

Barnardos New Zealand

Bethlehem Tertiary Institute

Christian Early Childhood Education Association of Aotearoa

Hospital Play Specialists Association of Aotearoa/New Zealand

Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand

National Association of ECE Directors in Universities

NZ Educational Institute Te Riu Roa

NZ Home-based Early Childhood Education Association

NZ Kindergartens Te Putahi Kura Puhou o Aotearoa

Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand

Te Wananga o Aotearoa

The Early Childhood Service of Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu: The Correspondence School

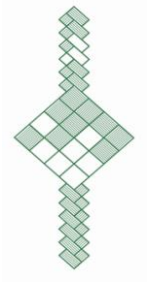
The Early Intervention Association of Aotearoa NZ

The Federation of Rudolf Steiner Waldorf Schools in New Zealand

The Open Polytechnic

World Organisation for Early Childhood Education OMEP Aotearoa NZ

Early Education Federation



News Update – 19 September 2017

EVENTS/MEETINGS/SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa (ACYA) - Annual General Meeting

When: 28 September 2017, 5.30 – 7.30pm - [flyer attached](#)

Where: Youth Law Aotearoa Office, Level 3, Parkview Tower, 21 Putney Way, Manukau Central, **AUCKLAND**

Guest Speaker: Dr Amanda D'Souza

Child-centred public policy?

Lessons from a comparative case study of New Zealand, Australia and Sweden

Light refreshments available from 5.00pm

RSVP for catering purposes by 21 September 2017 to jen@youthlaw.co.nz

OMEP - WELLINGTON CHAPTER - Annual General Meeting

When: 25th September 2017, 6.00 – 7.30pm – [flyer attached](#)

Where: Te Rito Maioha - Early Childhood NZ, 191A Thorndon Quay, **WELLINGTON**

We look forward to you joining us for the Annual General Meeting of OMEP Wellington Chapter which will feature a presentation by Sue Cherrington and be followed by a light supper.

Working together: Collaborative advocacy for children, their whānau and early childhood education.

Early childhood teachers have an important role as advocates for children, their whānau, and the early childhood sector across what Betty Caldwell described back in 1987 as a typology of advocacy: advocacy at the personal, professional and informational levels. In this session we explore ways in which EC teachers can, and do, engage in advocacy activities across these three levels and consider how we can strengthen our efforts by working collaboratively to bring about positive change, particularly at the political level, for young children, their families and the early childhood sector.

4th New Zealand Childhood Studies Colloquium

Growing up in our democracy: Provision, participation and provocation

When: 13 November 2017, 8.30 – 4.30 – [flyer attached](#)

Where: Victoria University of Wellington, **WELLINGTON**

This follows on from the three very successful Childhood Studies Colloquia held in Auckland, Dunedin and Hamilton in the past three years. The aim of these events is to bring together people interested in children and young people and their wellbeing to share ideas, research and generate inspiration together.

This year, the 2017 Colloquium is being hosted by the Institute for Early Childhood Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, with support from the Board of the Childhood Studies Colloquium in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Keep a look out for further details on the programme, call for papers, and registration which will be announced soon. Please forward this email on to your networks.

Any queries, please email Bronwyn Wood on Bronwyn.wood@vuw.ac.nz

Tertiary Education Forum 2017

Theme - Educational pathways for Pacific learners

When: Thursday **September 28 and Friday September 29, 2017**

Where: Pasifika Community Centre, Manukau Institute of Technology, Otara, **AUCKLAND CITY**

Hosted by: Ako Aotearoa and Association of Pasifika Staff in Tertiary Education

Cost: \$200 plus GST per person (\$230.00 incl)

Opening addresses: Peseta Sam Lotu-liga, Deputy Chief Executive Pasifika, Manakau Institute of Technology AND Gus Gilmore, Chief Executive, Manakau Institute of Technology

Keynote speakers and programme

Laulu Mac Leauanae

Chief Executive,
[Ministry for Pacific Peoples](#)

Tim Fowler

Chief executive,
[Tertiary Education Commission](#)

Other guest presenters:

Patricia Quensell – Otago Polytechnic, Sam Pilisi – Auckland University of Technology, Dr Stuart Middleton – Manukau Institute of Technology, Toe Pune – MIT Tertiary High School, Dr Rae Si'ilata – University of Auckland, Pauline Luafutu-Simpson – University of Canterbury, Howard Jamieson – Ara Institute of Technology, Lisale Falema'a – Tertiary Education Commission, and Rachel Skudder – BEST Pacific Institute of Education, Ashalyna Noa - University of Canterbury • Fiona Kingsford - Competenz • Rhys Faleafa - Tupu Toa • Dave Dixon - Centre for Assessment of Prior Learning, Ara Institute of Canterbury • William Ulugia - Tertiary Education Commission • John West - Ara Institute of Canterbury • Caroline Harris - ServiceIQ AND Ifi Ripley - Careerforce • Stuart Cambridge - Tertiary Education Commission

The learner-centered programme will be based around three stages of a Pacific learner's journey through tertiary education under the following sub-themes:

- Supporting learners to shape and start their educational pathways
What can we do to support Pacific learners to shape their education pathway?
- Supporting learners in their educational pathways
What do we do well to respond to Pacific learners? What could we do better?
- The outcomes from educational pathways
How will we know or system is working for Pacific learners?

