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January - September 2016

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Co-convenor's message

Alan Johnson

This brief report summarises the activities and progress of Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) for the nine months through to the end of September 2016. Highlights for CPAG's activities over this period include:

- CPAG's now long-anticipated Post Budget events including breakfasts held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch on 27 May and lunch events held in Hamilton and Whangarei. A post budget briefing was also held in Nelson for the first time on 1 June. These events coincided with the release of CPAG's annual budget review and were collectively attended by almost 500 people.
- The release of the CPAG's report *Kathryn's Story* on 1 July at the Auckland Women's Centre in Grey Lynn. This report exposes the vindictive and petty pursuit of a woman for welfare fraud and the costs and consequences of Government's policies and actions.
- The CPAG sponsored Park Up For Homes (#ParkUpForHomes, #PUFH) events which were designed to get ordinary New Zealanders expressing their concern for rising rates of homelessness. This campaign started with the Park-up-for-Homes Mangere which drew around 1000 people to spend the night peacefully protesting in the Mangere Town Centre carpark on 16 June. Further protests were held in Otara, Onehunga, Henderson, Hamilton, Wellington, Palmerston North, Gisborne and Parnell and collectively drew in over 2000 supporters.
- Our Annual General Meeting on 27 July where the recently appointed Children's Commissioner Andrew Becroft was the guest speaker. This was attended by 80 members and supporters.
- The launch of CPAG's report on student debt titled *Laybying our Future* on 3 August.
- The annual CPAG summit which this year was themed around *Investing in children* and aimed at critiquing the Government's so-called 'investment approach' to welfare. This event was held at Auckland University on 2 September and was attended by almost 100 people as well as being viewed by almost 5000 on *The Daily Blog's* live stream.

Also over this period CPAG's members have actively participated in media commentary, social media campaigns, submissions to Parliamentary committees and speeches and presentations to community organisations and tertiary students.

I would like to thank all those involved including our staff, management committee members and members and supporters across the country for their on-going support and passion for our work to ensure all New Zealand children have the best support and opportunities possible. This support and passion are what I believe make CPAG one of the most effective NGOs in Aotearoa.



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POLICY WATCH

An important aspect of CPAG's work is monitoring the impact of policy on children.

Incomes

Benefit increase - April 2016

Closing the Gap said the \$25 benefit increase was helpful but only the tip of the iceberg and that Government needed bold new ideas for preventing poverty. Giving more money to those on the lowest incomes is one of the best solutions to reducing inequality, and thus poverty. CPAG endorsed Closing the Gaps statement and believe that policy must be better geared toward alleviating poverty and inequality. CPAG said that the Government needs to spend \$1 billion per annum on fixing Working for Families to make the step change required to significantly reduce child poverty in New Zealand. The benefit increase was announced in the 2015 Budget and was effective from 1 April 2016.

Benefit trends article: Counting the outcomes - April 2016

In the brave new world of counting for outcomes, a recent article by Dr Jess Berentson-Shaw, Morgan Foundation, reminded us that a focus on increasing and decreasing numbers can take our understanding of a societal problem only so far. The article is well worth a read!

Education

Decile funding - March 2016

CPAG considers that funding for public schools is being unfairly allocated. Low decile schools receive more funding from the Government but are over-represented in lists of schools that are in debt and that have the most amount of debt. Chris Hipkins (Labour Party MP for Rimutaka) said that of 12 schools in debt, eight were low decile schools. According to Hipkins, "National's underfunding of schools is putting more and more financial strain on them. The less money schools get from the Government, the more they have to rely on so-called 'voluntary' donations. In the 2014 *Our children, our choice: priorities for policy* series by

CPAG, figures showed that lower decile schools as a whole operate with a financial deficit. Higher decile schools have greater opportunities to raise additional funds through voluntary donations and other sources. CPAG responded in a press release, saying the principles of the current decile funding system should be retained, but must be more closely targeted based on need and equality of outcome.

UNICEF Report Card 13 Fairness for Children - April 2016

The latest UNICEF Innocenti report demonstrated that children's economic security across OECD countries has declined in the past 30 years, and that the educational attainment of New Zealand children from poor backgrounds are more likely (21 percentage points) to achieve low results than the average child.

Housing

Residential Tenancy Act Amendment Bill - January 2016

CPAG made a [submission](#) on the Residential Tenancy Act Amendment Bill recommending that it includes a rental warrant of fitness (WOF) that provides tenants with the protection of minimum standards of safety and quality. CPAG recommends that as well as implementing a housing WoF to improve children's lives, the Government should develop a ten year national plan to overcome the shortage of affordable housing. The Labour party's has been promoting its Healthy Homes Guarantee Bill (No. 2) which has the purpose of ensuring that every rental home in New Zealand meets minimum standards of heating and insulation.

Social Housing reform bill - February 2016

Social Housing reform bill passed into law enabling sell-off of state housing to offshore community housing service providers – Government said that the Bill ensures the Government can be clear and transparent in transferring HNZ properties to the community sector. Combined with the guaranteed income stream through the Income Related Rent Subsidy, transferring properties gives them capital and an asset that they can use



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to further grow.

Healthy Homes Guarantee Bill - May 2016

CPAG supported the [Healthy Homes Guarantee Bill \(No 2\)](#) when it was debated in Parliament in May because it offered improved health and well-being for hundreds of thousands of New Zealand's children and their families, helping the most disadvantaged the most. CPAG said introducing the minimum standards outlined in Andrew Little's Bill would go a long way to reducing preventable hospital admissions that are costly to children, families and the nation. In order to avoid tragedies such as that of Emma-Lita Bourne's death from pneumonia, the question of insulation and housing quality must be taken far more seriously. The Bill passed its first reading in Parliament, 61:60 thanks to Peter Dunne's vote.

Emergency housing - May 2016

Government announced that \$41m will fund 3000 existing and new emergency housing beds, while \$7.5m would be directed to the Government's controversial state house sell-off.

