

New Zealand Aotearoa Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

“... We are committed to working with iwi, community and other groups to support the excellent work they continue to do for our children and young people, so that we can get better results for our kids.”

In August the Prime Minister and Minister for Child Poverty Reduction Jacinda Ardern, and Hon Tracey Martin, Minister for Children, launched New Zealand’s first Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. The strategy has emerged from extensive collaboration, led by the Department of Prime Minister in Cabinet (DPMC), across the public sector, iwi and community groups

and with the help of 600 children and young people who engaged with the Office of the Children’s Commissioner on “what makes a good life”. Added to this mix are key wellbeing models (pg22–23), and social science and research. The result is a living document that seeks to inspire *New Zealand Aotearoa to be the best place in the world for children and young people*. While this is clearly a public sector document, intended to align fragmented government ‘efforts’, the document is also intended to engage all of New Zealand – children, families, whānau, hapū, iwi, and community-based organisations.

Responding to Māori

The strategy recognises the need to transform systems, policies and services to work better for Māori, supporting Māori to deliver solutions for Māori, and empowering local



communities to make the changes that work best for them. The Strategy also recognises tamariki and rangatahi Māori in the context of their whānau, hapū and iwi. It encourages a whānau-centred approach be applied to policy and service design and delivery

Principles and Values

The Strategy is underpinned by a set of principles and values.

1. Children and young people are taonga
2. Māori are tāngata whenua and the Māori Crown relationship is fundamental
3. Children and young people’s rights need to be respected and upheld
4. All children and young people deserve to live a good life

Whakamana Tāngata NZCCSS calls on govt for a just and compassionate welfare system

As New Zealanders, and as an organisation, we believe in justice and compassion. We want everyone in New Zealand to have the opportunity to thrive. But, right now, hundreds of thousands of people in our country are living in poverty.

We’ve had a long period of low wages and high housing costs. At the same time, people in government

have underinvested in key services that help the lowest-income families, like public housing and income support.

Instead, governments have prioritised policies that help the already well off, including property speculators. As a result, too many parents are under resourced, overstressed and unable to give their children



The Conference panel – Jan Logie, Carmel Sepuloni, Tracey Martin and Alfred Ngaro responding to questions about the WEAG Report.

Continued p. 2

Continued p. 2

KiwiBuild Policy Development	3
Kaumatua Housing	3
Paul Barber’s Farewell	4
Campbell Roberts	4
Reducing the Imprisonment of Māori	5
Vocational education reforms	6
Tātou, tātou e! Conference Wrap-up	7
International Tenants’ Day	8
Porirua Promise	8
The \$630 million funding gap for social services	9
New NGO Advisory Group for MSD/OT	9
Cindy Kiro and the WEAG report	10
Kāpiti Benefit Impact	11
Aged Residential Care Funding Review	12

NEW ZEALAND AOTEAROA CHILD AND YOUTH WELLBEING STRATEGY

5. Wellbeing needs holistic and comprehensive approaches
6. Children and young people's wellbeing is interwoven with family and whanau wellbeing
7. Change requires action by all of us
8. Actions must deliver better life outcomes
9. Early support is needed

Overarching Themes

The strategy has 6 themes these are set out as:

Children and Young People

- are loved, safe and nurtured
- have what they need
- are happy and healthy
- are learning and developing
- are accepted, respected and connected
- are involved and empowered

Action Plan

Grouped under these themes is an action plan which spells out the government initiatives to create greater change and wellbeing. For instance, under the theme of children and young people “have what they need” one of the actions is the welfare reforms. Each of the overarching themes has a list of actions attached these are the specific government initiatives, which will change

over time, that will give effect to the strategy.

The government has prioritised actions that will:

- Reduce child poverty and mitigate the impacts of poverty and socio-economic disadvantage
- Better support children and young people of interest to Oranga Tamariki and address family and sexual violence
- Better support children and young people with greater needs, with an initial focus on learning support and mental wellbeing

Measurement

In order to understand if the Strategy is having the desired effect of delivering better life outcomes each of the themes has a set of metrics which will provide a way of understanding if the approaches are materially changing the wellbeing of children and young people. This is an important part of the system, we know that previous attempts at “whole of government responses” to issues have often bogged down for lack of any real accountability. These measures will demonstrate whether this government has been able to weld the public service together in order to ensure children and young people positively progress in their wellbeing.

WHAKAMANA TĀNGATA: NZCCSS CALLS ON GOVT FOR A JUST AND COMPASSIONATE WELFARE SYSTEM

real opportunities to thrive. Most families in poverty have housing costs that take up over half of their income. More than half of children in poverty have a working parent.

The government can release the pressures on families and children by providing good public services to all families with children and by increasing benefits, which can unlock opportunities for those doing it hardest.

Response from politicians at Tātou, tātou ē!

These measures reflect just some of the recommendations to the government in the Welfare Expert Advisory Group's (WEAG) report to the government earlier this year, Whakamana Tāngata.

It was off the back of advisory chair Professor Cindy Kiro's keynote speech at Tātou Tātou ē! that conference attendees had the opportunity to directly hear from politicians about how they are planning to respond to the report recommendations and work towards making sure no-one has to endure the harms of poverty.

