

CHiLD POVERTY ACTION GROUP

2019 SUMMIT

18 November



Summit 2019 theme

Whakamana Tāngata: Where to from here?

Child poverty, and the need to substantially reduce it, has been at the forefront of public policy since the election in 2017.

The Families Package was a beginning. Valuable recent developments include a newly minted Child Poverty Reduction Act, an in-depth report on welfare reform from the Welfare Expert Advisory Group (WEAG), the first official Government child poverty reduction targets, and a fresh range of statistics. Measures and benchmarks are important priorities. But progress on reducing poverty for the worst-off children is yet to be seen. The need for charity assistance is at an all-time high, and while there is increased Government spending on special needs grants and emergency housing needs these interventions are far from adequate.

Late into 2019, 174,000 children living in the most impoverished, desperate situations are yet to see any real gain. Thus far, uptake of the extensive WEAG recommendations has been disappointing, with Government announcements providing little relief for the children living in the deepest poverty. The limited government response to the WEAG's Whakamana Tangata is frustrating, and the lack of public focus is perplexing.

This year's CPAG social welfare summit, being held in Wellington on 18 November, offers Government and stakeholders some answers to the question: when it comes to reducing child poverty, where to from here?

Join CPAG and friends, and hear from the experts speaking at our Summit about how we can make Aotearoa a better place for children and families - and how this Government can be convinced to make the bold steps to achieve the transformational impact it promised.

Summit 2019 Programme of speakers

Time	Topic	Presenter	Chair
8:30am - 9:00am	Registration		
9:00 - 9:05	Mihi Whakatau, event opening	Trevor McGlinchey 5 min	Tony Dowell
9:05 - 9:20	Opening address/The task ahead	Judge Andrew Becroft 15 minutes	
9:20 - 9:35	Recommendations of Whakamana Tāngata, and Child & Youth Wellbeing Strategy.	Innes Asher	
9:35 - 9:50	Upholding the mana of children.	Khylee Quince 15 minutes	
9:50 - 10:15	Q&A/Discussion 25 minutes	Andrew Becroft, Khylee Quince and Innes Asher	
10:15am - 11:00am	Morning tea break		
11:00 - 11:10	Minister's Address	Hon. Carmel Sepuloni 10 minutes	Nikki Turner
11:10am - 11:40am	Theme: Interaction of Work and Welfare 1: How to increase low incomes in welfare and work		
11:10 - 11:25	The Accommodation Supplement	Janet McAllister 15 minutes	
11:25 - 11:40	Fair pay agreements.	Bill Rosenberg CTU 15 minutes	
11:40am - 12:10pm	Theme: Interaction of Work and Welfare 2: How to overcome poverty traps and create work incentives		
11:40 - 11:55	Combining earner tax credit and Working for Families	Susan St John 15 minutes	Mike O'Brien
11:55 - 12:10	Benefit abatements: "Stuck in the 80s"	Moira Lawler and John Zois (Lifewise) 15 minutes	
12:10 - 12:40	Q&A/Discussion 30 minutes	Susan, Janet, Bill, Moira and John	
12:40am - 13:40pm	Lunch (served in foyer)		

13:40pm - 14:00pm	Theme: People with disabilities		
13:40 - 13:50	What are the additional key changes that will help?	Sam Murray 10 minutes	Nikki Turner
13:50 - 14:00	What are the additional key changes that will help?	Kay Brereton 10 minutes	
14:00pm - 14:30pm	Theme: Pushing the State out of the bedroom		
14:00 - 14:15	Why we need individual entitlement.	Ricardo Menendez March (AAAP) 15 minutes	Mike O'Brien
14:15 - 14:30	How we change the system to reach individual entitlement.	Michael Fletcher (VUW) 15 minutes	
14:30 - 15:00	Q&A/Discussion 30 minutes	Ricardo, Michael, Kay and Sam	
15:00pm - 15:20pm	Theme: Action for effective change		
15:00 - 15:20	Taking action for effective change: the tools and the successes	Laura O'Connell Rapira (Action Station) 20 minutes	Janfrie Wakim
15:20 - 15:30	Q&A/Discussion 10 minutes	Laura	
15:30pm - 16:00pm	Open discussion		
15:30 - 16:00	Next steps, where to from here? Galvanising action points and priorities.	Tracey McIntosh 30 minutes	
15:30pm - 16:00pm	Closing		
16:00 - 16:10	Closing remarks	Len Cook, CBE 10 minutes	
16:10 - 16:15	Closing mihi		
16:15pm - 18:00pm	<p>Please join us for an opportunity for networking. Refreshments will be provided</p> <p>Thank you for your attendance at CPAG's 2019 Summit, held with the support of Peter McKenzie Trust</p>		