Housing crisis - May 2016

Government committed to devote 430 hectares to help solve Auckland housing crisis

Budget - May 2016

Government planned to spend \$2.2 billion on housing related subsidies and programmes during the 2016/17 financial year. This is just \$30 million more than in the previous year although the mix of this spending changed a little. A \$258 million social housing package to fund at least 750 more places for vulnerable Kiwis was announced. CPAG said this was a "Band-Aid" and not a long-term solution to the crisis.

Relocation grant - June 2016

Social Housing Minister Paula Bennett announced an initiative offering grants of up to \$5000 to cover costs involved in moving from Auckland. From Monday 20 June 2016, grants became available for eligible people who wish to relocate to other areas of the country but for whom cost is a barrier.

Transitional homes - September 2016

Hon Paula Bennett, Minister of Social Housing, made an announcement that 51 new transitional homes would be provided for families in need of housing.

Social Security, Children's Welfare

Social Security Rewrite Bill - March 2017

There were significant policy changes to social welfare under the Social Security Act Rewrite Bill that was introduced into Parliament on March 17, 2016. NZCCSS wrote that they would be working on an analysis and response to this Bill in the months following and invited networking with others on the issues the Bill raises for vulnerable people and their communities.

Plans for CYF changes - April 2016

In the CYFs report released on April 7, proposed changes included raising state care age to 17 (until a child's 18th birthday), with more care to be outsourced within the NGO sector. CPAG responded with a media release and recommendation that Government should ensure resources are directed where they expect responsibility to fall and put more resource (funding) into organisations dealing with prevention, as well as provide support for families, by way of ensuring adequate income and implementing child-centred housing policies.

Lifewise and Wesley Community Action had a partial success with their We Don't Stop Caring petition. At the launch of the CYF review, Minister Anne Tolley announced the age of state care will be raised to 18, with options to enable some young people to remain or return to care up to age 21, with further supports in place up to age 25.

New Ministry "Oranga Tamariki" - August 2016

In August 2016 Government announced a Ministry for Vulnerable Children would be set up, effective from April 2017. It was criticised by Social Service Providers Aotearoa National Manager Brenda Pilott who said the new Ministry needed to reach children before they were vulnerable. Labour Party said that the focus on vulnerable children was too narrow, and that the name would stigmatise the "very kids it was trying to help." However it is con-



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cerning that the new department aligns with the 'social investment' approach, which has a focus on four risk assessment rules that exclude the effects of poverty.

'Normalising' Child Poverty

In August, The Guardian journalist Eleanor Ainge Roy reported the shocking fact that poverty is becoming "normalised" in New Zealand through a common belief that some levels of need are simply a part of society. CPAG's Dr Hirini Kaa was quoted as saying, "Child poverty has always been here – especially among Māori and Pacific populations – but it wasn't until homeless people started interrupting middle-class voters having coffee in central Auckland that the Government decided to 'tackle' it." However, the Government's new 'social investment' approach has too narrow a focus on a targeted, high risk group. Many children who do not meet the specific criteria are falling through the cracks, evidenced in the overwhelming need that is being seen at food bank charities. The approach ignores the fact that almost half of all children in poverty have at least one working parent, with around 37% having two. A follow-up article in which CPAG was quoted, said the Government "urgently needed to increase benefits for the most vulnerable families and make the welfare of children a priority."

Government's new "Social Investment" Policy

In focusing on "paid work" and being "off-benefit" the Government is reducing assistance to those in need, and at the same time stigmatising them. Children meet the Government's criteria for 'vulnerable' if two or more of four key risk factors are present. The risk factors are: their parent/caregiver has limited formal education, their parent/caregiver has or has had a prison or community service sentence, the child has been financially supported by a welfare benefit for the majority of their life, and the family has had a substantiated CYF notification. Using these criteria, 121,400 children have two or more of the key risk indicators, are 'vulnerable' and entitled to 'investment'. Because poverty isn't one of the criteria, 295,000 children living below the income-based poverty line are ignored.

SUBMISSIONS

January 2016: Comment and discussion on Exposure draft for Working for Families Tax Credit

CPAG commented that the eligibility requirements did not mention minimum hours of paid work for significant parts of these tax credits, and that the work requirement denies access to WFF assistance in the form of the IWTC for many of the most needy children. Overall the parts of the WFF assistance system are particularly unjust, with work criteria meaning many of the worst-off families miss out on crucial financial support.

January 2016: CPAG submission on the Residential Tenancy Amendment Bill

Public pressure over 2015 led the Government to amend the Residential Tenancy Bill. This was an excellent opportunity to reiterate CPAG views on improvements to rental housing policies which impact on the outcomes of children. CPAG made both a written and oral submission to the Residential Tenancy Select Committee. CPAG teamed up with ActionStation, UNICEF, NZCCSS, NZUSA and the Sustainability Trust to create a simple way for the public to submit on these issues.

June 2016: CPAG submission on the Social Security Legislation Rewrite Bill

CPAG submitted that the Social Security Legislation Rewrite Bill provided the opportunity for an overhaul of the philosophy, purposes and principles of the legislation, but also of the operation of MSD. MSD should return to a single focus of providing assistance to New Zealanders suffering hardship and achievement of this goal should be the key performance indicator for the chief executive. There should be regular measurement of MSD's performance in relation to this goal.

In addition, CPAG found it remarkable that the bill did not refer to poverty or describe the reduction of poverty as a key aim of social security. CPAG believes that the purposes and principles clauses of the bill should be rewritten to reflect the 1938 act's goal of providing adequate help to those in need.



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June 2016: CPAG submission on the Healthy Homes Guarantee Bill (No. 2)

CPAG commended the proposal for this legislation setting minimum standards of heating and insulation for residential premises, and requiring those standards to apply to all tenancy agreements made within a year of the Act coming into force. CPAG submitted that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment be adequately resourced to ensure landlord compliance with the minimum standards. CPAG endorsed the Bill's amendment to current legislation - increasing the financial penalty on a landlord's failure to meet obligations in respect of cleanliness, maintenance, building, health and safety requirements, or standards of heating and insulation. CPAG also submitted that fair rental regulations be introduced, including: limits on the rent that landlord may charge, known as 'rent control'; standards by which a landlord may terminate a tenancy; obligations on the landlord or tenant regarding adequate maintenance of the property; a system of oversight and enforcement by an independent regulator.

