



# CHiLD POVERTY ACTION GROUP

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## Left further Behind Launch

On the 12th of September, CPAG released "[Left further Behind: how policies fails the poorest children New Zealand](#)" with concurrent launches held in Auckland and Wellington. Around 60 people attended each event including MPs and Election Candidates from Greens, Labour and the Maori Party. Associate Professor Manuka Henare from the Every Child Counts Coalition was guest speaker in Auckland, while Anne Else, a longstanding CPAG member opened the launch in Wellington. Despite the Rugby World Cup commencing, the report was well received by the media, with CPAG headlining morning news bulletins and being featured by various radio presenters on all major radio networks including [RadioNZ](#), [RadioLive](#) and [NewsTalkZB](#). Newspaper coverage was also good with articles not only in [Auckland](#) and [Wellington](#) newspapers but also in the Taranaki, [Wairarapa](#), and [Marlborough](#) regions. Both [TV3](#) news and Maori Television aired interviews with CPAG spokespeople while [Triangle Television](#) also referred to the report. Encouragingly, the reports recommendations were the [focus of a parliamentary debate](#) and mentioned in other debates relating to [child poverty](#) and [crime](#). The launch saw record numbers of visitors to the CPAG website with the [electronic version of the report](#) downloaded more that 2,500 times. CPAG again offers thanks to the report's twenty-seven contributors; all experts in their respective fields for their tremendous effort in making such a comprehensive, multidisciplinary report possible .

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## A Big Quarter for Children's Issues

The July-September quarter was a significant period of activity in relation to Child Poverty with the releases of [The Green Paper on Vulnerable Children](#), two reports from Every Child Counts; [1000 days to get it right](#) and [Te Aro Hou, The Children's Social Health Monitor](#) and Analytica's report into the cost of child poverty. CPAG was also very busy with the release of two reports; [Hunger for Learning](#) and [Left further Behind](#) in addition to its [Appeal hearing](#) in the Wellington High Court. All of which highlighted the plight of New Zealand's poorest children and the need for greater political will in order to alleviate child poverty.



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

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## Hunger for Learning Launch

CPAG launched [Hunger for Learning: nutritional barriers to children's education](#) in late July with Professor Elaine Rush, from the Auckland University of Technology as guest speaker. Fortunately, the launch coincided with the New Zealand Herald's week long campaign on "Our Hungry Kids" which led to CPAG gaining exposure on the [25th](#), [26th](#), [27th](#), [28th](#), and [30th](#) of July. Television channels also picked up the story with CPAG's Co-conveners being interviewed on [TVNZ's Breakfast Show](#), [One News](#), [TVNZ news at 8](#), Maori Television and Triangle Television in addition to the report being referenced by [Close Up](#) and another item on [One News](#). The report also featured in the [Northern Advocate](#), [Whangarei Leader](#), [Taranaki Daily](#) and the [Nelson Mail](#).



## Make a Donation

CPAG works to protect children from needless poverty. Please join us in working to help eliminate child poverty in Aotearoa/New Zealand. One-off or regular donations, however modest, are very encouraging and deeply appreciated. All donations over \$5 are tax deductible.

[Yes! I'm interested in making a donation](#)

## Are you a CPAG member?

Please support CPAG (an incorporated society) by becoming a member. Receive regular updates on our work, invitations to CPAG meetings and events. Membership also confers voting rights at our Annual General Meeting which usually is held in July each year. The membership period runs from April 1st to March 31st and relates to the CPAG financial year.

### Membership subscriptions:

- Individuals (waged) \$20
- Individuals (unwaged) \$10
- Organisations \$100

[Yes! I would like to become a CPAG member](#)

Please contact [admin@cpag.org.nz](mailto:admin@cpag.org.nz) for more information. All inquiries are welcome.

## The Human Rights Case

In early September CPAG's long awaited [appeal case](#) was heard in the Wellington High Court. The case involves the discriminatory nature of the governments "In Work Tax Credit" that is only available to working families but not beneficiary families. The Judge found that children in beneficiary families suffered significantly as a result of this discrimination, but did not make the declaration of inconsistency with NZ's Human Rights legislation that was sought. Susan St John, a key witness at the original hearing in 2008, with Janfrie Wakim and Mike O'Brien attended the Appeal. The final decision is not expected to be made public until after the election. Parts of the case were also filmed for a



documentary on child poverty which is to be aired in the run up to election. CPAG would like to thank the Office of Human Rights Proceedings for funding the case and for the excellent representation CPAG has had from Jenny Ryan and Frances Joychild who were legal counsel for the Appeal.

## Up & Coming Activities

Welfare Working Group Chapter Seven Background/ Auckland Draft Plan Submission/ Election Pieces/ CPAG Whangarei Election Debate/ Taxation Background/ Housing Background/ Green Paper on Vulnerable Children Submission/ Maori Affairs Select Committee Inquiry into the Well-being of Maori Children Submission.

