

Election 2020: A fair and compassionate future for all New Zealanders

After a shaky start, due to the re-emergence of Covid-19 in Auckland, Election 2020 is back on track and New Zealanders will go to the polls on Saturday 17 October to elect the next government.

2020 continues to present unprecedented challenges for New Zealand and the rest of the world, and these will remain until a vaccine is found. Covid-19 has exposed many of the

failings and inequalities of our market-based economy, which have created the conditions needed for poverty and exclusion to thrive – a low wage economy, high housing costs, and a low top tax rate.

‘Every day NZCCSS members see desperate families and whānau both in work and receiving income support struggling to provide food and shelter. Their income is simply not enough to cover both rent for housing and the basic essentials necessary for their health and wellbeing. Having a liveable income and a warm, safe home is fundamental to the protection of our intrinsic value and dignity as human beings made in God’s image,’ says NZCCSS President, Ian Hutson.

Rethinking our values and harnessing our sense of common good, compassion and fairness

Election 2020 is a time to re-think our society’s values and harness our sense of common good, compassion and fairness. [NZCCSS’ Election](#)

[Statement](#) is underpinned by a vision of Aotearoa New Zealand as a fair and compassionate society in which everyone has a ‘liveable income’, a warm, safe home and can participate meaningfully in their community.

What does a fair and compassionate society, manaakitia te ara whakamua, mean?

- Our poorest families and whānau have sufficient income to live their lives with mana and dignity, join in local activities, and feel connected to their community.
- Our poorest families and whānau can afford to live in a permanent, quality home, that enables their children/tamariki to participate at the local school and to access health supports.
- Our poorest families and whānau can provide for their children/tamariki to eat fresh fruit and vegetables and meat, to wear warm



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clothes and shoes, and to join their friends at sports, kapa haka, music and other activities.

NZCCSS believe there are enough resources in Aotearoa New Zealand to enable everyone to live with dignity. In a fair and compassionate society there are mechanisms to distribute public resources so that everyone can experience a baseline standard of living that enables people to develop and flourish.

NZCCSS is calling on political parties to commit to immediate changes to address income adequacy and affordable, secure and quality housing.

All New Zealanders have a liveable Income

- Increase benefit levels and support the payment of a liveable wage to ensure all New Zealanders have an income that provides the necessities of life and can meaningfully participate with dignity in our communities.

All New Zealanders can access affordable, secure and quality housing

- Immediately and substantially increase the construction of public housing in both the government and community housing sectors.

Background paper

Read more about NZCCSS’ thinking on Election 2020 [here](#).

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The New Zealand Catholic Bishops' 2020 general election statement

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops' [2020 general election statement](#) draws on Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'*: *'Everything is connected. Concern for the environment needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.'*



Voters are also being asked to respond to two referendum questions on euthanasia and making recreational cannabis legal. In reflecting on these questions, the bishops say, 'we again need to look at the wider picture; asking how the proposed

law changes will affect the vulnerable and our connectedness to one another.' More information on the Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand's 2020 Election statement is available in the *September Welcom*.



Election 2020: make your vote count From the Presbyterian Moderator

'Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities for there is no authority except that which God has established.' *Romans 13:1.*

Right Rev Fakaofa Kaio, Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, is urging people to vote. *'There are many who argue, and who believe strongly, that State and Church affairs should not be intertwined and merged together. That they should be far apart from each other. New Zealand has a history of Church and State working together for the betterment of the nation. Though, in later years the two seem to be significantly apart. Whatever your view, and stance, please in this year's General Election, make your vote.'*

Election 2020 Methodist

The Methodist Alliance election priorities to reduce poverty lift benefit levels and abatement thresholds.

The Methodist Alliance of national alliance of social service agencies is calling on political candidates to increase benefits and the income threshold at which benefits are cut so that people on benefits can get back to work, contribute to the economic recovery and lift themselves out of poverty.

In addition to increasing benefits and raising the benefit abatement threshold to the equivalent of 15 hours per week at the minimum wage, the Methodist Alliance also calls for the recommendations of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group report *Whakamana Tāngata: Restoring Dignity to Social Security in New Zealand* to be put in place.

The abatement threshold must also be raised. This is the amount of money a person on a benefit can earn before the benefit is cut. It was set up in 1986 based on 15 hours work per week at the minimum wage, which at the time, represented \$80 per week. It is still only \$90.

Catholic Social Justice Week



During Catholic Social Justice Week (6–12 September) Caritas focussed on social justice principles as a framework to interpret social issues and to take action to seek social justice – **Easy as CST: Unlocking the Church's potential *Māmā noa, pēnei i te CST: Te tuku i ngā Pūmanawa o te hāhi kia whai hua.***

Human dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity, stewardship, common good, participation, and preferential option for the poor, distributive justice, and the promotion of peace are eight Catholic Social Teachings (CST) that underpin ethical decisions and actions.

