



DISTRICT PROJECT - SOPHIE ELLIOTT FOUNDATION

REPORT JUNE 2015

PROGRESS TO DATE.

- The raising of funds for the provision of the book 'Loves Me Not' is continuing with the aid of Zonta club donations
- This ensures that all interested students who request a copy of the book receive one.
- The idea of having Zonta club members give out the books did not prove to be a practicable one and books are generally given out at a later stage after the programme has been held.
- Regular assessments of the success of a programme are undertaken.
- The programme is being delivered by specially trained Police facilitators in conjunction with teachers skilled to do so.
- New audio-visual resource material has been and is continuing to be developed to further enhance the programme.
- At the end of May \$28,000.00 of the Biennium goal of \$50,000.00 has been raised.
- The 2015 version of the Loves Me Not programme features professionally produced vignettes and vox-pops aimed at stimulating student discussion and participation.
- Planning is underway for a new and exciting extension to the programme with the production of material aimed at the parent community.

WHO DELIVERS THE PROGRAMME?

Confusion still exists amongst the Zonta club community re this question.

Simply - the Sophie Elliott Foundation does NOT take part in the delivery of the programme.

Schools wanting the programme liaise with their local Police in their own district. This is entirely over to the school Principals and what they plan for their school curriculum. However if a Zonta club wishes they may suggest to a school in their area that the school have a look at the programme if they have not already done so.

Please be aware that Zonta fundraising efforts will benefit ALL New Zealand year 12 students who are lucky enough to undertake the programme, irrespective of their geographic location. It may be that funds raised by our club here in Dunedin will go towards assisting the students of a high school in Invercargill where there is no Zonta club, to have access to the material.

IS THE PROGRAMME WORKING?

This is also a very often asked question. While this is difficult to quantify as only the future will tell, the many positive feedback comments received attest to the programme's success and impact so far.

- 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 Loves Me Not book. I have started reading it and really like it.”
- A Counsellor at Queen’s High School – “The “Loves Me Not’ book is an absolute hit.”
- A 16 year old client of a Wellness Centre who purchased a copy of the book. “So much that 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 will help me with future relationships.”
- Another anecdote given to me by a club member came from the father of a teenage daughter whom he considered to be in an unsafe relationship. “Reading through the book with my daughter highlighted some of the aspects of the relationships which were raising a red flag.”

CONCLUSION

The roll out of the programme to all corners of New Zealand will take time but is looking very encouraging at this stage with 159 schools having done or are about to undertake the programme.

It is believed that the roll out of the ‘Loves Me not’ programme will continue increasing and should be in full swing by 2016.

Be assured that the contribution that Zonta clubs are making is more valuable than anyone can know and all Zonta members should be most satisfied to know that in a very positive way our mission of ‘eliminating violence against women and girls’ is being positively addressed in our own communities and that one family’s tragedy has become the catalyst for change.

Lyn Farry

District 16 Project Co-ordinator