

# CHiLD POVERTY ACTION GROUP

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## CPAG Expands into the South Island: Christchurch Branch

At the beginning of 2012, CPAG began expanding its official network to the South Island thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of [Dr Bronwyn Hayward](#). After a long stint in the UK and Europe, Bronwyn returned to her home city of Christchurch this year and was keen to become involved with CPAG.

A passionate children's advocate, Bronwyn is currently a Senior Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Canterbury and has lectured internationally on environmental



politics, public participation and youth citizenship. In addition to her academic work, Bronwyn is a former New Zealand Broadcasting Standards Commissioner with experience in children's television and radio production.

CPAG Christchurch's first official gathering tied in with our national Post-Budget Breakfast series. The event was held at Reboot Café, University of Canterbury and attended by over sixty people. The branch's [next meeting](#) is on 28 August.



CPAG Christchurch's first gathering was held on the 25th May — as part of CPAG's nationwide Post-Budget Breakfast series.

## A message from CPAG's Chair

While children's needs and circumstances are the subject of considerable attention, effective action to improve those circumstances, especially for children living in poverty remains conspicuous by its absence.

There are important initiatives such as the work of the Children's Commissioner's expert group on poverty but other events such as the 2012 budget and the narrow focus of the Green Paper on Vulnerable Children ignore the blight that poverty brings to many children's lives.

There can be no argument that we do not know because the research and practice experience fills libraries. The only plausible explanation can be that choices have been made about priorities and poor children are left out.

We need to demand the same priority for children in the distribution of resources and opportunities as we provide for retired people. Not doing so means that we make their lives worse, we abdicate our responsibilities as a society and we create a worse future for everyone. It is time to demand action on behalf of all New Zealand's tamariki and rangatahi - Associate Professor Mike O'Brien..

***“Our guiding principle is the right of every child in New Zealand to food, shelter, education and healthcare”*** - Child Poverty Action Group

## 2012 Appeal: A Fair Go for ALL Kiwi Kids

Lets make 'Working for Families' work for all families

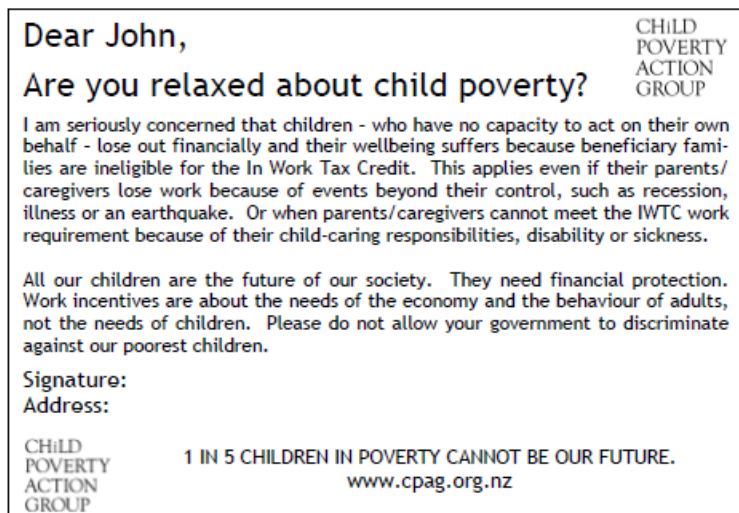
On March 3 - National Children's Day, CPAG launched its first ever appeal campaign: '[A fair go for all kiwi kids: Stop discrimination against our poorest children](#)' in order to raise funds towards the costs of taking our long standing human rights case to the Court of Appeal and beyond if necessary.



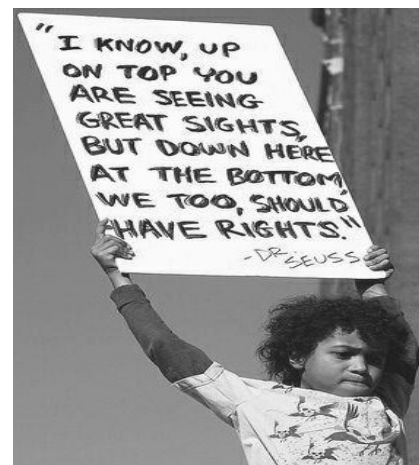
The Appeal was launched with a cinema screening of Bryan Bruce's 'Inside Child Poverty' documentary at Academy Cinema in Auckland. Over eighty guests attended with the highlight being talks by both Bryan and Jazmine Heka, founder of Children against Poverty. The following month, CPAG's Wellington branch also hosted a screening of the documentary at the newly restored Roxy theatre in Miramar, Wellington. With the fabulous location, special guests Bryan Bruce and Tom Scott, the event was a sell out. Both Auckland and Wellington branches of CPAG plan to hold further cinema screenings later in the year. [Watch a clip from the documentary which features CPAG's human rights case.](#)

