# Citizens Advice Bureau

Te Pou Whakawhirinaki o Aotearoa

# **CAB Mid Canterbury**

Kāove i te māvama? Pātai mai.

Not suve? Askus.



#### Safe Community Accreditation

Discussions with local community agencies A need for quality local information.





Citizens Advice Bureau identified as what other towns have and what Mid Canterbury needs.

Seed funding greatly received from Ashburton District Council

Establishment of Steering Group







Recruitment and employment of a coordinator July Coordinator Starts 6<sup>th</sup> July





Coordinator Training Establish Processes Office set up Furniture computers Oct and Nov

Recruitment and training of first intake of volunteers





#### Nov

Volunteers weekly training and on roster all month Dec Open to the community

#### Jan

Ongoing training, existing and new volunteers, mentoring and observing





#### Feb

Community Presentations, new volunteer rooms March Training theme financial support Awareness Week

#### April

Ongoing training, build capacity Funding, Clinics, Evaluation





# What is the CAB?

- <u>Citizens</u> <u>Advice</u> <u>Bureau</u>
- We are an independent community organisation
- Accessible via phone, email, online chat or visiting one of more than 85 locations
- Provided by more than 2,400 trained volunteers





# **Our Service**

- We give FREE and confidential information, advice and support
- We use our knowledge of services and communities to help people to help themselves.



- We have access to a database of local services and information, that is searchable and kept up to date
- We make sure clients know and understand their rights and obligations.
- We work for positive social change within communities and wider society.



# **Our Service**

- There is no time pressure we take the time to really listen
- Everybody is welcomed and no one is judged!
- We offer a universal service
   ... you can ask us about any issue





# What does it mean to you to have the CAB?

Honestly for me it's actually an opportunity to give back to the community in a way I can, since I have retired. A couple of people I've spoken too have been really interested to know that there hasn't been one here. They are looking forward to the opportunity to come in and ask the questions they need too. *Cathie -Mid Canterbury Volunteer* 

For me its almost an extension of the work I was doing at Presbyterian Support. There is so much need in the community where people want to know things, but they don't know where to go and who to ask. So I think its wonderful that we are going to have a dedicated place in Ashburton that can help people. I think its great we will be able to look up CABNET and give people options and choices. *Jackie -Mid Canterbury Volunteer* 





18 years ago we saw the need for a CAB, at that time we didn't get the dots connected and I've been involved since then. We have experienced the need at Community House reception, getting people coming in and looking for advice or direction. I've been concerned with the work that we are doing that we don't make the wrong decision or give the wrong information. So I welcome the CAB, I know the umbrella they work under is absolutely wonderful and I see it as enhancing and protecting the work we do.

John Driscoll – Manager Community House Mid Canterbury







# Services we provide...

We can also help you:

- Finding a JP for witnessing documents etc
- Speak with government departments e.g. IRD, Tenancy, Immigration etc.
- Write letters
- Fill in Forms
- Find legal assistance

Inland Revenue Te Tari Taake	DUN	IR 596 May 2009
IRD number applica	ation – non-individual	IPD number issued confirmed
Please answer all questions and sign	the declaration.	
1. Print the full name of the organisation		
2. Is this application for a branch?	No Yes—print the IRD number of go to Question 15 (8 digit numbers start in the second box	the main branch or head office then
<ol> <li>Tick the organisation type from the list b Company</li> </ol>	Partnership	Estate or trust
Close company	Ordinary partnership	Complying trust
Widely held company	Limited partnership	Foreign trust
Unit trust	Non-resident contractor	Non-complying trust
Cooperative	Superannuation scheme	Estate



# Some comments from our clients

Thankyou so much you are super helpful! thanks again, Thanks, This is very helpful. Thank you for all this information and your help. Sourced from Mid Canterbury CAB Clients via email





#### Who are we?



There are over 2.400 of us!