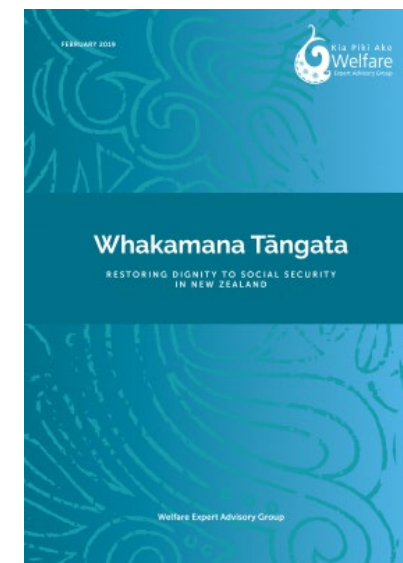
The panel discussion was hosted by political commentator Bryce

Edwards, who encouraged the audience to “heckle” the panelists and ask the hard questions – which they did.

Minister for Social Development Carmel Sepuloni, alongside Minister Tracey Martin, Hon Jan Logie and Hon Alfred Ngaro all answered audience questions about funding for community services and about the WEAG report.

Minister Sepuloni stated to the audience that it was hard to implement just one of Whakamana Tāngata's recommendations, because they were essentially a package. However, she also said that work was underway to address around 19 recommendations with further advice sought on 10 other recommendations.

NZCCSS acknowledges the intention of the current Government to improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders living in poverty. But getting there means ensuring all people in Aotearoa have adequate income support and can live with dignity. This starts by urgently raising core benefit levels – a recommendation Minister Sepuloni has not yet addressed.



NZCCSS joins collaboration to call for welfare change

The panel event was also timely given that NZCCSS is currently collaborating with several NGOs who are together calling on the government to urgently adopt the WEAG's recommendations in Whakamana Tāngata. The organisations include FinCap, Child Poverty Action Group, The Workshop and ActionStation.

Executive Officer Trevor McGlinchey is leading this collaboration for NZCCSS, which recommends substantially increasing core benefits, removing sanctions and obligations and putting child and whānau wellbeing at the heart of the Social Security Act 2018.

NZCCSS and Members want to be involved with KiwiBuild Policy Development

On September 4 the Housing Minister Megan Woods announced a “reset of KiwiBuild”. This reset acknowledged that the government was struggling to build enough houses to give its KiwiBuild strategy any credibility. This desire to build houses, rather than to meet the needs of New Zealanders needing homes resulted in housing being built in places where they could not be sold as they were too expensive for ordinary New Zealanders and too small for those who had the money.

Church Leaders, the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services and member organisations like VisionWest have all been seeking a change in the KiwiBuild approach. We would like to see a greater focus on the community housing sector and a greater increase in the number of State Houses being built. NZCCSS supports the call in the [Whakamana Tāngata](#) welfare reform report recommendation 29 which calls for affordable community housing sector

and State homes to be built on an “industrial scale”, and recommendation 30, “to increase range of home ownership and tenure options for people on low and low-middle incomes”.

The Salvation Army, along with Community Housing Aotearoa (CHA), the Housing Foundation and Habitat for Humanity have been calling for the implementation of [KiwiBuy](#). This is an approach that allows shared equity and progressive ownership models of home ownership which allows people to buy homes in conjunction with community housing organisations.

So will the reset, which includes \$400 million for progressive home ownership models, meet the expectation of NZCCSS, its members and other community organisations? At this stage it does not appear that the type of upfront capital increases in funding to community housing providers is included in the reset. If this is the case then community housing

providers will not be able to build on the scale that is needed to make a structural difference for poor New Zealanders needing access to warm, dry homes. The reset includes the continuation of the current State house rebuilding programme, which is at a level of “... more public houses per year than any Government of the past three decades” (Marama Davidson). However, the target of a higher build rate than any government of the last three decades is a very low bar and not at the industrial level that is required.

In the [Otago Daily Times](#) Campbell Roberts indicated that the “Government seemed to be adopting a lot of objectives it was pushing for”, but that, “Now it’s about whether ... it gets introduced in a way we all find acceptable and more importantly will actually deliver to people who haven’t got housing.” NZCCSS and our members all wait to see how this plays out. We call for greater involvement of NZCCSS, our member community housing agencies and others in working alongside government in developing the implementation policies for this new approach to KiwiBuild.

Kaumātua Housing at Christchurch Methodist Mission

The following is an excerpt from an article on the Christchurch Methodist Mission [website](#), we thank CMM for allowing us to reprint it here.

Whare Tiaki is another example of the commitment of the Christchurch Methodist Mission to kaumātua in Ōtautahi/Christchurch and to bi-culturalism. Most residents are Māori or have Māori marital connections. Some are related.

Whare Tiaki follows a kaupapa Māori approach of shared values, interests and beliefs. Residents follow news from marae and attend tangi or hui-ā-iwi, or specific events such as the recent 150th celebrations at Rāpaki church, eeling at Taumutu or Waitangi Day events.

The unit is warm and welcoming, with occupancy limited to eight residents. Each person has their own bedroom with en-suite and share communal living and dining facilities. Residents come together to share meals, including two hot meals a day. They enjoy a lot of kiwi food – a boil up now and then, but otherwise roasts silverside, sausages or mince. All the while, George the dog keeps everyone amused.

