

## CPAG legal case has begun: you can help

CPAG's legal case began today before the Human Rights Review Tribunal. There has been extensive public and media interest. You can help support our case by phoning or emailing media to let them know how important their coverage of the issue is, and by speaking up for children's rights in public debates about the case including via letters to the editor, comments on blogs and phone calls to talkback radio.

Some commentators will tend to shift debate away from the central issue of secure public support for all children's needs. Clear, reasoned arguments will help keep the focus there, so that the work of addressing the discrimination itself can begin.

Keep an eye on our website [www.cpag.org.nz](http://www.cpag.org.nz) for updates.

### **More about the case:**

CPAG is being represented by the Office of Human Rights Proceedings, in a legal case before the Human Rights Review Tribunal at the AMP Chambers, 86 Customhouse Quay, Wellington, scheduled to sit from 10am every day for the next couple of weeks and open to the public. The group alleges the In-Work Tax Credit is discriminatory and damaging, because children whose parents cannot meet a work test are ineligible for the support needed to keep them out of poverty. Read a [summary](#) of the case or background about the [progress of the case](#).

[Legal case addresses hole in safety net for poorest children – CPAG media release](#)

3 Jun 2008

The CPAG legal case alleges the In-Work Tax Credit discriminates against 220 000 children, on the basis of work status. This discrimination leaves around 150 000 of them in severe or significant hardship by denying their families at least \$60 per week in support for children.

[More >>](#)

**NZ Herald article - and chance to have your say:**

**Simon Collins: Legal challenge to families' \$60 handout**

An important part of the Government's Working for Families policy will come under attack today in a legal challenge that claims the payment has failed to tackle child poverty.

After a six-year battle to be heard, the Child Poverty Action Group will argue its complaint against what is now called the in-work tax credit before the Human Rights Review Tribunal in Wellington, in a landmark case that is set down for four weeks.

Article: [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=10514032](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10514032)

**Herald Your Views:** note the following short Herald question makes no mention of children: *CPAG's core argument is that it is inappropriate to mix work incentives with child-related payments* (a point clearly made in Simon Collins' article).

**Is it discrimination to give a tax credit to people in work but not those on benefits?**

**8:03AM Tuesday June 3, 2008**

The Child Poverty Action Group is to argue against what is now called the in-work tax credit before the Human Rights Review Tribunal in Wellington.

The group claims that the in-work credit of \$60 a week breaches the Human Rights Act and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by discriminating against people because of their employment status.

Is it discrimination to give a tax credit to people in work but not those on benefits? Here is the latest selection of Your Views:

[http://blogs.nzherald.co.nz/blog/your-views/2008/6/3/it-discrimination-give-tax-credit-people-work-not-those-benefits/?c\\_id=1501154](http://blogs.nzherald.co.nz/blog/your-views/2008/6/3/it-discrimination-give-tax-credit-people-work-not-those-benefits/?c_id=1501154)

**Dominion Post/Chch Press: Families assistance package on trial**

ANNA CHALMERS - The Dominion Post | Tuesday, 03 June 2000  
(also run in the ChCh Press)

A landmark legal challenge to the Government's Working for Families package opens today, with campaigners claiming 150,000 beneficiary children live in poverty because their parents do not receive the payment.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominionpost/4569139a6479.html>

## Other news

*All titles are links, when underlined in colour:*

### [CPAG on Budget Tax Changes](#)

23 May 2008

The poorest 150,000 children in New Zealand will be left even further behind after yesterday's Budget changes to the tax system, says the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG).

[More >>](#)

### [Budget 08: Steve Poletti speech to CPAG post-Budget breakfast](#)

29 May 2008

CPAG Economist Dr Steve Poletti found little in the Budget to prevent NZ's lowest family incomes from slipping further behind others as an economic slowdown appears.

[More >>](#)

### [Financial Advisors Bill - Supplementary](#)

16 May 2008

Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) encourages the Finance and Expenditure committee to consider the impact of this Bill and the associated policies on low income and vulnerable families and their children.

[More >>](#)

## Thanks for your help

CPAG needs ongoing financial support to sustain its research and advocacy programme and to raise awareness of poverty in NZ. Many thanks to those who support us in this important work. Please send donations to Box 56-150 Mt Eden, Auckland or bank directly into our Kiwibank account 38-9003-0066858-00.

CPAG thanks the JR McKenzie Trust and Hostel of the Holy Name Trust for ongoing support. CPAG does not accept funds from the proceeds of gambling.

You have been sent this email because your details appear on a Child Poverty Action Group mailing list of interested people. If you no longer wish to receive information from us, you need only reply to this address with "unsubscribe" in the subject line, and your details will be removed.

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