'The Church's teachings are a rich treasure that help us to apply Gospel values such as love, peace, justice, compassion and community to today's issues, enabling us to work towards building a just and fair society,' said Caritas Director Julianne Hickey.

The CST resources offer another tool to help us think about Election 2020 and what policies we want to support.

Participation
Nāu te Rourou,
Nāku te Rourou

Common Good
He Painga mā te
Katoa

Distributive Justice
Te Tika ka Tohaina

Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
He Whakaaro Nui mā te
Hunga Rawakore

Stewardship
Kaitiakitanga

Human Dignity
Te Mana o te
Tāngata

Election 2020 resources



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Talking Cents

Talking Cents is an ecumenical group charged by the Auckland Anglican Diocesan Council to promote an alternative to current economic and political thought and to encourage debate within the church. People are encouraged to distribute these articles widely. This contribution is from Anton Spelman (Ngāti Hikairo) and Jean Brookes, both parishioners of St Matthew-in-the-City in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand.

Holding it all together with kindness

We are in a highly pragmatic election campaign where important questions about the future direction of Aotearoa New Zealand are still up in the air. A number of contemporary New Zealand think-tanks have highlighted key assumptions that underpin our current situation. We believe these need major attention as we shape up the future direction for our country.¹ It is possible to distil, from the work of these different groups, some core components of

¹ Economic and Social Research Aotearoa. <https://esra.nz/future-proofing-aotearoa-new-zealand-life-covid-19/> <https://esra.nz/taking-the-initiative-in-a-time-of-crisis/>.

a framework to guide the development of a short, medium and long-term future, post Covid-19, one that we could all be proud of.

Our settler history shows enduring links with key western world-view values that focus on individual achievement in the way we structure and operate our public life, and in the way we measure and reward success. There is, however, a strong egalitarian dimension within Pākehā culture that insists on the importance of forging links across traditional barriers rather than maintaining rigid social distinctions. This egalitarian impulse has been seen by many change agents as an important key to unlocking movement on bias and prejudice in personal behaviour and in the oppressive systems and processes that regulate the way we live in communities.

Māori history, on the other hand, shows an equally enduring commitment to collectivist values that focus on economic outcomes for the whole group as well as individuals within it. The colonisation history of Aotearoa documents the exclusion of Māori from the processes of

community governance by defining us from a non-Māori perspective. The obvious results are usually presented as Māori failure rather than a failure of the system.²

The highly contentious 'full and final settlement' dimension of the current Treaty of Waitangi settlement process highlights the unfinished business that exists with respect to constitutional change, i.e. securing the rangatiratanga rights of Māori alongside those of Tangata Tiriti in the future governance arrangements of the country.³

This points us to the need for a new framework for our time, one based on a complete transformation of the principles and values which have informed our nation's history to the present. In the first part of this article, we reflect on the ongoing problems associated with four of our currently-held principles and values

² Ranginui Walker. (2004) *Ka whawhai tonu mātou: Struggle without end* (Rev. ed.). Auckland: Penguin.

³ *The Report of Matike Mai Aotearoa – The Independent Working Group on Constitutional Transformation*. <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/MatikeMaiAotearoaReport.pdf>.

that shape the way we manage our public life. The picture overall is not flattering. However, it provides us with a useful overview of how well we are doing at present. It also provides a platform for transformative change, a base on which we can create a better future for a much wider range of New Zealanders than is the case at present.

Currently, individualistic values are dominant, where the primary accountability is to ourselves and our immediate whānau for the way we live. This means achievement and success are measured primarily in terms of individual characteristics. On this basis, the effort of individuals who see the world collectively is excluded, discounted or denied.

Wealth creation as reward is primarily for individual effort and measured in monetary terms. The measurement of wealth typically excludes a measurement of the impact on the environment and on communities that are structurally marginalised. The evidence of negative outcomes is clearly seen in our

Salvation Army – Voting, your part in the future of our country

The Salvation Army is calling on everyone to be active citizens in the 2020 Election and vote on Election Day, 17 October. A **General Election 2020 Issues Booklet** has been prepared by the Policy and Parliamentary Unit. Transformational change is the hope expressed in the Salvation Army's election 2020 resource material.

'Child poverty, homelessness and inequality were significant matters of concern that have been hugely amplified by the pandemic. There is a hope that the opportunity that comes from shared pain of this health and economic crisis can, through our collective effort and goodwill, create transformational change where inequality and poverty can be radically reduced or even eradicated.'

