



CHILD
POVERTY
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GROUP

Quarterly Update

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Nationwide Post-Budget Breakfasts Friday 17 May

Each year Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) provides child-focused analyses and commentary of the year's budget. This year is CPAG's 13th annual budget breakfast series with events being held in three main centres - Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. The aim is to provide an accessible and affordable avenue for the community to come together and hear about how the budget affects children and young people, especially our most vulnerable who live in poverty.

In addition to the events themselves, CPAG intends to provide a comprehensive budget briefing package which will be available the



day after the budget is released. Many speaker presentations will also be available from CPAG's website.

To find out more about the events, including guest speakers and how to register, [please click here](#).

Message from CPAG's Chair

Child poverty remains a critical issue for New Zealand's economic and social policy and sadly this government shows little interest in effective action. If we are serious about the position of New Zealand's children and about providing all children with the best possible opportunities then this year's budget and the Appeal Court case later this month are critical in advancing the interests and wellbeing of the country's poorest and most disadvantaged children. Our budget breakfasts this month will provide a very good opportunity to hear about government intentions and directions while the Court case the following week is an important opportunity to again argue the case against the discrimination experienced by New Zealand's poorest children. Susan St John and those working with her have done a tremendous amount of work on the Court case and we look forward to the Court's response with a great deal of anticipation. There is a lot of public concern about child poverty; the crucial task is to translate that into effective action.

- Assoc Prof Mike O'Brien

**CPAG thanks its supporters, close collaborators, and partner organisations
In particular, thank you to J R McKenzie Trust for its generous funding**

A Fair Go for ALL Kiwi Kids Appeal Update

CPAG is challenging government in court over legislation which unfairly discriminates against 230,000 of New Zealand's poorest children, many of whom live in severe and persistent hardship. Removing this discriminatory policy would be one practical and just way to address the appalling level of child poverty in our country.

CPAG was very pleased to have a full page article published in the New Zealand Herald linking the current debate on child poverty to this issue, [Susan St John: Lets have policies for all children](#). We have also been writing to and/or meeting with various stakeholders to build support for the upcoming case—political parties, social sector organisations and other influential public persons.

Our fundraising and awareness efforts continued, with events held in both Auckland and in Wellington.



Tom Scott with cartoon auction winner, Dr Len Cook at the Wellington event

Threatres of Resistance on Waiheke Island hosted a Child Poverty Documentary screening followed by CPAG panel and CPAG's Wellington network ran a short film screening, with special guest Tom Scott, who signed a set of three cartoons Bryan Bruce and himself donated to CPAG's Appeal Campaign. To view more photos [please click here](#).

This quarter CPAG has also been busily preparing for our upcoming Court of Appeal hearing on 28 and 29 May. CPAG submissions were due on 22 April and the reply submissions to Crown cross appeal (on s19) on 6 May. Due to the case being of 'considerable public interest', CPAG was also granted a waiver with regard to court fees. The Human Rights Commission is submitting an independent intervention at the Court of Appeal.

CPAG understands this issue can be difficult to grasp, so in the lead up to the hearing, CPAG will be running an education campaign about the unfairness of the Working for Families In-work Tax Credit. Look out for our case studies, using real life examples of children and their families which illustrate the many different ways our children lose out through no fault of their own.

Join us at the Court of Appeal 28 – 29 May

A number of CPAG executive members will be attending the Court of Appeal hearing and we strongly urge all our Wellington based supporters to come along as well. Packing the court out on both days will send a very strong message. Please join us as a mark of solidarity at the Court of Appeal, 54 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington.



Fundraising Update

CPAG warmly thanks all our supporters for giving so generously towards our Appeal campaign in order for us to continue fighting for the rights of 230,000 of our poorest children in the courts. Your donations and messages of support are truly appreciated by CPAG's small team. A special thank you to the Auckland Methodist Synod and its respective parishes whose wonderful support raised nearly \$5,000 toward this important cause.



