



CHILD POVERTY ACTION GROUP

Quarterly Update

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CPAG Comment

In December Child Poverty Action Group welcomed the release of the inaugural [Child Poverty Monitor](#), a collaborative project by the University of Otago, the Office of the Children's Commissioner & the JR McKenzie Trust. CPAG has long argued that measuring and monitoring is a necessary first step for any [comprehensive plan](#) to tackle child poverty so we warmly congratulate those involved for stepping up to the plate where government has remained elusive. As some of you may know, the [JR McKenzie Trust](#) is also one of CPAG's major funders. As child advocates we cannot thank the Trust enough for supporting not only our work but that of others in working towards tackling the underlying causes of child poverty in our country. Through one, through many, the work will get done.

Nga mihi nui, the CPAG Team.



Policy Monitoring



Benefit sanctions: Creating an invisible underclass of children?

Child Poverty Action Group Policy Monitoring Series
Donna Ward

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An important aspect of CPAG's work is monitoring the effect of policy changes on children. CPAG has expressed much concern over recent welfare reforms, particularly their punitive approach towards beneficiaries. In late October, CPAG launched [Benefit sanctions: creating an invisible underclass of children?](#) with Diane Robertson, CEO of the Auckland City Mission, as guest speaker. The report pulls together what little information is available on sanctions, including data obtained under the Official Information Act, to assess who is affected by the sanctions regime, especially the num-

bers of children involved. In addition to CPAG issuing [press releases](#) highlighting its findings, the report received media attention from a variety of sources including the [New Zealand Herald](#), [Otago Daily Times](#), [Radio New Zealand](#) and [NewsTalkZB](#). Public uptake of the report is also promising with nearly 1,000 downloads in the Oct-Dec quarter. CPAG warmly thanks Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand for its assistance in funding this research and the Auckland City Mission for supporting its launch. As part of our on-going policy monitoring series, CPAG will be regularly publishing data it obtains under the Official Information Act on the numbers of people sanctioned under this latest welfare regime highlighting the number of children affected. [Sign up for alerts here.](#)

Our vision is a New Zealand where no child has to live in poverty

Nga Tangata Microfinance Trust Supreme Award Winner!

In November, the [NZI Sustainable Business Awards](#) took place with Nga Tangata Microfinance Trust winning not only the Community involvement award but also the Supreme Award for greatest contribution to a sustainable New Zealand. The Trust is a partnership between Child Poverty Action Group, the New Zealand Federation of budgeting Services and the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services utilizing capital kindly provided by Kiwibank



Dr M. Claire Dale, accepting the NZI Sustainable Business Network Supreme award.

With over 230 entries in total to the competition, being chosen for the Supreme award was a huge honour for all involved, especially Nga Tangata's chief architect Dr M. Claire Dale who is a long standing board member and key contributor to CPAG.

To hear more about Nga Tangata Microfinance Trust's work and the award, listen to Dr Dale's interview on Radio New Zealand's Nine to Noon programme: [Helping people get out of debt and avoid loan sharks.](#)

End of Year Gathering

Thank you to everyone who supported
our IWTC court case

In December CPAG held its first End of Year gathering in Auckland. In addition to bringing together CPAG supporters from all walks of life to thank them for their support, CPAG also felt it was important to formally thank all those who have supported our long standing human rights case regarding legislation which unfairly discriminates against 230,000 of New Zealand's poorest children, many of whom live in severe and persistent hardship.

CPAG was humbled to have both Frances Joychild (QC) and Jenny Ryan (our legal counsel in the High Court and Court of Appeal), speak at the event, highlighting the significance of the case and reflecting on what has been achieved. Frances' speech is available online too: [Child Poverty Action Group v Attorney General - What did we gain?](#) We sincerely

thank everyone who has supported this legal challenge over the years. Rest assured, although the legal battle has come to an end, CPAG is fully committed to overturning the discriminatory policy through other means.



