTION

Canterbury is a precious place to many in Aotearoa. There are the mountains where we play in winter and picnic in summer, the plains with their patchwork quilts of paddocks, and the sea where we dabble our toes and swim. We forecast the weather, watching the big skies, eyeing first the nor'west arch and then the impending southerly. We wrap up warm against the easterly chill. Magnificent summer evening warmth gets into our bones and our spirits; unforgiving winters send the power bills soaring. Canterbury's climate does not do compromise.

Neither, as we now all know well, does its land. It is no wonder Māori refer to themselves as tangata whenua. Our land determines how we live whether we like it or not. Just as Canterbury rivers sparkle and jostle, and then mysteriously disappear underground, only to reappear later in a different form, we live according to the ultimate mysterious dictates of our land and its context.

The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) has many Canterbury members. Our foundation members are the Anglican Care Network, Baptist Churches of New Zealand, Catholic Social Services, Presbyterian Support New Zealand Inc., and the Methodist and The Salvation Army Churches.

Our mission is to work towards a more just and compassionate New Zealand, taking a particular perspective on poor and vulnerable people, and maintaining a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We wish to see people in Canterbury do well – a goal clearly articulated by Christchurch's Methodist Mission:

Let us be a city where all people matter, including those who lack economic resources. A city where there is a safety net for those who lack adequate economic resources or family support.

Let us be a city where small business can flourish.

A city where every single person willing to work can get job training that leads to a job, and earn a living wage that can pay the bills. Let us be a city where citizens as well as property owners and investors participate in the planning and running of our city and our communities. Let us leave our children a city that is kinder and more just than the place where we grew up

Mary Richardson, Methodist Mission, *Touchstone*, p.10.

This Report is dedicated to the people of Canterbury. We have combined official data for the past two years with the experience of social agencies to provide a small picture of life for those who live there. We hope our work is useful for improving life for those who struggle in some way.

WHO LIVES IN CANTERBURY?

Canterbury's population is around 558,800 or approximately 13% of our national population. The median age is 39.6 years, 2½ years older than the national median. Around 15.5% is aged 65+ and 18.2% is under 15. This contrasts with 13.8% 65 and over and 20.1% under 15 nationally. Therefore Canterbury's population is slightly older than the country's total (Statistics New Zealand, *Subnational Population Estimates* as at 30 June 2012).

As at the 2006 census, Canterbury's population was:

- 77.4% European (67.6% NZ)
- 7.2% Māori (14.6% New Zealand)
- 5.7% Asian peoples
- 2.1% Pasifika.

How has the population changed recently?

People are dealing with issue related matters two years after the event; insurance, health services ...

People have run out of energy.

There is the same level of demand, but funding is reduced.

Social Services provider

Estimated Resident Population - Canterbury Territorial Authority Areas at June 30						
	Hurunui District	Waimakariri District	Christchurch City	Selwyn District	Ashburton District	Total
2010	11,100	47,600	376,700	39,500	29,400	504,300
2011	11,300 1.8%↑	48,600 2.1%↑	367,700 -2.4%↓	41,100 4.1%↑	30,100 2.4%↑	498,800 -1.1%↓
2012	11,500 1.8%↑	49,200 1.2%↑	363,200 -1.2%↓	42,300 2.9%↑	30,600 1.7%↑	496,800 -0.4%↓

Source: Statistics New Zealand, *Subnational Population Estimates*

Over the last two years:

- The Canterbury (TLA) population fell by 1.1% between June 30 2010 and 2011. It fell a further 0.4% the following year.
- The working age population in the Canterbury Regional Council region grew by 1,600 (0.3%) between June 2010 and 2011. It then declined by 19,700 (3.9%) between June 2011 and 2012



Changes in Christchurch

There is a shift in the local infrastructure resulting in community capability issues and all this will be confounded by the workforce coming in for the central city rebuild.

Christian Social Service Manager

Since June 2010:

- The population aged 0–19 years in Christchurch city decreased by an estimated 9,300 (9.6 %↓).
- The population aged 20–34 years decreased by 1,200 (1.5 %↓).
- The population aged 35–49 years decreased 5,700 (7.0 %↓).
- The population aged 50 years and over increased 2,700 (2.3 %↑).

Selwyn was the fastest growing territorial authority in New Zealand (2.9 % or 1,200↑) in the June 2012 year. Part of this growth was due to the relocation of people from earthquake-affected areas. The next fastest growing areas were Hurunui district (up 1.8 %↑), and Ashburton district (up 1.7 %↑).

Sources: Statistics NZ; Subnational Population Estimates June 2012, Statistics New Zealand, Infoshare

Service sector providers say the biggest issues they face are housing closely followed by mental health. So let's start with these.

