

Media Release

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Can you live above recession?

Budget Advisors from around NZ meet to explore ideas to beat recession as demand for local budgeting services increases by 20 per cent!

Can you live above recession? That's the question that budget advisors nationwide will be discussing at CBNZ's 5th annual conference at Western Springs Garden Community Hall on 22 August.

Hon Paula Bennett, Minister of Social Development and Employment, is one of the keynote speakers addressing the conference.

CBNZ spokesperson Ken Ogden, Christian Assist Trust (CAT), said "The conference will explore many ideas of how we can live above recession and help people escape the traps of debt, which for many people is a new experience." CAT offers free budget and financial advice, access to free food parcels and assistance in applying for small interest free loans to people in need who are struggling to make ends meet.

"The demand for our services this year has dramatically increased by 20 per cent," explained Ken. "We are particularly seeing an increase in demand from people who would never previously have thought they needed budget advice, some of whom have just been made redundant and struggling to pay a mortgage."

CAT is one of the Christian budgeting services who are members of CBNZ, a nationwide budgeting services umbrella group with members from Invercargill to Auckland. Many of its member services are reporting not only an increase in demand for their services, but also an increase in volunteers willing to give up their time to help others in need.

John Exton, CBNZ Chairman, explained that his own service carried out 6 budget advisor training programmes last year and now has over 145 volunteer budget advisors in Christchurch.

The Conference is aimed at upskilling and supporting these advisors, and is also open to anyone interested in exploring the ideas around "living above recession". Other speakers include: Major Campbell Roberts (Director of Social Policy and Parliamentary Relations, The Salvation Army), Nick Tuitasi QSM (former policeman of 25 years, consultant and motivational speaker), Rob Holding (Radio Rhema Presenter and Pastor) and Brian Krum (Carey Baptist College Lecturer).

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Additional information: CBNZ Inc. (Christian Budgeting New Zealand) is an umbrella organisation that supports and equips budget advisors all over New Zealand. Incorporated in 2008, it was established in 2004. Visit www.cbnz.org.nz. Charities Commission Registration No. CC22291

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