Could communal living lead to



disagreements between residents? Kaiāwhina, Willow WiParata, is akin to the house mum and says that with respect among residents the answer is no. “There’s a large degree of belonging and of trust,” Willow says. “The communal aspect makes it different to other such places. Residents respect one another, which makes them closer. It’s an unspoken rule that they show discretion in the Whare.”

Family and visitors are welcome to join in the life of Whare Tiaki. “Manaakitanga (hospitality) comes before most things. Everyone fits in with each other’s families and everyone’s welcome to stay for food,” Willow says.

If you know of someone who might be interested in making Whare Tiaki home, please contact Willow at willoww@mmsi.org.nz.



Paul Barber's Farewell

After a full 15 years of working for NZCCSS our Kaitātari, Policy Advisor, Paul Barber has left to take up a New Role as a Senior Policy Analyst at The Salvation Army Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit. Paul's farewell was attended by many members of the Wellington-based social justice and advocacy organisations that he has worked with or has led as an NZCCSS representative. His leadership and passion for social justice were acknowledged by representatives from the Living Wage Movement, the Tax Justice group, the Equality Network and many others.

At his farewell the NZCCSS Executive Officer presented Paul with a pounamu toki. In presenting this taonga Trevor said, "... this toki reminds us of the toki poutan-gata, the ceremonial toki, lashed to a finely carved handle that is carried by rangatira as a symbol of their

leadership and of the respect within which they are held. In presenting this toki to you we are acknowledging your leadership and the respect of your communities for you. Small toki are used for fine carving, for removing the excess wood to reveal the true meaning within the carving, just as you Paul carved through the excess to reveal the true meaning in the policies you have so expertly critiqued in your years working for NZCCSS".

Paul's expertise, analysis and commitment will be sorely missed by NZCCSS. His colleagues will miss his companionship and support at the Secretariat Office. The Denominational Representatives to the NZ Council of Christian Social Services and members of the Impacts of Poverty and Exclusion Policy Groups, along with his Secretariat colleagues all wish Paul the absolute best in his new role.



Campbell Roberts

Tell us about yourself and your time at NZCCSS



NZ Council of Christian
Social Services

I started with NZCCSS in the 80s. At that stage there was quite a strong Auckland branch of the Council, which meant people involved in social services and church agencies and the managers of those groups – like the head of the Salvation Army, Methodist and Presbyterians. At the same time I was involved more in the early work with poverty and then I went and work for Council and stayed there for 25 years. I was one of the new sets of people when I first came in and was most interested in community involvement and community engagement.

How has the organisation changed?

The present NZCCSS is far, far different from the one I walked into on the first day. And I think that transition has been the right transition.

In the 80s, NZCCSS was pretty much the head of social services for churches. It was quite a high-powered group,

not only in addressing poverty issues but also addressing service issues. And you had people who could make a difference, as they were often employing lots of people and they were also quite influential in their own organisations.

Council was very heavily into aged care at that point, and has operated in some sense as into the employers' group of the aged care sector. They would negotiate wages and those sorts of things. It had a sort of employers' focus about everything. It wasn't so much about social justice approach, but it primarily was an employers' organisation. And it has transitioned from that. Aged care was a key part of what NZCCSS was initially about and over the years it broadened include to other things in the social sector.

The other part of the Council focussed on children's' work, and at that stage some of us were still running children's homes. I can't remember how often we met, NZCCSS didn't meet as frequently as it does now. But every time we met, we would meet with a particular minister – there was the consistent meetings with ministers usually around



issues of either aged care or children's care.

And I think it has moved away from being an employer's group concerned about running services, to being involved with social justice and social policy.

What have you been proudest of during your time there?

In those days there was very little involvement with housing or poverty issues – they've emerged from that period. I was part of making some of those changes. We put together a housing and poverty workbook and then we started to move into work in those areas. NZCCSS was quite professional in its role with aged and young people care but when it came to poverty it was very much a belt and braces operation. We did work which often hit the media but frankly was pretty much hanging on by your fingernails – the research wasn't particularly deep or well done.

I'm really proud of the way in which churches have worked together and that it has been a consistent voice for the most vulnerable of New Zealanders.

Hōkai Rangi – Dramatically Reducing the Imprisonment of Māori

The Minister for Corrections, Kelvin Davis, has released a strategy, [Hōkai Rangi](#), intended to dramatically decrease the Māori prison population. The name Hōkai Rangi was given to the Department of Corrections by its Te Poari Hautū Rautaki Māori, their Māori Leadership Board. In the Report's own words, "It is taken from the karakia 'Kete o Te Wānanga', which describes the ascent by Tāne into the highest heavens. It is drawn from the following section: 'Ko te hōkai nuku, ko te hōkai rangi' (traversing the earth, ascending into the heavens) ... Hōkai Rangi represents the journey of Ara Poutama Aotearoa, the people in our care, and their whānau, to achieve full potential".

A key aspect of the strategy is to work with prisoners, and their whānau.

A key aspect of the strategy is to work with prisoners, and their whānau, to increase the connection between the prisoner, their whānau and their communities, thus promoting greater unity. This sense of connection means that on returning to their whanau, hapū, iwi and wider



communities the prisoner is more ready and capable of integration and a feeling of belonging, this greatly reducing their rate of recidivism.

This strategy has been released at the same time as work is progressing on a national conversation about justice, prison and imprisonment via the Justice Advisory Group – Te Uepū Hāpai i te Ora. This group has recently released an initial report on their findings [He Waka Roimata](#) which details the following:

- too many people who have been harmed by crime feel unheard, misunderstood and re-victimised

- the number of Māori in the system is a crisis
- violence is an enormous problem, particularly for families and children

Violence is an enormous problem, particularly for families and children.

- formal justice processes fail us too often the system is too focused on punishment and neglects prevention, rehabilitation, reconciliation and repair of the harm done by crime

Individuals, families and whānau feel unsupported and disempowered by the system

- individuals, families and whānau feel unsupported and disempowered by the system, and the ability of iwi, hapū, communities, NGOs and others to provide support is constrained by the siloed nature of government structures and funding arrangements
- people experiencing mental distress lack the support they need.

Te Hōkai Rangi has been welcomed by many as seen in this [Spinoff article](#) from the Ngāi Tahu leader Tuari Potiki. A recent report from Te Pou Maramatanga, "[Arotahi – Imprisonment and whanau ora](#)", does, however, provide a word of caution. One of the authors Professor Tracey Mackintosh a member of Te Uepū i te Ora is quoted as saying, "prisons were not a part of our past prior to colonial settlement and we cannot continue to let them colonise our future. The need for change is

The need for change is urgent.

urgent." And Kim Workman, another of the report's authors says, "Such a strategy would include the full-bodied incorporation (rather than co-option) of tikanga Māori, take a whānau-centric approach to the management of prisons, focus on Māori assets and strengths rather than deficits, involve reciprocal engagement, and take collective responsibility for change."

Success for Hōkai Rangi will depend on the ability of Corrections to incorporate tikanga Māori rather than co-opt it.

So, success for Hōkai Rangi will depend on the ability of Corrections to incorporate tikanga Māori rather than co-opt it. This means deconstructing Corrections colonial heritage and sharing power and values with tāngata whenua. Let us hope that this can be achieved and the Minister of Correction's [aim](#) of reducing Māori imprisonment rate to the same level as the Māori percentage of population is achieved.

Vocational education reforms to proceed, but it's business as usual for a long time yet

Jane Wenman, Chief Executive – Careerforce

Earlier this year, Education Minister Chris Hipkins announced proposed sweeping changes to vocational education. After a period of consultation, the following changes have now been confirmed:

- The current 16 Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITPs) will be merged into the New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (NZIST), which will be formed on 1 April 2020. For the first two years, the ITPs will operate as subsidiaries of the NZIST, before further consolidation.
- 4–7 new Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) will be created, and will assume the standard setting responsibilities currently performed by Industry Training Organisations (ITOs). These will also be formed on 1 April 2020, and expected to be fully functioning by June 2021.
- The support of workplace training and of trainees/apprentices will be transitioned from ITOs to the NZIST, but not expected to be completed until 31 December 2022.

While naturally disappointed at the long-term outcome for ITOs, we are supportive of the reform objectives to create a stronger, more unified, sustainable vocational education system. Furthermore, we are fully committed to working in the best interests of our employers and trainees as the reforms are implemented, and are buoyed by the Minister's commitment to a slow and staged transition, with the full transition not expected to be completed until December 2022. We also remain steadfastly focused on the many workforce development initiatives we are leading across our sectors.

Careerforce presently has industry training coverage and responsibility for the wider health and wellbeing sectors, including social services. The combined workforce across these sectors is 427,000, and this is forecast to grow significantly. Our absolute priority as the reforms are implemented are to ensure that the voice of our sectors is not diluted, and to continue to champion your workforce development needs.

What does this all mean for Careerforce employers & trainees?



In the short to medium term, very little. The Minister has absolutely affirmed his commitment to workplace-based training, highlighting a 'gravitational pull' in this direction. He furthermore committed to long transition timeframes, with the initial priority being the establishment of the new NZIST and WDCs. He also emphasised his expectation for workplace-based training to grow during the transition, and actively encouraged employers to continue to engage in training, in the comfort that transitions will be very carefully managed.

These reforms represent a generational change in vocational education, and we will be working closely with officials over coming months to jointly develop the reform implementation plans. We will continue to provide regular updates, but can't emphasise enough in the meantime that transition timeframes are long,

and we should all continue with business as usual.

For more updates, please go to the Careerforce website, www.careerforce.org.nz

All media enquiries please contact Paul Williams, General Manager – Marketing & Communications on 027 600 7395, or at paul.williams@careerforce.org.nz.

Careerforce is the Industry Training Organisation (ITO) for the health, mental health, youth work, disability, social services and cleaning sectors. Careerforce support employers across New Zealand's health and wellbeing sectors to run workplace training programmes, allowing staff to achieve nationally recognised qualifications on and off the job. We are the Government appointed body that sets skill standards, develops and facilitates achievement of NZQA qualifications across all our sectors. For more information please see: www.careerforce.org.nz

SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK Seeking fairness in an unfair world

Caritas Social Justice week focussed on fairness and how the concept of fairness can be created through social justice and structural change.

Social justice was defined as:

- fairness in our dealings with other people;
- fairness in the way responsibilities are shared;
- fairness in the distribution of income, wealth and power in our society;
- fairness in the social, economic and political structures we have created;
- fairness in the operation of those structures so that they enable all citizens to be active and productive participants in the life of society.

The backgrounder to the resources available for the Social Justice Week discussed 'equality of opportunity or distributive justice?' and set out the difference in the context of "equal opportunities" as opposed to ensuring people had equitable access to the resources and supports needed to make the most of opportunities.

Caritas proposes a concept of "Tika – doing things right. In Māori, tika is the principle about doing things right, in the right way, in the right order ... On its own tika cannot achieve all that is right, proper, fitting and worthy of tapu. Tika needs pono and aroha."

Caritas Justice Week ran from the 8 to the 14th of September this year and the resources are available on their [website](http://www.caritas.org.nz).

Tātou, tātou e! Conference Wrap-up



Tātou tātou e!
 The value of relationships in building Wellbeing:
 Wellington 27-28 August

Together with Community Networks Aotearoa, NZCCSS hosted another successful biennial conference “Tātou, tātou e! The value of relationships in building wellbeing”. While this conference – celebrating “all of us together” was conceived in 2018 the terrible events in Christchurch on the 15th March this year gave the concept a special impact which was seen in the Panel facilitated by Mike Reid: As community-based organisations how are we going to contribute to a sustained response to exclusion and discrimination following events in Christchurch, which featured Anjum Rahman, Liz Hawes and Jayden Cromb.

As hosts we were really pleased with the great turn-out of members – just under 120 delegates

attended. The opening key note from Professor Cindy Kiro, discussing the Whakamana Tāngata report set the scene for a wide range of scintillating speakers who provided challenging food for thought. The workshop presenters all stepped up to the mark and led excellent workshops allowing attendees to dive deeper into the complexities of social justice, community, relationships and wellbeing.

NZCCSS thanks Community Networks Aotearoa for their leadership in conference organising, along with all of the speakers and workshop presenters. We also deeply thank those who came to the conference and provided the buzz of anticipation and thoughtful discussion which permeated “Tātou, tātou e!”



International Tenants' Day

Saving Homes from the Financialisation of Housing

On May 22nd, 1986, the International Union of Tenants met in Paris and decided to designate the first Monday of October to International Tenants' Day. The date coincides with the UN World Habitat Day and often ties closely with the UN Development Goals. For 2019 the focus is on Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, with the theme of 'Saving homes from the financialisation of housing.' This year, it also coincides with the Leilani Farha the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to housing's launch of The Shift, an international movement to consider housing from a human rights perspective; and the documentary PUSH by Fredrik Gertten, which investigates the rising cost of housing in cities around the world.

At its core, the day focuses on the need to consider housing as a fundamental human right, where people can live adequately with mana and dignity. Despite the guidance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissions for Human Rights, and the rights to housing presented by the New Zealand Human Rights Commission, meaningful change has been slow or non-existent as homelessness has continued to increase concurrently with both house and rental prices. There are promising movements toward meeting habitability requirements with the Healthy Homes Standards, but there still needs to be engagement with the underlying idea of housing as more than an investment, not only for central and local government, but also the private and social level.

The multitude of public, social, and private

actors involved in housing must ensure that all forms of hous-

ing meet four goals outlined by the UN Special Rapporteur: that housing strategies are centred on human rights principles; that all households have access to justice, accountability, and participation in the right to housing; that equal access to housing is available for all; and that positive obligations are highlighted by recognising the role of all actors to implement strategies to achieve housing security and inclusion.

Achieving these goals needs to be a long-term project, which may start, but should not end, with tenancy legislation. The goals also need a multipronged approach that not only targets the tax and welfare systems to reduce the importance of housing as an asset, but also acknowledges and supports multiple tenures as viable options. It is essential to have clear national and local housing strategies, with clear-cut lines of communication and responsibility. Furthermore, preventing forced evictions and arbitrarily large rent increases to ensure security of tenure and recognise that a house is someone's home before it is a store of wealth.

When a house is an asset first, the incentive is to maintain high prices and demand to enter homeownership, forcing those unable, or unwilling, into vulnerable and unsupported housing situations. October 7th 2019 is International Tenants' Day, a time to start removing the prioritisation of capital for housing over people.



Porirua Promise will help everyone to benefit from \$1.5b regeneration project

The following is an article from the Wesley Community Action website, we thank WCA for allowing us to reprint it here.

We're calling for the partner organisations involved in the \$1.5 billion Porirua Development project to adopt the Porirua Promise, a set of five undertakings we believe will help ensure that everyone in East Porirua benefits from this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

We helped develop the Porirua Promise following a 2-day learning trip to Auckland in May to get insights into the "do's and don'ts" of large housing regeneration projects. We presented it to the development partners at a meeting on August 21 and we're hoping they will adopt it.

Our learning group of 22 was made up of a cross-section of people and groups active in the Porirua East community. We visited five regeneration projects already underway in Auckland to see first-hand how they have affected existing communities – both in good ways and bad.