Additional Election 2020 resources, including short videos, slides, and documents, are also available on the [website](#).

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TALKING CENTRS

health, education, housing and employment statistics.

A market approach is taken to the operation of capital. Market values reinforce the focus of effort on growth in the economy at the expense of equity and justice. The rich/poor gap is ever-widening; funding the affluence of the few has become the burden of the many.

Humanity exercises the controlling interest with respect to the environment; this is at the expense of all other parties in the natural order. The position has been greatly influenced by an excessively anthropocentric interpretation of Genesis chapter one, especially verses 26 and 28.⁴

"We could transform, restructure, and re-present the above principles and values for the future in an integrated way."

To find out how, read the full article [here](#).

Election 2020: Referendums

At this year's general election, along with voting in a new government, we can vote in two referendums: the End of Life Choice and Cannabis legalisation and Control referendums.

End of Life Choice referendum

You can vote on whether the End of Life Choice Act 2019 should come into force. The Act would give people with a terminal illness the option of requesting assisted dying.

The referendum question is:

Do you support the End of Life Choice Act 2019 coming into force?

You can choose 1 of these 2 answers:

1. Yes, I support the End of Life Choice Act 2019 coming into force.
2. No, I do not support the End of Life Choice Act 2019 coming into force.



SOURCE: REFERENDUMS.GOV.TZ

Cannabis legalisation and control referendum – you can vote on whether the recreational use of cannabis should become legal.

The referendum question is:

Do you support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill?

You can choose 1 of these 2 answers:

1. Yes, I support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill.
2. No, I do not support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill.

TO THE VOTERS OF NEW ZEALAND

AT THE UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO VOTE IN A BINDING REFERENDUM ON THE END OF LIFE CHOICE ACT 2019. WE, THE UNDERSIGNED RELIGIOUS LEADERS, WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU OUR GRAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE FINAL FORM OF THIS ACT.

We speak out of our extensive experience of caring for the dying. We know the effectiveness of compassionate end of life palliative care – care that is able to address not just the physical suffering of people who are dying, but also their emotional, spiritual and psychological suffering, as well as that of whānau and friends.

Medical practices that are part of good end-of-life care – ceasing treatment, Do Not Resuscitate Orders, Advanced Care Directives and turning off life support – are already legal and part of our health care choices and are not part of this proposed law.

The referendum question is not about the desirability of some form of 'assisted dying'. Rather, we are being asked to vote on a specific piece of legislation – the End of Life Choice Act. The key consideration for all of us is the robustness and safety of this Act. **Our concerns are about the lack of safeguards in the Act and the dangers it would present.**

We note that the Act differs in the quality of its processes and safeguards from other laws overseas:

- The Act is not just designed for a small number of hard cases. It is broader than laws in Victoria and the United States because it allows both assisted suicide and euthanasia.
- This is not an Act of 'last resort' – there is no requirement to try effective treatments or palliative care. There is also no corresponding right in the proposed law for people to access palliative care.
- People will be able to access an assisted death without being in any physical pain. Overseas statistics show people choose assisted death primarily out of a fear of being a burden and/or being disabled.¹
- The Act does not require a patient to discuss their decision with a family member or other significant person. All eligible persons, 18 years and over, could choose an assisted death without family knowing.
- There is no mandatory psychological assessment or effective screening for depression. Research shows that requests for an assisted death are commonly influenced by depression², something that is extremely difficult to detect and often mistaken for 'appropriate sadness'.
- The NZ Medical Association and Hospice NZ, who oppose the Act,³ share concerns that it lacks processes enabling clinicians to be confident a person is making their request free of pressure from others.
- The two doctor 'safeguard' is weak; neither of the doctors need to have met the person previously.
- There is no mandatory stand-down period as there is in other countries – under the Act, a person could be dead less than 4 days after diagnosis.
- Unlike laws overseas, there is no requirement for independent observers or witnesses at any stage.
- The Act does not require a person to be assessed for competency at the time when the lethal dose is being administered, as is the case with laws overseas.

The referendum is binding, meaning the Act cannot be changed - it will be enacted in its current form.

We are also concerned that the practice of assisted suicide and euthanasia will become normalised over time, leading to a broadening of the criteria for eligibility as seen overseas. There is also evidence showing that people choose assisted death because of a lack of adequate care options.⁴ There is a risk this will also happen in New Zealand, especially because effective palliative care is not yet universally available to all.

We acknowledge the importance of exercising freedom of choice. At the same time there is a need to balance individual choice with the common good of society. On balance, we believe that the significant weaknesses and dangers of the Act strongly outweigh the benefits that supporters of euthanasia seek.