Summit 2019 Speaker bios

Children's Commissioner Judge Andrew Becroft

Judge Andrew Becroft was appointed the Children's Commissioner for New Zealand for an initial two year period from June 2016. Prior to that he was the Principal Youth Court Judge of New Zealand from 2001 to 2016; and was appointed a District Court Judge in 1996.

After graduating from Auckland University in 1981 with a BA/LLB (Honours) degree, he practised in Auckland until 1986 when he then assisted with the establishment of the Mangere Community Law Centre and worked there until 1993. He then worked as a criminal barrister in South Auckland until his appointment to the District Court in Whanganui, from 1996.

In 2009, Judge Becroft received an award from the Public Relations Institute of New Zealand as Communicator of the Year. In 2010 Judge Becroft was the recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Auckland. In 2018 he was the winner of the Public Service Wellingtonian of the Year Award.

Judge Becroft is a former council member of the Auckland District Law Society and the New Zealand Law Society. He is the Patron of the New Zealand Speak Easy Association Inc., which assists those with various forms of speech impediment, and is the Chairperson of the Board of the Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship (NZ) Inc.

Judge Becroft is married with three children, aged 23, 21 and 18.

Bill Rosenberg (NZCTU)

Dr Bill Rosenberg is Economist and Director of Policy at the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions Te Kauae Kaimahi. Bill Rosenberg is widely published on labour issues, social welfare policy, globalisation and trade, and has been an active trade unionist for 40 years.

Professor Innes Asher

Innes is Professor of Paediatrics in the University of Auckland's Department of Paediatrics: Child and Youth Health, and Respiratory Paediatrician, Starship Children's Health, Auckland. She was awarded the Health Research Council Liley Medal for her research leadership, and the NZ Medical Association Chairs award for her advocacy work. She serves on the Steering Group of New Zealand's National Child and Youth Epidemiology Service. She is Chair of the Global Asthma Network and a WHO Expert on Chronic Respiratory Diseases. She was a member of the Government's Welfare Expert Advisory Group 2018-19. She has been on the Management Committee of CPAG and a CPAG Health Spokesperson since 2000.

Hon. Carmel Sepuloni

Hon Carmel Sepuloni is the Minister for Social Development and the Minister for Disability Issues, as well as Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and Pacific Peoples. She is also the Member of Parliament for Kelston, West Auckland.

Carmel is of Samoan, Tongan and NZ European descent. She was born and raised in New Zealand. She and her husband have a blended family of four boys ranging from 6 to 21 years old.

Outside of politics, Carmel has been a leader in the health and education sectors, including as CEO of New Zealand's only national Pacific disability, mental health and older persons service provider, Vaka Tautua.

As the Minister for Social Development and Disability Issues, Carmel is committed to improving the lives and long-term outcomes of New Zealanders and particularly people in our welfare system. Carmel is currently leading an overhaul of New Zealand's welfare system to ensure it is fair and accessible.

Janet McAllister

Janet McAllister is a researcher, policy advisor and social & cultural commentator. Supervised by Susan St John and Alan Johnson, she prepared the CPAG report *The Accommodation Supplement: The wrong tool to fix the house* (May 2019). She volunteers as Auckland Action Against Poverty treasurer, and works as a Mental Health Foundation policy adviser, highlighting social determinants of mental wellbeing (including risk factors such as colonisation and racism). She is proud editor of *Life on Volcanoes: Contemporary Essays*, which includes an excellent essay about poverty by Tulia Thompson. Janet likes graphs, maps, dancing, conversation, books, cycling, clashing colours and waiata.