DAILY LIFE – HAVING A HOME

New Orleans was slammed by the UN for not having an overall housing plan, and we risk going the same way

Jolyon White, Anglican Care

Don't forget us. Don't forget the homeless

Christchurch City Missioner, Michael Gorman

Around 17,000 houses are to be demolished; 110,000 houses are to be repaired, including 15,000 costing in excess of \$100,000. Housing in Christchurch has dramatically increased in price. Rents have increased markedly and there is a desperate need for affordable housing.

In fact, Christchurch houses are 6.3 times annual incomes, more than double the internationally recognised affordability ratio. Christchurch's housing affordability is ranked 298th out of the 325 cities measured. It is harder to buy a home in Christchurch than New York, which came in one rank higher (Stuff, *Property linked to high dollar* 13 October 2012).

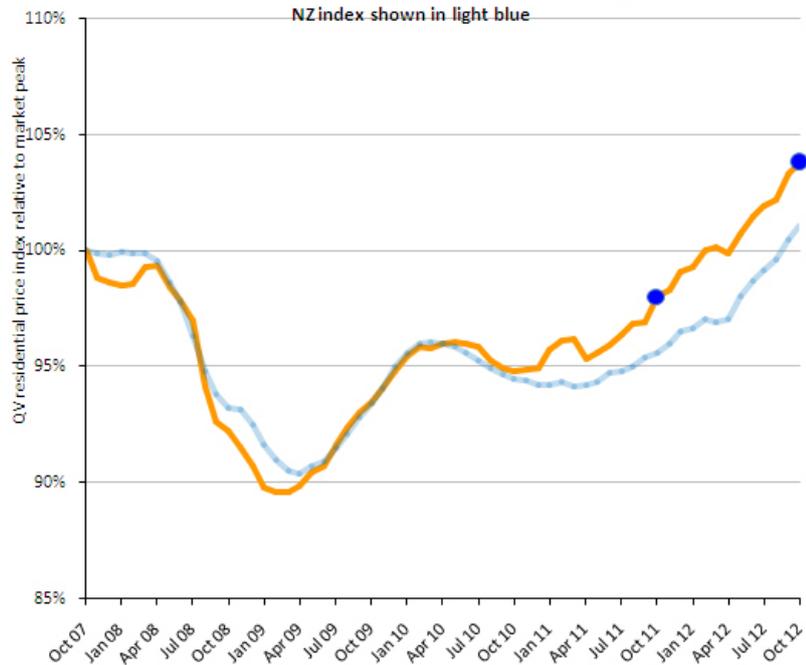
How much does a house cost?

- House prices have increased markedly relative to the rest of the country since September 2010.
- National house prices increased by 4.8% in the year to August 2012. They increased by 5.5% in Christchurch city and 7.7% in Auckland city. Prices in Wellington increased by 2.0%.

Source: Quotable Value

House prices increased most in Waimakariri during the last year, but average Canterbury house prices are highest in Selwyn (\$442,837).

Christchurch price index relative to peak



Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, *Key Canterbury Indicators*, October 2012.

Average house price	September 2012	Annual change
Christchurch City	\$394,014	7%
Selwyn	\$442,837	12%
Waimakariri	\$353,064	13%
National	\$428,308	5.3%

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, *Key Canterbury Indicators*, October 2012.



What about renting?

At the cheaper end, median rent for a room in Christchurch East is \$185.00 per week, and \$155 in Linwood/ Phillipstown.

Average private weekly rents	September 2012	Annual change
Christchurch City	\$346	12%↑
Waimakariri	\$366	18%↑
Selwyn	\$387	3%↑
National	\$332	4%↑

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, *Key Canterbury Indicators*, October 2012.

A three bedroom house in Linwood/ Phillipstown is \$330.00 (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, *Market Rents*, 1 May 2012 – 31 Oct 2012).

Average weekly rents increased by 12% in Christchurch city in the last year overall (to September); average rent is now \$346.00. Auckland rents increased by 1% to \$424, and Wellington rents fell by 4% to \$362 during the same period.

Rent changes varied throughout Christchurch. Some increased:

Aranui	16%↑
Richmond	23%↑
Philipstown	29%↑
Mt Pleasant	29%↑
Yaldhurst	26%↑
Russley	43%↑

Others in areas close to the university have fallen:

Strowan,	11%↓
Riccarton,	14%↓
Ilam	21%↓

Sources: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, *Quotable Value*

Housing is a big issue, and social housing is an even bigger issue

Vauhagn Milner, Presbyterian Support Upper South Island

Over 300 central city bedsits have been written off with the result too many people on benefits, with mental illness and/or addiction problems, or former prisoners are sleeping rough (Jenny Smith, “Social Housing left out of city plan”, *The Press*, 3 August 2012).

Data around social housing is getting harder to find. Not so long ago numbers receiving income related rents were readily available

from either Housing New Zealand or the then Department of Building and Housing internet sites. Trends in the Housing New Zealand waiting list were also easy to find. A request for these once simply obtainable figures resulted in referral to the Housing New Zealand “Government Relations Unit, which will respond to [our] request directly, [but] due to the nature of [our] enquiry, it can take some time to gather the necessary information to answer your request in detail” (i.e. over three weeks so far).

