

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*At the Annual General Meeting of the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs in Christchurch on 26 July 2005, Mayor Garry Moore resigned as Chair of the Taskforce.*

Garry has been the Chair since the beginning of the Taskforce in 2000, and has put an enormous amount of time and energy into the achievement of the vision that 'no young people under 25 will be out of work, training or education in our communities'. From a small group of seven Mayors, Garry has seen the growth of the Taskforce to 68 Mayors (92% of all Mayors). His leadership has been vital to that growth. With more demands on his time as Mayor of Christchurch and the demands of the Taskforce growing, Garry felt he could no longer provide the Taskforce with the time needed, as Chair, to achieve our aims. He will however remain on the Core Group.

As the current deputy, I was elected to succeed Garry as the new Chair of the Taskforce. I am keen to take on this role and lead the Taskforce in our new vision of guaranteeing all young people a bright and prosperous future in New Zealand. It has been my pleasure to be on the Core Group of the Taskforce for the last three years and to help guide the strategies and partnerships which are so vital to our success.

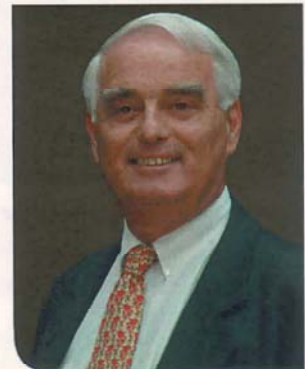
The power and strength of the Taskforce is in our collective ability as Mayors to speak to the whole community, take civic leadership and facilitate the collaboration and genuine partnerships across all sectors, which is so crucial to our vision.

The power of the Mayoral office cannot be underestimated. Recently an official facilitating economic development and employment workshops commented to us that, "it was

*interesting during the round of 11 regional workshops the number of times the importance of the Mayors' (those involved in the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs) support and promotion of employment/youth issues was raised by Economic Development Agencies and community groups, as critical in gaining central government funding for projects and giving credibility to local labour market issues". This is something that we Mayors may not always be aware of and highlights the critical importance of local leadership in this area.*

As an example of what Mayors are doing, you will see further in this Newsletter the key role the Mayor of Otorohanga is playing in fostering the trades in his town.

With unemployment at its lowest for decades, there has never been a better time to send a positive message to our young people and to engage their support for the big goals of our country. The Mayors' goal is already supported in most of our communities by many big businesses and by parents and families everywhere. I look forward to working with our partners and continuing the great work of all those involved with the Taskforce.



Mayor of Nelson,  
Paul Matheson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Matheson'.

Paul Matheson  
Mayor of Nelson  
Chair - Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs