

Father & Child Trust Membership

Info Sheet

1. Who can become a member?

Father & Child Trust membership is open to anyone in New Zealand, who is interested in furthering our aims. These aims are outlined in the Trust Deed: (excerpt):

3. Purpose

The purpose of the Trust will be to promote involved, positive fatherhood and provide the necessary assistance to fathers and service providers dealing with parents in the belief that children will benefit greatly from good male role models. In particular the Trust will

- (i) facilitate and create support networks of fathers with the aim to raise fathers' confidence in their parenting to the benefit of their children and other children in the community.
- (ii) provide parenting information and resources for fathers; and information and resources about fathering to service providers dealing with parents.
- (iii) promote fathers and mothers as partners in parenting and improve fathers' access to services which help them in raising healthy, well adjusted and confident children.

2. What do members do?

Membership includes subscription to Father & Child magazine, a quarterly publication. A member also has voting rights at the Annual General Meeting, where the Board of Trustees is elected each year, and can stand for election onto the Board himself. You must not have a conviction for a crime against children in order to be elected on to the Board.

Most members are happy to be just that, and support the work of the Trust with their membership fee. In Christchurch and Auckland there are opportunities for voluntary hands-on work, and if you want to be involved with producing Father & Child magazine you can be anywhere in New Zealand.

If you want to start a local Father & Child group you are entitled to assistance in getting it off the ground and find funding.

Membership does not entitle you to represent or make statements on behalf of the Trust to others. This includes the media and other community or government agencies. You also must not use your voting rights to act against the constitutional purpose of the Trust as quoted above.

3. How is the Trust run?

The Board of Trustees (also referred to as the 'Committee') looks after the vision of the Trust and draws up a budget each year. The president, secretary and treasurer are part of the Board, which also supervises its general manager, called Coordinator. The Board has members from all locations where the Trust is active (Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch). The Trust's Christchurch operation is the largest for fathers in New Zealand.

The Coordinator manages the day-to-day business of the Trust, including its project, financial, staff and volunteer management.

Sometimes the Board forms subcommittees, such as for Father & Child magazine or for a regional branch, with a certain set of decision-making powers.

The Trust's budget varies according to the projects undertaken, but has gradually risen since its formation in 1997. In 2006/07 the Trust's income is expected to exceed \$100,000.

4. Is the Trust affiliated to another organisation or part of government?

The Trust is a true 'grassroots' community organisation that was formed by men in primary caregiver positions of their children. The Trust's focus has become much wider since then, but has always maintained that it should be governed by 'ordinary' dads. Although the Trust does accept government project funding (about 1/3 of our budget) there are no politicians or celebrities of any kind involved, not even as patrons. The Trust is also not affiliated to any church, iwi or other interest group.

