

## Edmund Rice Justice Aotearoa New Zealand Trust

### Annual General Meeting 2023 – Annual Report

#### Report to AGM

Since the 2022 AGM, the Trust has achieved the following:

- organising the 2022 “Tihei Wa Mauri Ora – emerging worlds” Edmund Rice Network conference, held at Liston College in September 2022.
- provision of the monthly Ethical Encounter Zoom seminars organised by Anna Kelly.
- the re-engagement of Te Kaupapa Whakaora programme, coordinated by Karen Currie.
- the daily promotion of Justice Issues by Tony Kidd on the popular Facebook Justice postings.
- the daily production of the Edmund Rice Network Oceania Facebook news items.
- the Trust’s ongoing maintenance of its website ([www.edmundrice.org.nz](http://www.edmundrice.org.nz)) and the Zealand Edmund Rice Network portal ([www.edmundrice.org.nz](http://www.edmundrice.org.nz)).
- the revision of the Trust deed to comply with legislative changes.
- working in partnership with St Thomas of Canterbury College in organising a significant Justice Day seminar gathering for secondary school student leaders from the Diocese of Christchurch.
- hosting a reflection/Edmund Rice Feast Day gathering for the Auckland Edmund Rice schools and Camps.
- Revision of the Trust’s Board Policies and Procedures.

A major focus for 2022 and 2023 has been the re-establishing the activities of the Trust after the significant impacts of the COVID-19 epidemic. COVID-19 triggered the pausing or postponing of many of Trust’s main activities such as RJ Conferencing at the Christchurch corrections’ facility, the Network Conference, and the face-to-face ethical encounter programme. A significant change as the result of COVID restrictions has been the development of the monthly zoom Ethical Encounters which has resulted in participants from around New Zealand and Australia joining these conversations. Certainly, the major highlight of 2022 was the Edmund Rice Network conference in Auckland—a tribute to the hard work and commitment of our Programmes Administrator, Anna Kelly, and Cathy Harrison.

Karen Currie’s contribution to and leadership of the Te Kaupapa Whakaora programme has been significant in the restarting of the programme in the Christchurch prisons, after the Corrections cessation of access to correction’s facilities due to the restraints of COVID. Both Karen and Cathy Harrison have worked closely to further develop the programme and the relationships with Corrections. However, with the shifting political landscape and demands for tougher judicial sentencing, it is time to consider how best to deliver Te Kaupapa Whakaora into the future.

The Trust has always been evolving since 2005. Over time, many people have been involved in the Trust influencing various directions in which we have journeyed. With the current programmes running well, it is now a good time to look to the future, review our current activities, structure, and

consider new areas that we could develop and give energy that respond to the emerging needs of the post Covid reality here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Trust is deeply grateful to the support of the Christian Brothers' Oceania Leadership Team for their offering to support the Trust by providing a grant to cover the salaries of our two employees. This generosity has enabled the important work of the Trust to continue and allowed us to focus on seeking further funding for our activities and programmes.

The Trust is especially appreciative for the grant that we receive from Edmund Rice Community Services. This donation significantly funds both the programmes and administrative costs of our organisation. We are also thankful to the Maurice Carter Charitable Trust, Rata Foundation, and the Christchurch Catholic Bishop's caring fund for their support of Te Kaupapa Whakaora programme in the Canterbury region. I acknowledge the generosity of the Christchurch Diocese Catholic Development Fund which was the major sponsor of our Schools Justice Day, held on the Feast Day of Edmund Rice.

Thank you to Tony Kidd, who quietly continues to promote topical and often very challenging and confronting issues into the public domain through our ER Justice Facebook page. Thank you also to Keith Yardley for his faithful, very generous, and important work as the Trust's financial administrator.

Since our last AGM, due to increased working commitments at Victoria University of Wellington, Sam Wojcik resigned as a Trustee. The Trust is grateful to Sam for his wisdom and insights.

Once again, I am most appreciative for the generosity of our Trustees and the time that they freely give to the Trust. Thank you, Bernie, Cathy, Kieran, and Megan, for all that you are and do for the Trust. It is deeply appreciated.

