

INVERCARGILL LICENSING TRUST AND ILT FOUNDATION PROVIDE GRANTS FOR VITAL WORK TO CONTINUE

AN increase in rape and abuse cases has meant the need for more staff at the Rape and Abuse Support Centre Southland -jobs which are being funded by the Invercargill Licensing Trust and ILT Foundation.

Centre manager Lana McMillan said the centre had a minimum of about 15 new cases each month.

The jump in numbers was a combination of an increase in abuse as well as woman, children and men being able to access services easily.

“As things have got tougher people have started behaving differently,” she said.

The centre provides a confidential, non-discriminatory environment where all victims of emotional, physical, sexual and mental abuse, either recent or historical, can gain support, education and counselling.

“People may not think they need it but at some stage they need to deal with it.”

If a client chooses to take the matter further and press charges, the centre will provide support through the whole process.

The money will also going towards running a pilot education program in three Invercargill secondary schools next year.

The Invercargill Licensing Trust and ILT Foundation have granted the organisation \$5000 and \$15,000 respectively.

“This money is just huge for us. We weren’t sure whether we’d be able to keep our extra staff without it.”

ILT Foundation and Invercargill Licensing Trust chairman Alan Dennis said the centre provided an incredibly important service to members of the community.

“Not only are people allowed to physically, emotionally and mentally able to work through their ordeal they are also being empowered through education and support that these dedicated staff provide.

“The Invercargill Licensing Trust and ILT Foundation believe this work is vital in our community.”