Media Highlights

- 20 Oct [The impact of the Ruatoki raids on children.](#) Marae Investigates, TV One.
- 22 Oct [Welfare reform bad for beneficiaries children.](#) Otago Daily Times.
- 8 Nov [Kedell: when carrots are actually sticks.](#) Emily Kedell, New Zealand Herald.
- 15 Nov [Australian Welfare shows the way.](#) Assoc Prof Susan St John, New Zealand Herald.
- 23 Nov [The panel with Bernard Hickey & Vicki Hyde.](#) Afternoons with Jim Mora, Radio New Zealand.
- 23 Nov [Child, Youth and Family blunders child abuse figures.](#) Marcus Lush show, Radio Live.
- 5 Dec [Disease rate among New Zealand children criticised in UN report.](#) Morning report, Radio New Zealand.
- 11/ Dec [No Christmas cheer for children in poverty.](#) Opinion, Donna Wynd. New Zealand Herald.

Save the Date

Nationwide Post Budget Breakfasts
Friday 16 May, 7.15am-8.45am
Auckland
Wellington
Christchurch

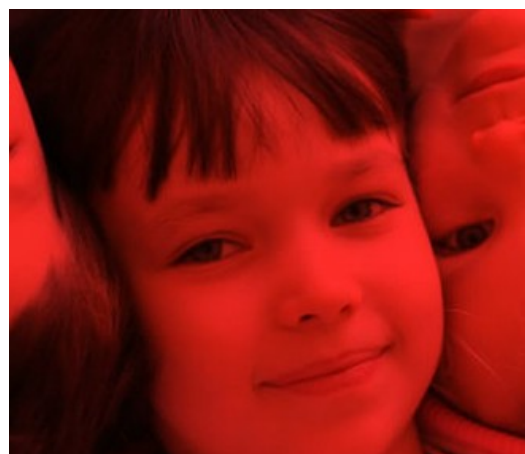
Our guiding principle is the right of every child in New Zealand to security,
food, shelter, education and healthcare.

Reports & Submissions

- 13 Oct [Submission: Vulnerable Children Bill](#). Child Poverty Action Group Submission. Donna Wynd.
- 22 Oct [Benefit Sanctions: creating an invisible under-class of children?](#) Child Poverty Action Group Policy Monitoring Series Report. Donna Wynd.

Articles & Blogs

- 17 Oct [A sorry state of affairs](#). Article for the Daily Blog. Assoc Professor Susan St John.
- 20 Oct [Justice for poor children a long time coming](#). Article for Touchstone: the national newspaper of the Methodist Church of New Zealand. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 15 Nov [Susan St John: Australian welfare shows the way](#). Article for the New Zealand Herald. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 16 Nov [Let's have less handwringing and more realism on incomes policy](#). Article for the Daily Blog. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 22 Nov [Getting working sole parents off benefits: who is really 'better off'?](#) Article for the Daily Blog. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 1 Dec [Opinion Piece: Child Poverty Action Group](#). Article for KidsCan Summer 2013/14 Newsletter. Gillian Roach.
- 3 Dec [Subsidising the rich to save New Zealand is voodoo economics](#). Article for the Daily Blog. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 5 Dec ['Get a job' mantra to solve child poverty has obvious flaws](#). Article for the Daily Blog. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 10 Dec [Time to act on child poverty](#). Article for Dominion Post. Donna Wynd & Assoc Prof Nikki Turner.
- 11 Dec [No Christmas cheer for children in poverty](#). Article for New Zealand Herald. Donna Wynd.



Press Releases

- 15 Oct ['Low trust' rules treat beneficiaries as second class citizens](#).
- 22 Oct [Children of beneficiaries losing ground under new welfare reforms](#).
- 22 Oct [Benefit sanctions need monitoring](#)
- 8 Nov [Crucial for government to measure and monitor child poverty](#).
- 13 Nov [First reading of Mana's Feed the Kids bill today!](#)
- 15 Nov [Salvation Army report highlights the struggle of vulnerable families](#).
- 19 Nov [Health Select Committee Report: CPAG back recommendations](#).
- 22 Nov [Nga Tangata Microfinance Trust Scoops top prize](#).
- 9 Dec [Child Poverty Monitor highlights the importance of income](#).
- 9 Dec [Child Poverty Monitor: shocking poverty causes shocking diseases](#).

Do you want to receive CPAG Press Releases and Resource Updates as they happen? Update your mailing list preferences [here!](#)

**The simplest and most effective way to reduce inequality
is to reduce child poverty - *Brian Easton***

Guest Presentations

CPAG has a core group of members around the country who are available to present to a wide range of forums. If you would like someone from CPAG to speak at your next event, please fill in our [speaker request form](#).