The people we visited and talked to were extremely generous and open and the trip brought up a huge number of ideas and things to work on.

The learning group has developed the Porirua Promise as an important first step towards making sure that the Porirua regeneration project embraces the best aspects of the Auckland regeneration projects, and avoids those that have been less successful.

Wesley Community Action director, David Hanna, says the Porirua Development project has the potential to offer huge benefits to the



- Every person who lives in Porirua now will be able to stay in Porirua.
- The developers will use their buying power to create new jobs and training for the people of Porirua.
- Low-income households will be able to move into home ownership because robust financial tools like rent-to-buy and shared equity will be made available for a significant proportion of the new houses.
- Community engagement will be guaranteed through ring-fencing funding for it.
- An independent community Kaitiaki group will be resourced to inform the development process and keep it true to this promise.

Eastern Porirua community, there are also potential downsides, such as the possibility that some of the area's most vulnerable residents will be displaced as housing prices rise.

"We believe that by adopting the five undertakings in the Porirua Promise, the project partners have a solid foundation on which to base the decisions they make so that everyone in East Porirua benefits from the regeneration project."

The \$630 million funding gap for social services

Brenda Pilott, SSPA National Manager

For years, providers and their representative groups have been telling government that the social services sector is chronically under-funded, with a contributory funding model for most services, a lack of index-linked contracts, low wages, over-delivery on contracted volumes, and funding models that do not take account of the basic running costs of organisations. What we didn't have, till now, was a robust picture of the scale of that under-funding.

Social Service Providers Aotearoa (SSPA) commissioned a report from consulting firm MartinJenkins to quantify the gap between what social services providers in New Zealand are funded to deliver and what it actually costs, and make recommendations about how to improve the funding system. These are some of the key findings of this independent report:

- Government is funding providers \$1.12 billion to deliver essential social services. This is less than two thirds the real cost and a further \$630 million is needed. \$1,750 million (or \$1.75 billion) is needed

to fully fund these essential services.

- Social service providers generally don't receive enough to cover basic running costs, are unable to pay enough to attract and retain the staff we need, and are struggling to meet demand
- Basic operating costs are being underfunded by about \$130 million a year
- Wages are being underfunded by about \$300 million a year
- The gap between funded and actual (absorbed) demand is close to \$200 million a year
- 83% of providers said they have to rely on philanthropic funding to make ends meet on basic costs such as rent and wages.

In releasing the report, SSPA called on the government to make a serious commitment to close the funding gap in Budget 2020 and to address immediate funding concerns, including the substantial wages gap



between NGO and public sector workers. This has been highlighted with social workers but low wages are the norm in the NGO sector. This is a result of the chronic under-funding of our sector and

that's why the sector is focusing on fair funding.

The social service funding model needs a full-scale overhaul. Oranga Tamariki has begun making changes in some areas. These are welcome and there now must be a government commitment to work collaboratively with social service providers on the longer term issues that are identified, to achieve an effective and sustainable funding model.

You can read the report at <https://www.sspa.org.nz/funding-gap>

New NGO Advisory Group for MSD/OT

In the latest National Providers and Services monthly news email there is an article calling for applications for a Community Advisory Group. Details are below:

The Ministry of Social Development and Oranga Tamariki are jointly undertaking a 'Towards More Effective Social Services' work programme. One of its focus areas is to identify and instigate improvements in the way we work with Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) to more effectively meet the needs of communities we work in. We are establishing a 'Community Advisory Group' as an opportunity for your community to have a voice and provide input into this work. The group will also have an opportunity to connect with Government Ministers with responsibilities related to this work.

We're looking for up to 12 people from diverse backgrounds, who are able to share perspectives from their community and/or provide an NGO viewpoint on this work. The Community Advisory Group will

have four day-long meetings between October 2019 and August 2020. In August 2020, work of the group will conclude. Members will be paid a fee to participate in the group. Anyone interested in being considered for this group is asked to send an email to Community_Information_CPP@msd.govt.nz with responses to the two questions below by 9am on Monday 14 October 2019.

- Why do you want to be involved with this group? (200 word limit)
- What skills and experience can you offer to the group? (400 word limit)

In addition, you may wish to provide us with your Curriculum Vitae (CV)/ or LinkedIn profile, but please note this is not required. You may also send us a video answering the above questions, to a maximum of 4MB. If you have any questions about the process, function of the group or what's involved, please email us at Community_Information_CPP@msd.govt.nz

Cindy Kiro and the WEAG report

Cindy Kiro flew in from Chile to be a key note speaker at the “Tātou, tātoue” conference. Cindy was the chair of the Government appointed Welfare Expert Advisory Group (WEAG) which wrote *Whakamana Tāngata – Restoring Dignity to Social Security in Aotearoa*. She met with Mapuche indigenous elders while in Chile and one of the elders said that “all beings are connected”. Cindy also met with an Aboriginal academic Marcia Langton who discussed their history of over 40,000 years of continuous occupation. She discussed how the indigenous people of Australia have a history of actively working their lands to ensure that it was in the best condition to support their culture. This included the practice of selectively burning off bushland, which they see as a natural part of the cycle. The whole point for Marcia was “we are all connected”.