Lack of statistics makes it very hard to understand just what is going on, and it is hardly surprising a gathering of Christchurch Anglican social justice people / parish workers concluded:

The level of housing need in Christchurch is completely unassessed. We really need an overall housing plan. The lack of overall co-ordination to gather stats on things like housing need throughout the city, leaves us very vulnerable.

We do have statistics for numbers of people receiving accommodation supplements (Canterbury region excluding Ashburton). An increasing proportion of this group are superannuitants

Accommodation supplements			
Year	2010	2011	2012
Total	317,059	308,551	304,117
Superannuitants	26,458 (8.3%)	27,711 (9.0%)	29,689 (9.8%)

Source: MSD

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- *Living in Christchurch today for many is hard. We hear of garages being rented out to homeless families at \$150 per week, with no washing or toilet facilities. The demand for and cost of rental properties has soared. TradeMe reports rental increases of 15% and demand rising by 40%! One family who turned up to view a rental property, only to find 49 other people waiting in front of them!*

Kingdom Resources

- *Moving houses has pushed people to breaking point. Housing New Zealand’s short notice for getting out does not help Anglican parishes*

- *There are 70 year olds taking out mortgages. How will they repay them?*

Brian Turner, Wainoni-Avonside Community Services Trust



- *I can see people saying 'we've got \$30,000 or \$40,000 from EQC for land repairs' and their insurance company will say 'what do you expect us to do with that? Maybe we could put that towards the cost of foundations'.*
Mike Coleman, Anglican Minister, *Touchstone*, September 2012, p.10.
- *A real problem is the services are in competition with each other for getting houses for their people. They are also competing for funding. And they are competing with property developers for land'.*
Anglican Social Service Providers
- *Without help many young families will stay living in damp, crowded conditions that are unsafe and unhealthy, particularly for young children. Without sustained intervention, the lack of suitable housing for young people is deeply concerning.*
St John of God Waipuna General Manager, Trevor Batin
- *Make the houses temporarily ok. People need a humane approach; bandage up the houses so people can get through the winter.*
Delta Trust
- *Christchurch needs specific youth housing solutions, including a purpose-built facility for kids leaving state care and social housing designed for young people in mind. The market has not delivered ...; what we need is social intervention to provide it. It's possible – other countries, ... do it – we just need to decide as a society that having young people and their children homeless or in unsuitable housing is unacceptable here.*
Paul McMahan, St John Of God Waipuna
- *Housing is a challenge as there is a lack of options for people leaving mental health services to go.*
Community Mental Health Service Provider.
- *Rather than leaving at-risk women and children to face homelessness in the earthquake-hit city's housing shortage, Christchurch Women's Refuge is "turning our whole response on its head" and tackling the problem at home. The initiative, safe@home, would involve a service co-ordinator visiting violent households and identifying ways to enhance home security to allow women and children to safely stay in their own home.*
Christchurch Women's Refuge, *The Press*, 4 July 2012.

DAILY LIFE—FEELING OK

"If one more person tells me I'm resilient, I'll hit them"

Social Service Provider

"After the earthquakes many people just bunkered down. Many medical and counselling centres went quiet for months. Now we're seeing the emergence of longer term stress, manifesting in a broad range of symptoms that affect families and workplaces. People often feel exhausted and unequal to the extra responsibilities they carry."

Murray Win, Arahura Health Centre, Christchurch

NZCCSS does not specifically collect mental health data. However, the service providers kept mentioning it as a significant issue, and their comments contain a few clues. We do know "the carers are traumatised and tired" (Delta Trust), and they are in parallel circumstances to the people they serve. They struggle themselves with damaged houses, waiting for decisions, all sorts of uncertainty, and the daily rituals of making their ways through all the road cones. They are often tired and stressed even before they even begin their day assisting others. A number of providers reported "some crucial people have left".

Recent work at Canterbury University's Psychology Department illustrates those in more affected areas report greater symptoms of depression than the less affected areas a year after the February earthquake. Depression symptoms are often accompanied by 'prolonged periods of helplessness, on-going post-disaster disruptions, distress, anxiety, and increased alcohol consumption' (Amy Rowlands, reported in University of Canterbury *Communications*, 23 October 2012). Acute stress symptoms were the most highly associated with the aftershocks (Charlotte Renouf, reported in University of Canterbury *Communications*, 23 October 2012). She suggested "symptoms of generalised anxiety and depression may be more likely associated with other earthquake-related factors, such as insurance troubles and less frequent socialising."

We do know stress symptoms can appear much later than the disaster itself. CDHB boss David Meates comments this is happening in Christchurch with increased "substance abuse, domestic violence, binge drinking and medication non-compliance" Radio NZ, *Quake strain showing in health, social problems*, 19/10/2012.



