

**In this Newsletter:**

- CPAG Hui
- Lunchtime at Tamaki
- International child poverty debates
- Meeting the MPs
- Submissions
- Media team
- Call for membership

**20 November 2009**

## CPAG Hui 7- 8 October 2009. *Na Ta Tatou Rourou:*

*with our basket, the children will prosper.*



**Hui purpose:** an opportunity to share the collective wisdom of the

participants, and determine some future actions for positive change. Power-point presentations, and notes of the discussions, are available here: [Hui](#).

### Inspiring words:

**Manukau Mayor Len Brown:** "Hope, knowledge and good information, have power to drive change."

**Sue Bradford:** "Activism is a translation service by those who know what's happening for those who don't."

**Susan St John:** "We must not accept concepts like "deserving" and "undeserving" poor."

**Alan Johnson:** "A lesson for resistance in Linda Smith's *State of the Nation* is that social inclusion is a constant process of translation, negotiation, mediation, reciprocity, consent, and readiness."

**John Minto:** "Economic growth and productivity growth are not the answer for New Zealand's problems – both are captured by the wealthy... Optimists believe work can bring positive change."

**Peter Sykes:** "Ghettos are created in subdivisions when there are no playgrounds or community centres... We find to find ways to participate in effecting positive change."

**Shirley Maihi:** "Our school is a village, a learning institution for the whole whanau. Staff are willing to be different, and our community is willing to try new things. MPs could visit South Auckland to see what is happening and understand the issues so they act appropriately."

**Di Grenell:** "We want to change the face of poverty, but how does change happen? What would it take to make you change your mind?"

**CPAG Resolutions** emerging from the hui include: keep well networked; assist in developing a coherent vision or idea of a desirable future; locate the unique offering of CPAG on the advocacy map; develop Maori and Treaty relations and a system for co-working; maintain focus on producing applied research and recommendations; and immediately: ensure the Tax Working Group is alert to the poverty and hardship currently endured by children as a consequence of existing tax and welfare policies.

### International debates:

New Zealand could learn from the UK's **Child Poverty Bill 2008-09** [Child Poverty Bill 2008-2009](#). The Bill provides a statutory basis to the 1999 Government's commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020. It also aims to drive action across departments; create definitions for success in eradicating child poverty; and create a framework to monitor progress at a national and local level. Key areas include:

- placing a duty on the Secretary of State to meet four UK-wide income poverty targets by the end of the financial year 2020
- placing a duty on the Secretary of State to publish a child poverty strategy evaluating progress towards the four income targets and setting out future action.

The Bill has completed its Public Bill Committee Stages and is awaiting a date to Report to the House. See [Child Poverty Bill pledges legal duty](#). CPAG UK described this as a 'historic opportunity'. Chief executive Kate Green said: 'We are delighted the government have carried this Bill over and hope that all parties continue their commitment to make its passing a priority in the remainder of the parliamentary term.'

**Submissions** on the UK's Child Poverty Bill can be emailed to [scrutiny@parliament.uk](mailto:scrutiny@parliament.uk), with "Child Poverty Bill" in the subject line. Submissions need to include a date; brief introduction about you/your organisation; and the name, address, telephone number and email address of the person responsible for the submission.

## Lunchtime at Tamaki:

On 27 October at the University of Auckland's Tamaki Campus, Professor Innes Asher and Dr Steve Poletti provided a lunch-time audience with statistics to put them off their food: "Child poverty and child health in NZ - A national disgrace". See the powerpoint presentation here: [National Disgrace](#)

## Meeting the new MPs:

CPAG met with Nikki Kaye in October to suggest actions government could take to improve the lives of the 28% of our children who are suffering hardship. Her response was supportive and positive. Sadly, the Minister for Social Development, Paula Bennett, cancelled her November meeting with CPAG, on the grounds that it is not appropriate to meet before the hearing of CPAG's appeal against the Human Rights Tribunal decision regarding the In-Work-Tax Credit. We have requested a meeting with the Minister after the appeal is heard to discuss other issues surrounding child poverty and to keep the dialogue open.

## Submissions:

The CPAG submission on the [Credit, Contract and Consumer Finance Act](#) urges the government to follow Australia's lead and cap interest rates. It is still legal in New Zealand to charge more than 500% interest.

CPAG's submission on the Auckland City Council's [Gambling](#) Policy Review urges the Council to retain its "sinking lid" policy, reducing the number of pokie machines.

Our submission on alcohol to the [Law Commission](#) does not support allowing dairies to be outlets for alcohol, and supports raising the drinking age to 20 for both on- and off-licences.

## CPAG Press Releases and a media team:

**Press Releases on the website:** [MSD Social Report](#); [Pneumonia Day](#); [Children: Victims of the Recession](#), [Child's Social Health Monitor](#) comment on public and political events.

### Questions for our members:

1) Do you want to keep receiving those Press Releases? If not, please email us with "No Press Releases Please" in the subject line, and we will take you off that email list.

2) Are you interested in being part of a group following up on Press Releases with a letter to a newspaper, or weekly or monthly magazine such as the Herald, Dominion Post, and other daily newspapers, and publications like *Metro*, *North and South*, and *The Listener*.

**If you are interested, please email us with "Media Team" in the subject line, and we will put you on the list to receive copies of all Press Releases.**

## Membership, subscriptions and donations:

Thanks to those of you who have recently become or remained financial members of CPAG and donated generously. We ask you, if you haven't already done so, to update your membership and consider becoming a regular financial donor to our organization. As a CPAG member you receive regular updates on our work and invitations to CPAG events.

**Subscriptions:** organisations \$100; individuals \$20; and unwaged \$10.

Please make cheques out to: **Child Poverty Action Group Inc** and post to:

**Child Poverty Action Group, PO Box 56 150, Mt Eden, Auckland, NEW ZEALAND;**

or you can bank money directly into our account: **Kiwibank 38-9003-0066858-00**

Details for donating and membership can be found [here](#).

If you are receiving this newsletter by post, either we do not have your current email address, or you have asked for mail-only news. If you would like to receive our more frequent e-news, please email Julie at [admin@cpag.org.nz](mailto:admin@cpag.org.nz). Email saves us time and money – thanks.

***A rich life for all children: End child poverty by 2020.***