



Annual Report

Year ended
March 2016

The guiding principle of CPAG is the right of every child to security, food, shelter, education and healthcare

Child Poverty Action Group Incorporated
Charities Registration Number: CC25387
www.cpag.org.nz

CHiLD
POVERTY
ACTION
GROUP



Our vision

A New Zealand where no child has to live in poverty.

Our Mission

CPAG strives to achieve the elimination of child poverty in Aotearoa New Zealand. Government policy is the fundamental means by which this can be attained. We work to provide evidence about the causes and effects of poverty on children and their families, and inform the public, policy makers, media and politicians of policy choices to reduce child poverty.

Our activities and decisions honour Te Tiriti O Waitangi, and other cultural perspectives.

CPAG is an independent, registered charity. We are funded entirely by grants from charitable trusts and donations from the public and do not apply for nor accept funding from the proceeds of the gambling industry.

What we do

Provide a strong, independent voice for New Zealand Children

We are an independent organisation, working on behalf of all New Zealand children to advance policies to improve and enhance their wellbeing.

Harness expertise

We draw on world-class expertise from health, welfare, education, social services and economics to develop policies and propose strategies that will improve opportunities for New Zealand families and communities.

Conduct original research

We conduct and commission rigorous research to understand better the underlying challenges related to child poverty, and use the findings to make recommendations and promote initiatives in the public domain.

Provide a spotlight on child poverty

Child poverty is a national issue that is often overlooked and dismissed. We partner with other organisations to raise the profile of issues related to child poverty in New Zealand. CPAG's work has been taken up widely by other groups working on the issues.

Co-Convenors' Message

The National Government surprised us in the Budget 2015 by announcing a \$25/week increase for families on benefits raising children - the first since 1972. It was a recognition that families reliant on benefit income had fallen behind other households. Even the OECD in its report Economic Survey of New Zealand 2015 stated that benefits had fallen far too far behind and ALL benefits should be raised and then linked to median wages.

Since that announcement, never has so much been made, so often, about so little, for so long!

Never mind that the increase would be not implemented for a year (April 2016) or that the increase was reduced by offsets for families who receive entitlements such as the accommodation supplement or supplementary hardship assistance that erode the value of the benefit increase.

Though paltry, the increase for families signalled an important change in the approach to child poverty in New Zealand, as at last it recognised that the best way to help children in poverty is to give more income to low income families. This is reinforced by other research. The Centre for Global Development research on giving cash transfers to poor families found a range of impacts including: lower crime rates, improved child nutrition and child health, lower child mortality, improved school attendance, and declines in teenage pregnancy.

As in other years Budget breakfasts were held in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin and lunch in Whangarei.

A CPAG campaign to Fix Working for Families (FWFF) began in early 2016 to seek urgent improvements to Working for Families. An overall an immediate spend of approximately \$1 billion more per annum is required for effective change to alleviate child poverty.

CPAG launched an influential nationwide campaign to highlight the often hidden failures of housing in New Zealand, with a view to increasing awareness and provoking change at a governmental level. In October 2015 hikoi were held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch with the message that 'Everyone Deserves a Home' and gained wide attention. The State has a fundamental obligation to ensure that everyone living in New Zealand always has access to adequate and secure housing and several immediate steps are necessary to achieve this. To date, none of the [campaign asks](#) has occurred and the housing crisis has become even more severe.

CPAG held a summit in September 2015 to discuss the direction of the New Zealand welfare system, how this affects children and families, and proposed solutions to fix the current regime. Eight core principles were identified as essential for a functional system in the 21st century. These echo a return to the view of Michael Savage when he introduced the Social Security Act of 1938: "*A new principle has been introduced by this Act: citizens of the Dominion are insuring themselves against the economic hardships that would otherwise follow those natural misfortunes from which no one is immune.*"

A follow up summit will be held in 2016 to examine the efficacy of the investment approach to social service delivery which will transform the provision of social services and support vulnerable children and their families. CPAG has been active contributing to the discussion and challenging some of the practices proposed. Among the very troubling directions are:

- The use of actuarial valuations to support a focus on those who are deemed to be most expensive long term in the welfare system
- Using predictive risk modelling to identify those children who will receive targeted early interventions. Reforming the system of services for responding to the needs of those vulnerable children and young persons (CYF), and their families.
- The use of the term 'child-centred' to describe the approach to targeted intervention. This can obscure the needs of all children and the proper use of the concept to reform harmful existing policies.
- The use of social bonds which allow Government to contract out services and funding to non-government or private organisations, with agreed targets and timeframes. If the targets are met, Government pays back the investors, and also pays a return on their investment. The return depend on the level of results, up to an agreed maximum. Money was set aside in the Budget 2015 for pilots to be trialled. We now know that the first bond was both expensive and unsuccessful.
- Rewriting the Social Security Act within this framework including the centrality of paid work rather than the needs of children and the well-being of people.

The growing profile of CPAG was enhanced in 2015 by a collaboration with **ActionStation**, NZCCSS, UNICEF, Tick 4 Kids and the Inequality Network, in an online campaign to End Child Poverty with its goal to put child poverty at the centre of political debate. More than 15,000 people signed the petition which was handed over to the Government two days before the Budget 2015 announcement. The Children's Commissioner released the third annual **Child Poverty Monitor** report in December 2015 and again the news was far from encouraging. Nearly one third of New Zealand children (29%) now live below the median income poverty line after housing costs. This figure has almost doubled since 1985 when it was 15%.

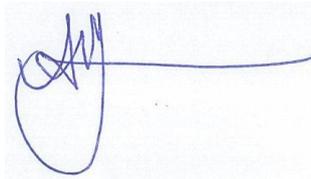
Internationally there is a groundswell of concern and agitation about the rise and rise of inequality and policies that entrench poverty in many wealthy countries like our own. In Aotearoa-New Zealand real and sustained change to our disgraceful child poverty rates is what is needed and public interest is growing noticeably. Regional groups in Whangarei, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin continue to support the Auckland team through networking, creating events, fundraising, lobbying and informing local communities on current campaigns and essential recommendations. More and more effort is needed to influence the public, politicians and commentators on what can make child poverty in Aotearoa history! Come strive with us!

Ma tini ma mano ka rapa te whai.

By many, by thousands, the work (project) will be accomplished.



Janfrie Wakim
CPAG Co-Convenor



Alan Johnson
CPAG Co-Convenor

Our Accomplishments

High quality independent research and submissions

An important aspect of CPAG's work is to provide evidence about the causes and effects of child poverty and to develop policy recommendations to reduce the burden of child poverty on families and our society.

Submission for support of the Children in Hardship Bill (June 2015)

Although Budget 2015 signalled an important change in approach to child poverty, there were many flaws in the Children in Hardship Bill. CPAG asked for key areas of the bill to be reconsidered. They were: the increased work expectations for sole mothers on a benefit, the selective benefit rate increase and the way this has confused adult rates of benefits with payments for children, increasing only the work-related parts of Working for Families (WFF) tax credits and ongoing squeezes on WFF through and increase in the WFF abatement rate.

CPAG's Budget Review 2015: An analysis of the New Zealand Government's 2015 Budget (August 2015)

Budget 2015 was the first budget since the National Party's re-election in 2014. Minister Tolley agreed that Budget 2015 would be focused on child poverty and follow on from the NZ\$500 million package announced in Budget 2014. Then on 1 April, Parliament drew attention to a number of important government policies "that will help New Zealand families and children and complement the work the National-led Government already has underway". These included: The HomeStart programme, increasing Paid Parental Leave by two weeks, Parental Tax Credits increased from \$150 a week to \$220 a week, and the entitlement increased from eight weeks to 10 weeks. From 1 July 2015, free doctors visits and prescriptions for children aged under six would be extended to children aged under 13.