Attendance at anger management programmes has also increased with 'new clients including middle-aged businessmen who had never had violence issues in the past, but who were concerned they could become abusive without' - Stopping Violence Services clinical director Jo Westbury, *Christchurch fuses shorter in wake of quakes*, The Press 14/10/ 2012.

Sometimes clues come from Child Youth and Family data. Of course this is also coloured by current policies and inclination to report. The data below relates to notifications made to Child, Youth and Family for each of the last three financial years. Data includes family violence referrals from Police (data where no further action was required by CYF are not included).

Notifications to Child Youth and Family requiring further action (June years)

Notifications that required further action			
	2010	2011	2012
Canterbury Region	5,881	6,152 4.6%↑	6,603 7.3%↑
National	55,494	57,949 4.4%↑	61,074 5.4%↑

Notifications requiring further action increased both nationally and in Canterbury between 2010 and 2012. While the national and regional increases between June 2010 and 2011 were similar, Canterbury's increase was proportionately higher between higher 2011 and 2012.

Substantiated abuse				
Region	Area	2010	2011	2012
Southern Region	Canterbury	1,434	1,632	1,575
National		21,025	22,087	21,525

Substantiated abuse – site level				
Operational Area	Site	2010	2011	2012
Canterbury	Christchurch City	427	415	456
Canterbury	Rangiora	–	–	15
Canterbury	Papanui	420	480	393
Canterbury	Sydenham	287	369	397
National		21,025	22,087	21,525

Sources: CYFS website

Unlike the both regional and national patterns, substantiated abuse in Christchurch city fell during the the 2010/11 year and rose in the 2011/12 year.

We have a generation of children who have spent the first years of their lives in chaotic conditions.

Vaughan Milner, Chief Executive Officer, Presbyterian Support Upper South Island

Eight year old children have spent quarter of their lives have been in post-earthquake chaos. We are seeing a new demographic of families. There is lots of action amongst the social agencies, but an inflexible funding pool. People are moving to Selwyn and Waimakariri where there are fewer agencies and where traditionally the services have not been around.

Support Service staff member

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The carers are traumatised and tired

Delta Trust

- *There is lots of mythology around resilience. It is all pervasive and is an issue for institutions as well as individuals. This needs to be addressed. There is something about the macho, sporting culture that does not allow people to easily express vulnerability.*
Brian Turner, Wainoni-Avonside Community Services Trust
- *Around 30% of our people had mental health issues a few years ago, it would be more like 90% now.*
Delta Trust (Baptist)
- *We are getting older people who are really unwell presenting for the first time in their lives. Older people who have got through everything until now.*
Vaughan Milner, Chief Executive Officer, Presbyterian Support Upper South Island
- *Demand for community services has increased by 90 per cent, and another fulltime staff member has been hired since the earthquake.*
Christchurch West Women's Refuge manager Diane Haar, Stuff, *Few options left for vulnerable women*, 30/6/2012
- *Anxiety, bipolar, depression, panic attacks really seem to have increased the last two years. Flu is much more common. Then there are key people who have just left and gone.*
Delta Trust



• *It's just like the research – after having the lowest demand on their mental health service in 20 years. Then Feb/March this year it really hit. Staff struggle with damage to their own homes, and there is a spike in numbers of elderly seeking assistance.*

Community Mental Health Provider

• *We are not operating as efficiently as we were. We live in the present moment more than in the future. Self-care going to have to stay with us for the rest of our lives.*

Delta Trust

• *There is a real need for advocacy for people with mental health issues. People who used to collect their meds daily are suddenly not doing it.*

Bob Henderson, Aranui Parish

• *[Family Service] referrals doubled in 12 months. There is a 110% increase in anxiety. We got one –off funding, but funding is not on-going and running out of funding is a longer term issue for agencies.*

Social Service manager

• *St John ambulance attended 4174 cardiac-related incidents between September 2009 and August 2010. They attended 4541 the following year, and 4899 between September 2011 and August 2012.*

The Press, *Deadly heart conditions on the increase*, 29/09/2012.

DAILY LIFE: AFFORDING THINGS IN CANTERBURY

- Cantabrians experienced **higher price increases** than the nation as a whole in the year to June 30 2012. While prices around the country rose by 1.0%, prices in Canterbury rose by 1.6%.
- **Housing and household utilities** increased by 4.2% in Canterbury and 2.7% in the country as a whole.
- **Household contents and services** increased by 0.7% in Canterbury but fell overall.
- **Food prices** rose by 0.7% in Canterbury, but fell by 0.4% in New Zealand.

- However, Cantabrians did not experience the same price increases for **alcoholic beverages and tobacco** as everywhere else. Prices for this group increased by 5.2% as opposed to 6.2% on average.