July 2016: CPAG submission on the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Advocacy, Workforce, and Age Settings) Amendment Bill

CPAG submitted on this bill, endorsing the revision of the definition of young persons and therefore extending the provisions of the statutory care and protection system to young persons aged up to 17 years. CPAG urged the Select Committee to recognise the causative link between deprivation (poverty) and child risk and recommended that Government take a preventative approach by ensuring all families with children have incomes adequate to meet their basic needs and that measures be provided to ensure that abuses of children in state care do not occur. Concerning independent advocacy services whose establishment is supported under the Bill, CPAG submitted that these be adequately funded, and measured for cultural competency in addition to their other requirements.

FUNDRAISING

Auckland Round the Bays

CPAG and supporters participated in Auckland **Round the Bays** on Sunday 6 March for a day of fun, exercise and fundraising towards CPAG's research in 2016.

Shoutin' Preachin fundraiser

On 23 January 2016 Shoutin' Preachin' organised a **STAND UP! Against Child Poverty** fundraiser, a musical event which featured five talented acts who played to support raising awareness about child poverty in New Zealand. The acts included Yoko-Zuna, LarzRanda, HEAVY, Omni Potent and Shoutin' Preachin'. CPAG is grateful to have had the opportunity to engage and share our kaupapa with a younger audience. We are thankful for all the amazing supporters who raised over \$1,200 and all for the hard work that went into making it such a memorable night.

Kidkind T-shirts - Fundraising website

In February 2016 **Kindkind** launched a range of stylish childrens t-shirts to raise money for the fight against, and to raise awareness about, child poverty in New Zealand.

The initiative was the brainchild of Auckland mum, Rachael Macklin, who decided to take action after the latest Child Poverty Monitor highlighted the extent of the problem, and the Children's Commissioner spoke out about the need for public awareness to drive Government action and a comprehensive national plan.

A group of talented New Zealand artists contributed designs for the shirts, including Beck Wheeler, Otis Frizzell, Kate Hursthouse, Knucklebones Design Co., Guy Bellerby and more. The children's shirts are still available for purchase online at kidkind.org.nz. All proceeds go to Child Poverty Action Group to help fund its work in research, education and advocacy.

Fundraiser Concert Auckland

The **End Child Poverty Fundraiser Concert** on 11 June was a huge success. Feedback from concert patrons described the night as "up-lifting" with



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a “buzzing atmosphere” and “immense enjoyment” of the diverse music styles and traditions included in the programme. The total proceeds and donations from the concert were \$2,664 and went towards helping to fund the CPAG 2016 Summit conference in September in Auckland. The Summit provided an opportunity for child poverty advocates around the country to come together to analyse and discuss the effectiveness of the “social investment approach” planned by Government to deliver social services to vulnerable children.

Special thanks to key organiser Brigitte Sistig, who initiated and coordinated the planning of this concert and to all the musicians who took part.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

Report - *A Band-Aid Budget: CPAG's analysis of the 2016 Government Budget*

Each year, shortly after the Government's Budget is published, CPAG provides its analysis of some details contained in various budget papers. The 2016 analysis sought to do two things – to critically examine budget figures in order to gain an appreciation of the Budget's implications for children and to publish this analysis as an alternative interpretation to that offered by mainstream media.

Report - *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* July 2016

Kathryn's Story, a report written for CPAG by barrister and journalist Catriona MacLennan, describes how an innocent mother, still grieving her the killing of her young son at the hands of her ex-partner, was imprisoned for relationship ‘fraud’, and how the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has subsequently hounded her for debt repayment. Fifteen years later, and chronically ill, she is still fighting to clear her name and to stop MSD taking reparations from her Supported Living Payment. *Kathryn's Story* builds on CPAG's work around relationship status as defined in the welfare system, published in the 2014 report *The*

complexities of “relationship” in the welfare system and the consequences for children.

One the key purposes of *Kathryn's Story* is to inform and educate those in positions of power about the contexts of the lives of many defenceless women who may fall foul of the system used to establish relationship fraud.

Report - *Laybying our future: The state of student hardship, August 2016*

The case of student hardship in New Zealand has long fallen under the political and media radar, and has been swallowed up in the discourse on student loan debt. In August CPAG published the report *Laybying our future: The state of student hardship in New Zealand*. The report, written by Master's student Max Lin, looked at the challenges of very low levels of financial support and – ever-rising associated costs – upon students today, and aimed to dispel some ‘myths’ about being a tertiary student. “The seriousness and urgency of student hardship demands a greater focus in the political agenda,” says author Max Lin.

While CPAG is largely focussed on children under 18 living below the poverty line, childhood poverty can have a negative effect on those who strive to obtain higher qualifications. Policy that tightens and restricts financial support for students makes it even more unlikely that children from low-income backgrounds will access the tertiary education they need to maximise their potential. Furthermore, some tertiary students are also parents of young children, whose Working for Families (WFF) eligibility is compromised because studying is not recognised as ‘work’.

MAY 2016 BUDGET

‘Not the New Zealand we want’

CPAG asked for meaningful policies for families and children from Budget 2016. But after a comprehensive analysis nothing of significance was found. When so many New Zealand families are in crisis with children bearing the brunt, this budget offered nothing. “All families need sufficient resources for their children to thrive,” said Professor Innes Asher, CPAG health spokesperson.



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BACKGROUND PAPERS

A policy of cynical neglect: The slow demise of the Accommodation Supplement - (February 2016)

Alan Johnson

This paper documented changes in spending on and take-up of the Accommodation Supplement since 2000 as well as changes in rents over the past decade. It supports the thesis that the failure of successive governments to adjust the maximum subsidies available under the Accommodation Supplement is a policy of cynical neglect. This failure has been deliberate and done with some understanding of its impact on low-income households.