Even those who favour some form of assisted death have many reasons to Vote NO to the End of Life Choice Act.

Archbishop Philip Richardson	Primate, Senior Bishop of the New Zealand Pakeha Dioceses and Bishop of Diocese of Waikato & Taranaki	Archbishop Don Tamihere	Primate, Pihopa o Aotearoa and Pihopa o Te Taiarāwhiti
Bishop Jay Behan	Diocesan and Bishop of Diocese of Waikato & Taranaki	Rev Setaita Taumoepou K. Veikune	President, Methodist Church of New Zealand
Bishop Steve Burgess	Church of Confessing Anglicans, Aotearoa New Zealand	Pastor Adam White	Leader, New Life Churches of New Zealand
Commissioner Mark Campbell	Regional Director, C3 Churches Pacific Territory	Bishop Mark Whitfield	Lutheran Church of New Zealand
Bishop Patrick Dunn	Territory Commander, Salvation Army, New Zealand	Bishop Ross Bay	Anglican Diocese of Auckland
Dr Mustafa Farouq OSM	President of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference; Catholic Diocese of Auckland	Bishop Steven Benford	Anglican Diocese of Dunedin
Rev Tavita Joseph Filemoni	President, The Federation of Islamic Associations of NZ (FIANZ)	Bishop Peter Carrell	Anglican Diocese of Christchurch
Charles Hewlett	General Secretary, Wesleyan Samoan Methodist Church of New Zealand & Australia	Cardinal John Dew	Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington
Rev. Brett Jones	National Leader of the Baptist Churches of NZ	Bishop Michael Dooley	Catholic Diocese of Dunedin
Right Reverend Fakaofa Kaio	National Superintendent (Acting), Wesleyan Methodist Church of NZ	Bishop Justin Duckworth	Anglican Diocese of Wellington
Metropolitan Myron	Moderator, The Presbyterian Church in New Zealand	Pastor Max Falelutolu	Senior Pastor, Tūhāi Day Community Church, Wellington
Rev Dr Stuart Lange	New Zealand Greek Orthodox Church	Bishop Michael Gien	Catholic Diocese of Auckland - Auxiliary
Pastor David MacGregor	National Director, New Zealand Christian Network	Bishop Andrew Hedge	Anglican Diocese of Waipapu
Rev Andrew Marshall	National Director, Vineyard Churches Aotearoa NZ	Bishop Stephen Lowe	Catholic Diocese of Hamilton
Pastor Peter Mortlock	Senior Pastor, Grace Vineyard Church Christchurch	Pastor Steve Maina	Anglican Diocese of Nelson
	National Director, Alliance Churches of New Zealand	Bishop Paul Martin SM	The Light of All Nations Church, Wellington
	Senior Pastor, City Impact Churches of NZ	Bishop Te Kōwhiri Pihachau	Catholic Diocese of Christchurch
		Bishop Waitohariki Quayle	Pihopātanga o Te Taiarāwhiti
		Rt Revd Dr Eleanor Sanderson	Pihopātanga o Te Upoko o Te Ika
		Bishop Richard Wallace	Assistant Anglican Bishop of Wellington
		Rev Brian Walsh	Pihopātanga o Te Waipounamu
			Local Administrator, Catholic Diocese of Palmerston North

Authorised by Archbishop Philip Richardson, 566 Mangorei Road, New Plymouth

¹ See Oregon Death with Dignity 2019 Data Summary, page 12. <http://tiny.cc/0rgepa2019>
² See, for example, Chochinov HK, Wilson KG, and Smith M, et al. Desire for death in the terminally ill. *Am J Psychiatry*. 1995;152:1185-1191.
³ See <https://www.nzma.org.nz/news/in-important-choice-end-of-life-choice-act-referendum-fact-sheet>; <https://www.hospice.org.nz/resources/end-of-life-choice-act-our-concerns/euthanasia-our-opinion/>
⁴ See, for example, Herr L, Cottle M, and Scott J. The "Normalization" of Euthanasia in Canada: the Cautionary Tale Continues. *World Medical Journal*. https://www.wmj.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/newwmj_2_2020_WEB.pdf

⁴ *The Bible – New Revised Standard Version* <https://www.biblestudytools.com/nrs/genesis/1.html>

Election 2020

A Star Chart for the Parties on their promises to reduce inequality

Which policies are most likely to make good progress to reduce wealth and income inequality?


Eight major Parties have been scrutinised for their commitment to addressing inequality with policies proven to reduce wealth and income inequality. **The Equality Network**, a group of New Zealand organisations, including NZCCSS, united by the vision of a more equal Aotearoa New Zealand, have released their Party Scorecard, giving up to three gold stars, for policies likely to have a very positive impact, or a black star for no policy, or policies likely to have a negative impact.