CPAG is deeply indebted to Bryan for his amazing support towards the Appeal. He has also permitted CPAG to sell DVD copies of 'Inside child Poverty' to raise funds towards the case. [Order your copy now.](#) Tom Scott has also donated a set of his cartoons drawn for the documentary to CPAG which are scheduled to be auctioned on [Trade Me](#) from 23 Aug—2 Sept.

As part of the campaign, CPAG distributed over a thousand 'Dear John, Are you relaxed about child poverty?' postcards to send to John Key in parliament. These emphasise the unfairness of the Working for Families package when it comes to the children of beneficiaries. [Contact CPAG](#) to get your postcards today.



Thus far we have raised just over \$25,000 towards our legal costs, which is half way towards our goal of \$50,000. CPAG has also secured partial funding from the Office of Human Rights Proceedings at the Human Rights Commission and our senior counsel has agreed to provide some pro bono work.. Help us continue to fight for the rights of New Zealand's poorest children by supporting our Appeal. [DONATE NOW](#)



### About the case

Since 2004 CPAG has challenged the Government over its discriminatory In Work Tax Credit (IWTC) which is a government payment to help with the costs of children. CPAG argues that the IWTC is unlawfully discriminatory as it is denied to the families of beneficiaries and this denial keeps many children in poverty while aiming to incentivise their parents to work.

Beneficiary families are ineligible for the IWTC even when work is not available, or when parents cannot meet the IWTC work requirements because of their child-caring responsibilities, disability or sickness.

Families lose their right to the IWTC even when they lose work because of events beyond their control like recession, illness or an earthquake.

In November 2011, the High Court ruled that the IWTC is discriminatory in part. But the High Court said that this discrimination could be justified because the purpose of the IWTC is to incentivise parents into work.

CPAG disagrees. Discrimination cannot be justified when so many beneficiary families are in poverty for reasons outside their control. **This is especially true for children who have no capacity to act in this matter.**

Now we are preparing to appeal on this point to the Court of Appeal and if we fail there, to the Supreme Court.

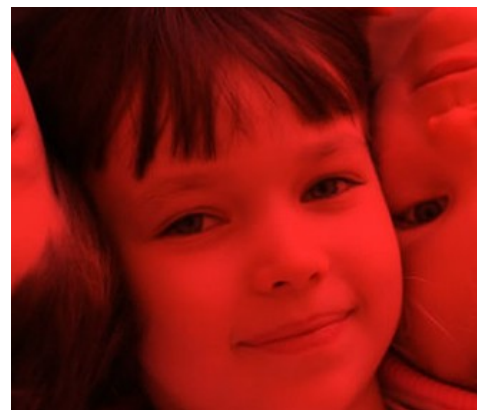
***"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way it treats its children"*** - Nelson Mandela



## CPAG's 13th Annual Post-Budget Breakfast Series

WHANGAREI. AUCKLAND. WELLINGTON. CHRISTCHURCH.

From humble beginnings with a meeting of seven like minded friends at the Auckland City Mission's meeting room in 2000 to major events in four cities with over 300 people attending in 2012, CPAG's annual budget has grown into a well known event amongst social justice and service circles, selling out over the country and reported in [newspapers](#), on [radio](#) and on the [internet](#). CPAG also issued [five press releases](#) regarding the 2012 budget.



### **AUCKLAND: Is the budget relaxed about child poverty?**

**Speakers:** Prof Jonathan Boston, Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University. Co-Chair, Children's Commissioner's Expert Group on Poverty. Dr Fiona Cram, (Ngati Kahungunu), Founder of Katoa Ltd and member of the Children's Commissioner's Expert Group on Poverty. Assoc Prof Susan St John, Economics Dept, University of Auckland and CPAG Economics spokesperson and founding member.