- 5 Oct **Housing poverty: the Baby Boomers' legacy.** Ripples of Justice conference, hosted by the Justice and Peace Commission, Catholic Diocese of Auckland & Caritas. Alan Johnson.
- 5 Oct **Giving all children equal opportunity.** Ripples of Justice conference, hosted by the Justice and Peace Commission, Catholic Diocese of Auckland & Caritas New Zealand. Assoc Prof Mike O'Brien.
- 9 Oct **Putting children at the centre of policy.** Keynote address. Children in Crisis Conference, hosted by the Global Studies in Education, University of Waikato. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 16 Oct **Child health in New Zealand. How does this relate to child health and child rights?** Awhina speaking series hosted by Northshore Hospital, Auckland. Prof Innes Asher.
- 17 Oct **Child Poverty in New Zealand.** Guest Henderson Rotary Club, Auckland. Assoc Prof Mike O'Brien.
- 22 Oct **Child poverty and superannuation,** Grey Power, Auckland. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 22 Oct **Children, debt, and Nga Tangata microfinance.** Keynote address. No Interest Loan Scheme New South Wales Annual Conference, Australia. Dr M. Claire Dale.
- 24 Oct **Housing and child poverty.** Housing Seminar hosted by Healthy Christchurch & the Public Health Association, Christchurch. Alan Johnson.
- 2 Nov **Structural causes of child poverty and the impact of the welfare changes.** Keynote address. Auckland Single Parents Trust Annual Conference. Julie Timmins.



- 7 Nov **Nga Tangata microfinance: safe, fair, affordable credit.** The waste of failure – the case for a just economy, Fabien Society Seminar, Auckland. Dr M. Claire Dale.
- 1 Nov **Child Poverty in New Zealand.** Guest lecture. Child Protection Studies Course, Unitec, Auckland. Julie Timmins.
- 3 Dec **What can we do about child poverty in New Zealand?** Remuera Probus Club, Auckland. Assoc Prof Susan St John.

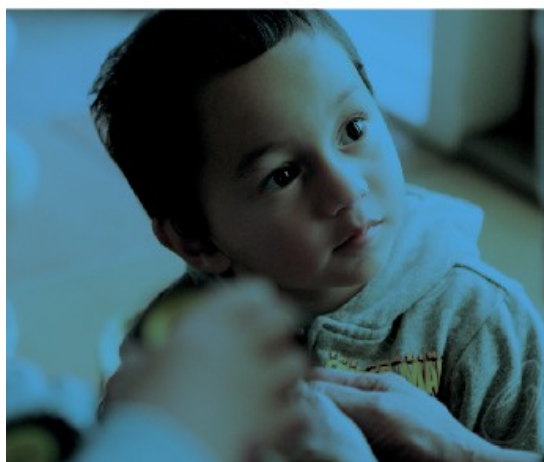
How you can help

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

There are many ways you can help bring about genuine change,
Join us at:

<http://www.cpag.org.nz/how-to-help/>

**It's well within our power to ensure every child has their basic needs met...
In a country like New Zealand, child poverty could be eliminated completely.
It's all about choice. - Assoc Prof Mike O'Brien**



Public Contact

Type of Exposure	No.
Research & Submissions	2
Articles & Blogs	10
CPAG Events	2
Press Releases	10
Parliamentary Mentions	2
Guest Presentations	12
Television Items	3
Radio Items	18
Print/online Items	39
Internet News/ Blog Items	71
No. of Website Visits	12,603

Forthcoming Research

- New Zealand's Debt Society & Child Poverty
- Paid Parental Leave
- Children & the Canterbury Earthquakes

Report Downloads

Report Name	Oct-Dec	Total
Left Further Behind	1,366	21,278
Hunger for Learning	870	9,505
Empty Food Baskets	431	4,107
Child Abuse Series	1,176	3,111
Myths & Facts: DPB	593	2,768
Benefit Sanctions	899	899
After hours healthcare	208	461
Budget 2013 Review	191	970

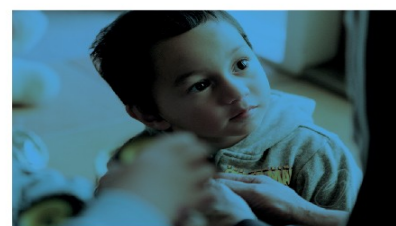
Social Media Milestone!

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 **3,500**. CPAG has also started delving more into on Twitter, with promising results. **Join us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) now!**

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