Read the full Policy Matrix for Party policies on addressing inequality [here](#).

Find out how each of the parties scored at equalitynetwork.org.nz/election2020.



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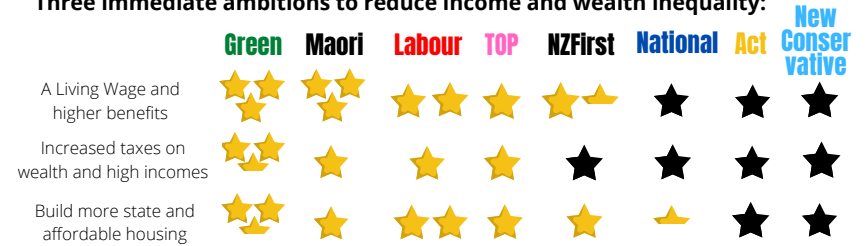
 **EqualityNetwork**
Scorecard of the Parties equalitynetwork.org.nz/election2020

We are a network of organisations that share a vision for a more balanced economy and fairer nation. We ranked the main political parties on their policies to reduce income and wealth inequality. See how we decided on these scores at:

Our Overall Policy Ranking for each Party:



Three immediate ambitions to reduce income and wealth inequality:



Seven long-term commitments to reduce inequality:



Likely to have very positive impact (★★★★★)
 Likely to make good progress (★★★★)
 Unlikely to progress but not likely to worsen the situation (★★★☆☆)
 No policy or likely to have a negative impact (★☆☆☆☆)

This Scorecard is authorised by Prudence Stone, 1/61 Severn St. Island Bay Wellington 6023

Election 2020 resources



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Tick for Kids Party Score Card

NZCCSS supports the [Tick4Kids](#) campaign to make children's interests a central focus for Election 2020.

New Zealand's main political parties were asked by Tick for Kids whether they support action on 40 evidence-based policies that the Tick for Kids members advocate for children's and young people's well-being.

The following 6 scorecards based on Parties' survey responses were produced, providing another important tool to help you vote on election day.

Tick 4 Kids Party Scorecard		Education measures				
		Enough learning support to ensure full participation of all children	Reduce child to teacher ratios, with support for ongoing professional development	To Res. Sign & Heritage Studies compulsory in schools	A Child-centred approach to all education reform	Establishment of an independent complaints mechanism
Labour	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓
NZ First	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓
Green	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National	?	?	?	?	?	?
Act	~	~	~	~	~	~
Maori	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TOP	✓	✓	?	✓	?	?

Legend: ✓ Yes, ✗ No, ? Need more evidence, ~ Skip this question, ? No response

Tick 4 Kids Party Scorecard		Inclusivity & Connection measures					
		Fund communities to support those with long term conditions	More Youth Development funding & investment	More public funding for Early Childhood Education	Adult Education programs in every community	Free public transport for people who need it most	Free internet access in low-income communities
Labour	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NZ First	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?
Green	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Act	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Maori	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TOP	✓	✓	?	✓	~	✓	✓

Legend: ✓ Yes, ✗ No, ? Need more evidence, ~ Skip this question, ? No response

Tick 4 Kids Party Scorecard		Health & Mental Health measures					
		More targeted Quit services & Addiction support	Stop children's exposure to unhealthy advertising	Increased funding for Community-led child-centred health promotion	Increased support for caregivers & community support providers	Supported living options for families with longterm needs	Remove renewal fee for the Pharmacy Card
Labour	✓	?	?	✓	✓	?	?
NZ First	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?
Green	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	?
National	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Act	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Maori	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TOP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?

Legend: ✓ Yes, ✗ No, ? Need more evidence, ~ Skip this question, ? No response

Tick 4 Kids Party Scorecard		Environmental measures					
		Strict regulations that stop non-sustainable practices	Clean up & protect our rivers, lakes & foreshores	Fund cycleways & low emissions transport options	Support for local gov. planning to be eco-friendly	Fund & Incentive sustainable enterprises	Fund & Incentive community climate action initiatives
Labour	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NZ First	?	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?
Green	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Act	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Maori	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TOP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Legend: ✓ Yes, ✗ No, ? Need more evidence, ~ Skip this question, ? No response

Tick 4 Kids Party Scorecard		Income and Welfare measures							
		A living wage for all	Welfare increases	Individualised benefits	To raise child support	Increase tax on rich to pay for more welfare	More skills training	Limit political donations	Extend collective bargaining laws
Labour	?	✓	?	✓	?	✓	?	?	✓
NZ First	?	?	?	✓	✗	✓	?	?	?
Green	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Act	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Maori	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TOP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?