OZ JUST DOES IT BETTER: A comparison between Australian and New Zealand family tax credits (June 2016)

Dr Ben Spies-Butcher and Dr Adam Stebbing of Macquarie University

At first glance New Zealand and Australia have very similar family tax credit (tax benefit) systems. Both have a targeted system, which provides larger payments to those on the lowest incomes and with larger families, and provides very little if anything at all to those on high incomes. And in both cases the desire to target resources leads to complexity and perverse outcomes.

These similarities reflect a long history of borrowing from and informing each other's approach. But, there are also important differences. For age pensions those differences reveal a universal, less complex and more efficient system in New Zealand. When it comes to families, it is almost the exact opposite. Australia's system is more generous, less complex and more efficient.

Fix Working for Families campaign FAQ (March 2016)

Susan St John, Janfrie Wakim, Jeni Cartwright

CPAG created a detailed and comprehensive list to unravel simplify the complexities of the Working for Families tax credit system, and to initiate the Fix Working for Families campaign.

Measuring Poverty: CPAG brief summary and overview (July 2016)

Associate Professor Mike O'Brien

Questions about measuring poverty prompted this paper. Poverty measurement, irrespective of the methods used, involves judgments. Poverty is about not having enough (and therefore is different from inequality) and this inevitably raises the question: what do we mean by enough and how do we measure that? Leaving that important discussion aside, there are two fundamental components in measuring levels of poverty, an income measure and a living standards measure. This brief document summarises the key components of each and their relationship to one another.

CAMPAIGNS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Fix Working for Families campaign

In March 2016 CPAG worked extensively on its upcoming Fix Working for Families (FWFF, #FWFF, #FixWFF) campaign, to coincide the launch with the increase in the In-Work Tax Credit (IWTC), with the aim to raise public and political awareness of the fundamental inadequacies of the Working for Families tax credit scheme. The campaign kicked off on 31 March with a special edition of Waatea 5th Estate dedicated to child poverty, featuring CPAG's Associate Professor Susan St John and Professor Innes Asher. CPAG wants Government to Fix Working for Families, so that it is FAIR.

Despite being supposedly targeted to alleviate child poverty, in its current state, the Working for Families (WFF) scheme discriminates against those children most in need. Approximately 230,000 children live in families that are unfairly denied \$72.50 a week other low income families receive. This is because their parents do not meet the criteria of being in paid work for a certain number of hours per week (20 for a sole parent and 30 for a couple) or are on a benefit. The IWTC is framed by the Government as a work incentive, intended to 'make work pay'. The official date of the campaign launch was 1 April 2016. It will continue



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into 2017 with an evolving strategy and ongoing support from the public through shared stories and Facebook posts. CPAG formed a Fix Working for Families sub-committee which meets regularly to discuss the campaign aims and to plan the next stages.

Associate Professor Susan St John (CPAG economics spokesperson) and Michael Timmins (CPAG law and housing spokesperson) met with the Ministry of Social Development to discuss the campaign to fix Working for Families. CPAG is in regular discussion with politicians as well as the Inland Revenue Department about the campaign.

The six-part campaign will run up until the election 2017. #FWFF is the result of 10 years of evidence-based research that has shown that Working for Families is not meeting its fundamental purpose (to support families with the extra costs of raising children) for the families who need the most help. Because of this failure WFF has had little impact on the poverty rates for children in workless households.

A [Part One Summary document](#) is now available online. Part One concentrated on very-low income families, arguing that WFF discriminates against around 230,000 of New Zealand's poorest children in workless households as their poverty rates are consistently several times higher than for children in working households. Part Two will look into parents in paid work and the indexation rules, income threshold levels and abatement rates that are imposed on WFF payments.

[Action Station petition](#)

On May 12 ActionStation launched a major online petition in collaboration with Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), UNICEF New Zealand, NZ Council of Christian Social Services, and Tick for Kids partners, urging for the 2016 budget to break the cycle of poverty by putting the needs of children before corporate interests. This follows on from last year's petition which called on the Government to make real, positive change for our most vulnerable children by boosting the incomes of the poorest households in New Zealand. The success of the 2015 petition, with more than 17,000 signatures, was proven when Government responded

by increasing core benefit levels by \$25 per week in the 2015 Budget.

[Park Up For Homes campaign](#) [June to September 2016](#)

Park Up For Homes ([#ParkUpForHomes](#), [#PUFH](#)) was an initiative started by a small group of friends based in Mangere, Auckland, who decided to rally together in a show of solidarity with those who, through circumstances beyond their control, were facing winter living in a car or garage. Through the group's connection with Alan Johnson, CPAG proudly got on board to support the cause.

The #Parkup Mangere action had over 1000 people attend and the reception was so much so that it created a wave among New Zealanders concerned about the situation for many families. The event gave rise to a nationwide out-pouring of energy by volunteers and participants who wanted to see our most vulnerable given better housing provision.

PUFH co-founder Justin Latif said he never expected so many people to be willing to sleep in their cars during the middle of winter to show solidarity with those doing it tough. CPAG said that as an urgent priority we simply need to build more state houses. Instead of squeezing dividends out of Housing New Zealand, the Government should be providing Housing New Zealand with the financial capability to build more state houses on land it already owns. The #ParkUpForHomes movement saw over 2000 people rally together over nine locations across New Zealand, standing for the rights of all Kiwis to have a safe, warm home to live in. The final event was held in Palmerston North on September 2.

Success of the #ParkUpForHomes campaign can be measured by the increased public and media awareness of homelessness in New Zealand, and a notable change in the narrative about what being homeless really means. Homelessness in New Zealand is not about individuals 'not taking responsibility for themselves', it is about low-income families forced to sleep in cars because they simply cannot afford to rent a home privately or be housed by the state. Social housing is not geared to accommodate the numbers who need it.