**Chair:** Alan Johnson, CPAG Co-convenor, housing spokesperson and Salvation Army senior analyst.

CPAG's Whangarei branch held a live video stream of the Auckland event at Whangarei hospital.

### **WELLINGTON: Post Budget analysis: How do children fare?**

Each year CPAG partners with the Public Health Association (PHA) to host the Wellington Event. CPAG thanks the PHA for their ongoing assistance and support of this important event.

**Speakers:** Assoc Prof Mike O'Brien, Department of Social Work, University of Auckland and CPAG National Chair. Dr Bill Rosenberg, Economist and Policy Director, New Zealand Council of Trade Unions (NZCTU). Asher Emanuel, Law student and Young leader, Victoria University of Wellington.

**Chair:** Eileen Brown, National executive member, Public Health



### **CHRISTCHURCH: Are we reducing inter-generational inequality?**

**Speakers:** Prof Paul Dalziel, Dept of Economics, Lincoln University. Alternative Welfare Working Group member.

Dr Sue Bagshaw, Paediatrics Department, University of Otago. Youth Health Expert.

**Chair:** Dr Bronwyn Hayward, School of Political and Social Sciences, University of Canterbury and CPAG Christchurch convener

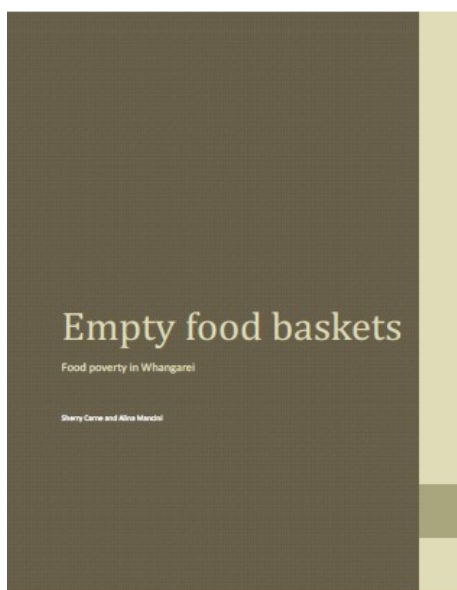
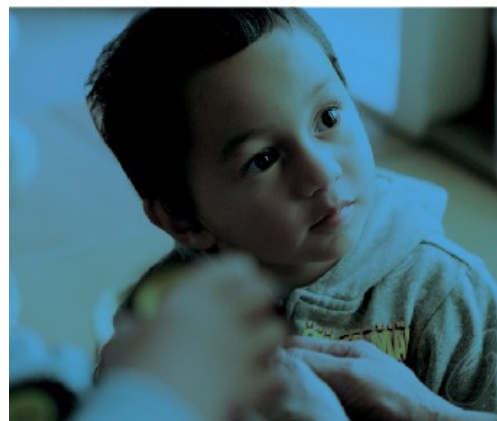
For Budget 2012 resources, including selected presentations and a brief synopsis of all events visit:

<http://www.cpag.org.nz/resources/events/>

***"It's important to view the budget not just as an economic document, but as a reflection of what we value and what really matters to us. What this budget says is we place little or no value on children"*** - Associate Professor Mike O'Brien, CPAG National Chair

## Latest Research Report: Empty Food Baskets

In April, CPAG Whangarei launched its much anticipated research report: [Empty food baskets: food poverty in Whangarei](#). The findings present a compelling picture of food poverty and its effects on children in Whangarei. A significant proportion of children would be going hungry without the current level of food assistance. Given the well-established evidence for the negative impacts of food poverty on children's learning, health and well-being, and the alarming number of children affected in Whangarei, this situation does not bode well for the future health and wellbeing of our community.



The report was well picked up by the media including the [New Zealand Herald](#) and the [Northern Advocate](#). [Radio New Zealand](#) also ran three separate reports throughout the day on the research. Whangarei local television station—[North Television](#) also covered the report's launch. The report also inspired the formation of [Whangarei Kai for Kids](#) by Anne Marie White which collects and distributes food stuffs to families in the area. We wish Anne-Marie all the best with her wonderful initiative.