Legend: ✓ Yes, ✗ No, ? Need more evidence, ~ Skip this question, ? No response

Tick 4 Kids Party Scorecard		Housing measures						
		A housing strategy to meet demand	Review the social allocation system	Upgrade existing housing stock	Expand the Crown Land program	Raise the Accommodation Supplement	A Rental Warrant of Fitness	Improve Prison & State Care Discharge & Planning
Labour	✓	?	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓
NZ First	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	?	?	✓
Green	✓	?	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓
National	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Act	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Maori	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TOP	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	✓	✓	✓

Legend: ✓ Yes, ✗ No, ? Need more evidence, ~ Skip this question, ? No response

My Whare – One Answer to the Homelessness of Youth



VisionWest Community Trust

Youth homelessness is a key issue in New Zealand with over half the New Zealand homeless population being under the age of 25. Youth homelessness is driven largely by rangatahi transitions out of care, youth leaving the justice system with inadequate supports, and the rise of mental health struggles amongst vulnerable young people.

In 2019, as part of our fight to end homelessness, VisionWest Community Trust launched a youth housing programme called “My Whare”.

My Whare is an innovative housing solution to youth homelessness, placing state of the art one-bedroom studios on residential properties for the use of youth who have had a challenging start. The programme includes supportive mentoring from the host family to support the young resident to define and reach education and employment goals. The young person also receives connection to community through shared meals and experiences, while being given the space to grow independently.

Designed by Pat de Pont at SGA Architects, each My Whare is able to be transported on a trailer.

A year on, the first of the My Whare units have been completed. Transported at night to avoid traffic, they are sitting in storage waiting for host families to be allocated.

VisionWest believe this programme can start turning the tide on youth homelessness and provide the sense of hope homeless youth need for a brighter future.



An insight into youth housing in Christchurch

Like many places, Christchurch has limited housing options for youth, at Youth Service we have little resources available to assist young people with this essential need.



with either Kāinga Ora or Otautahi Community Housing Trust is lengthy, and it is extremely rare for our clients without dependents to

get accommodation through this means. The wait for our young parents for social housing is often over 3 months or clients may get referred to transitional housing if it is available. Transitional housing options can be accessed through Vision West, Methodist Mission and Emerge Aotearoa. Transitional housing is assessed on the young person's needs and can be declined if the provider does not think it is suitable or feels that it is unsafe for the young person based on other people already accessing housing at the same location.

YMCA and Salvation Army are some newer options for housing, however both only accept referrals for over 18 year olds. YMCA requires young people to be in education

YMCA and Salvation Army are some newer options for housing.

and Salvation Army only takes referrals for males once they turn 18. These options are not overly helpful for our clients as the only clients we have over 18 years of age are young parents and these placements are not suitable for them to go to with a baby.

A lot of our young people struggle to get private rentals as people are often reluctant to rent to youth, often our clients don't have references and particularly for young people under 18 they can't sign a tenancy without a guarantor, as a lot of our

A lot of our young people struggle to get private rentals as people are often reluctant to rent to youth.

young people have had family breakdowns this is not an option.

We can place clients in Emergency housing, the young person needs to have exhausted all other options and not have anywhere else they can stay. Emergency Housing options include motels and backpackers that have been approved by MSD this includes the YWCA. These are only option

At times availability to access emergency housing is limited especially around school and public holidays.

for emergency situations and it is important that we assess whether it is suitable for the young people depending on if they have a baby and how stable their mental health is. At times availability to access emergency housing is limited especially around school and public holidays and the Christmas new year period. We also need to take into account that probation also put their clients in some of the motels that are approved for our young people and so we need to assess their vulnerability to see if it is suitable.

With Emergency Housing clients need to apply every 7 days for this assistance, they need to be proactively looking for accommodation options and provide evidence of this.

As described most of the options available for housing have considerable barriers for young people we do a lot of work with young people to explore what options are available with all family or friends,

unfortunately couch surfing can at times be seen as a safer option than emergency housing depending on the young person's circumstances. Due to the complexity of our young people's situation it is often challenging for them to find placements that are safe and stable. When placements do breakdown especially if

It is often challenging for them to find placements that are safe and stable.

there is family harm involved emergency accommodation is the only option and again we need to assess how safe this will be for the young person if there is significant risk to their safety.

Cheryl Yusaf
Family Works

At Youth Service we work with young people receiving the Youth Payment who are aged between 16–17 years of age where it has been assessed that they are unable to live at home due to either safety concerns or a relationship breakdown with their parents. We also work with those receiving the Young

The wait for a property with either Kāinga Ora or Otautahi Community Housing Trust is lengthy.