Median weekly Household Income by Region (\$)			
	2010	2011	2012
Canterbury	1,247	1,337 7.2%↑	1,273 -4.8%↓
NZ	1,236	1,289 4.3%↑	1,304 1.2%↑

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Table Builder

- While prices went up, household incomes reduced. Median weekly Canterbury household incomes which had increased by 7.2% in the year to June 2011, fell by 4.8% this last year.
- Incomes throughout Aotearoa increased by 4.3% in the year to June 2011, and then increased a further 1.2% in the year to June 30 2012.
- Changes in household and population composition will impact on median household income statistics, e.g. a higher proportion of people over 50



Source: Christchurch City Mission

Consumer Price Index: June 2012

	Food	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	Clothing and footwear	Housing and household utilities	Household contents and services	Health	Transport	Recreation and culture	Misc. goods and services	Total
Canterbury	0.7%	5.2%	0.4%	4.2%	0.7%	2.0%	1.4%	-3.9%	3.8%	1.6%
NZ	-0.4%	6.2%	-0.6%	2.7%	-0.6%	2.1%	0.9%	-3.2%	3.4%	1.0%

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Infoshare and Consumers Price Index: June 2012 quarter



DAILY LIFE: HAVING A JOB

Unemployment numbers have an opposite pattern from the rest of the country

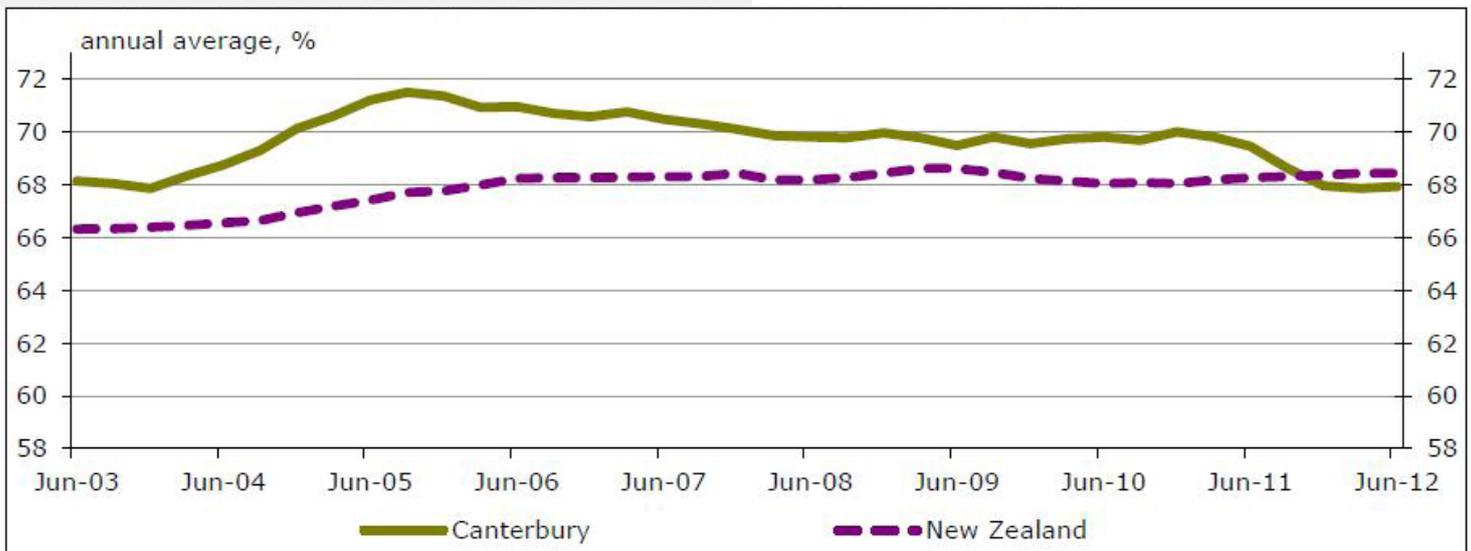
Having a job usually means having a workplace, and many have disappeared. However, human ingenuity is remarkable. Business locations in the Christchurch central business district have fallen by 34.6%, but the city as a whole has experienced only a 2.5% decline (Statistics New Zealand, *NZ Business Demography Statistics*, February 2012).

Labour force involvement has shrunk, possibly because the percentage of the population aged 20-49 has shrunk. The proportion of the working age population in the labour force

(participation rate) fell from 69.8% in June 2010, to 69.5% in June 2100, to 68% in June 2012. The working age population itself fell by 3.9% during the last year.

- Numbers employed have also reduced; by around 6% from 333,700 to 312,600 in the past two years.
- Unemployment followed the opposite pattern from the rest of the country. It increased between June 2010 and 2011, and then decreased the following year.

Canterbury and National Labour Force Participation Rates



Source: HLFS, Statistics New Zealand

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Quarterly Regional Labour Market Update, June 2012



Canterbury has a lower unemployment rate than the rest of Aotearoa New Zealand

Summary labour market statistics for Canterbury are presented in the chart below.