In the [budget review](#) CPAG asked, "what did Budget 2015 do for the poorest families to address the main issues named by John Key?" CPAG expressed its deep concern that although the Government acknowledged the severe poverty endured by many families and their children, with small basic improvements to welfare, tax credits and childcare assistance, fundamentally lacking was attention to housing, accommodation and transportation costs, and to interest rates for small loan debt. Overall, there is no real forward plan to achieve targets of child poverty reduction.

Submission to the Family Violence Law Review (September 2015)

CPAG is concerned that domestic violence and relationship concepts are not well understood by many of the judges, police and lawyers in the criminal justice system.

The needs of children who experience violence either directly or through observing violence toward their caregiver must be prioritised, irrespective of the gender of the perpetrator or victim.

Old-fashioned and gendered views of relationships can distort what happens in the court for women. It is part of CPAG's ongoing work to bring awareness among legal professionals and others, to the inconsistencies, inequities and outright harm caused by the ways relationships are categorised in various parts of our welfare and legal systems, as well as in society more generally.

Healthy and Affordable Homes campaign FAQ (September 2015)

With the launch of CPAG's Healthy and Affordable Homes campaign, came the necessity to provide an easily digestible list of possible questions and answers to the campaign asks, detailing the proven effects of inadequate supply of healthy and affordable housing on poverty and child wellbeing. This [extensive document](#) answered fifteen possible questions with clear and comprehensible reasoning and is based on the last five years of CPAG housing research.

Welfare fit for families: Summit Proceedings (October 2015)

CPAG published the [proceedings from the 2015 CPAG Summit Welfare fit for families](#), a report detailing the information shared by various welfare and child rights experts, service providers and those who have personal experience dealing with the welfare system. The proceedings include: looking at the scene for the current welfare reforms and the direction these reforms will take New Zealand society; current examples of real-life situations seen from coalface providers and personal stories; comparisons of welfare systems in Australia and the United Kingdom; as well as the impacts of the welfare system and work; policy solutions in areas of work and incomes, housing and health and finally a strategy session as a way forward including the principles of welfare recommended by CPAG.

Submission on increasing the minimum wage in 2015 (October 2015)

In [this submission](#) CPAG recommended increasing the adult minimum wage by ten percent and increasing the starting-out minimum wage by ten percent.

Raising the minimum wage however, will not in itself have a meaningful impact on the level of hardship for families with children. There are complex interactions between wages and the Working for Families package abatement rates and thresholds and raising the minimum wage alone will not improve significantly the outcomes for this group.

For outcomes to be improved thresholds need to be indexed properly. CPAG argues that a realistic increase in the minimum wage is needed to begin to share the fruits of economic growth more fairly, and properly indexed weekly Working for Families support to help sustain the living standards of those on low wages with children. These are not alternatives; they must work hand in hand.

Submission on Parental Leave and Employment Protection (Six Months' Paid Leave and Work Contact Hours) Amendment Bill (November 2015)

Extended Paid Parental Leave (PPL) – financial support from the State for a longer duration while on parental leave – enables more time together for mother and baby without the stress of financial concerns, and means better health for the mother and child. While newborns and their parents are justifiably needing support, [CPAG had concerns about the implications of this Bill](#).

Both PPL and Parental Tax Credits have work-based eligibility requirements. Mothers who do not meet these requirements miss out and these are parents of some of the poorest children. The argument that babies deserve extra financial support to enable bonding and breastfeeding for six months should include ALL babies, especially those born into worst-off financial situations. CPAG raised the important point that extending the duration of PPL will have no impact on child poverty, a stated priority of the Government.

Submission on the Household living-costs price indexes (HLPIs) public consultation (Nov 2015)

The new household living-costs price indexes (HLPIs), due to be implemented in mid-2016, are intended to highlight differences in household expenditure patterns and provide greater insight into the inflation experiences for groups of households. Classifying households into HLPI groups will be based on demographic information collected in the Household Economic Survey (HES).

In [this submission](#) CPAG supported the regular production of the proposed HLPIs, and in particular, the HLPIs for beneficiaries and for the two lowest quartiles to provide a clearer record of any changes in the purchasing power of these groups, and thus indicate any deterioration (or improvement) in their quality of life and access to goods and services. Price-adjusted, or real household income determines consumption possibilities and therefore the material wellbeing of households. CPAG has grave concerns about rapidly rising costs of rental accommodation.