The research also represents an important milestone for CPAG in that it is the first major monograph publication produced by one of our branches. CPAG warmly thanks its authors Sherry Carne and Alina Mancini for their tireless work, CPAG Whangarei Convener Ngaire Rae for her leadership and Manaia PHO for their generous funding towards the report. Hardcopies of the report are also available for \$12 including postage and packaging. [Order now](#)

## Submission Fatigue? 8 submissions in 6 months!

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*By Donna Wynd, CPAG Chief researcher and policy analyst.*

In the last 18 months the government has focused on slashing and privatising welfare support, while at the same time running a campaign to deal with child abuse.

Welfare reform has been under way for some time, with the Welfare Working Group taking submissions on all of the issues, options and final recommendations papers. The Social Security New Work Tests Incentives and Obligations Amendment Act also required a lengthy submission, and in 2012 came the [Social Security Youth Support and Work Focus Amendment](#) Bill, a complex 68 page Bill that the public was only given 11 working days to submit on.

At the time, CPAG and others made extensive submissions on the risk factors in child abuse and neglect to the government's [Green Paper on Vulnerable Children](#). Then came the Maori Affairs Select Committee's [inquiry into the determinants of wellbeing of Maori children](#). Accordingly, CPAG and others made submissions on this. The Health Select Committee then announced that it, too, was conducting an [inquiry into child abuse](#). More cutting and pasting as the sector prepared a third round of submissions on child abuse in as many months.

For organisations such as CPAG, the choice is one of collaborating in a process increasingly taking on the air of a charade or perhaps influencing policy. Whatever the correct response, the submission blitzkrieg is certainly wearing the resources of the social sector down. As the government stumbles through its incoherent policy maze, children in financially stressed families are becoming even more vulnerable to abuse, neglect, ill health and psychological stress. We have submission fatigue but we can sleep it off. The greater risk is the long-term damage to a generation of children with ever-decreasing social support.

CPAG also submitted an additional 4 submissions on the Family court review, Gambling harm reduction bill, Credit contracts and consumer finance amendment bill exposure draft and the Child support amendment bill. Visit <http://www.cpag.org.nz/resources/submissions/> for more info.

## Public Contact Summary

A crucial component of CPAG's work is to ensure that issues relating to the systemic causes, effects of and possible avenues to alleviate child poverty in New Zealand are constantly in the public eye in order to raise and maintain awareness and generate debate over such issues. CPAG is pleased it has in many ways become the 'go to' organisation for comment on a variety of issues relating to children in poverty such as the impact of welfare reform, food in schools, child care, health and housing.

Over the course of the past two quarters CPAG is mentioned in some form of media 152 times. Our press releases are consistently picked up by Scoop, Yahoo NZ news, Voxy news, NZ doctor and InfoNews NZ. We are also featured in major print and online media including the [New Zealand Herald](#), [Dominion Post](#), the [Christchurch Press](#) and smaller regional papers such as the [Northern Advocate](#), [Nelson Mail](#), [Taranaki News](#) and the [Southland Times](#). CPAG also appeared on both major television networks [TV1](#) and [TV3](#) in addition to [TVNZ](#), Maori TV, [Triangle TV](#) and [Whangarei's local channel](#). CPAG also featured on Radio stations including [National Radio](#), [NewstalkZB](#), Radio Live and [Radio Rhema](#). To obtain a full media monitoring report please email [admin@cpag.org.nz](mailto:admin@cpag.org.nz).

Type of Exposure (Jan-Jun)	No.
CPAG Research Reports	3
CPAG Articles	4
CPAG Submissions	8
Print media	40
CPAG Events	7
CPAG Press Releases	21
Guest Presentations	32
Television items	9
Radio items	25
Internet news articles	51
Facebook followers	1887*
Twitter followers	329*
No. of unique website visitors	18,200
No. of website visits	29,800*

\*Facebook 'likes' up 26%; Twitter followers up 53% over the last six months; website visits up 57% compared to the same period

***Become one of the 1000's of Kiwis who believe child poverty is not inevitable.***

There are a variety of ways you can assist CPAG in our work to bring about systemic change.

Please visit [www.cpag.org.nz/how-to-help/](http://www.cpag.org.nz/how-to-help/) for more info.