Paul Robertson  
Chair  
Edmund Rice Justice Aotearoa New Zealand Trust

16th July 2023

## Te Kaupapa Whakaora – Administrator’s Report January 2022-July 2023

### Statistics on number of referrals to date:

18 referrals from Corrections  
 2 referrals from Mike Hinton, General Manager, Restorative Practices = 20  
 2 referrals went to conference

1 referral psychologist recommendation not to proceed  
 1 victim referral which did not go to conference due to safety reasons  
 1 victim a few days out from conference cancelled due to Covid  
 3 live referrals – including one offender in the community  
 12 victims either declined or were not contactable

### Overview

From Administrator’s Board Report 3 April 2022

7 live Referrals from Corrections and 2 from Mike Hinton, GM Restorative Practices Aotearoa

- North Canterbury Restorative Justice Facilitators, Karen and Cathy - 3 February 2022 - Zoom  
 Introductions and discussion around the work of ERJ-Te Kaupapa Whakaora and the pilot.
- Polly Cunningham, Regional Director Practice Delivery and Dr Helen Farley, Practice Manager Education Training, Dept of Corrections, Southern Region (new in the role), Cathy and Karen – 16 March 2022 – Zoom  
 Introductions, a discussion about the work of ERJ, the pilot and the ongoing support of Corrections.

From Administrator’s Board Report 21 August 2022

3 referrals from Corrections – 2 post RJ conferences held – 1 post RJ conference booked for end of August 2022 – 2 live referrals

- Accreditation update – Resolution Institute – Provider of RJ/Mediation Training  
 Trevor invited Karen/ERJ to be involved in the development of the training in July of 2022. To date ERJ has not heard from Resolution Institute.
- Brother Tim Moloney – Oceania Leadership Team - visit to New Zealand  
 Karen gave an overview of the work of Te Kaupapa Whakaora to Br Tim on 10 July 2022, which was well received.
- Access to the prisons – Covid restrictions  
 Restrictions lifted – access to the prison was restricted to staff, suppliers and contractors. Microsoft teams/Zoom and Probation offices were utilized to enable meetings and conferences to occur over this time.

**From Administrator's Board Report 22 November 2022**

**1 victim referral from North Canterbury Wellbeing – 1 victim declined a week out from conference – 1 referral on hold due co-offender referral**

- **NZ Victim Support – Update**  
Karen is yet to hear from April Marshall, Manager Southern, to discuss presenting to their volunteers. To look at arranging in the New Year 2023.
- **Accreditation – Resolution Institute - Update** – 10 May 2022  
Polly, Department of Corrections, Cathy, Karen and Trevor, Manager Resolution Institute held a zoom meeting at the request of Karen, to ascertain progress on the accreditation process. No further progress by Resolution Institute.
- **Pathways – Update**  
Anaru Baynes, Manager Navigate Programme has requested that Jackie and Karen come and speak to his offenders on the 'Navigate' programme. Karen to meet with the men on the programme if Jackie is unavailable.
- **Stakeholders meeting – Friday 14 October 2022**  
Karen spoke to Case Managers at Christchurch Men's Prison to educate them on post RJ and the referral process.
- **Review of post RJ pilot –Wednesday 12 October 2022**  
A meeting occurred with Karen, Marc Staps, Principal Case Manager and Naomi Ritchie, Case Manager to review the pilot to date. Overall, Marc and Naomi were very complimentary in regards to Edmund Rice Justice's management of the process. Karen expressed concern at the lack of referrals. Marc spoke of Corrections currently in crisis in regards to the housing of high-end offenders due to them receiving mostly remand. High-end offenders are now being sent to Rolleston. The pilot is currently only with Christchurch Men's Prison. Rolleston in the past has not been very receptive to offender referrals. Karen emphasised that the service is also available for those that are at the low end, if they fit the criteria. Karen to discuss further with Polly the opportunity for referrals to come from Rolleston at their meeting on Tuesday 22 November.

**From Administrator's Board Report - 28 February 2023**

**3 new referrals from Corrections – Victim referral did not proceed due to safety reasons – 1 referral closed**

- **Accreditation – Resolution Institute - Update**  
Following up from the Zoom meeting held on 10 May 2022, present Polly, Department of Corrections, Cathy, Karen and Trevor, Manager Resolution there has been no progress due staff changes in the organisation. This conversation has been relayed to Polly, Dept of Corrections who said that Edmund Rice Justice could continue providing the service in the interim.
- **Pathways – Update**  
Cathy and Karen have made attempts to meet with Anaru and one of their Board Members to discuss their commitment to the collaboration. Pathway did not respond to our final attempt.

- **One day Post Restorative Justice Conference**

Cathy and Karen at their last meeting revisited the idea of holding a one-day conference in Christchurch, to acknowledge Te Kaupapa Whakaora's 10 years provision of post RJ, to raise the profile of Edmund Rice Justice/Te Kaupapa Whakaora and post Restorative Justice as a rehabilitative process, alongside highlighting the benefits for victims.