This concept of connectivity was central to the thinking of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group when drafting the *Whakamana Tāngata* report. Discussions around how the system can trap people in poverty was crucial to the decision-making process. “We are all citizens and are bound by a common future”. Cindy reflected on a whakatauāki, “I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on the past.” A concept held

widely by many Māori. She looked back on a social security system established with the intent of supporting with dignity and respect those who could not support themselves. Something that had been lost over time. Most people on the welfare system are there because “they have experienced events such as mental health episodes, job losses, marriage breakdowns. They are not there by choice,” says Kiro.

Another important journey for the community is going to be climate change, says Kiro. “What kind of future do we want? There are climate change impacts as we are a nation of exporters, also we are impacting our Pacific cousins,” says Kiro. We also need to consider demography, equity and diversity. “New Zealand is an ageing population,” says Kiro. “More people are moving around the world. Most people are economic and political refugees, so diversity is increasing. Diversity is fine but you must know who you are. How we manifest ourselves is the question”.

Technology is also going to disrupt how humans operate. “Disruption of routine and work with robotics. What role will humans have with technology?”. Kiro is concerned that it will be difficult for humans to retain culture and project themselves in the future, the people most



impacted will be those least able to defend themselves.

The WEAG report had eleven members, says Kiro. “We were able to come to a consensus on major findings and recommendations.” Firstly, we have a complex system which overlaps with health, employment, taxation, housing, education and justice. Secondly, we have a social security system which moves from being a safety net to “whakamana tāngata” return dignity to people.

on a benefit. “The government has to provide State housing because families cannot afford private rentals – housing costs are a huge driver of poverty. We are seeing home ownership rates decline for Pacific and Maori. Some magic needs to happen from common funds,” says Kiro.

The current system makes starting and maintaining relationships difficult. A sole parent has only 6 weeks to decide if the person they are beginning a relationship with will provide ongoing support for them and their family. If they don’t then they could be charged with fraudulently receiving a benefit as they are in a “marriage-like relationship”. We have to stop being the moral guardian. People are trying to form relationships and sole parents are targeted and plagued. “Just look at how do we support the family. It’s about time and investment, not sanctions and punishments.”

By taking the approaches laid out in the “Whakamana Tāngata Restoring Dignity to Social Security in New Zealand” report we will re-establish a system which focuses on the wellbeing of New Zealanders and rebuilds a system where dignity and mutual respect underpins the way we support the most vulnerable amongst us.

Thirdly, we need an individualized approach recognizing diverse family arrangements. “Many people have a declared health condition”. Health and disability needs impact 53% of those reliant on a main benefit.

Accommodation support is an area of significant expenditure as well as working age benefits. The report also found that we have seriously inadequate incomes – less than 40% of the median wage. Many children grow up in households reliant

Kāpiti Benefit Impact

The Wellington Catholic Archdiocese is in its third year of holding an annual Benefit Impact. This year the Impact was organised by Our Lady of Fatima Church, Waikanae. The was first held in 2016 at St Joseph’s at Upper Hutt and the second was held at St Bernadette’s church hall in Naenae in 2017. NZCCSS Policy Advisor, Sonia Scott, was fortunate enough to have attended all three.

Cardinal John Dew has actively supported these Benefit Impacts. In blessing the Benefit Impact week the Cardinal thanked the families,

superannuants and beneficiaries who he said “have the courage to enter this church to enable us to walk to ensure people have what they need to survive”. He reminded parishioners of Pope Francis’ message for this year’s World Day of the Poor that in our world there are a great many people who lack the necessities of life, and that the poor are treated as outsiders.

The Kāpiti based Catholic groups working with the Ecology, Justice and Peace Group (EJP group) at Our Lady of Fatima Church (Waikanae) including the Kāpiti parish and St Vincent de Paul could see there were many older Kāpiti residents living in Waikanae and the wider Kāpiti area experiencing financial hardship. Often struggling to meet basic needs due to the costs for prescriptions, home help, and transport to medical appointments. With the support of the Hutt Valley Benefit Education Service Trust and Catholic Social Services, the EJP Group initiated their own advocacy event.

Many of those seeking to have their benefit entitlements reviewed were

older residents, living on National Superannuation and receiving additional payments to cover costs of illness, disability and housing. The Impact was able to identify some of these residents were experiencing significant underpayments. As a result of the adjustments made to payments by Work and Income these people went home knowing their lives would be somewhat easier as they would receive ongoing payments at higher levels.

The Impact’s leaders noted that the Prime Minister’s call for a more compassionate approach at Work and Income is beginning to take effect. The Ministry of Social Development has implemented a ‘programme of change’ to strengthen the service culture at Work and Income Offices, which includes a physical new look to create a more welcoming environment. A Client Charter: Our commitment to you sets out what clients can expect from service centres, and a commitment has been made from the top that clients should expect to receive information on the full financial support to which they are legally entitled. While this was not entirely proven with the impact revealing some large underpayments, an improvement in their approach was experienced by those working with Work and Income staff.