Submission on the review of the Education Act 1989 (Dec 2015)

CPAG [used this submission](#) to explore the goals for education, considering the following areas:

- What should the goals for education be?
- What process should be used for setting a national priorities statement for all learning and schooling?
- What should the roles and responsibilities of a school or a kura board be?
- What changes could be made to simplify planning and reporting?
- To better provide for groups of schools and kura to work together more to plan, deliver and report: enable collaboration, flexibility and innovation. How can resources be better focused to get the best whole-of-community education outcomes?
- How a graduated range of responses could be developed to better support schools when difficulties arise.
- Making best use of local education provision: How local arrangements can support choice and diversity.

Submission on the Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill (January 2016)

Public pressure over 2015 led the Government's 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.

Auckland University of Technology (AUT) Briefing papers series 2015

The AUT Briefing Papers website ran a timely series on child poverty in the lead up to the 2015 Budget. Briefing Papers promote informed discussion and debate in the public interest. The series brought together experts from across New Zealand to explore the issue of child poverty and put forward policy solutions to address its systemic causes. Child Poverty Action Group prepared four papers for the Briefing Papers series on child poverty:

[A step change for children: Fix Working for Families \(April 2015\)](#) Susan St John

[More income is required to improve the health of poor children \(May 2015\)](#) Innes Asher

[Prevention: the best way to address child poverty \(May 2015\)](#) Michael O'Brien

[An overview of NZ's housing \(May 2015\)](#) Alan Johnson

Reflections on the Budget 2015 Child Hardship Package; Policy Quarterly - Associate Professor St John (August 2015)

A background article explaining how the benefit rate increases for beneficiaries with children and minor adjustments to work-based child-related tax credits in 2015 Budget 2015 may equate to a reshuffling of money in which much of the distributional effect will be minimal and offset.

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

A [paper presented](#) to the Australasian housing researchers conference in February 2016

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. In other words, this failure has been deliberate and done with some understanding of its impact on low-income households.

Fix Working for Families campaign FAQ (March 2016)

CPAG created a detailed and comprehensive [list](#) to unravel simplify the complexities of the Working for Families tax credit system, and to present the Fix Working for Families campaign asks in terms that will resonate with many.

CPAG Activity 2015-16

Research and Submissions	11
Articles & Blogs	29
CPAG Events	10
Press releases	28
Guest Presentations	33
Number of website visits total	74788
Average unique views total	42554
Facebook supporters	8655
Twitter Followers	2465

Campaigns and Partnerships

End Child Poverty Campaign (April – May 2015)

In early April 2015, CPAG participated in the End Child Poverty online campaign, launched in collaboration with [ActionStation](#), [UNICEF](#), [NZ Council of Christian Social Services](#), the [Inequality Network](#) and [Tick 4 Kids](#).

The goal of the campaign, to put child poverty at the centre of political debate in the lead up to Budget 2015, was deemed a success, as the online petition received over 15,000 signatures. This was clear evidence of public opinion that more should be done to reduce the current levels of child poverty in New Zealand.

This combined effort was a first for CPAG, and proved to be a significant lesson in the power of social media to create people-powered change, and provided the encouragement for CPAG to engage with the public more through this medium.

Healthy and Affordable Homes campaign (August – October 2015)

In winter of 2015 housing issues were slowly gaining media and political traction. CPAG wanted to bring attention to the number of unaffordable and poor-quality rental houses that low-income children and families were living in and to explain the long-term consequences these environments had on children's wellbeing.

CPAG decided to launch a campaign for healthy and affordable homes for all families, but especially those with the least amount of choices and income. The launch was held at East Tamaki Healthcare centre in Otara Mall on Tuesday 18 August 2015. Speakers included CPAG's Health spokesperson Professor Innes Asher, Housing Spokesperson Frank Hogan and Dr Walter Muller and Alan Johnson. Other events were held in Wellington and Dunedin over August to October. CPAG also produced a Frequently Asked Questions document to answer common questions and myths surrounding housing, based on the last five years of CPAG housing research.