Parent Payment who are 16–19 years of age and have had a baby, they may not have had a family breakdown and are still able to live with their parents.

We can arrange a phone screening for social housing for our clients, however the wait for a property

More evidence to lift core benefits

This election, NZCCSS is calling for an evidence-based approach to income support that provides a liveable income and not a poverty-driven benefit.

The Welfare Expert Advisory Group (WEAG) commissioned research on income adequacy and found that for a variety of different family circumstances, income support payments had a shortfall from \$50 per week to \$320 per week.

Findings from two further studies support the [WEAG report's](#) call to increase core benefits.

NZIER report supports the lifting

The New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER), has released a [report](#) that will also benefit the economy by 'creating a short-term fiscal stimulus and increasing productivity and GDP'.

Welfare advocate Key Brereton, a member of the Government's WEAG, said the report showed there was no reason to keep benefits at 'sub-poverty rates'.

'And by raising benefits the Government can ensure more money goes into local communities and local businesses because our people spend any extra money on the necessities of life they can't otherwise afford.

'All that is holding us back is an almost wilful prejudice against people who have had the misfortune to end up on a benefit.'

New survey on Covid-19 income relief payment

Early findings from [a new survey](#) gives more weight to calls to urgently lift benefit levels..

The [University of Auckland](#), [Child Poverty Action Group](#), [Auckland Action Against Poverty](#) and [FIRST Union](#) are collaborating on a survey to compare the experiences of people receiving different types of income support (Job Seeker Support; Sole Parent Support; Supported Living Payment; Youth Payment; Young Parent Payment).

Louise Humpage, lead researcher, at the University of Auckland, found those receiving the Covid-19 income relief payment (\$490 a week) are fairing better than those on other income support payments (\$250). This is in spite of the Government's \$25 a week increase to benefits announced by the Government earlier in March. NZCCSS looks forward to reading the findings of this report, when they become available.

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A game changer on its way from the Wellington City Mission

A transformative community hub is on its way to the Wellington region thanks to \$10 million shovel-ready grant to the Wellington City Mission for a Whakamaru providing 35 homes for around 40 Wellington residents.

The Mission will also transform its other services, to build an inclusive community, centralise the Mission's services into one location, while also providing a community café, cooking classes and a social supermarket.

'The building project "Whakamaru", a name gifted by Mana Whenua meaning "to shelter, to safeguard, to protect", is set to be a game changer for the Wellington region,' says Murray Edridge, Wellington City Missioner.

'Whakamaru will help us respond to some of Aotearoa New Zealand's greatest challenges such as housing supply and homelessness, food insecurity and social isolation. This will give us far greater capacity to serve and support some of our city's most vulnerable.'

Selwyn Foundation invites you to join our first Ageing and Spirituality Webinar

Due to COVID-19 we have moved our annual conferences, seminars, workshops etc to virtual events.

We invite you to join us on **Wednesday 14 October 2020 from 7pm–9pm** for an interactive webinar where Selwyn Foundation Spiritual Director Reverend Caroline Leys and Hospice NZ Clinical Advisor Professor Rod MacLeod will discuss the topic **'The Last Stage of Human Growth is Mortality'**, they will discuss questions from the audience.

The focus of the discussion will be on older people, although what we discuss will have some relevance for death from mid-life years, but not so much relevance for children and young adults.

All stages of life provide opportunity for growth and discovery, especially if we meet life challenges with an open heart and mind. Elders, in spite of losses and physical declines in later life frequently report feeling content, research shows they have lower rates of psychopathology than the general population. Older people often see themselves as resilient because of adversity and their ongoing skill, in negotiating and overcoming

challenges and losses over time. Well engaged mortality strengthens growth. The knowledge of negotiating the personal concept of mortality, that is our life as we know it is finite. This can challenge us, it can bring to the surface questions such as:

- Have we made a difference?
- Are we leaving a legacy?
- Are we surrounded by love or are we alone?
- Do we need to find reconciliation because of difficulty?

These questions are in the realm of spirituality, they are philosophical questions about meaning and purpose. However, we may be frightened of everything we know coming to an end, or it may be painful to have the honest discussion, we may find it difficult to raise the matters that concern us.

It is our belief that those of us who work with people near the end of their life, need to develop our



fluency to open opportunities for these conversations, and to be ready to have the conversations that are difficult.

On the Webinar, Rod and Caroline will engage in these conversations. They will explore all these factors and how family encounter and cope, or not, with what their elder is really needing and wanting in the last stage of their life. Rod and Caroline invite you to join them to advance the discussion.

For more information about the Webinar and the presenters please click [here](#).

Registration is now open via [eventbrite](#).