## Press Releases

- 17 Feb [Scoring C- for child poverty is NOT good enough](#)
- 17 Feb [CPAG Whangarei comment on State of the Nation report](#)
- 19 Feb [Budget policy statement 2012](#)
- 20 Feb [Study highlights need for greater investment in children](#)
- 28 Feb [The numbers don't add up, Minister](#)
- 28 Feb [Children absent from new welfare policy](#)
- 28 Feb [Christchurch Council shows leadership: gaming machines are harmful](#)
- 6 Mar [Discrimination against our children, our greatest taonga, cannot be justified](#)
- 16 Mar [Awarding winning child poverty documentary shows the way](#)
- 30 Mar [Government Needs Comprehensive Plan to Tackle Child-Health](#)
- 12 Apr [Open Letter to Hon Paula Bennett & Peseta-Sam Lotu-liga](#)
- 13 Apr [Paid parental leave good but all children matter](#)
- 4 May [Government intensifies poverty traps](#)
- 9 May [Reforms about stigmatising not improving welfare](#)
- 9 May [Punitive and victim blaming approach to welfare reform](#)
- 20 May [Business focused "investment approach" for welfare loses sight of social goals](#)
- 24 May [Time for a budget for children](#)
- 29 May [Government oblivious to social time bomb of stagnation](#)
- 31 May [Heads out of the sand New Zealand UNICEF's Innocenti Report Card](#)
- 20 Jun [Extra funding for budgeting services a drop in the ocean](#)
- 29 Jun [Zero fees for under sixes in Wellington a positive step](#)





## Report Downloads

All CPAG publications are available to download, free of charge from [www.cpag.org.nz](http://www.cpag.org.nz)

CPAG's flagship publication, [\*Left further Behind: how policies fail the poorest children in New Zealand\*](#) continues to be our most popular resource with 3,775 downloads thus far this year. This brings its total number of downloads to a whopping 8,520 copies.

[\*Hunger for Learning: nutritional barriers to children's learning\*](#) also received steady interest with it being downloaded 1,580 times within the same period, bringing its total number of downloaded to 3,145.

[\*Empty food baskets: food poverty in Whangarei\*](#) which was released in April this year has been downloaded 800 times. While this number is relatively small compared to other CPAG publications, CPAG is pleased with its uptake given the specificity of the report.

## Hardcopy Reports

We also have available for purchase hardcopies of our major publications.

- Left further Behind: \$25 plus \$5 P&P
- Hunger for Learning: \$15 plus \$2 P&P
- Empty Food Baskets: \$10 plus \$2 P&P
- Back catalogue reports \$5 plus \$2 P&P

To order your hardcopy please [click here](#). CPAG has also recently introduced trade rates for retailers and/or those who intend to buy in bulk—[click here](#) for more information.

## Publications, Articles & Submissions

- 20 Jan [Welfare Working Group recommendations, released 22 February 2011: Promoting the wellbeing of children](#). CPAG Briefing Paper. Donna Wynd.
- 1 Feb [Evidence-based evaluation: Working for Families](#). Policy Quarterly, 8(1): 39-52. Assoc Prof Susan St John & Dr M. Claire Dale.
- 28 Feb [Green paper on vulnerable children submission](#). CPAG submission. Donna Wynd.
- 28 Feb [Submission to the ministry of Justice: reviewing the Family Court—a public consultation paper](#). CPAG Submission Dr M. Claire Dale.
- 1 Mar [The In Work Tax Credit in practice: a reality check for the IRD](#). CPAG Article. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 2 Mar [Susan St John: Achilles heel of National's welfare reform](#). Article for the New Zealand Herald. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 16 Mar [Submission: Inquiry into the determinants of well being for Maori children](#). CPAG Submission. Donna Wynd.
- 30 Mar [Every child to thrive, belong and achieve? Time to reflect and act in New Zealand](#). The New Zealand Medical Journal, 125(1352): 1-10. Amanda J D'Souza, Nikki Turner\*, Don Simmers, Elizabeth Craig, Tony Dowell.
- 2 Apr [Empty food baskets: Food Poverty in Whangarei](#). CPAG Whangarei Monograph Publication. Sherry Carne & Alina Mancini.
- 26 Apr [Submission: Social assistance \(future focus\) bill](#). CPAG Submission. Donna Wynd.
- 6 May [Submission on Credit Law exposure draft. Credit contracts and consumer finance amendment bill exposure draft](#). CPAG Submission. Dr M. Claire Dale.
- 14 May [Submission: Inquiry into preventing child abuse and improving children's health outcomes](#). CPAG Submission. Donna Wynd.
- 20 Jun [Submission: Gambling \(Gambling harm reduction\) amendment bill](#). CPAG Submission. Dr M. Claire Dale.
- 21 Jun [Submission: Child support amendment bill](#). CPAG Submission. Donna Wynd.

