

CHiLD POVERTY ACTION GROUP

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CPAG AGM & Board for 2012-13



Associate Professor Mike O'Brien,
CPAG Convenor and Social Security
Spokesperson chairing CPAG's AGM.

As an incorporated society as well as a charity, [CPAG's annual general meeting](#), plays an important part in the overall accountability and governance structure of the organisation. It is where we report back to our members, supporters and other stakeholders via our [Annual Report](#), gain approval for any changes to our constitution, elect the management committee for the financial year and have the valuable opportunity to meet with and engage with our supporters.

As is CPAG tradition, the AGM was held at the end of July at St Columba Centre, Auckland. Although it was a wet, cold night, the meeting drew around forty five people—both new and long time supporters.

[CPAG's 2012 –2013 Management Committee](#) was duly elected. It is: Prof Innes Asher, Helen Bull, Dr M. Claire Dale, Sam Drumm, Alan Johnson, Therese Luxton, Neil Miller, Assoc Prof Mike O'Brien, Assoc Prof Susan St John, Dr Nikki Turner, and Janfrie Wakim.

Of particular importance at the meeting was the proposal for and acceptance of various amendments to CPAG's constitution. As the organisation has experienced a rapid period of growth—with more interest, people involved and resources, CPAG's constitution also needed updating to reflect these changes.

Message from CPAG's Chair

It is now impossible to deny the significance and extent of child poverty in this country. Over the last three months there have been reports from: the Children's Commissioner's [Expert Group on Solutions to Child Poverty](#), the Ministry of Social Development's [Report on Trends in Hardship and Inequality](#), Otago University's [Study revealing persistent deprivation for NZ Children](#). Every Child Counts [Netherlands case study](#), the summary of the responses to the [Green Paper on Vulnerable Children](#), the [Bills before Parliament](#), and the significant [media coverage](#), have all highlighted issues around child poverty. In a short space of time it is a substantial list but clearly the work is going to have to be sustained before key decision makers respond appropriately and effectively. So, the work goes on but I remain optimistic that we are close to a crucial tipping point which will see action before too long. That action will need to be comprehensive and sustained if NZ is to make a real mark on what is its number one social and economic issue

—Assoc Prof 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

Book Launch:

Children, Citizenship & Environment. Nurturing a democratic imagination in a changing world

Following on from a successful AGM, CPAG had the pleasure of hosting the [Auckland launch of Children, citizenship and environment](#). Its author Dr Bronwyn Hayward is convener of CPAG's newly formed Christchurch branch and has kindly donated her royalties from the book to CPAG and child poverty projects in Christchurch.

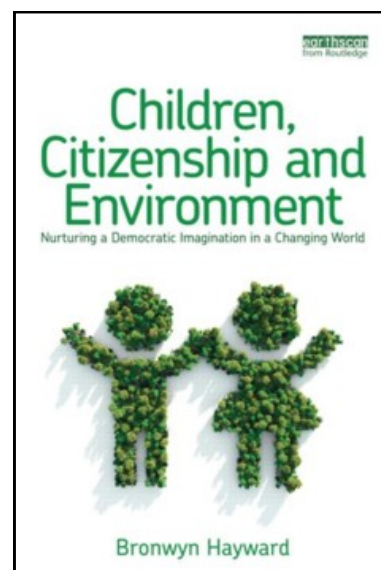
The book has received critical acclaim both nationally and internationally with Assoc Prof Susan St John, CPAG's Economics Spokesperson asserting: "Bronwyn Hayward's creative masterpiece describes how we can escape the last 20 years of neo-liberal thinking and its toxic impact on our precious children today and in the future." Much media interest was also generated by the book including [TV3's Campbell Live](#)

[feature: Kiwi childhood not all its cracked up to be](#) in which

Bronwyn eloquently canvases many of CPAG's policy recommendations.

