



PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until Tuesday 19th November 2002

The Child Poverty Action Group welcomes the release of *When the Invisible Hand Rocks the Cradle: New Zealand Children in a Time of Change*, published by the Innocenti Research Centre of UNICEF.

Spokesperson for CPAG Susan St John commented "The report shows that the outcomes of many of the reforms of the 1980s and 1990s were very negative for children and young people. Growth in poverty, increased barriers to accessing education and health care, and ongoing issues with the care and protection of children have resulted in New Zealand slipping down the scale of developed countries".

Earlier this year, the CPAG welcomed the Government's *Agenda for Children*, which outlined the Government's commitment to children and young people. However CPAG was also one of the 14 major children's groups who contributed to *Making it Happen* - an action-based document urging the Government to start acting on its *Agenda*.

"CPAG welcomes *The Invisible Hand* because it reinforces the message of *Making it Happen* - that children have been dangerously disadvantaged by recent social and economic reforms and that it is now time to redress those disadvantages. CPAG believes particularly that family assistance must be urgently reformed after a decade of neglect" Ms St John concluded.

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