		Canterbury			NZ		
		2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
LF Participation rate		69.8%	69.5%	68%	68.1%	68.3%	68.4%
Employment rate		66%	65.5%	64.1%	63.6%	63.8%	63.9%
Unemployment rate	Total	5.5%	5.7%	5.6%	6.6%	6.5%	6.6%
	male	5.7%	5.2%	5.3%	6.6%	6.2%	6.3%
	female	5.2%	6.4%	6.0%	6.6%	6.9%	6.9%
Working age population		505,600	507,200	487,500	3,403,900	3,447,900	3,478,700
Labour force numbers		352,900	352,500	331,300	2,316.7	2,354.9	2,381,000
Not in the labour force		152,600	154,700	156,200	1,087.30	1,092.90	1,097.60
No. employed		333,700	332,300	312,600	2,163,700	2,200,800	2,223,700
No. unemployed		19,300	20,200	18,600	153,000	154,200	157,300
Jobless		33,700	33,500	32,100	262,200	257,700	265,000
Unemployment benefits	Total	4,880	6,342	3,891	62,085	56,264	49,622
	%male	73.6	66.4	64.6	71.4	70.2	69.5
	%female	26.4	33.6	35.4	28.6	29.8	30.5
	%Māori	18.4	17.1	16.5	34.0	34.5	36.5
	%Pasifika	4.0	3.4	3.6	10.8	9.4	9.3
	%18-24	37.2	37.5	32.0	30.6	29.1	26.4
	%25-39	29.9	29.2	26.8	32.8	31.3	30.9
	%40-54	22.7	22.8	26.6	25.6	27.5	29.4
%55-64	10.3	10.5	14.6	10.9	12.1	13.2	

Sources: Statistics New Zealand Infoshare, Household Labour Force Survey, MSD Benefit Factsheets

- The June statistics show the unemployment rate (the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labour force) for Canterbury (5.6%) is lower than for the rest of Aotearoa New Zealand (6.6%). The difference is sharper in the September 2012 Household Labour Force Survey statistics (5.2% vs 7.3% - Statistics New Zealand).
- Female unemployment increased markedly between June 2010 (5.2%) and June 2011 (6.4%). It fell back to 6% in June 2012.
- Numbers on unemployment benefits in Canterbury increased markedly between June 2010 and June 2011 (30%), but then fell by almost 39% during the next year. “Future Focus” welfare policies requiring unemployment benefit recipients to reapply every 12 months were delayed until December 2011 in Canterbury. They came into force in September 2010 elsewhere.
- Māori are an increasing proportion of unemployment benefit recipients in Aotearoa as a whole. They are a reducing proportion in Canterbury.



COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Food bank numbers did not increase, because people left the catchment area. Lots of regulars left and moved elsewhere. People who have never been near a food bank are coming instead.

Tony McCahon, Delta Trust

- *People are coming to foodbanks who have never been before. People are beyond coping and there is a sense of shame and humiliation. We are worried everything has shuffled down to a lower level.*

Jolyon White, Anglican Care

- *Ground- up activities work well, e.g. we have vege co-ops with 1,100 people involved around town. People help pack (and therefore have a valued role).*

John Day, Archdeacon for Mission, Anglican Diocese of Christchurch.

- *Here at the City Mission, demand for our services has doubled, and most of the people coming for help are coming for the first time.*

Michael Gorman, Christchurch City Missioner,
Winter 2012 Newsletter.



Source: Christchurch City Mission

BENEFITS AND HARDSHIP

People help pack vegetables. People need to help and be helped. It is important for people to be able to contribute no matter what their ability or disability. We need to get out of the charity mindset.

Anglican community workers

Who have been receiving benefits in Canterbury? (Round figures)

- Females comprised 59% of people on benefits at the end of June 2012.
- Māori comprised 15.4% of people on benefits.
- 33.5% were aged 40-54.
- There were 28,220 people on benefits in total.
- 23,675 (84%) were living in Christchurch city.

Which benefits are they on (June 2012)?

	Christchurch City	Waimakariri	Selwyn	Canterbury	% of total
Total on benefits	23,675	1957	912	28,220	100%
Unemployment	3,388	172	118	3,891	14%
DPB	6,761	698	339	8360	30%
Invalids	8,356	640	NA	9,853	35%
Sickness	4,499	353	157	5,281	19%

Source: MSD

How has this changed in the last three years?

People on low incomes are finding it really hard to get grants from Work and Income.

Delta Trust

	Canterbury 2010	% of total	Canterbury 2011	% of total	Canterbury 2012	% of total
Total on benefits	33,188	100%	33,098	100%	28,220	100%
Unemployment	4,880	15%	6,342	19%	3,891	14%
DPB	9,386	28%	8,999	27%	8,360	30%
Invalids	10,837	33%	10,297	31%	9,853	35%
Sickness	7,031	21%	6,483	20%	5,281	19%

Source: MSD



Who are on what benefits?