This campaign called upon the Government to urgently:

- Introduce and enforce a Warrant Of Fitness (WOF) for rental housing;
- Introduce subsidies to get rentals up to a healthy standard;
- Urgently review and update the Accommodation Supplement.

The public were able to support this campaign by making over 200 submissions to the Housing and Social Housing ministers, detailing their concern and desire to see regulations better aimed at providing protection for those in need.

Time to raise age of foster care (September – December 2015)

In September 2015 CPAG supported a campaign to raise the age of state care of children and young people from 17 to 21. [We Don't Stop Caring](#) was an initiative developed by Lifewise, Dingwall Trust, Youthline, Child Poverty Action Group, Wesley Community Action, Christchurch Methodist Mission and ActionStation, with the aim to provide every young person in New Zealand the right to support and a home-base, under the state, until they are 21 years old.

Most children turn 17 during year 12 at secondary school. Exiting care while trying to complete years 12 and 13 is immensely challenging without the security of a stable home, financial support or ongoing care to rely on. Raising the age for support would give young people access to the necessary means to thrive throughout this important stage of their lives

At the time of the campaign the Government was in the process of reviewing Child, Youth and Family (CYF) services including reviewing the age of foster care. The online petition received over 14,000 signatures and was handed over to Anne Tolley in December 2015.

NB. After the CYF review it was announced in April 2016 that the age of state foster care will increase to 18, with additional transitional support to the age of 25 being looked into.

Hikoi for Homes – Everybody Deserves a Home (October – November 2015)

Following on from the Healthy and Affordable Homes campaign, CPAG decided to hold a Hikoi for Homes event with the key message; **Everyone Deserves a Home**. AAAP, First Union, UNITE and other supporting organisations joined the initiative. Hikoi were held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch and attracted media attention to the key policy asks, that Government:

- Put an immediate stop to the sell-off of state and council housing;

- Provide a \$1 billion annual budget for the provision of more state, public and not-for-profit housing;
- Set minimum standards for all rented housing;
- Provide greater tenure protection for tenants;
- Implement a rent freeze for five years;
- Instate a statutory right to be housed;
- Provide state subsidies for modest income homeownership programmes.

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. We want 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 get. 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 . It will continue 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.

Presenting the Findings

CPAG is committed to communicating its research and analysis to policy makers, media, politicians and the wider public. In the 2015-16 year, CPAG gave over 33 presentations at a range of forums across the country, to audiences which included school children, students, church congregations and early childhood teachers, health workers and service groups. **Highlights Include:**

2015

Nationwide Child Poverty and the Social Services workshops | Mike O'Brien

Making money from misery? The privatisation of social services | Table talks panel | Susan St John

The health of our nation's children – how could we do better? | Northland Primary Health Care Nurses conference | Innes Asher

National Social Workers in Schools Conference | Mike O'Brien

Child Poverty – health, housing and education | Auckland University Student Medical Association panel event | Innes Asher, Alan Johnson and Vicki Carpenter

Is housing a human right | Housing public dialogue | Claire Dale

2016

Meet the need | Equity through Education Symposium | Janfrie Wakim

Starship Wednesday Paediatric Update | Innes Asher

Events

CPAG connected with many supporters and allies at successful events across the country during the year, including report launches, forums and fundraisers.

Nationwide post-budget breakfasts and budget analysis

CPAG again hosted capacity audiences at its annual post-budget breakfasts, held in five main centres – Whangarei, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin in 2015. CPAG is grateful to the Public Health Association for their help with hosting the Wellington event, Villa Maria College in Christchurch and Presbyterian Support Otago in Dunedin. CPAG was heartened that Budget 2015 announced a \$790 million Child Hardship Package which included a \$25 increase to welfare benefits and a slight boost to the Working for Families In-Work Tax Credit, as well as an increase to the Child Care Assistance rate for low-income families. CPAG's analysis raised concerns about the level of distribution, and concluded that this improvement however slight was a welcome recognition of material hardship suffered by children in New Zealand.