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EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Fix Working for Families Workshops

In the lead-up to the 1 April launch of CPAG's Fix Working for Families campaign, two workshops were held, in Auckland and in Wellington on March 17 and 21 respectively. The fundamental inadequacies of the Ministry of Social Development's Working for Families (WfF) system of tax credits were demonstrated, and some light shed on the more technical issues with the scheme, starting from the payments that preceded WfF and the enduring effects of welfare budget cuts by Government in 1991.

A further workshop was held in Dunedin on May 19.

Associate Professor Susan St John and Associate Professor Michael O'Brien delivered the presentations and provided an eye-opening lesson in welfare changes throughout the past 30 years that have contributed to the increasing inequality and the growing numbers of children experiencing poverty in New Zealand.

Post budget breakfasts

Child Poverty Action Group hosted Post Budget Breakfast events in six main centres on 27 May in Whangarei, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Hamilton, and a further event was held in Nelson Tasman on 1 June, marking the first event held in the region. CPAG is indebted to all the speakers and the hardworking volunteers and supporting organisations who contributed in each city and on whom CPAG depends. Each event did a remarkable job interpreting and presenting a cogent analysis of 2016 Budget

The general feeling was that although CPAG had hoped that incomes, particularly the Working for Families tax credits, and housing would be addressed, in fact the Budget offered mere scraps that don't go far enough, equating to a "Band-aid Budget".

The [full budget review](#) is available on our website.

Laybying our future: The State of Student Hardship in New Zealand - Report Launch

On 3 August, CPAG held a successful report launch for [*Laybying our future: The state of student hardship in New Zealand*](#) at the University of Auckland Business School.

Laybying our future: The state of student hardship in New Zealand was written by Master's student Max Lin and considers the challenges faced by tertiary students today. Speakers at the event included Max Lim, CPAG's Julie Timmins and a panel of guest speakers including Labour MP Jenny Salsea, Green MP Gareth Hughes, former student Sian Roberston and President of NZUSA, Linsey Higgins.

Kathryn's Story - Report Launch

On 1 July CPAG launched [*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*](#) at the Auckland Women's Centre in Grey Lynn. Speakers included CPAG economics spokesperson Associate Professor Susan St John, Auckland Women's Centre Manager Leonie Morris and author of *Kathryn's Story*, Catriona MacLennan.

There was an excellent turn-out by supporters who contributed to the valuable discussion about the flaws in New Zealand's social security.

CPAG Annual General Meeting

CPAG held its 18th AGM on Wednesday 27 July 2016. The AGM was followed by a very special guest speaker, Children's Commissioner Andrew Becroft recently seconded to the position for two years from his position as Principal Youth Court Judge. The AGM reflected on all that's happened over the 2015-16 year. During this time there has been a great shift in attitudes and the steady realisation by the public and Government, that unaffordable, poor quality housing as well as inadequate incomes are contributing factors to poverty. This was manifest in the announcement of the \$25 increase to benefits in the 2015 budget (implemented this year in April) and a continued focus on improvements to the regulation of housing quality, as well as attention to emergency housing



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in recent housing policy announcements.

The 2016 [CPAG Annual Report is available for download online](#), and slides from Commissioner Becroft's talk are available on the [event page](#).

CPAG Summit 2016: Investing in Children

On 2 September 2016 CPAG co-hosted the Summit "*Investing in children*" with the Retirement Policy and Research Centre (RPRC).

For more than two decades, the primary focus of governments in New Zealand has been workfare, not welfare. Welfare itself has become ever more targeted, especially under the social investment approach:

"A social investment approach using actuarial valuations and evidence of what works will identify the best way of targeting early interventions, to ensure that vulnerable children receive the care and support they need, when they need it."

Treasury wrote: "Social Investment is an approach which seeks to improve the lives of New Zealanders by applying rigorous and evidence-based investment practices to social services." The four key indicators of higher risk for children aged birth to 14 years identified by Treasury are: having a CYF finding of abuse or neglect, being mostly supported by benefits since birth, having a parent with a prison or community sentence, and having a mother with no formal qualifications. What Treasury avoids saying is that poverty is the principal indicator for higher risk for children.

The morning session included presentations from Shamubeel Eaqub, Prue Kapua, Efeso Collins, Gerry Cotterell, Susan Morton, Peter Sykes and Fiu Anae Uesile Wesley Tala'imanu.

In the afternoon session Darrin Hodgetts, Otilie Stolte, Bill Rosenberg, Mike O'Brien and Susan St John presented.

The summit conference pack for speaker bios and background readings, and conference proceedings are available on the [CPAG website](#).

Child poverty and social justice: Not all are equal in New Zealand seminar, Wellington

The Wellington Action Group (WAG) held a well-attended seminar on Child Poverty and Social

Justice on 21 September which was a great success. The many attendees included an excellent turnout from Sophie Matthewson's youth network. The evening included a presentation about *Kathryn's Story* by author and barrister Catriona MacLennan, and a presentation on the differences in treatment between tax evasion and welfare fraud in the justices system by Associate Professor Lisa Marriott who is the programme director at Victoria University's School of Accounting and Commercial Law.

EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS (CONTINUED)

1st Quarter		
17 March	Fix Working for Families Workshop, Auckland	Auckland
21 March	Fix Working for Families Workshop, Auckland	Wellington
2nd Quarter		
19 May	Fix Working for Families Workshop	Dunedin
27 May	Post budget breakfast	Auckland
27 May	Post budget breakfast	Wellington
27 May	Post budget breakfast	Whangarei
27 May	Post budget breakfast	Hamilton
27 May	Post budget breakfast	Christchurch
27 May	Post budget breakfast	Dunedin
1 June	Post budget breakfast	Nelson
16 June	Park up for homes Mangere	Auckland
25 June	Park up for homes Parliament	Wellington