Children's needs should be at the heart of social policy, not judgment about whether their parents are deserving or not - Assoc Prof Susan St John, CPAG founding member

Press Releases

- 23 Jan [CPAG calls on all MPs to support Food in Schools Bill](#) CPAG urges all political parties to support Mana's 'Feed the Kids' Bill which provides for a nationwide government led breakfast and lunch programme in all decile one and two schools.
- 1 Feb [Charity alone with not solve child poverty](#) CPAG's response to Variety The Children's Charity dollar a day sponsorship programme for kiwi kids living in poverty. While immediate responses are necessary, long term solutions require policy changes not just charity.
- 6 Feb [Government deserves a "D" for child poverty](#) CPAG endorses The Salvation Army's State of the Nation report which highlights a lack of leadership on crucial social issues having a significant impact on New Zealand children.
- 10 Feb [Call for greater protection for children in tough economic times](#) Mainzeal's collapse along with many other business closures illustrate the IWTC 'double whammy' income families face. Not only do they lose their jobs but also \$60 a week in Working for Families support.
- 28 Feb [Hastily drafted Education Bill puts our poorest children at risk.](#) CPAG comments on the forthcoming charter or partnership schools Bill, emphasising the lack of transparency and public accountability they would have.
- 2 Mar [The future of New Zealand depends on the well-being of every child](#) International Children's Day on March 3 is a chance for NZ to reflect on our collective responsibility for all children.
- 4 Mar [Latest unemployment figures directly contradict government claims](#) CPAG analysis of the latest Household Labour Force Survey calls government out on its claims about unemployment.
- 14 Mar [Twenty years since New Zealand's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) While the government is doing well in some areas of UNCROC, such as putting more money into protecting children from abuse, there remains a great deal to be done.
- 28 Mar [Sole Parents and the DPB: Myths and Facts](#) CPAG is concerned that government has perpetuated damaging myths about beneficiaries, particularly sole parents, to support its welfare changes and attempts



Media Highlights

- 4 Feb [Long-term Welfare Dependency, Nine To Noon, National Radio, \(29;12"\)](#). CPAG Co-covonor Alan Johnson CPAG Economics spokesperson Susan St John join Social Development Minister Paula Bennett to discuss the governments recent welfare reforms.
- 13 Feb [Protection for children, World TV.](#) CPAG has broadened its reach to ethnic media networks. Susan St John is interviewed here by World TV, a Chinese language TV channel.
- 15 Mar [Catriona MacLennan: Stop dodging tax and we can end child poverty, New Zealand Herald.](#) Written by CPAG Associate, Catriona MacLennan who is also working on forthcoming CPAG research into the complexities of 'relationship' fraud and its consequences for mothers and their children.
- 21 Mar [Susan St John: Lets have policies for all children, New Zealand.](#) Susan St John highlights the need to put children at the heart of social policy.

Others include: [Prescription fee increases;](#) [Free healthcare, yeah right;](#) [Minimum waged slammed;](#) [Milk in schools programme to begin soon](#) and [Child support debts](#) to name a few. For a full list of CPAG media contact please [click here](#)

If you're not careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed, and loving the people who are doing the oppressing - Malcolm X

Articles, research and submissions

- 29 Jan [Education Amendment bill \(no.4\) Submission](#) (Charter Schools), Dr M. Claire Dale.
- 4 Mar [The December 2012 Household Labour Force Survey: Comment.](#) Donna Wynd.
- 21 Mar [Opinion: Lets have policies for all children](#), New Zealand Herald. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 28 Mar [Myths and Facts: Sole Parents and the Domestic Purposes Benefit.](#) Virginia Dale



