

## Media release

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### **Barnardos is celebrating**

Celebrations are well underway for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Barnardos working in the Invercargill community.

Frances Wharepapa, KidStart Coordinator at Barnardos Invercargill, is also celebrating her 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of working at Barnardos Invercargill. She was one of the first three staff to start there, saying it is great to see how Barnardos has grown and expanded its capacity, so the organisation can work even closer with the community in Invercargill.

“We are very excited to celebrate our anniversary with our community, and we are looking forward to the next 20 years of hard but rewarding work”, says Frances.

Opening with three staff and only providing a family day-care service (now Barnardos KidStart) on 14 November 1988, Barnardos Invercargill has come a long way to accommodate today’s needs in their community. They now provide Barnardos KidStart, an Early Learning Centre, Family Support workers, Social Workers in Schools (SWIS), Children’s Contact service, parenting programmes, domestic violence programmes for children and young persons, and an Advocate for children.

“Every year there has been an increasing need for our services and over the last three years especially, we have been able through the securing of Government contracts and the generosity of our community funders to increase our local capacity to provide enhanced services to the children and families of Southland” says Barnardos Otago/Southland Area Manager, Leith Robertson.

Barnardos New Zealand is a leading community provider of care and education for under-six year olds. The organisation provides child and family services in communities around the country.

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