

OUR POSITION

Families, schools and services can all work together to achieve positive outcomes for the whole community.

OUR GOAL

Policy designers and service delivery agencies will incorporate the aspirations and needs of families as part of a wider approach to improve education outcomes and family and community wellbeing.

WHAT THE COMMISSION HAS DONE SO FAR

2009: Victory schools project, including DVD distribution nationwide

2010: Release of *Paths of Victory: A case study*. Innovative Practice Research report of Victory Village.

2011: Co-sponsorship of the Victory Village forum highlighting the Victory Model and community led and family/whanau centred practices generally.

REFERENCES

Families Commission:

Victory school: <http://www.familiescommission.org.nz/listen/victory-school>

Press release:

<http://www.familiescommission.org.nz/news-events/family-friendly-environments/stand-downs-the-wrong-approach-says-families-commission>

COMMISSION'S VIEW

- > Schools can become an integral part of a successful community by enrolling not just the student but the whole family.
- > The Victory Village model is a partnership between the school and the Victory Community Health Centre Trust. This relationship has created new pathways for families to connect with one another and sources of support.
- > Victory Primary School in Nelson has a family-centred approach, combined with a physical hub of integrated community, health and social services within school grounds. This has enabled the school to provide a whole-of-family service. As a result, families are engaged in the school and community, and education outcomes have improved.
- > As well as being involved in their child's education, families can get health support, counseling, adult education, childcare, legal advice and meet with a number of government and community agencies providing family assistance at the community centre based at the school.
- > Victory Primary School shows that when schools take a whole-of-family approach to education they can dramatically reduce behaviour problems and eliminate the need for expulsions, suspensions or stand downs.
- > Building up families and the school community has far more positive and long lasting results.

