

NATIONAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY ENABLER MINISTRY DESCRIPTION

CCCNZ is a National Service Trust and a movement of churches and support ministries with a passion to see every New Zealander, of every age and ethnicity, hearing, understanding and experiencing the good news of Jesus Christ in our lifetime.

We are looking to appoint a National Children and Families Ministry Enabler to join the team to serve God and to work towards this aim.

Purpose of the Role

To see the children and families ministries of CCCNZ and Open Brethren Heritage Churches flourishing by providing vision/creativity, empowerment, training, resources and support to see children and families ministry flourishing through and from the local church so that they in turn are empowered to provide a discipleship ministry to families and children in the church and community that transforms their lives through a relationship with Jesus Christ. To see a new movement of evangelistic Children and Families Ministries established through and from local churches across New Zealand.

Background

Our vision at CCCNZ is to see the gospel of Jesus Christ being heard, understood and experienced by every New Zealander, of every age, in every community, in our lifetime.

In 2016 there were approximately 612,000 children aged 5-14 across New Zealand. We have a vision to see each of our 180 churches facilitating flourishing children's ministries and engaging children and families in the community and church with the good news of Jesus Christ. We long for this to be in active partnership with campsites, support ministries and Rally across New Zealand.

We recognise reaching children in this generation may look different than in past generations. We are seeing more churches developing children's clubs, such as MaxOut at Hope Church in Nelson, and we are seeing real creativity in Bible in School type programmes run by local churches and the growing role of chaplaincy in schools.

We face real challenges to see this vision realised: In the 1970s our Rally movement had well over 200 plus groups engaging thousands of children across New Zealand with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Today there are approximately 30-40 groups doing a significant work.

The National Baptist children's worker, Karen Warner, noted in a talk to the 2018 Engage Conference that the Baptist movement has seen a 33% decline in children from 2007 to 2017 as parents attend church less frequently. She notes that this is a similar trend across mainline denominations, and it is very likely a significant trend amongst CCCNZ churches.

We have no robust data, but it would be our sense from travelling across our movement over the last three years that we have a solid amount of churches without any children's ministry, either in the church or in the community. A reasonable proportion of community-facing children's work is being done faithfully, often by a core group of elderly people. The Māori Postal Sunday School work is exceedingly diminished from a peak in the 1970s.

There are real opportunities: Barna Research in the US indicates approximately half of Christian adults came to faith before the age of 13. It is credible to assume that it is similar or higher here in New Zealand. Kiwi children remain open to the gospel. While some schools are closing Bible in Schools, many schools are open to new programmes in different formats. Numbers of our churches are building significant relationships with their local primary schools.

To achieve this vision we are seeking the appointment of a National Children and Families Ministries Enabler. This is a full time role reporting to the Ambassador of CCCNZ.

Personal Attributes

The ideal applicant will encompass the following personal attributes:

- A commitment to grow in faith and a personal relationship with God
- A commitment to learning and improvement
- Self-awareness
- A heart for ministry amongst children and families
- A heart for mentoring and leadership development
- High motivation levels, initiative, consistency and commitment to follow through
- Integrity, transparency and trustworthiness
- Good time management skills and a strong work ethic

Key Competencies

The ideal applicant will encompass the following key competencies within the role:

- A strong ability to organise, lead and manage teams
- An ability and heart for mentoring and leadership development
- Significant and recent experience in Children's Ministry/Children's and Family Ministry or a current practitioner
- An ability to communicate well, both written and oral, as well as strong listening skills
- Theological, leadership and/or teaching training
- An ability to build effective rapport with Elders, Senior Pastors, Children and Family Pastors/Leaders and Regional Enablers
- An ability to identify future Children and Family Ministry Leaders and develop their leadership
- Strong facilitation skills
- Capable of inspiring and challenging
- Freedom to travel

Responsibilities and Deliverables

The core responsibilities and deliverables of the role include:

Strategy: Together with a national team of Children and Families Ministry Enablers, develop a strategic plan to see flourishing (community and church-based) children's and family ministries multiplying and planting new ministries throughout New Zealand so that more children are hearing and experiencing the good news of Jesus.

Church Planting and Re-Planting: Grow, multiply and send planting and re-planting teams who can start and grow evangelistic children's outreaches as the foundations for church planting or church renewal.

Growing: Grow and develop a team of regional children's and family ministry enablers who can grow, multiply, send children's ministry leaders into their region to grow the amount and quality of new children's ministries.

Training Development: Develop a training and development pathway that multiplies the amount and quality of children's ministry volunteers across New Zealand. Growing biblically literate, cross-shaped, Christ-exalting, Spirit-led children's ministry leaders.

Partnerships: Coaching regional children and families enablers to be facilitating relationships between churches, campsites, rallies and funding trusts to see more community children hearing the good news of Jesus through Christian camping.

Advocacy: Keep the significance of evangelistic (community and church based) children and families ministry in front of church elders, leaders and congregations.

Consulting: Together with regional enablers and coaches (as appropriate) provide assessment of local children and families ministries and assist with the development of plans for the future.

Communication: Pursue opportunities to communicate about the importance of children and families ministries and trends through the CCCNZ website, Rongopai magazine, emails and presentations at elders and pastors' gatherings.

All applicants for the role need to be New Zealand citizens or permanent residents of New Zealand.

Applications close 28 March 2019. Please send your CV and cover letter to:

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