Originally launched in Parliament by invite only, the book was endorsed by Jacinda Ardern, Holly Walker, and Nicky Wagner, representing Labour, Green and National Parties. CPAG's Auckland launch represented the first public introduction of the book drawing a crowd of over eighty people. [A mini-public lecture](#) by Bronwyn was followed by well known Journalist Rod Oram as guest discussant, facilitating a lively question and answer session.

To find out more about the book or to order your copy, click [here](#).



Dr Bronwyn Hayward, CPAG Christchurch convener presenting at the Auckland launch of her book *Children, Citizenship and Environment*.

2012 Appeal Campaign

Fighting discrimination so ALL kiwi kids get a fair go

In July, CPAG celebrated a small victory in its long running stand against discrimination contained in New Zealand's Working for Families (WFF) legislation which sees children of beneficiary families receiving less child support than their working counterparts. [The Court of Appeal granted CPAG special leave to appeal against the decision of the High Court in relation to our claim regarding the discriminatory nature of the In Work Tax Credit \(IWTC\)](#). The next hearing is expected to occur in early 2013. While past legal costs have been covered by the Office of Human Rights Proceedings, this funding source is not as abundant as it has once been. As a consequence, CPAG has been fundraising to cover a portion of the costs needed to take this case further. Our fundraising efforts were bolstered in September with the [auction of a set of three Tom Scott cartoons which featured in Bryan Bruce's compelling 'Inside Child Poverty' documentary](#). The artwork sold for \$1,325 which brings CPAG's total funds raised to \$26,500—over half way to our goal of \$50,000.

CPAG has also been encouraged by events in August which saw a Green Party's [private members Bill](#) drawn from the parliamentary ballot which seeks to universalise the IWTC component of WFF thus removing the discrimination embedded in this legislation. CPAG firmly believes that this would make an immediate difference to New Zealand's shameful child poverty problem and we strongly urge Parliament to act in the interests of poor children and pass the Bill into law. The Green's have also launched a campaign around the Bill, [End child poverty: Take the Step](#) which CPAG has endorsed. To learn more about why this issue is so important, please read CPAG Economics' spokesperson [Susan St John's New Zealand Herald Article: A practical and just way to address child poverty](#).



Children's Commissioner's Expert Advisory Group

Children's Commissioner's [Expert Advisory Group \(EAG\) on Solutions to Child Poverty in New Zealand](#) was formed in March this year and provides an important opportunity to address child poverty. Various CPAG spokespeople have been involved in the EAG including our public health spokesperson, Dr Nikki Turner who is a member of the EAG. Prof Innes Asher and Alan Johnson, CPAG's child health and housing spokespeople have also made presentations to the group in Wellington.

While the EAG's Issues and options paper for consultation along with twenty background papers was released late in August, CPAG has refrained from making public comment until it has scrutinised by our team. Currently, a thorough research based response to the consultation paper is being developed. CPAG has representation at the [EAG public consultations](#) in Auckland and Wellington and CPAG Christchurch is also hosting two consultation workshops in October.

Food in Schools

CPAG is pleased that the initial momentum around the release of [Hunger for learning: nutritional barriers to children's learning](#) highlighting the urgent need to provide breakfasts to children in decile one and two primary schools has not subsided but has in fact intensified of late.