We need you

Family carers aged 16–24 years who care for a family member living with a disability or long-term chronic condition

Pacific family carers experience high levels of unmet needs and poor access to health, education and social services. A team of researchers from the University of Auckland, Pacific Home Care, the Tongan Health Society, and NZ Council of Christian Social Services want to help ensure our health, education and social services meet their needs. To do this, the team need to understand the experiences of younger family carers and help find ways to ensure their needs are met.



Dr Ofa Dewes

With funding from the National Science Challenge for Ageing Well, the study is being led by Dr Ofa Dewes of the University of Auckland's School of Nursing and Department of Molecular Medicine & Pathology. If you are interested to learn more and take part in the study, please contact Ofa on (09) 373 7599 extn 83364 or email: o.dewes@auckland.ac.nz for the participant information sheet and consent form. Participants who agree to take part in the interview will receive a gift voucher valued at \$30 in acknowledgement of their time and contribution to the study.



CC9996 August 2019

Seniorline

Navigating services
for older people



National information on how to get help at home, community health services and rest homes.

09 375 4395

or 0800 725 463

8am - 4pm | Monday - Friday

www.seniorline.org.nz

Good Information Sharing Regional Workshops

A joint-venture capability development programme of Social Services Providers Aotearoa and NZCCSS.

The half-day workshop will support the implementation of the information provisions in the Oranga Tamariki Act that came into force on 1 July 2019. It is an interactive

session that aims to promote good information sharing practice across professionals working in child welfare and protection.

The workshop is open to front line staff as well as supervisors and managers from both NGOs and Oranga Tamariki and aims to:

- support consistent understanding of the information sharing requirements
- help build strong regional connections.

Upcoming Workshops

- [Auckland \(West\) – Thursday October 15th – Te Pai Centre](#)
- [Auckland \(North\) – Wednesday October 21st – Netball North Harbour](#)
- [Auckland \(Central\) – Tuesday October 20th – Anglican Trust for Women & Children \(ATWC\)](#)
- [Auckland \(South\) – Wednesday October 14th – Life Conference Centre](#)
- [Nelson – Wednesday October 21st – Safeguarding Children, Sports House](#)
- [Greymouth – Tuesday 13th October – Ashley Hotel](#)

Links to the registration

<https://www.sspa.org.nz/events/capability-development-programme/18-events/342-information-sharing>

'ko te reo taikura o te whakaaio marama'

Language is the key to understanding

Aotearoa New Zealand hit a milestone on Monday 14 September when over one million people came together at midday to celebrate Māori language week, and te reo Māori as the official language since 1979.

'This is the largest, single celebration of te reo Māori in history. We have never had this many people celebrating our language together at the same time,' said Māori Language Commissioner Professor Rawinia Higgins.

It was 48 years ago in 1972 that a petition with over 30,000 signatures was presented to the government calling for te reo Māori to be taught in schools. Seven years later te reo Māori was officially recognised.

Although compulsory te reo

Māori in schools has not been achieved, the social and cultural climate for learning te reo and tikanga has never been more positive. Here at the NZCCSS Secretariat, we celebrated Māori language week with a te reo Māori lesson and waita, 'Te aroha'.

Fred Astle, Tumu Whakarae Māori, Head of Māori Development, Vision Community West Trust, and member of the NZCCSS Child and Family Policy Group, has forwarded the following Te Kākano Māori language resources, phrases and songs 'to support you in standing to speak and sing in the Māori language'.



Tōku ake haerenga i te reo Māori (Personal Te Reo Journey)

[Pukamata \(Facebook\)](#)

Whakahuatanga (Pronunciation)

[Te Kākano - Learning to Pronounce Kupu Maori \(words\)](#)

Tōku Reo Series

[Te Kākano - Tōku Reo Series 1](#)

[Te Kākano - Tōku Reo Series 2](#)

[Te Kākano - Tōku Reo Series 3](#)

[Te Kākano - Tōku Reo Series 4](#)

[Te Kākano - Tōku Reo Series 5](#)

Te Kākano, Te Pihinga, Te Māhuri, Te Kōhure

1. [Te Kākano Beginners Level 1 - Wahanga Tuatahi](#)
2. [Te Pihinga Intermediate Level - Wahanga Tuatahi](#)
3. [Te Māhuri Upper Intermediate Level 1 - Wahanga Tuatahi](#)
4. [Te Kōhure Advance Level 1 - Wahanga Tuatahi](#)

Waiata

1. [Ka Waiata](#)
2. [He Honore](#)
3. [Purea Nei](#)
4. [Māku E Mihi Atu](#)



Kete Kupu

Word Basket

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New Zealand Council of
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