Why do people hate us so much?

Single parents seeking assistance from
St Vincent de Paul

	Canterbury 2010		Canterbury 2011		Canterbury 2012	
Total on benefits	33,188	100%	33,098	100%	28,220	100%
Unemployment	4,880	14.7%	6,342	19.2%	3,891	13.8%
% 18-24		37.2%		37.5%		32%
% female		26.4%		33.6%		35.4%
DPB	9,386	28.3%	8,999	27.2%	8,360	29.6%
Invalids	10,837	32.6%	10,297	31.1%	9,853	34.9%
% psych disorders		35.6%		36%		36.5%
Sickness	7,031	21.2%	6,483	19.6%	5,281	18.7%
% psych disorders		56.2%		54.9%		53.4%
% accidents		5.8%		6.4%		6.2%
% cardiovascular		2.8%		3.5%		3.1%

Source: MSD

For the year ending June 2012, 73.2% of people on unemployment benefits in **Canterbury** had been on them for less than one year. 26.2% had been on them for between 1 and 4 years.

For the year ending June 2012, 59.7% of people on unemployment benefits in **Christchurch city** had been on them for less than one year. 34.5% had been on them for between one and four years.

The total number on benefits fell by over 4,800 in the last year (14.7%), a huge reduction in contrast to the previous year when there was only a 0.3% decrease (90 people).

It is very hard to draw conclusions about benefit numbers in Canterbury. There will be impacts from:

1. Government **policy changes** during the period which were delayed for people in Canterbury. Policy changes include:
 - a. From December 2011:
 - People on Unemployment Benefit to reapply after one year or have their benefit cancelled.
 - b. From March 2012:
 - Sickness and Invalids benefit recipients need new medical certificates capturing information about their capacity for work.

- Work test for DPB recipients for part time work once their youngest turns six.
 - Invalid's Benefit criteria are more rigorously applied.
 - People on Sickness Benefits assessed as being able to work 15–29 hours per week are required to look for and accept any suitable part time work. They must provide medical certificates after four weeks on a benefit, and then every 13 weeks to prove on-going eligibility (Sources: Work and Income Canterbury /individuals/ earthquake-recovery/future-focus-Canterbury).
2. People who have **shifted from Canterbury** without the ties of a home or a job.
 3. **Job loss** resulting in increased demand for benefits.

Changes in individual benefit numbers include:

- A 7.1% decrease in DPB recipients (639 people) in the June 2012 year.
- An 18.5% decrease in people on Sickness benefits (1,202 people) during the same period.



How does this compare with Aotearoa as a whole?

A young guy applied for 20 jobs. He didn't get any replies. After three months he just stayed in. No wonder we have escalating levels of depression in Canterbury

St Vincent de Paul

		Canterbury June 2012	New Zealand June 2012
All main benefits total		28,220	320,041
DPB		8,360	112,260
	female	91.5%	87.8%
	1-4 years	42.6%	41.2%
	declaring earnings	21.2%	17.2%
Sickness		5,281	59,413
	Psychiatric conditions	53.4%	41.5%
Invalids		9,853	83,652
	Psychiatric conditions	36.5%	30.6%
Unemployment		3,891	49,622
	18-24	32%	26.4%
	female	35.4%	30.4%
All benefit recipients			
	Less than 1 year	28.0%	33.1%
	Declaring earnings	15.4%	13.4%
	Caring for child under 6	16.7%	21%

Source: MSD

HOW MANY CHILDREN LIVE IN BENEFIT DEPENDENT HOUSEHOLDS IN CANTERBURY?

Number of children aged less than 18 years included in selected working age benefits in the Canterbury region at the end of June 2012

Benefit Group	Jun-10	Jun-11	% change	Jun-12	% change
DPB	10,734	10,055	-6.3%↓	9,106	-9.4%↓
EB	66	58	-12.1%↓	51	-12.1%↓
IB	1,326	1,204	-9.2%↓	1,049	-12.9%↓
Non Ben	5,763	5,430	-5.8%↓	5,343	-1.6%↓
SB related	931	791	-15.0%↓	541	-31.6%↓
UB related	698	847	21.3%↑	479	-43.4%↓
UBT related	40	40	0.0%	35	-12.5%↓
WB	122	132	8.2%↑	107	-18.9%↓
All	19,680	18,557	-5.7%↓	16,711	-9.9%↓

Source: MSD

Notes:

These tables include data for the Canterbury region excluding Ashburton. Beneficiary benefit group excludes NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit

DPB is Domestic Purposes Benefit

EB is Emergency Benefit

IB is Invalid's Benefit

Non Ben is non-beneficiary assistance

SB related is Sickness Benefit and Sickness Benefit Hardship

UB related is Unemployment Benefit and Unemployment Benefit Hardship

UBT related is Unemployment Benefit Training and Unemployment Benefit Training Hardship

WB is Widow's Benefit

- Numbers of benefit dependent children have fallen in every category in the last year.
- Numbers in households receiving unemployment benefits have almost halved.
- Numbers in households receiving sickness benefits have dropped by almost one third.