\* CPAG Executive member.

***Let us journey together for the health and wellbeing of children.  
Me haere ngatahi tatou hei oranga mo a tatou tamariki***



## Guest Presentations

CPAG has a core group of members around the country who are available to present to a wide range of forums. Over the last six months CPAG made 32 presentations from Whangarei to Timaru. If you would like someone from CPAG to speak to your organisation, please contact [admin@cpag.org.nz](mailto:admin@cpag.org.nz).

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| <p>31 Jan <b>Child poverty and child health in New Zealand</b>, Milford Rotary, Auckland. Prof Innes Asher.</p> <p>3 Feb <b>Child rights and child health</b>, Manaia PHO forum, Whangarei. Prof Innes Asher.</p> <p>4 Feb <b>Child Poverty Workshop</b>, Service &amp; Food Workers Union, Auckland. Assoc Prof Mike O'Brien.</p> <p>16 Feb <b>Child Poverty</b>, Hutt Council Social Services network meeting, Wellington. Mary Mowbray.</p> <p>16 Feb <b>Child Poverty</b>, Counties Manukau DHB, Mental Health Social workers forum, Auckland. Assoc Prof Mike O'Brien</p> <p>17 Feb <b>Hunger for Learning</b>, Official launch of Bambini Charitable Trust, Christchurch. Dr Bronwyn Hayward</p> <p>22 Feb <b>Child Poverty</b>, Council of Trade Unions Advanced Skills training course, Auckland. Assoc Prof Susan St John.</p> <p>5 Mar <b>Child Poverty &amp; health</b>, guest lecture, stage three nursing students, University of Auckland. Prof Innes Asher.</p> <p>12 Mar <b>Child Poverty Action Group: Getting involved</b>. Green Party Auckland Central Branch. Neil Miller.</p> <p>20 Mar <b>Welfare reform: impact on women and children</b>. Tryphena branch of the Women's Refuge, Orewa Rodney. Donna Wynd.</p> <p>21 Mar <b>Improving outcomes for children</b>. Wayne Francis Trust, Christchurch. Prof Innes Asher.</p> | <p>24 Mar <b>Child Poverty</b>, Keynote, Mana Party AGM/ Hui—building a movement for peace and justice. Assoc Prof Susan St John..</p> <p>4 Apr <b>Youth who thrive, belong and achieve</b>. Youth Health &amp; wellbeing symposium, Uniservices, Auckland. Dr Nikki Turner as event chair.</p> <p>5 Apr <b>Child Poverty</b>, South Canterbury DHB Primary care network, Timaru. Dr Nikki Turner.</p> <p>14 Apr <b>Child Poverty</b>, Young Labour Conference, Wellington. Dr Nikki Turner &amp; Kate Stone.</p> <p>23 Apr <b>Child Poverty &amp; CPAG</b>, Guest Lecture to Social work students, University of Auckland. Assoc Prof Mike O'Brien.</p> <p>26 Apr <b>Child Poverty &amp; CPAG</b>, Guest Lecture to Social work students, University of Auckland. Assoc Prof Mike O'Brien</p> <p>27 April <b>Children's health and wellbeing</b>, Peace Movement Aotearoa, Wellington. Dr Anne Else.</p> <p>30 April <b>Welfare reform</b>, University of Auckland Debate: 'National Party welfare reform is bad for women', Auckland. Assoc Prof Susan St John.</p> <p>5 May <b>Child Poverty &amp; Health</b>, South Canterbury primary care providers network, South Canterbury. Dr Nikki Turner.</p> <p>14 May <b>Child Poverty—IWTC and discrimination</b>, False Economy—the high cost of a low wage economy: Green Party discussion series, Auckland. Assoc Prof Susan St John.</p> <p>14 May <b>Poor housing &amp; the effect on children</b>, False Economy—the high cost of a low wage economy: Green Party discussion series, Auckland. Alan Johnson.</p> <p>16 May <b>Child rights &amp; child health: a New Zealand perspective</b>, Starship Children's Hospital Paediatric update, Auckland. Prof Innes Asher.</p> <p>17 May <b>Child Poverty</b>, Infant Mental Health Association (IMHAANZ), Auckland regional meeting, Auckland. Assoc Prof Susan St John.</p> <p>20 May <b>Child Health &amp; Poverty</b>, New Zealand Medical Students Association conference, Rotarua. Dr Nikki Turner.</p> <p>23 May <b>Making Auckland through political action: fighting child poverty</b>, Guest lecture, Geography, University of Auckland. Donna Wynd.</p> <p>25 May <b>Feeding our children: comment on the 2012 budget</b>, Poverty Action Waikato Post Budget Event, Hamilton. Donna Wynd.</p> <p>5 Jun <a href="#"><u>How healthy are children in New Zealand?</u></a>, Winter lecture series hosted by St Aidan's Anglican church, Remuera, Auckland. Prof Innes Asher.</p> <p>15 June <b>Child Poverty in New Zealand</b>, St Cuthberts College Senior School Fundraiser, Auckland. Sam Drumm &amp; Amanda Jones.</p> |
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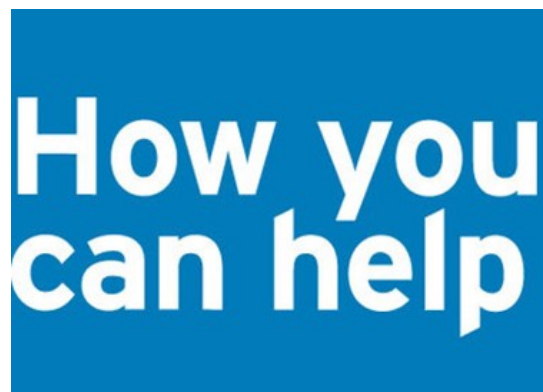
## Up and Coming

