



08.05.15

INFORMATION re. DISTRICT 16 PROJECT WITH SOPHIE ELLIOTT FOUNDATION

There seems to be some confusion about the role the Sophie Elliott Foundation has with the Programme Loves-Me-Not.

- Loves-Me-Not is a one-day relationship workshop for year 12 students.
- It was developed in a partnership of the Sophie Elliott Foundation, New Zealand Police and the Department of Social Development.
- Police deliver the programme alongside teachers.
- The Sophie Elliott Foundation provides audio/visual resources and the book *Loves Me Not* by Lesley Elliott.
- The Foundation takes no part in delivery. Schools wanting the programme liaise directly with Police.
- If Zonta clubs wish to know what schools are doing Loves-Me-Not they can ask the Police School Community Officers in their area.
- Please be patient. The roll-out of the workshops will take time. Some areas have been very proactive while others are moving at a slower pace. However the momentum from schools wanting the programme is rapidly increasing.
- Originally it was hoped Zonta clubs could be involved in giving books out to students. Logistically it has proved difficult to distribute books at the end of the workshop. Students are now being asked if they want a copy and these are handed to them later. This will preserve stocks by only supplying a book to those who genuinely want one.
- A few clubs have raised the issue of books not going to their area. If they aren't there yet they soon will be. The District 16 project is a national one and will benefit young people all over New Zealand. If you want to encourage schools in your area to take on the workshops have them contact their police school community officer.

- There has been positive feedback to the book. The following are some examples:
 - A student: ... a huge thank you to Lesley for writing the book so we are aware of healthy relationships.
 - A student following the Loves-Me-Not workshop: Thank you very much for the LMN book. I have started reading it and really like it.
 - counsellor at Queen's High: The LMN book is an absolute hit.
 - 16-year-old client of a Wellness Centre that purchased a copy: So much I didn't realise was wrong in the relationship. I didn't realise the relationship was bad – the book gave me the information so I could see the stuff I assumed was normal and brushed off, was not right. It has helped me with future relationships.

Zontians are urged to keep fundraising for this project. The more information we can get out to vulnerable young people (and young women in particular), the safer our country will be.

Lyn Farry, District 16 Project Co-ordinator

Bill O'Brien, Trustee Sophie Elliott Foundation