Janfrie Wakim

Janfrie Wakim is a founding member of Child Poverty Action Group and currently a Deputy Co-Convenor.

Kay Brereton

Kay Brereton is an experienced advocate for people within the welfare system.

Kay is currently employed as a senior advocate at the Beneficiaries and Unwaged Workers Trust. She is the Co-Convenor of the National Beneficiary Advocates Consultative Group, a group of experts on welfare issues which regularly consults with the Ministry of Social Development. Kay was a member of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group.

She has extensive experience working directly with Work and Income clients, assisting them to access their full and correct benefit entitlement, and to access their statutory review and appeal rights.

Associate Professor Khylee Quince

Khylee is from the iwi of Te Roroa/Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Porou. She is Associate Professor, Director of Māori and Pacific Advancement at Auckland University of Technology, and a researcher for Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga.

She teaches Criminal Law, Advanced Criminal Law and Youth Justice. Khylee has particular research interests in Māori and the criminal justice system, tikanga Māori and the law, restorative justice and alternative dispute resolution, Māori women and the law, and indigenous peoples and the law.

Laura O'Connell Rapira (ActionStation)

Laura O'Connell Rapira (Te Ātiawa, Ngāpuhi, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Whakaue) is the Director of ActionStation, an independent, crowdfunded community campaigning organisation representing over 100,000 New Zealanders acting together to create what we cannot achieve on our own: a society, economy and democracy that serves everyday people and Papatūānuku. She is also the Co-Founder and Board Chair of RockEnrol, a volunteer-powered organisation dedicated to activating the political power of young people.

Len Cook, CBE

Len Cook was New Zealand's Government Statistician from 1992 to 2000, and the UK's National Statistician from 2000 to 2005. He was a member of the Royal Commission on Social Policy in 1987-88, Chair of the board of Superu, and is a member of the Remuneration Authority. Len's prime interests include public administration, population change and public policy, official statistics and the place of science in policy. He regularly works with official statisticians in the Pacific. He was Families Commissioner from 2015 until 2018. He is a long term supporter of CPAG.

Michael Fletcher (Victoria University of Wellington)

Dr Michael Fletcher is a Senior Research Fellow at Victoria University of Wellington's Institute for Governance and Policy Studies. He is an economist with extensive experience as a researcher, academic and policy advisor, specialising in welfare and social assistance policy, employment and employment relations and child poverty. His recent research focus has been on child support and the financial consequences of marital separation. He has published numerous articles on these topics in New Zealand and internationally. Michael was appointed as Independent Specialist Advisor to the 2018/19 Welfare Experts Advisory Group.

Associate Professor Mike O'Brien

Associate Professor Mike O'Brien is an Honorary Academic in the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work at the University of Auckland. He is a member of the CPAG Management Committee and contributed to the two recent CPAG reports on children. He has written extensively in New Zealand and internationally on child poverty, social security and social service changes and social policy. He chaired the Alternative Welfare Working Group in 2011 and is currently working on social investment and its implications for social services.

Moira Lawler and John Zois

Moira Lawler is the Chief Executive of Lifewise, a social innovator that provides a range of services in the community and works with people to create sustainable solutions to complex issues. Lifewise's current focus areas include alternatives to foster care, new pathways to permanent housing for youth and adults experiencing homelessness, and options to combat loneliness in older adults.

John Zois is a beneficiary advocate and peer support volunteer with Lifewise. He has lived experience of homelessness and surviving on a benefit.

Associate Professor Nikki Turner

Nikki is an academic General Practitioner and Director of the Immunisation Advisory Centre, University of Auckland. Nikki's interests are in immunisation and primary health care. She works part time as a General Practitioner at NUHS Broadway Clinic in Wellington.

She is a member of the World Health Organization Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization and Chairs the SAGE Working Group on Measles and Rubella elimination. She represents the RNZCGP (College of General Practitioners) in child health interests, and is a health spokesperson for the Child Poverty Action Group.

Ricardo Menendez March

Ricardo Menendez March is the Coordinator of Auckland Action Against Poverty, a direct action, advocacy and education group mobilising against the neoliberal agenda on jobs, welfare and poverty. AAAP are currently campaigning to end all welfare sanctions, provide livable incomes for all, and build a culture of respect and redistribution at WINZ.

