

# InnerCity Network

By *Beate Matthies*, Chair, *Auckland District Council of Social Services*

At the end of June we had our **ADCOSS AGM** in the *Western Springs Garden Community Hall*. This venue has become our main venue for ADCOSS events and we are grateful to *Auckland Council* for making this possible.



After the official AGM business, guest speaker *Dr. James Prescott* delivered an inspiring presentation with the title *The Importance of Relationships in the Social Service Sector*. Relationships keep us going and the title of our ADCOSS magazine *Community Network* is all about relationships!

The community in its original meaning can be translated as a “group that shares the same values, spirit, or place”. There is common ground between all members of this community. However, this doesn’t necessarily connect the people themselves with each other.

That’s where networking is needed. A strong network is able to support and to further connect people with each other. We commit ourselves to a network in which we feel safe and accepted. As *Anthony J. D’Angelo* once said:

“ Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community. ”

## We are happy to announce our new Executive Committee for 2017-2018:

Chairperson

*Beate Matthies*

Secretary

*Joan Lardner-Rivlin*

Treasurer

*Rika Werner*

Other Executive Members:

*Judy Blakey*

*Janice Doyle*

*Bronwyn Richardson*

*Russell Rigby*

*Laurel Taufauatua*

*Thurai Thuraisundaram*



In November 2014, ADCOSS launched the *InnerCity Network* (ICN). Another network, another support group. Why was this needed?



*Launch of the InnerCity Network,  
13 November 2014*

In the past, the inner city of Auckland was mainly known as the CBD, the Central Business District, which implies that it is the central part of the city – and mainly for businesses. However, the situation is changing. Many people choose to live in the CBD. What are the challenges when you live in the centre of Auckland? Do people in the CBD only share the place where they live, or do they really connect with each other and build networks?

The launch of the *InnerCity Network* in the *Town Hall* was very successful. It was well attended by people who care about how people are living in the InnerCity ... Inner City rather than CBD.

The speakers presented on the importance of community, networks and relationships. One of them, *Prof. Love Chile* gave a presentation on *Connectedness and a Sense of Community*. In a presentation almost three years ago, he considered Community Development as community investment. This approach is very similar to *Dr. James Prescott's* approach on the importance of relationships.

*The InnerCity Network* has been set up to respond to the needs of the people living in the centre of Auckland. Concerns that were raised at the launch were, among many others:

- ☹ Loneliness and isolation
- ☹ Many international students
- ☹ Many small units, and not enough open space
- ☹ Lack of (primary) schools in walking distance

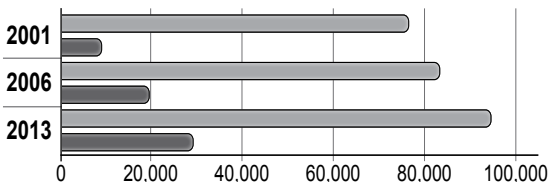
According to *Auckland Council*, the number of people living and working in the city has changed dramatically within the past 15 years. Whereas in 2001 there were 76,524 employees working in the city and 9,258 residents living in the city, these numbers increased by 2013 to 94,554 employees and 29,301 residents.

We could sum these figures up by saying that 20,000 people have moved to the city to work there. However, this statement doesn't reflect the challenges as much as if we state that the number of employees in the city has increased by 23% whereas the population has increased by 220%!

### Number of People Living & Working in Auckland Central City

Year	Employees	Residents
2001	76,524	9,258
2006	83,330	19,668
2013	94,554	29,301

Source: Auckland City Council



The ADCOSS ICN meetings were held monthly and gave a platform to raise issues and discuss challenges in the Inner City. These challenges started with the organising of the monthly meetings. It was agreed that the meetings would take place at different venues within the city in order to include different organisations and to be present in different parts of the inner city. Trying to organise meetings in venues which are accessible to people with disabilities, has proved to be very difficult. Most possible venues lack affordable parking – and often there is no disability parking close by. How can a group be inclusive, but then exclude potential participants who are in wheelchairs?

Recently, an *Advisory Panel* was set up which identified areas of concern to be discussed within the next six months. Input from our members or membership organisations with an interest in the Inner City are welcomed. Please get in touch with our Community Co-ordinator *Pritika Sharma* at [info@adcoss.org.nz](mailto:info@adcoss.org.nz)

We are looking forward to building up community connections!

# ADCOSS AGM 2017



29 June, 2017 • Western Springs Garden Community Hall