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25 June	Park up for homes Otara	Auckland
3rd Quarter		
1 July	<i>Kathryn's Story</i> report launch	Auckland
2 July	Park up for homes Onehunga	Auckland
8 July	Park up for homes West (Henderson)	Auckland
23 July	Park up for homes Napier	Napier
23 July	Park up for homes Hamilton	Hamilton
27 July	CPAG AGM /Judge Andrew Becroft talk	Auckland
3 August	<i>Student hardship</i> report launch	Auckland
25 August	Park up for homes Parnell	Auckland
2 September	Park up for homes Palmy	Palmerston North
2 September	CPAG summit: <i>Investing in Children</i>	Auckland
21 September	Seminar: <i>Child Poverty and Social Justice</i>	Wellington

31 March	Working for Families tax credit scheme doesn't work for our kids - Newstalk ZB
31 March	CPAG's Michael Timmins interviewed by to Dale Husband on Te Wahanga Parakuihi (Breakfast with Dale): Radio Waatea
31 March	Child Poverty and FWFF - Waatea 5th Estate
2nd Quarter	
1 April	Drive to make tax credits work better for low income whanau - Maori Television
1 April	Changes give poorer families a boost - Radio NZ
4 April	Child Poverty special AAAP - Waatea 5th Estate
7 April	Action group calls for reform of tax credits (print) -The Star (Otago)
12 April	CYF Reforms - Waatea 5th Estate
19 May	Frank Hogan: Work and Income advice 'passing the buck' - Radio NZ
19 May	CPAG: Government out of touch with severity of housing crisis - Radio NZ
26 May	Child poverty advocates see no relief in Budget - NZ Herald
26 May	Budget special - Waatea 5th Estate
27 May	Concern over budget shortcomings - Southern Television
27 May	Boring' Budget lambasted at CPAG morning-after breakfast - NZ Doctor
28 May	Anger builds over Budget's child poverty inaction - Northern Advocate
28 May	Band-Aid' on child poverty -Otago Daily Times
30 May	Family first child poverty report questioned by experts - Newstalk ZB
2 June	Nelson boy came to school shoeless and limping, Child Poverty Action Group told - Nelson Mail
7 June	Wide range of Nelson families struggling, agencies say - Radio NZ
16 June	Thousands join overnight protest at homeless sleepout - Newshub
17 June	Hundreds park up for homeless in Māngere - Radio NZ
17 June	'Strong signal to the Government' as hundreds sleep rough to support homeless - TVNZ

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

1st Quarter		
7 January	Maori, Pasifika respiratory disease rates a scandal - Radio New Zealand	
24 February	Who should take action on lung disease? Radio NZ	
25 February	Kids unite against child poverty with Kid-kind t-shirts - Kidkind	
26 February	Brian Fallow: Poverty beyond counting - NZ Herald	
5 March	Rental WoFs: Changes 'not enough' - Newstalk ZB	
29 March	Some government benefits are quietly being eroded at the expense of families - Dominion Post	

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20 June	#Parkupforhomes set to take place near Parliament grounds - Maori Television
22 June	Otara community to brave the cold in support of homeless - Maori Television
23 June	Tua to join in on park up crusade - NZ Herald
30 June	Checkpoint Govt punishes women unduly for benefit fraud - Radio NZ
30 June	Kathryn's Story - Waatea 5th Estate exclusive
27 June	South Auckland joins nationwide rallies against child abuse - Maori Television
3rd Quarter	
1 July	Working for Families system 'not properly helping those most in need' - Dominion Post
1 July	Targeting vulnerable mothers is bad for women and children - Greens, Jan Logie Blog
1 July	In the Best Interests of Her Children? - Brian Easton on Pundit
9 July	Homeless children show social services are inadequate - Newshub
13 July	Can Labour's Housing Policy Work? - Waatea 5th Estate
2 August	"The Auckland Unitary Plan" - Waatea 5th Estate
2 August	Tighter rules have cut 20,000 out of student allowances - NZ Herald
2 August	Politicians need schooling up on student hardships - Newstalk ZB
3 August	Rethink interest-free student loans - Radio NZ
4 August	'Laybying our Future' supports research from Students Union - NZUSA
16 August	NZ's most shameful secret we have normalised child poverty - The Guardian
31 August	"Child Poverty in NZ" - Waatea 5th Estate
17 August	Unicef and Charities urge NZ to act on Child poverty - The Guardian
18 August	Govt admits data vacuum on motel help Frank Hogan - NZ Herald
18 August	Park Up For Homes movement heads to wealthy Auckland suburb - Stuff.co.nz

19 August	Rational discussion needed about interest-free student loans, Susan St John - Newstalk ZB
25 August	More than half of homeless are working or studying - NewstalkZB
2 September	Govt's social investment strategy comes under fire - Radio NZ
15 September	Catriona MacLennan: Forcing mothers to name father of children puts them in physical danger - Larry Williams Show, Newstalk ZB
26 September	Fifty Shades of Green: Nelson's housing crisis - Nelson Mail
30 September	Crown land set aside for school to be re-purposed for transitional housing - Newstalk ZB

SUBMISSIONS

1st Quarter		
January	<u>Comment and discussion on Exposure draft for Working for Families Tax Credit (Jan 2016)</u>	Susan St John and M.Claire Dale
	<u>Submission: Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill (Jan 2016)</u>	M. Claire Dale
2nd Quarter		
June	<u>Social Security Legislation Rewrite Bill (June 2016)</u>	Catriona MacLennan
	<u>Healthy Homes Guarantee Bill (No. 2) (June 2016)</u>	M. Claire Dale
3rd Quarter		
July	<u>Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Advocacy, Workforce, and Age Settings) Amendment Bill</u>	M. Claire Dale

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RESEARCH AND OTHER RESOURCES