Samuel Murray

Sam Murray manages policy for CCS Disability Action, where he has focused a lot on poverty and income support policy. Sam has worked in the disability sector for 16 years, including 8 years at CCS Disability Action. He has a Master in Public Policy, a Master in International Studies, a Post-Graduate Diploma in Politics, and a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Religious Studies. He lives in Dunedin with his partner, one very active son, three cats, and two rabbits.

Honorary Associate Professor Susan St John

Susan St John is a founding member of Child Poverty Action Group and serves as an economic adviser and spokesperson for the group. She is an Honorary Associate Professor in the Economics Department and the Co-Director of the Retirement Policy and Research Centre at the University of Auckland. Susan has co-edited many of CPAG's flagship publications, the most recent being *The Accommodation Supplement: The wrong tool to fix the house* (2019). Susan has also written many articles on child poverty reduction including *Reflections on the Child Hardship Bill, Policy Quarterly* (2015), and *Does the living wage ensure an adequate income for families? Policy Quarterly* (2017). In 2019 Susan was appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to social policy.

Professor Tony Dowell

Tony Dowell is Professor of Primary Health Care and General Practice, and is also a General Practitioner in Wellington. He has previously worked in General Practice in the UK and Central Africa. Tony's current academic interests include research in mental health care, health services research and communication in health care consultation settings.

Professor Tracey McIntosh

Tracey McIntosh (Tūhoe) is a Professor of Indigenous Studies and Co-Head of Te Wānanga o Waipapa (School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies) at the University of Auckland.

Her recent research focused on incarceration (particularly of Māori and Indigenous peoples), gang whānau issues and issues pertaining to poverty, inequality and social justice. In 2012 she was the Co-Chair of the Children Commissioner's Expert Advisory Group on Solutions to Child Poverty. In 2018-2019 she was a member of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group that released the report *Whakamana Tangata - Restoring Dignity to Social Security*. She is also a member of Te Uepū Hāpai i te Ora - Safe and Effective Justice Advisory Group.

Trevor McGlinchey (Ngāi Tahu)

Trevor is an active member of his marae at Moeraki. He is the long-serving Executive Officer of the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services, an organisation dedicated to working for a just and compassionate society in Aotearoa New Zealand. Trevor was a member of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group, he was also on the reference groups for the Green and White Papers for Vulnerable Children. His previous roles have included establishing a community-owned kaupapa Māori trust providing community initiatives and training and education in Oamaru, as well as a period in the Public Service.

CPAG resources

Summit Proceedings

CPAG Summit 2015, [Welfare fit for families](#), Proceedings.

CPAG Summit 2016, [Investing in children](#), Proceedings.

CPAG Summit 2017, [Beyond Social Investment](#), Proceedings.

CPAG Summit 2018, [Rethinking the welfare system for the 21st century](#), Proceedings.

Working for families

Will children get the help they need? An analysis of effectiveness of policies for children in the worst poverty in 2018 (May 2018)

Progressive universalisation of Working for Families (March 2018)

Priorities for family income support (June 2017)

Welfare system reform & inadequacy of welfare benefits

Relationship Status and the welfare system in Aotearoa New Zealand (July 2019)

The Accommodation Supplement: The wrong tool to fix the house (May 2019)

The further fraying of the welfare safety net (Dec 17)

Barriers to Support: Uptake of the Child Disability Allowance in Otara (Nov 2016)

Benefit sanctions

Benefit sanctions and children: an urgent need for greater clarity (Sept 2014)

Benefit Sanctions: Children not seen - not heard (June 2014)

Benefit Sanctions: creating an invisible underclass of children? (Oct 2013)

Relationship status in the welfare system

Kathryn's Story: How the Government spent well over \$100,000 and 15 years pursuing a chronically-ill beneficiary mother for a debt she should not have (June 2016)

The complexities of relationship in the welfare system and the consequences for children (Dec 2014)

Budget

2018 CPAG Budget Analysis

2019 CPAG Budget Analysis