Our commitment to YOU

- know you** (Ka mōhio ki a koe): We will get to know you, your situation and your needs. We will make sure you understand everything you need to know. We will respect your privacy and be clear about how we use your information and who we share it with.
- support you** (Ka tautoko i a koe): We will let you know everything you may be eligible for. We will help you however we can, as soon as we can. We will be honest about our mistakes and put them right.
- with you** (Ka mahi tahi ki a koe): We will respect you and what is important to you. We will work together to achieve shared goals. We will let you know your options, rights and obligations. Our actions will follow our words.

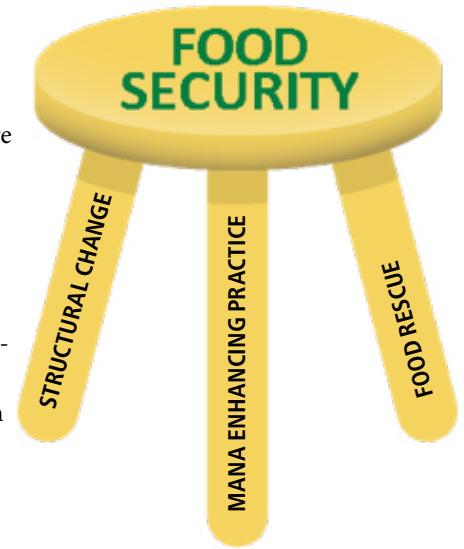
How did we do? Let us know by visiting msd.govt.nz/feedback or call us on 0800 559 009

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Kore Hiakai

Many New Zealanders experience food insecurity and food poverty as a regular feature of their lives. The Kore Hiakai collective has developed an overarching vision of “No food insecurity in Aotearoa New Zealand”.

Kore Hiakai proposes a three-legged strategy to achieve this aim, this three-legged approach is set out in the diagramme (right).



Kore Hiakai and World Food day October 16 2019

World Food Day is seen by the Kore Hiakai governance group as a time to recognize the need to ensure all New Zealanders have access to sufficient nutritious food. The group will be coming together to mark the serious food insecurity problem in New Zealand and to help highlight this issue in the public consciousness. We encourage you to think about how you can use this occasion to build understanding of the food insecurity being experienced in your community. This could be holding a local event, publishing a media release, including stories about how your organisation is responding to food insecurity in your newsletters.

Kore Hiakai Zero Hunger

The elimination of food poverty in Aotearoa New Zealand

Aged Residential Care Funding Review

The Aged Residential Care (ARC) Funding Review, commissioned by the Ministry of Health and the 20 District Health Boards, has been released. This review, carried out by Ernst and Young over 2018, is available [here](#). The report makes seven primary recommendations, including the use of a new funding model more directly linked to residential needs. It also lists another 15 areas that for further consideration.

The Review recognizes that changes that have occurred in the Aged Residential Care area over the last years. The average age of entry to ARC has increased (currently 85 years of age), with residents frailer and with over 50% having some form of cognitive limitation. The Review identifies the current funding system as being too limited with the four existing funding categories not being sensitive enough to the diverse range of needs of the clients. It states, "... this may create disincentives for providers to admit more costly residents ...".

The Review recommends greater stratification of the care categories. It proposes using "... an internationally validated approach – the interAI Resource Utilization Group (RUG) approach". This would more accurately allow for better prediction and



therefore funding of the level of care people entering into aged residential care are likely to require.

The issue of paying for the accommodation component of aged residential care is seen by the Review's authors as one of the most difficult areas to come to a consensus on and a wide range of options were considered. The Review stopped short of making any definitive recommendations but provided suggestions on approaches which could be used. The report does identify the increasing level of private payments made by ARC residents, "... with the proportion of ARC facilities that have an extra charge or occupational rights agreement (ORA) ... increasing. Nearly all new recent ARC capacity has included extra charge or ORA rooms. In facilities that have extra charge arrangements with residents,

around two-thirds ... pay these charges".

The implications for the ability of the sector to cater for older people who have no private funding to pay extra charges is significant. For Christian social services and aged care providers this is a troubling issue as it will often fall to these mission-based organisations to care for those with the least. Yet the costs of

building aged care facilities does not distinguish between profit-driven or mission-based organisations. The ability of faith-based organisations to provide quality care for those older people who cannot afford extra charges has not been addressed in this Review, which focused on how the existing funding levels can be distributed. This will remain a contentious issue for NZCCSS members and an increasing impediment to the NZCCSS mission of "... a compassionate and socially just society".

End of Life Choice Bill

In August the Anglican Social Justice Resources website team uploaded a range of resources focusing on euthanasia. These resources "unpack the deeper and broader issues that will come into play if the 'End of Life Choice Bill' (EOLC) were to be passed".

The [Taonga News](#), published online August 28 2019 refers to, "... a [20-minute video message](#)" where [Archbishop Philip Richardson](#) lays out the theological reasons why nine Anglican bishops from across Aotearoa New Zealand [stood in](#)

[opposition](#) to the EOLC Bill's law changes that would enable terminally ill patients to end their lives with a physician's help".

Archbishop Philip also discusses "... the [submission](#) of three Anglican bishops who did not oppose the EOLC Bill, but cautioned against legalising euthanasia without stringent safeguards".

Further resources are available from the Aotearoa New Zealand churches' joint medical, scientific and ethics experts on the [InterChurch Bioethics Council](#).

Kete Kupu Word Basket

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