- Cathy is to make contact with Judge Saunders to ascertain his interest in being involved and Cathy and Karen to discuss further topics/speakers/venue in coming weeks.

## **From Administrator's Board Report - 31 May 2023**

**2 new referrals from Corrections – 1 victim declined to meet – psychologist recommendation not to proceed – offender in community making contact through Probation**

- **NZ Victim Support – Update**

A meeting has been arranged with Huata Arahanga, who recently has taken up the position of Regional Manager for Victim Support NZ. Cathy and Karen will meet with Huata on Monday 19 June to introduce themselves and discuss the collaboration.

- **Accreditation – Resolution Institute - Update**

Karen made contact in March 2023 with Trevor. His response was "At this stage no further progress has been made. We have been very short staffed but now have a full team...there should be some progress in the next few months".

- **Pathways – Update**

Cathy and Karen scheduled to meet with Anaru on Tuesday 6 June 2023 to discuss the collaboration and Pathway's commitment to providing referrals.

- **Meeting at Christchurch Men's Prison with Marc Strapps, Principal Case Manager Dept Corrections, Naomi Ritchie, Case Manager and Polly, Department of Corrections and Roslyn Hefford, Principal Advisor, Department of Corrections (Zoom) – Manages RJ referrals for Corrections – 4 May 2023**

Cathy and Karen discussed their ongoing concerns at the lack of referrals. Marc Strapps, Principal Case Manager (PCM) reiterated Corrections currently in crisis in regard to the housing of offenders. Roslyn said there had been very few conferences nationally over the past year and that was due to a high number of victims declining to meet. She also mentioned that her role is only very part time and there is not a lot of time and energy being put into post RJ as she would like.

The outcome of the meeting was that a commitment was made to promote the service to key corrections staff nationally on 20 June 2023.

- **Presentation on post RJ to criminal justice students – 23 May 2023**

Karen was asked by Helen Farley, Associate Professor in Criminal Justice, Director of Criminal Justice at University of Canterbury whom Cathy and Karen had met a few years ago when she was working alongside Polly Cunningham at Corrections to speak to her students on post RJ. Karen was also asked to do a 5-minute video, with Helen interviewing her on Restorative Justice.

## From Administrator's Board Report – 16 July 2023

### 1 new referral from Corrections – 3 live referrals

- **NZ Victim Support – Meeting 19 June 2023**

Cathy and Karen met with Huata Arahanga, who recently has taken up the position of Regional Manager for Victim Support NZ. Huata. He was open to continuing to be part of the collaboration and could see the value of restorative justice in our criminal system. He will review the MOU and get back to us in due course to discuss further.

- **Pathways – Meeting 6 June 202**

Cathy and Karen met with Anaru. He expressed his wish for post Restorative Justice to be on offer to the men on his programme and agreed that the first step forward would be for Karen to provide education to the men. Another meeting has been arranged to discuss other matters that arise from taking this first step.

- **Zoom meeting Polly, Department of Corrections and Roslyn Hefford, Principal Advisor, Department of Corrections and National Principal Case Managers - 20 June 2023**

Cathy and Karen attended a meeting organised by Polly to promote post Restorative Justice to some of their Principal Case Managers nationally. Prior to Karen speaking Roslyn outlined the new post RJ guidelines that have recently been introduced. Karen then gave a 10-minute introduction to the pilot with Corrections with questions to follow.

- **Accreditation – Resolution Institute – Update**

No further response from Trevor, Manager

- **Meeting with Lisa Manager, North Canterbury RJ – 22 June 2023**

Karen arranged a meeting to meet with Lisa to update her on Te Kaupapa Whakaora and the pilot. Lisa was understanding of the situation Edmund Rice Justice was facing in regards to the number of referrals coming through and expressed her ongoing support.

- **Meeting with Susan Brooks, Professor of Law, Drexel University, Philadelphia**

Susan was in New Zealand on a Fullbright research fellowship. Karen met with her on 5 July to discuss the mahi of Te Kaupapa Whakaora.

- **One day Post Restorative Justice Conference**

This is still on the table. Further discussion required.

## **Trends**

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As outline in my previous reports there are a number of unknowns in regards to the number of high-end prisoners being housed at Christchurch Men's Prison in the future. Marc Strapps, Principal Case Manager said that it was only temporary but was unable to give a time frame. We are also in an election year which has the potential to affect prison numbers.

## **Final Comments**

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There appears to be more of a drive from Corrections to promote post RJ in the future and this I believe is partly due to Edmund Rice Justice's perseverance in its attempts to educate Corrections on its responsibilities under statute to provide post RJ for offender and victims.