1st Quarter		
February	Conference paper	<u><i>A policy of cynical neglect: The slow demise of the Accommodation Supplement</i></u> - Alan Johnson
	FAQ document	<u><i>CPAG Fix Working for Families Campaign</i></u> - Susan St John, Jeni Cartwright, JanFrie Wakim
2nd Quarter		
May	Report summary	<u><i>Not the New Zealand we want</i></u> Budget summary document - Alan Johnson, Innes Asher, Janfrie Wakim, Mike O'Brien, Susan St John, M.Claire Dale
	Report	<u><i>A Band-Aid Budget: 2016 Budget Analysis</i></u> CPAG'S analysis of the 2016 Government budget - Alan Johnson
	Report	<u><i>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</i></u> - Catriona MacLennan
June	Website resource	<u><i>Oz just does it better - A comparison between Australian and New Zealand family tax credits</i></u> - Dr Ben Spies-Butcher and Dr Adam Stebbing of Macquarie University
	Report	<u><i>Laybying our Future: The State of Student Hardship in New Zealand</i></u> - Max Lin
3rd Quarter		
July	Website resource	<u><i>Measuring Poverty: CPAG Brief summary and overview</i></u> - Mike O'Brien
September	Proceedings	Social Security Summit: <u><i>Investing in children</i></u> - M. Claire Dale

BLOGS (CPAG WEBSITE)

1st Quarter		
February	<u><i>What would just tenancy laws look like?</i></u>	Alan Johnson
	<u><i>The slow demise of the Accommodation Supplement</i></u>	Alan Johnson
March	<u><i>New inflation indicators are steps in the right direction</i></u>	Susan St John and Claire Dale
2nd Quarter		
April	<u><i>Summer holiday fun? Not for Dale's family</i></u>	Guest Blog: Janet McAllister for FWFF
	<u><i>Child welfare needs to be at the heart of our Government</i></u>	Guest Blog: Deborah Morris-Travers for FWFF
	<u><i>Working for Families does not work for families. Ironic really</i></u>	Guest Blog: Jess Berentson-Shaw for FWFF
	<u><i>A few ladders and lots of snakes</i></u>	Guest Blog: Author Anne Else, for FWFF
May	<u><i>Antiquated welfare system needs a reality check</i></u>	Guest Blog: Author Max Rashbrooke, for FWFF
	<u><i>Home comforts a civil right for Swedish renters</i></u>	Guest Blog: Chantelle Murreley.
	<u><i>Playing the blame game does nothing to fix child poverty</i></u>	Guest Blog: Lizzie Marvally for FWFF
	<u><i>Natalie's Story - I work, I work hard</i></u>	Guest Blog: Natalie Absalom for FWFF
	<u><i>A little help goes a long way. Except for this time</i></u>	Alan Johnson
June	<u><i>Whats up with housing? But also whats up with incomes?</i></u>	Jeni Cartwright
	<u><i>Australia could teach us a lesson in family tax credits</i></u>	Susan St John

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3rd Quarter		
July	<u>A \$1 billion fund to subsidise speculators</u>	Alan Johnson
August	<u>All jobs are not created equal</u>	Jeni Cartwright
	<u>Mums need to be supported, not punished</u>	Leonie Morris
	<u>Comments on Labour's "The Future of Work" series</u>	Susan St John
September	<u>Breaking down the 'social investment' approach</u>	M. Claire Dale

2 April	<u>"Kathryn's Story" highlights the need for major welfare overhaul.</u> The Daily Blog, Susan St John
13 July	<u>Excuse me Minister.</u> The Daily Blog, Susan St John
3rd Quarter	
12 August	<u>Hit housing bubble through tax.</u> NZ Herald, Susan St John and Alan Johnson
2 September	<u>Auckland shows government policy failures writ large.</u> The Daily Blog, Susan St John

ARTICLES

1st Quarter	
30 December (2015)	<u>Child poverty measures short-change families.</u> NZ Herald, Susan St John
26 February	<u>Why do we fail our children?</u> NZ Herald, Michael Timmins
26 March	MUST READ: <u>Jam tomorrow Jam yesterday. NEVER EVER JAM TODAY!</u> The Daily Blog, Susan St John
2nd Quarter	
14 April	<u>Tax credits leave many disadvantaged.</u> NZ Herald, Emily Keddell
29 April	<u>Good Policy is rarely done on the run.</u> The Daily Blog, Susan St John
30 April	<u>The rules for the old too good for children?</u> The Daily Blog, Susan St John
31 April	<u>Get married stay married and you won't be poor.</u> The Daily Blog, Susan St John
17 April	<u>Some babies are more special than others.</u> The Daily Blog, Susan St John

GUEST PRESENTATIONS AND ORAL SUBMISSIONS

CPAG has members around the country who are available to present to a wide range of forums. If you would like CPAG to speak at your next event, please fill in our speaker request form.

1st Quarter	
5 February 2016	Presentation to visiting Japanese law students on CPAG Wgtn Nikki Turner
17 February 2016	Meet the need Massey University, Equity through Education Symposium Janfrie Wakim
24 February 2016	Looking after child health in Sweden – lessons for New Zealand Paediatricians Starship Wednesday Paediatric Update Innes Asher (Chair)
25 February 2016	Labour health Hui Labour health Hui Innes Asher
25 February 2016	Residential tenancy Amendment Bill Submission to Select committee Innes Asher
23 February 2016	On CPAG advocacy to medical students AUMSA student interest group seminar Innes Asher

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1 March 2016	Epsom Girls Grammar HR Act and the CPAG case Janfrie Wakim
8 March 2016	Sustainable Development Goal One END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE Pacific Catalyst 4 Change Conference, TAHA, UoA Nikki Turner
14 March 2016	Child Poverty Fabian Society in Wellington Nikki Turner
16 March 2016	Paid Parental Leave submission to select committee Susan St John
2nd Quarter	
14 April 2016	Social Practice Degree students and supervisors Unitec, Department of Social Practice George Makapatama
2 June 2016	Welfare provisions for the 21st century MSD Evidence Seminar Wellington Ministry of Social Development Susan St John and Michael Timmins
21 June 2016	Triple jeopardy for child health - what can the laws do? Innes Asher Auckland Medico-legal Society
22 June 2016	To the Fabian Society in Auckland on child poverty Nikki Turner and Susan St John
28 June 2016	Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee Annual Conference Perinatal and maternal mortality and morbidity: social and economic factors Innes Asher
30 June 2016	Child Rights Rotorua Lakes DHB forum Alan Johnson
3rd Quarter	
3-4 July 2016	AUMSA conference Alan Johnson
16 July 2016	Stop the Sales Coalition/Stop the sales of State Houses in Tauranga Alan Johnson
22 August 2016	Treasury Guest lecture: Improving Policies for Families and Children Wellington Susan St John
22 August 2016	Cross-party Homelessness Enquiry at Te Puea Marae Innes Asher
10 September 2016	Public Rally For Democracy Alan Johnson