HARDSHIP: Something doesn't quite add up

We had around 1,200 people through in May 2011.

We had 2,600 in May 2012.

Michael Gorman, Christchurch City Mission

Work and Income requires clients to show they have worked on their budgeting skills if they seek hardship assistance more than three times during the year. This policy officially came into effect in Canterbury in March 2012. However the big changes in the numbers occurred between June 30 2010 and June 30 2011.

		2010	2011	2012
Type of assistance				
Electricity advances	Total	1,014	518	387
	Māori	249	123	87
Food grants	Total	10,184	7,984	4,477
	Māori	2,394	1,834	1,078
Temporary additional support	Total	53,021	52,439	53,167
	Māori	14,871	14,476	14,619
Special benefits	Total	10,889	8,589	7,044
Accommodation supplements	Total	317,059	308,551	304,117
	Superannuitants	26,458	27,711	29,689

Source: MSD

You can see the sadness in their faces when they come in.

One elderly lady came in crying one day and it turned out she had just been told her house was zoned blue-green.

Betty Chapman, Wainui Avonside Community Services Trust,
Touchstone, September 2012

- Electricity advances fell by almost two thirds over the last two years (61.8%).
- Food grants fell by 56% over between June 2010 and June 2012.
- Temporary additional support has increased slightly overall (by 146), but decreased (by 252) for Māori during the last two years.
- Accommodation supplements have fallen by almost 13,000 over the last two years overall, however accommodation supplements for superannuitants have increased by 12.2% or 3,231.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

We are worried about people being unable to pay their power bills next winter.

St Vincent de Paul

- *The Ministry of Social Development's Future Focus Hardship assistance reforms, ... have doubled the number of clients requiring budgeting assistance. This has led to increased need and pressures on the centre's budgeting services. As well as strengthening budgeting services, Linwood Community Ministries is reintroducing its 'Budget Cooking' classes in the third term of this year.*
Salvation Army.
- *Given the trend and low resolution, particularly of TC 3 issues, the second half of the financial year we are likely to have increased demands and reduced funding.*
Presbyterian Support
- *Another stress placed on people's finances is the cost of smoking. To reduce the financial burden and health impact of smoking, Community Ministries in Christchurch are piloting a new programme aimed at encouraging quit smoking attempts and to help people work toward smoke-free homes and cars. The programme is supported by Community and Public Health, and the Canterbury District Health Board.*
Salvation Army
- *People are afraid of going to Work and Income. They say "is this serious enough for me to go to WINZ or not?" – [Bob Henderson, St Ambrose, Aranui] / People are frightened because they don't know what to do* St Vincent de Paul.
- *Welfare reform makes things even more insecure. There are the insecurities over homes and insurance. Jobs recommended by Work and Income may be over the other side of town which is impossible to get to and if you don't take it, you lose your benefit* Tony McCahon, Delta Trust
- *St Chad's is seeing new people at community lunches. People come who are living in buses, people from the coast, more people with mental health issues, more transients, more homeless.*
Helen Roud, St Chad's, Linwood
- *Uncertainty over funding means you cannot plan for services from 1 July 2013. We have laid off staff already [despite the increased demand], but discontinuing services requires a 3-4 month wind down period.*
Vaughan Milner, CEO, Presbyterian Support, Upper South Island



SOME LAST WORDS

NZCCSS is grateful for the warmth, kindness and hospitality shown to its staff by the service workers in Christchurch. Their generosity enabled this report to be written. We wish them well with day to day life. This last section is some of their words which just speak for themselves.

- *Wherever you go in Christchurch these days, you hear people express anxiety about the future of the city. There is a great deal of uncertainty about the direction we're heading. People are disillusioned and frustrated.*
- *The staff/ carers are worn out.*
- *The schools debacle feels like a classic example of the top down stuff we get all the time. We still need the top down stuff, but in the right place.*
- *We're going to survive another five minutes, I think.*
- *Government have really missed a good opportunity, e.g. taking the same approach as the old hydro schemes where they got something out of it and people got jobs.*
- *Aranui Community Trust is a huge blessing.*



*Where have all the flowers gone?
We tend to forget the importance of beauty.
We need to patch things up now so we can carry on
and have some control in our lives, and then
take the time required to create what is solid,
built to last, and beautiful.*

The Canterbury Report is based on NZCCSS Vulnerability Reports. These reports are available on our website www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz. The next Vulnerability Report will be released in December 2012. If you are involved in a social service agency and would like to contribute to future issues please contact: Philippa Fletcher ph 04 473 2627 philippa.fletcher@nzccss.org.nz.

Disclaimer:

While every effort has been made by NZCCSS to accurately collect and interpret statistics and data provided in this report it is recommended that readers check original data sources where possible.