We have been able to rejuvenate our relationships with our collaboration partners, which has the potential to increase referrals alongside providing opportunities for further education on post RJ.

Pathway Trust and its Navigate programme is well constructed to support an offender reintegrate back into the community and with the opportunity we have been given to engage and educate the men on their programme there is a much higher probability of referrals.

NZ Victim Support have agreed for Edmund Rice Justice to speak with volunteers on a regular basis. ERJ's goal in doing this is to educate volunteers on the rights of victims under statute to participate in a post RJ conference at any stage of the offender's sentence. Due to the high turnover of volunteers, there is a requirement to do this regularly.

There continues to be a resistance by Resolution Institute to look at providing accreditation training for Post RJ but from the last conversation I had with Trevor I sense that there are a number of stakeholders in this and it is blocking progress. The other alternative is to look at their pre-sentence training.

Karen Currie  
Restorative Justice Administrator

16 07 2023

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## Programmes Administrator's Report January 2022-July 2023

### Ethical Encounters

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Since our last AGM in August 2022, we have held the following Ethical Encounters via Zoom:

1. 18th Oct 22 – Brian Bond "Ethics in Action".
2. 29 Nov 22 – Barry McKessar "How Should we Welcome Refugees"
3. 14 March 23 – Dr Sanjana Hattotuwa "Misinformation, Disinformation & Democracy"
4. 09 May 23 – Dr Annabel Ahuriri Driscoll "Closed Adoption in Aotearoa NZ"
5. 27 June 23 – Professor Emeritus Innes Asher "Are the rights of children experiencing poverty in New Zealand being observed"

These Zoom hui provide a valuable opportunity to not only engage with the topic and speaker but also to engage with our wider network. We have a core group of about 20 that participate in these sessions including our Brothers from Wharenuī Rd. We have enjoyed having participants join from our NZ schools as well as our colleagues in Australia and the Philippines. We have also had interest at re-starting in person Ethical Encounters for our senior school students here in Christchurch.

Looking to the future I would like to gain qualitative feedback from our regular participants and those within our network as to why they attend (/why they do not attend) as well as any benefits derived from these zoom sessions.

### **Conference/Gatherings**

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Since our last AGM I assisted in the delivery of the “Tihei Wa Mauri Ora” conference over the weekend 10-11 September 2022 at Liston College, West Auckland. 100 people registered to attend the event and we had a number of volunteers from Liston who also attended parts of the conference throughout the weekend.

The weekend provided a fantastic opportunity to come together and learn from the wisdom of our 4 Keynote Speakers (Pania Newton, Frances Hancock, Meng Foon and Helen Robinson) in addition to our 13 Workshop Speakers (Jo Walshe, Rangī Davis, Anjum Rahman, Gareth Jones, Iafeta Matalasi, Chris Cooke, Mike Hinton, Veronica Fouhy-Mullin, James Devereux, Ambrose Timo, Juliette Pineda & Niki Kueh.

Additionally, I have collaborated with Stephen Kennedy of St Thomas of Canterbury College to deliver “Justice Day 2023” which was held on the afternoon of 05 May the feast day of Blessed Edmund Rice). This event saw the coming together of the Christchurch Diocesan Colleges to build relationships, to consider and discuss justice issues of our time, and to start to formulate thoughts as to what actions can be taken within respective secondary schools to highlight social justice. Our guest speakers were Olivia Shimasaki and Moana Cole. Small groups were lead by Youth Leaders from the Christchurch West Parish. The ERJANZT sponsored koha for the Guest Speakers.

Looking to the future I would like to continue to work collaboratively with all members of our network on projects that are beneficial to the spirit/charism and ongoing legacy of the Christian Brothers in Aotearoa.

### **Communication and Networking**

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Since our last AGM I have continued with the following:

- Ongoing liaison with our Edmund Rice schools and contact points within each school.
- Ongoing liaison with Oceania colleagues.
- The development of a database of ER contacts in Aotearoa.
- Ongoing attendance at our Quest Gatherings at Wharenuī Rd and related social activities.
- Ongoing liaison with likeminded NGOs including “Unity in Diversity” & “Lady Kadijah” Trust.

Looking to the immediate future I would like to strengthen my relationships with our Edmund Rice network colleagues, including Camps, by engaging in more kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) hui.



### **Funding Applications – Restorative Justice Sustainability**

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Since our last AGM I have successfully applied for “Te Kaupapa Ora” project funding from the following :

\$2500 from the Christchurch Bishop’s Care Appeal

\$10500 from the Rata Foundation

Anna Kelly  
Programmes Administrator

16 07 2023