MEDIA RELEASES

1st Quarter

20/01/16	<u>Surprise! More money reduces poverty!</u>
17/02/16	<u>Child Poverty needs to be a priority</u>
26/02/16	<u>Stop the blame, shift the funding - CPAG</u>
04/03/16	<u>Housing WOFs will see children thrive</u>
10/03/16	<u>Low inflation requires better response for families - CPAG</u>
31/03/16	<u>CPAG launch 'Fix Working for Families' campaign</u>

2nd Quarter

08/04/16	<u>CYF steps up, what about the rest?</u>
11/04/16	<u>Baffling benefit system makes families worse off</u>
18/04/16	<u>Better resourced schools, better outcomes for children</u>
12/05/16	<u>Petition calls for children to take first priority</u>
17/05/16	<u>Musicians band together to End Child Poverty</u>
18/05/16	<u>'Amazing numbers' on the priority waiting list for social housing</u>
22/05/16	<u>Band-aids won't do it for the 2016 Budget</u>
26/05/16	<u>Not the New Zealand we want - CPAG</u>
08/06/16	<u>John, Bronagh and Max receive invite to #Parkupforhomes: Mangere</u>
08/06/16	<u>National's policy statement offers pittance to the homeless at Te Puea Marae</u>
16/06/16	<u>Are the needs of babies really at the centre of Paid Parental Leave?</u>
20/06/16	<u>Will Wellington MPs turn out for #Parkup Parliament?</u>
20/06/16	<u>#ParkUp Otara says "homelessness is not okay"</u>
28/06/16	<u>Kathryn's Story - Government spends over \$100K pursuing beneficiary</u>
28/06/16	<u>Boxing legend David Tua heads #Parkup Onehunga</u>

3rd Quarter

04/07/16	<u>"Kathryn's Story" highlights need for major welfare overhaul</u>
05/07/16	<u>Key's \$1 billion is not a game breaker, says CPAG</u>
06/07/16	<u>#Parkupforhomes heads west this Friday</u>

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18/07/16	<u>Park Up For Homes in Hamilton and Napier on July 23</u>
19/07/16	<u>Poverty affects children at all stages of life, says CPAG</u>
28/07/16	<u>CYPF Amendment Bill must provide better for children</u>
01/08/16	<u>CPAG launches new report on student poverty</u>
04/08/16	<u>Student Hardship the real issue</u>
10/08/16	<u>CPAG says Working for Families must be fixed</u>
12/08/16	<u>Experimental teacher education yet another Band-Aid</u>
22/08/16	<u>CPAG welfare summit Investing in Children</u>
23/08/16	<u>Park up for homes Parnell signifies time for a change</u>
30/08/16	<u>Park up for homes last protest in Palmerston North</u>
30/08/16	<u>CPAG says "we can do much better for our children" (summit pt2)</u>
09/09/16	<u>Report shows no improvement for worst off children</u>
15/09/16	<u>Sanctions must be removed from Social Security Legislation</u>
16/09/16	<u>Child Poverty and Social Injustice Seminar in Wellington Sept 21</u>
21/09/16	<u>Grandparent caregivers need greater support</u>
27/09/16	<u>Barriers to educational success must be removed</u>

MEDIA SUMMARY

Type of Exposure	Q1 Jan - Mar 2016	Q2 Apr - June 2016	Q3 July - Sept 2016
Reports and Submissions	4	8	3
Articles and Blogs	6	18	7
CPAG Events & Workshops	2	11	11
Press Releases	6	15	19
Parliamentary Mentions	2	5	0
Guest Presentations	9	6	5
No. of website visits	7,898	18,211	18,845
Average unique visitors/month	2633	6070	6282

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REPORT DOWNLOADS JAN – SEPT 2016

Report/publication	Q1 Jan - Mar 2016	Q2 April - June 2016	Q3 July - Sept 2016	YTD Total 2016	Overall total
Laybying our Future			1126	1126	1126
Measuring Poverty Guide			246	246	246
Kathryn's Story			5537	5537	5537
CPAG Band Aid Budget full analysis		408	218	626	626
Budget summary analysis		273	0	273	273
FAQ FWFF	79	139	22	240	240
2015 Summit Proceedings	324	108	182	614	805
"It shouldn't be this hard": children, poverty and disability	491	471	796	1758	4407
The complexities of 'relationship' in the welfare system and the consequences for children	384	714	695	1793	6097
Our Children, Our Choice: Priorities for Policy Series	362	410	568	1340	6178
Left Further Behind	985	1399	949	3306	38610
Left Behind	470	958	799	2227	14690
Hunger for Learning	1095	1357	1221	3673	25093
Empty Food Baskets	441	456	368	1265	8635
Child Abuse Series	2435	3583	2720	8738	31619
Myths and Facts DPB	578	673	667	1918	9427
Benefit Sanctions Monitoring Series	428	504	442	1374	8432
Transience Report	208	401	226	835	2081
New Zealanders' attitudes to poverty - MM Research	421	671	892	1984	3762
OCOC Part 1: Child Health & Poverty	124	80	185	389	5202
OCOC Part 2: Early Childhood Care and Education, and Child Poverty	508	406	398	1312	4755
OCOC Part 3: Compulsory schooling and child poverty	54	62	101	217	2254
OCOC Part 4: Housing market change and their impact on children	97	161	170	428	1677
OCOC Part 5: Adequate incomes to address child poverty	114	53	130	297	1241