Guest Presentations

- 14 Feb **The Living Wage & Welfare**, Precarious Work Symposium, AUT Business School, Auckland. Assoc Prof Mike O'Brien.
- 12 Mar **Child Poverty: what you need to know and what you can do about it**, University of Auckland Greens on Campus AGM, Auckland. Marianna Munting.
- 13 Mar **Recovering the Common Good - Child Poverty**, Holy Trinity Cathedral Lenten Series, Auckland. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 14 Mar [Should We Be Celebrating? Child Poverty in New Zealand.](#) Tertiary Education Union Women's Fiesta to celebrate International Women's Day, Unitec, Auckland. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 21 Mar **Poverty & Inequality**, Trends in New Zealand Society - Poverty, Institute of Judicial Studies, Auckland. Assoc Prof Susan St John.
- 22 Mar **Poverty & Health: What needs to change**, Trends in New Zealand Society - Poverty, Institute of Judicial Studies, Auckland. Prof Innes Asher.
- 22 Mar **Child Poverty & the Justice System**, Trends in New Zealand Society - Poverty, Institute of Judicial Studies, Auckland. Assoc Prof Susan St John.

Forthcoming research

- Child Abuse and Poverty: What are the links? Literature review. Due to be released May 2013.
- Child Abuse: Analysis of Child, Youth and Family data.
- Survey on free after hours health care children under six years of age.
- Benefit Sanctions and their impact on children.

Public Contact Summary

Type of Exposure (Jan - Mar)	No.
Articles, Research & Submissions	4
Special Events	2
Press Releases	9
Parliamentary Mentions	1
Guest Presentations	7
High Level Meetings	2
Television Items	1
Radio Items	5
Print Items	13
Internet Items	24
Facebook Followers	2,565
Twitter Followers	556
No. of Website Visits	15,140



'Inside Child Poverty' Doco Screenings

Pukekohe Doco Screening

Friday 17 May Pukekohe Intermediate School Hall. Please join us for this wonderful community event featuring local entertainment, a free sausage sizzle for the kids, plus speakers from the local community and CPAG.

5.30pm: Sausage sizzle and entertainment

6.00pm: Documentary screening

The event is FREE, although a koha would be very much appreciated.

CPAG warmly thanks Sharee Parker-Johnson for organising this event. Sharee is a proud mother of two who is currently working part time at a local school in addition to studying child psychology. Watch out for this fabulous young woman in Bryan Bruce's next documentary!

In March, **Threatres of Resistance, a Waiheke Island community group** also held a doco screening and panel discussion. CPAG deeply appreciates their support.

If you are interested in running a community documentary screening to raise awareness of child poverty, please contact us - we'd love to work with you.

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Glen Inquiry into Child Abuse

In response New Zealand's alarming child abuse and domestic violence statistics, Sir Owen Glenn has funded an independent inquiry with the goal to develop an evidence-based, solution focused proposal to addressing this multi-faceted problem. Janfrie Wakim, former CPAG director and founding member has been asked to be part of the inquiry's 'Think Tank' panel which will help to ensure CPAG's perspective is heard. CPAG is also pleased to see a number of its supporters and collaborators on the panel.

Tying in with this work and that of the White Paper on Vulnerable Children, CPAG is currently finalising a monograph publication regarding the links between child abuse and child poverty which will be released in the next quarter. This will be the first paper in a two part series on this issue.

Welcome Rawiri Wharemate

In addition to Management Committee (MC) members being elected, CPAG's constitution allows the elected MC to 'co-opt' or invite others to join the committee in order to broaden the range of expertise CPAG can regularly draw on. CPAG enthusiastically welcomes Rawiri Wharemate (Ngapuhi, Ngatiwai, Ngai Te Rangi, Tainui) as a co-opted MC member. Rawiri is the Kaumatua at the Werry Centre (Child and Adolescent Workforce Development). He has extensive experience working with indigenous peoples, both in New Zealand and internationally at the United Nations. Rawiri is currently developing a Tangata Whenua Framework which will form an important foundation for CPAG's work.

CPAG Young Person's Network (CPAGY)

In response to large numbers of requests from students regarding how they can help, CPAG Auckland has formed a Young Person's Network which meets every third Monday of the month. Everyone is welcome. CPAG's hopes to build a strong network of young people across the country and has already made inroads into this area in Wellington, Dunedin and Christchurch. To join please email admin@cpag.org.nz.