- CPAG Annual General Meeting, 30 July 2012
- Launch of Children, Citizenship and Environment—nurturing a democratic imagination by Dr Bronwyn Hayward, 30 July
- 2012 Appeal Tom Scott Cartoon Auction, 24 Aug-2 Sept
- CPAG Young Person's Group Gathering, TBA
- CPAG backgrounder on Child Abuse and Poverty, TBA
- White Paper on Vulnerable Children Submission, TBA
- Response to the Office of the Children's Commissioners Expert Group on Poverty Issues and Options Consultation Paper. TBA
- CPAG Wellington, Kapiti Coast Inside Child Poverty Documentary screening. World Poverty Day, 17 Oct 2012

## Julie Timmins returns in September

After taking study leave in Ireland for the last year, Julie Timmins returns to CPAG in September. Many supporters will remember Julie who is a founding member of CPAG and has previously been our Administrator from 2009 to mid 2011. CPAG warmly welcomes Julie back, her passion and sense of humor has been greatly missed.

Upon her return, Julie will take up the new role of **Public Relations Coordinator** at CPAG. Julie can be contacted via [Julie@cpag.org.nz](mailto:Julie@cpag.org.nz) from 20 Sept.



*Become one of the 1000's of Kiwis who believe child poverty is not inevitable.*

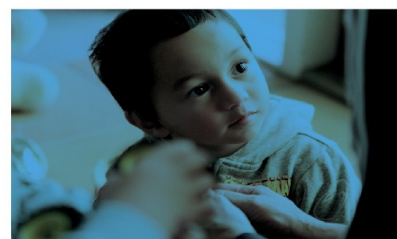
There are many ways you can help CPAG in our work to bring about systemic change.

- JOIN OUR [MAILING LIST](#)
- TAKE ACTION: [BECOME A CHILD ADVOCATE](#)
- DISTRIBUTE AND SEND [CPAG'S 'DEAR JOHN, ARE YOU RELAXED ABOUT CHILD POVERTY' POSTCARDS](#)
- JOIN US ON [FACEBOOK](#) OR [TWITTER](#)
- BECOME A BONA FIDE [CPAG MEMBER](#)
- MAKE A [REGULAR GIFT](#) TO CPAG
- [FUNDRAISE FOR US](#)
- [ORDER](#) YOUR COPY OF BRYAN BRUCE'S INSIDE CHILD POVERTY DVD

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