CPAG Annual General Meeting – presentation by Dr Simon Denny

Following CPAG's AGM in July 2015 Nurturing our Future was screened; a short CPAG film funded by the J R McKenzie Trust. Guest speaker Associate Professor Simon Denny from the Department of Paediatrics, Child and Youth Health presented findings of his research into youth and poverty. Using data from the Youth 2000, the presentation examined indicators of socioeconomic deprivation among secondary school students and present associations between household poverty, neighbourhood deprivation and health outcomes.

Wellington Healthy and Affordable Homes puppet show event

In August 2015 the Wellington CPAG group held an event for the Healthy and Affordable Homes campaign, in the form of an entertaining puppet show which was held at The Backbencher Pub. The show featured master puppeteer, Norbert Hausberg as well as Wellington musician Nigel Parry and raised awareness and funds.

Hikoi for Homes

On 21 November 2015 hundreds of CPAG supporters marched the streets in three cities across New Zealand. The Hikoi for Homes was organised by CPAG, Auckland Action Against Poverty (AAP), First Union and Unite in a combined effort to stand for quality, affordable and safe housing for all New Zealanders.

Summit 2015 – Welfare fit for families

On 8 September 2015, CPAG held a summit at the University of Auckland to discuss the direction the New Zealand welfare system is currently heading in, and what would be the effects on children and families. Two hours of the discussion was lived-streamed on social media, and received more than 7000 views. A follow-up event is to be held in 2016.

Teenagers in poverty – Christchurch talk

Sue Bagshaw (Senior Lecturer Paediatrics at University of Otago, Christchurch, and Director of the Collaborative for Research and Training in Youth Health and Development Trust) spoke about the data from the Youth 2000 survey series, which examined indicators of socio-economic deprivation among secondary school students and present associations between household poverty, neighbourhood deprivation and health outcomes.

Healthy and Affordable Homes event in Dunedin

As part of CPAG's Healthy and Affordable Homes campaign, Dunedin held a community event for anyone with an interest in housing and poverty. The purpose of the event was to share the links between poverty, housing, health and fuel, and to discuss some of the solutions. The event also featured the beautiful artwork made by children of Carisbrook School based on the theme of: 'What makes a good house?'

Speakers during the event included Fatima McKague, PhD candidate, Centre for Sustainability at the University of Otago, who spoke about fuel poverty and energy hardship. Nicola Liebergreen, Assistant Research Fellow at the University of Otago, who worked on "Out in the Cold" and Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull who has been part of the Cosy Homes Project.

Growing support

The past year has seen strong growth in public concern for child poverty issues and correspondingly, in support for CPAG. The number of supporters on our database rose from 3000 to nearly 3400, an increase of 15% for the year. Donations also rose from \$63,351 to \$67,245. The website continues to be an invaluable resource for our supporters and the wider public, averaging over 6000 visitors each month.

CPAG continued to provide a strong voice for children on **social media** during 2015/16, with over 8655 supporters on Facebook and 2465 Twitter followers at the end of March 2016. Our posts are read and shared by thousands of people, raising awareness of child poverty issues and providing a forum for discussion and sharing.

Fund and friend-raisers

A Place to Call Home film screening

On 18 November 2015 CPAG held a film Screening of *A Place to Call Home* as a supporting fundraising event for the Hikoi for Homes. The documentary directed by Briar March was about the sell-off of state housing in NZ.

Hikoi fundraiser concert

A fundraiser concert held the same day as the Hikoi for Homes was a huge success and raised \$1,200 towards the Hikoi costs. CPAG's deep appreciation goes to Brigitte Sistig, one of the key organisers, for bringing together a variety of talented musicians to perform an uplifting and magical performance. CPAG was grateful for the support received from all the musicians, sponsors and audience a.

STAND UP! Against Child Poverty Fundraiser Gig

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.