## Accessing our service

- Face to face, phone or email
- 10-1pm Monday Friday (no appointment necessary)
- Call on free phone: 0800 367 222 (no charge from cell phones)
- Chat online at <a href="http://www.cab.org.nz">www.cab.org.nz</a>





# Find us online

- Find us at <u>www.cab.org.nz</u>
- Online Chat
- Search our community directory of over 35,000 groups and services
- Find answers to some of our most common questions
- Join the over 1,200,000 people who used our website last year





## **Social Justice**

- Writing up the interview
- Collating demographics
- Reporting to council or funders
- Local and national policy
- Submissions and reports eg. Digital Exclusion Report







#### 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 to 19 February 2021

#### Open 46 Days 10-1pm Mon-Fri

Closed 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Month for Training









## **Method of Contact**







## Where are clients from

Client Location 🗘	Number of Client Interactions 🖨
Ashburton	49
Did not ask	4
Methven	3
Rural Mid Canterbury	3
Canterbury	2
Christchurch	2
Mt Somers	2
Overseas	2
Rakaia	2





#### Gender







**Age Profiles** 











## Top 10 categories of enquiry





#### Lawyers Care and support for older people All other income support enquiries Family Court Legal Aid Core benefits Community Law Centres and other free legal advice Budgeting and debt management Consumer Guarantees Act including complaints about goods and services

Access / custody / guardianship





#### Legal Aid

Community Law Centres and other free legal advice

Social support groups

All other income support enquiries

Budgeting and debt management

Care and support for older people

Consumer Guarantees Act including complaints about goods and services

Core benefits

Family Court

Lawyers

Access / custody / guardianship

Beneficiary advocacy

Employment contracts and conditions

Mental health and wellbeing support groups

Small business start up - general information

Alcohol addiction	
Care and support for the disabled	
Community directories	
Community houses / drop-in centres / resource centres	
Emergency Accommodation	
Employment disputes	
Food parcels and food banks	
Funding for community / not for profit	
General elections / referenda / political parties / electoral rolls	
Housing Improvements and maintenance	
Justices of the Peace	
Locating missing persons	
New Zealand Superannuation / Veterans' and other pensions	
Personal income tax	
Secondary benefits – extra help	



Separation and dissolution

Service clubs e.g. Lions / Rotary

Transport services - health

Venues for hire

Wills and probate

Activities and events

Banks credit unions and friendly societies

Business courses

Buying and selling a house

Citizenship

Community education

Contraception

Counselling and other support for individuals

Debt recovery and repossession

Dentists

Disability equipment and modifications

Donations of practical items

Electricity

Family assistance / support and tax credits

Fences and boundaries

Food standards / safety / labelling

Funding for individuals

General Banking services

General immigration queries

Home and contents insurance

Immigration advisory services

Lost / abandoned property (not tenancy)

Mental health providers

Mortgages and Equity Schemes

Music / dance / drama



Needs assessments for home or residential care

Noise and nuisance

Other civic services

Other consumer law

Other domestic abuse

Other health professionals

Other special interest groups

Passports

Patient and health advocates

Police

Postal and courier services

Redundancy

Relationship property

Residential tenancy including disputes

Rest homes

Shops and retail outlets Social housing (eg state houses) incl disputes Traffic - offences / accidents / summonses Transport laws - regulations and licences Trees

Retirement villages





# Support for Visitors to Ashburton

- Our service is available to everyone, locals, migrants, visitors, tourists and refugees
- New Brochure stand in Community House
- Bruce Moffat Provided volunteer training on supporting visitors, using the website and established a weekly meeting.





# **Community Directory**

- The existing Community Directory was available on Community House Mid Canterbury website
- Upload to CAB CABnet *Completed*
- Digital footprint check of entries -*Completed*
- Manual Check Entry of details –volunteers call to confirm details - when correct goes live –*in progress*
- Take Directory off CHMC website and link to CAB -*TBC*
- Links on ADC website, Experience Mid Canterbury TBC
- Promote to search for gaps. Who's not on there? TBC
- Update regularly ongoing, rechecked every year
- Promote to people to help them in their work, clients
- Promote to the community





# To conclude

- In 8 months we have achieved a phenomenal amount setting up this new service.
- In 3 months of service provision we are already helping people with the information and support they need
- We are linking people to service providers already in the community who can help them
- We are already seeing the gaps in services
- We are supported by national office, 0800 number a website, 2,400 volunteers around the country that can also help the people of our community
- But we are just beginning
- So thank you for your support





- But we are just beginning
- So thank you for your time and your continued support











Not suve? Askus.

### 10am-1pm Mon-Fri

Community House Mid Canterbury 44 Cass St Ashburton

03 928 8761 midcanterbury@cab.org.nz