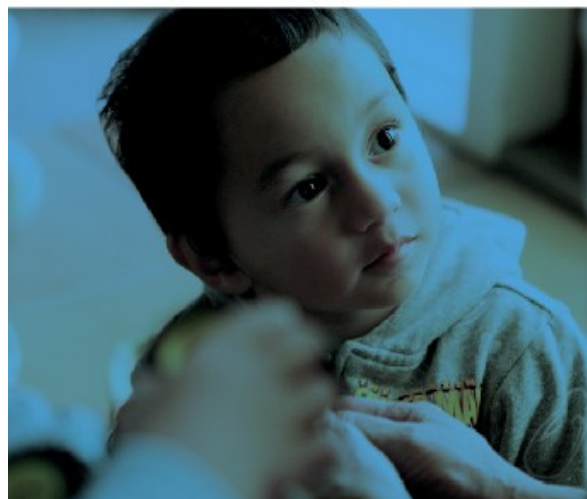
First, the Children's Commissioner's Expert Advisory Group (EAG) has recommended a national strategy for food in low decile schools. Second, the Mana Party put a Bill to provide food to low-decile schools into the parliamentary ballot. Third, the Labour Party has made food in schools a cornerstone of their recently released education policy. CPAG's influence in shaping this important issue is illustrated in various media outlets, including the [New Zealand Herald](#), [Dominion Post](#), [TVNZ](#), and [blogs](#) with actual CPAG cost estimates cited in [Labour Press releases](#).

CPAG's report, [Empty food baskets: food poverty in Whangarei](#) has also reinforced and added significantly to this debate featuring not only in the [Northern Advocate](#) but also the [New Zealand Herald](#).

***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.

www.cpag.org.nz



Green Paper on Vulnerable Children

CPAG's own Green Paper submission has been downloaded over 350 times from our website, illustrating its utility to other individuals and organisations as well. Two media releases relating to the GPVC were circulated in the third Quarter on [12 July](#) and [15 Aug.](#)

CPAG strongly believes that poverty and inequality make children vulnerable to violence, a crucial underlying issue that is neglected in the Green Paper's narrow focus. CPAG plans to pre-empt the release of the White Paper on Vulnerable Children with a background paper making strong links between child abuse and poverty.

Welfare Reform

In addition to a press release illustrating our [disbelief at the Governments latest welfare reform announcements](#), CPAG was also asked to comment by various [print](#) and [electronic](#) media on these issues.

On the research front, CPAG has been undertaking a variety of projects relating to New Zealand's current welfare system and the reforms that are underway. These cover a wide range of issues including:

- A myth busting paper, where statements made by government officials are analysed and refuted.
- An investigation of the governments recently introduced benefit sanctions
- A background paper on the causes and consequences of DPB benefit fraud and its repercussions for children.

Public Contact Summary

Type of Exposure (Jul-Sept)	No.
Articles, Research & Submissions	1
Events	4
Press Releases	13
Guest Presentations	16
Television Items	6
Radio Items	9
Print & Internet News Articles/blogs*	59
Facebook Followers	2,147
Twitter Followers	412
No. of Website Visits	17, 639 (47,464)**

* These 2 categories have been combined as the differentiation between print and internet news has blurred and is expected to become more so.

** Total number for the year to date Jan-Sept 2012.

Up & Coming Research

With the first six months of the year marked by a flurry of submissions, the third quarter of 2012 has been one of intense research and policy analysis. CPAG has been very busy working on a range of activities that are being prepared for release in the next two quarters covering:

- The Green Paper on Vulnerable Children (GPVC) and the forthcoming release of the subsequent White Paper.
- Children's Commissioner's Expert Advisory Group (EAG) on Solutions to Child Poverty in New Zealand .
- Welfare reform: Myth busting backgrounder, DPB fraud research and an investigation into benefit sanctions.

Another Social Media Milestone

CPAG's Facebook page provides a great informal, interactive way to engage in child poverty issues with new posts made each day. This quarter CPAG's Facebook followers or 'likes' passed the **2,000** mark with a reach of 6,700. This time last year we had just passed the 1,000 'likes' mark. CPAG extends its warm thanks to Gillian Roach, a co-opted member of CPAG's Management Committee, for all the work this new milestone represents.

<http://www.facebook.com/cpagNZ>



Publication Download Milestones

CPAG's most utilised resource continues to be [Left Further Behind: how policies fail the Poorest Children in New Zealand](#) with over 2,800 downloads this quarter. We are happy to report that the total number of downloads of Left Further Behind has exceeded the **10,000** copies (reaching 11, 339 to be exact). A testament to its utility and accessibility.