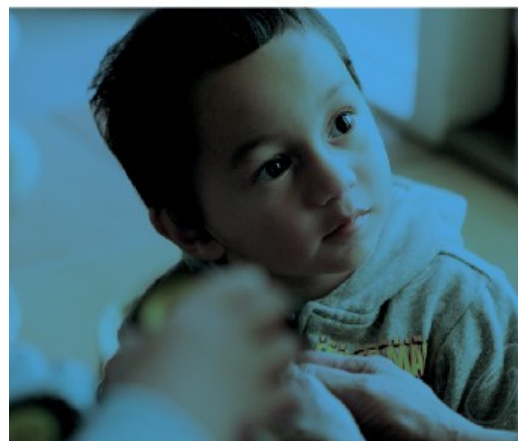
## Public Contact Summary

Type of Exposure (Jul-Sept)	No.
Reports Released	2
Events	4
CPAG Press Releases	9
Guest Presentations	7
Interviews for the Media	43
Television items	10 (7)
Newspaper articles	35 (15)
Internet articles	33 (5)
Radio items	20 (17)
Meetings with Politicians	2
Mentioned in Parliamentary Debates	6
NFP Press Releases featuring CPAG	7
MP Press Releases featuring CPAG	7
No. of unique website visitors	8,854
No. of website visits	17,930

NB: ( ) denotes the no. of items in which CPAG was interviewed

## Guest Presentations

- 24 Jul **Child Poverty**, Guest Sermon, St Andrews in the City, Wellington. Dr Nikki Turner.
- 2 Sept **Poverty & New Zealand Children**, Conference Presentation, Playing The Advantage - Royal New Zealand College Of General Practitioners Conference, Auckland. Dr Nikki Turner.
- 12 Sept **Social Justice & Inequality in Aotearoa**, Guest Lecture, Department Of Education, Unitec, Auckland. Alan Johnson.
- 22 Sept **Child Poverty**, Guest speaker, Epsom Greens Candidate Gala Launch, Auckland. Associate Professor Susan St John:
- 28 Sept **Children at the Centre of Policy**, Guest Panelist, Women & Children Summit, hosted by Wellington Women's Refuge. Mary Mowbray.
- Politics and Child Poverty Action Group**, Guest Lecture, Political Studies Department, University Of Auckland. Associate Professor Susan St John.
- Left Further Behind - Early Childhood Education**, Guest Speaker, New Zealand Education Institute (NZEI) - Child Poverty and Early Childhood Education Meeting. Associate Professor Mike O'Brien.



## Press Releases

- 06 Jul [Reforms Risk Harming another Generation of Children](#)
- 26 Jul [Child Poverty Action Group Calls for Government Funded School Food Programme](#)
- 27 Jul [Please Sir, Can I Have Some More?](#)
- 02 Aug [Child Poverty Action Group Welcomes the Focus on Children](#)
- 06 Aug [There is a Pathway Forward](#)
- 15 Aug [Who's Counting the Children?](#)
- 29 Aug [Urgent Action Needed on Children's Health](#)
- 05 Sept [Justice Sought through Courts for New Zealand's Poorest Children](#)
- 12 Sept [Too Many New Zealand Children Left Further Behind: Child Poverty Action Group's Latest Report](#)

*If you would like more information on anything contained in this report or have any other queries please contact:*

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## New Management Committee

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Around 60 people attended CPAG's AGM on the 25th of July, electing the 2011-2012 Management Committee (MC). This resulted in the re-election of [Mike O'Brien](#), [Alan Johnson](#), [Innes Asher](#), [Helen Bull](#), [Susan St John](#), [Nikki Turner](#) and [Janfrie Wakim](#). CPAG welcomes two new nominees to its Management Committee; Therese Luxton and Neil Miller. We would also like to thank departing MC members; Sue Bradford, Nick Fancourt and Vicki Carpenter for their contribution to CPAG over the past year.

## Paediatric Essay Competition

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In May CPAG in conjunction with the University of Auckland's Paediatric Interest Group organised a Child Poverty Writing Competition. Participants were invited to either write an academic essay or creative writing piece relating to child poverty and health equity. Prizes included a \$100 voucher for the winner of each category and publication on CPAG's website. The calibre of entries were extremely high with the winning academic essay entitled "Health equity: what does it mean for child health?" by Kate Duggan, a Trainee Intern Auckland hospital scheduled to be published in the New Zealand Medical Journal (NZMJ) later this year. Claire McLean won the creative writing segment of the competition with a poem entitled "Bellingham Road" about the day in the life of a child who lives in poverty. Both pieces will be available from our website after publication in NZMJ. Congratulations to both these talented writers.

## On the Lighter Side

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## Social Media and Website Milestones

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In August, CPAG reached a social media milestone - the number of followers (or "likes") on [CPAG's Facebook page](#) reached and surpassed the "1,000" mark. To put this into perspective, CPAG NZ's entire mailing list is this size. Moreover, CPAG UK's facebook page has around 250 followers. [CPAG website](#) visits have also reached an all time high with 7,500 visits in September compared with the usual monthly average of approximately 5,000 visits. CPAG's next challenge is to more effectively harness this interest and support education, advocacy and fundraising purposes.

## Must See

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[Bruce Jesson Lecture: Creating Full Employment](#) presented by Professor Paul Dalziel from Lincoln University. Paul is a member of the Alternative Welfare Working Group and was a guest speaker at CPAG's 2011 Budget Breakfast. He is a great presenter and well worth seeing.

**When:** 6.30pm, Wed 26 Oct. **Where:** Maidment Theatre, Alfred Street, City Campus, The University of Auckland.

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Child Poverty Action Group thanks its supporters, sponsors, close collaborators, and partner organisations. In particular, thank you to J R McKenzie Trust for its generous funding.

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