Auckland Round the Bays

CPAG and supporters participated in Auckland Round the Bays on Sunday March 6 for a day of fun and exercise in aid of Child Poverty Action Group. Join us in 2017!

Kidkind T-shirts fundraising website

In February 2016 a range of stylish childrens t-shirts was launched to raise money and awareness for child poverty in New Zealand, available online at kidkind.org.nz. The Kidkind collection is about Kiwi kids looking out for each other and standing together against child poverty. 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. CPAG is grateful to Rachael Macklin for this creative initiative.

Grant application outcomes

April 2015: Catholic Caring Foundation – Applied for a research project funding application. Application was declined.

May 2015: Jack and Marjorie Ferrier Charitable Trust No 2 – Applied for a research project funding application. Application was declined.

July 2015: The Holzer Family Charitable Trust – Applied for a research project funding application. Application was declined.

Aug 2015: Ted and Mollie Carr Endowment Trust – Applied for research project funding application. Application was declined.

Aug 2015: B A Lewis Charitable Trust – Applied for Welfare Summit and publication costs. Application was accepted and CPAG received a grant of \$2500.

Sept 2015: Hostel of the Holy Name Trust – Applied for research project funding application. Application was declined.

Sept 2015: J R McKenzie Trust – Applied for funding towards hikoi. Application was accepted and received a \$5000 grant towards hikoi costs.

Oct 2015: Round the Bays – Applied to be a Round the Bays charity. Application was declined.

Nov 2015: Think Tank Charitable Trust – Applied for research costs for Otago child disability project. Application was accepted and CPAG received grant of \$8000.

Organisation and Management

CPAG is a tiny, but highly effective organisation which operates on a modest budget. The Management Committee consists of eleven elected members, supported by co-opted members who represent regional networks or have specific expertise. CPAG's work is enhanced by energetic people in our regional networks in Whangarei, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin who sustain and develop their local groups through a range of events and activities. We are deeply grateful to them all.

Executive Officer: Celia Hayes continues in the role which is diverse and demanding. She copes with a vast range of tasks with good humour and competence. The Management Committee is indebted to Celia for her calm proficiency in this challenging but pivotal role.

Communications Advisor: Gillian Roach resigned her part-time position with helpfully advanced notice and Jeremy Sherlock was appointed her successor. Soon after, he was offered a position overseas which he couldn't decline. We were sad to see both Gillian and Jeremy leave but both contributed hugely, taking the Comms role to new levels and in particular ramping up CPAG's social media presence. CPAG is most grateful to Gillian, who has also been on the Management Committee of CPAG, and to Jeremy, for their skilled and conscientious contributions. Jeni Cartwright was appointed in February in a part-time position and became adept to its demands very swiftly.

Dr Claire Dale has been contracted to assist with the research programme and to provide organisational support for the summit and collating and producing its proceedings. Claire's diligence and attention to detail is much appreciated.

We are grateful for the longstanding cooperative relationship established with Dame Diane Robertson from her early years at the ACM. Her encouragement and staunch backing of CPAG has been very significant and much appreciated. We wish her well in her new role and were delighted that she was honoured formally for her outstanding service over so many years.

As ever, CPAG is indebted to Terry Levenberg and Apropos for their outstanding support with our website and branding. The philanthropic trusts who have donated over the past year and funded research are acknowledged here with deep gratitude: J R McKenzie Trust, B A Lewis Charitable Trust, Think Tank Charitable Trust and the Auckland City Mission for continuing to provide office space. CPAG is extremely thankful to all the members and donors who have boosted numbers and funds this past year.

To list the remarkable people who volunteer their precious time to CPAG nationwide is impossible. We are delighted to have had the support of an enthusiastic and engaged base of fundraisers, volunteers and donors over the past year. The Management Committee offers its sincere and profound thanks to every person, in all parts of Aotearoa-New Zealand, who has contributed to, supported and encouraged the work of CPAG in 2015-16.

Our personal thanks go to the elected Management Committee, co-opted members and regional networkers for contributing their impressive collective talent and expertise, and their sustained commitment to the goals of CPAG and to children.