[Hunger for Learning](#) was downloaded over 800 times over the same period, with total downloads nearly reaching the **4,000** mark.

Interest in [Empty Food Baskets](#) increased in the third quarter with 770 downloads bring its total number of downloads to over **1,500**.

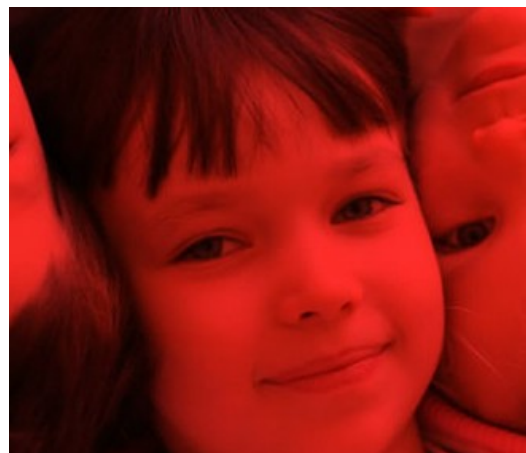
Dear John Postcards

Have you sent John Key one of our postcards? CPAG has distributed nearly **4,000** of these through the country and demand is still strong. [Click here](#) to get yours

<p>Dear John,</p> <p>Are you relaxed about child poverty?</p> <p>I am seriously concerned that children - who have no capacity to act on their own behalf - lose out financially and their wellbeing suffers because beneficiary families are ineligible for the In Work Tax Credit. This applies even if their parents/caregivers lose work because of events beyond their control, such as recession, illness or an earthquake. Or when parents/caregivers cannot meet the IWTC work requirement because of their child-caring responsibilities, disability or sickness.</p> <p>All our children are the future of our society. They need financial protection. Work incentives are about the needs of the economy and the behaviour of adults, not the needs of children. Please do not allow your government to discriminate against our poorest children.</p> <p>Signature: Address:</p> <p>CHILD POVERTY ACTION GROUP</p>	<p>CHILD POVERTY ACTION GROUP</p> <p>1 IN 5 CHILDREN IN POVERTY CANNOT BE OUR FUTURE. www.cpag.org.nz</p>
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Guest Presentations

- 5 Jul **Child poverty and the work of CPAG**, Children against Poverty National Training Workshop, Auckland. Alan Johnson.
- 5 Jul **Child poverty myths**, Children against Poverty National Training Workshop, Auckland. Marianna Munting.
- 17 Jul **Child poverty and what we can do about it**, Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High School, Auckland. Marianna Munting
- 2 Sep **Intergenerational inequality and poverty**, The Press Writers and Readers festival, Christchurch. Assoc Prof Susan St John & Dr Bronwyn Hayward.
- 3 Sep **Policy issues and child poverty**. Political studies guest lecture, University of Canterbury, Christchurch. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 5 Sep **Solutions to child poverty: issues and options**, Keynote address, Public Health Association Annual Conference, Wellington. Dr Nikki Turner.
- 5 Sep **Solutions to child poverty are solutions for improving health outcomes**. Parallel session, Public Health Association Annual Conference, Wellington Dr Nikki Turner.
- 5 Sep **Children, citizenship and environment: nurturing a democratic imagination for a changing world**, Parallel session, Public Health Association Annual Conference Wellington. Dr Bronwyn Hayward.
- 5 Sep **Empty food baskets: food poverty in Whangarei**, Parallel session, Public Health Association Annual Conference Wellington. Sherry Carne.
- 5 Sep **Recognising the role of high quality early childhood education in engaging Tamariki/Whanau in wellbeing advocacy**. Parallel session, Public Health Association Annual Conference Wellington. Assoc Prof Jenny Ritchie.
- 5&6 Sep **Child poverty & child health**, Health Promotion Forum National Conference, Wellington. Dr Nikki Turner.
- 7 Sep **The Green's bill on universalizing the In Work Tax Credit**, Meet your Green's: Holly Walker function, Auckland. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 13 Sep **Child Poverty in New Zealand**. Twinkle Child Foundation, Auckland. Sam Drumm.
- 26 Sep **Child poverty: a case in redistribution**. Guest lecture to Stage 3, Public Economics, university of Auckland, Auckland. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 27 Sep **CPAG's Human rights case**. Want to make a difference? Seminar, hosted by The Centre for Human Rights —Law, policy and practice, University of Auckland and the Equal Justice Project. Frances Joychild, QC.



Press Releases

- 12 Jul [Poverty the biggest barrier to children thriving.](#)
- 19 Jul [CPAG applauds Owen G. Glenn's \\$80 million dollar pledge against family violence.](#)
- 20 Jul [CPAG granted leave to appeal high court decision.](#)
- 23 Jul [Welfare reforms perpetuate discrimination against our poorest children.](#)
- 2 Aug [Protecting families in New Zealand? Tell the truth Bill!](#)
- 15 Aug [Green paper submissions show minister must deal with child poverty.](#)
- 17 Aug [Private member bill a practical and just way to address child poverty.](#)
- 23 Aug [Action plan won't deliver on children.](#)
- 24 Aug [Time for action: child poverty figures a disgrace.](#)
- 24 Aug [Charity Auction—three original Tom Scott cartoons.](#)
- 30 Aug [New Zealand must address the systemic causes of poverty.](#)
- 31 Aug [Food in schools vital for our poorest children.](#)
- 31 Aug [Poverty debate clouded by misinformation.](#)

Branch News

Whangarei: Benefit change forum

CPAG Whangarei met on Friday 20 Sept to discuss, among other things, the latest round of social welfare changes. They include simplified benefit categories, a greater work focus, new expectations for partners of beneficiaries and work preparation activities. The event was picked up by the [Northern Advocate](#).

Auckland: Getting involved with our Appeal

On Thursday 27 Sept, The Equal Justice Project, in association with the Centre for Human Rights Law Policy and Practice is running a seminar in support of CPAG's human rights appeal case. For details of the event please [click here](#)

Wellington: Kapiti screening of Bryan Bruce's Inside Child Poverty documentary

Special screening on World Poverty Day, Wednesday 17 Oct, 7pm. Downtown Cinema, Coastlands, Paraparaumu. Tickets are \$20 which includes a complementary drink and nibbles. To reserve a ticket, please [click here](#).

Christchurch: First official meeting and Children's Commissioner's EAG consultation

On Tuesday 28 August, CPAG Christchurch held their first official meeting at Reboot Café, University of Canterbury. A good mix of people attended with four young office holders being nominated, with an older team mentoring them. The branch also worked with the Children's Commissioner's Expert Advisory Group on Solutions to child Poverty Public consultation workshops on Tuesday 25 Sept.

How you can help

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

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

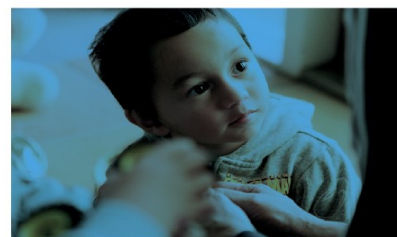
- JOIN OUR [MAILING LIST](#) & BECOME INFORMED—THEN SPREAD THE WORD
- DISTRIBUTE AND SEND [‘DEAR JOHN, ARE YOU RELAXED ABOUT CHILD POVERTY’ POSTCARDS](#)
- JOIN US ON [FACEBOOK](#) OR [TWITTER](#)
- [ORDER](#) YOUR COPY OF BRYAN BRUCE'S INSIDE CHILD POVERTY DVD
- BECOME A BONAFIDE [MEMBER](#)
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In New Zealand

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CPAG thanks its supporters, sponsors, close collaborators, and partner organisations.
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