Hearing the learner voice is an important part of our strategic forums and this programme will include a range of Pacific learners speaking about their journey through tertiary education.

Pacific success in workplace settings

A recently-completed Ako Aotearoa co-funded project, [Pacific success in workplace settings](#), undertaken by ServiceIQ, The Skills Organisation, Careerforce, Competenz, and Pacific Perspectives Limited will also be launched at the Forum.

[Download the draft programme](#)

Please note: programme is subject to change.

The Institute for Early Childhood Studies Spring Research Seminar

Te Whāriki 2017: new realities and possibilities

“Whaia te iti kahurangi. Ki te tūohu koe, me he maunga teitei”

Set your sights on the lofty heights, and through talking, listening and valuing one another we can create lively colourful futures.

When: **Saturday 14 October 2017**, 8.30am–3.30pm

Where: Faculty of Education, Kelburn Parade, Victoria University of Wellington, **WELLINGTON**

[Register now](#)

\$80 individuals

\$50 early childhood teacher education programme students

Keynote addresses

A fantastical journey: Re-imagining Te Whāriki

Presented by Associate Professor Jenny Ritchie and Dr Mere Skerrett, Victoria University

Transition from ECE to Primary in the context of the refreshed Te Whāriki

Presented by Associate Professor Sally Peters, University of Waikato

The 2017 IECS Spring seminar offers chances for practitioners and researchers to explore some of the possibilities and realities of the revised Te Whāriki.

Workshop and paper topics

- Creating a rich curriculum through intentional teaching
- Refreshing our work with infants and toddlers: Mantras from theory, research and practice
- Distributed leadership for professional learning
- Little boxes or rambling houses: How do ECE built environments help us empower children?
- Using technologies in ECE: The challenges and affordances of iPads and ePortfolios
- Responsive, reciprocal relationships? For sure!
- Te Whāriki and its response to poverty
- The place of pop culture in ECE settings

Please ensure you select your workshops in advance to avoid disappointment on the day.

[Registrations are open](#)

Click [here](#) to register.

Please [forward](#) this invitation to any of your colleagues who may be interested in attending.

GENERAL ELECTION 2017

Party Policy Comparison links

Policy comparison tool: [http://policy.thespinoff.co.nz/topic/Education#Early Childhood Education](http://policy.thespinoff.co.nz/topic/Education#Early%20Childhood%20Education)

Policy comparison ECE: <https://nzareblog.wordpress.com/2017/08/04/election-2017-ece/>

Tick 4 Kids events calendar: <https://tick4kids.org.nz/events?src=nav>

NZNO Political Party Comparisons – on health policies - *Attached*

Advocacy Toolkit

From: Tick for Kids Campaign

On the Tick for Kids website you can find an advocacy toolkit aimed at encouraging people to take action in the lead up to the election (including tips for taking action), go to -

<https://tick4kids.org.nz/Tick%20for%20Kids%20Toolkit>

Also on the website is a calendar of events (mainly election related events) coming up in the child wellbeing sector (go to the events tab). Anyone is welcome to add an event, you just need to create a login.

Let's End Family Violence - UNICEF NZ Election Campaign

From: UNICEFNZ – Prudence Stone

UNICEFNZ election coverage was launched on the 25th of August. It focuses on family violence. It was been shared with Stuff, and in the meantime has also gone up on YouTube, Medium, and a Facebook post. Further posts are set to follow on Facebook and Twitter.

These videos will be backed up by shorter ones with experts and advocates, underlining the issues being raised. All the videos are themed around the wider problem of child poverty - but the spotlight is on housing, low income, family violence, and its impacted outcomes on health and education.

Any support you can give this work on your own social media over the next month would be greatly appreciated by UNICEFNZ.

<https://medium.com/@UNICEFNZ/decision-17-let-s-end-family-violence-601c598424ad>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/UNICEFNZ>

New Zealand needs to give kids the best education possible

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/96320161/new-zealand-needs-to-give-kids-the-best-education-possible>

OPINION: Schools are doing what they can to help, but the concerns for children go way beyond hunger, and help goes far beyond a bowl of Weetbix.

Decision '17 — Giving Kiwi Kids The Best Education – UNICEF New Zealand – Medium

<https://medium.com/@UNICEFNZ/decision-17-giving-kiwi-kids-the-best-education-e5964aff0f53>

This election, Unicef NZ is focusing on issues that affect New Zealand children, encouraging voters to keep those issues in mind when they...

Decision '17 - A Healthy Home For Every Child

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/96470581/decision-17--a-healthy-home-for-every-child>

Almost every night, Maara Williams sleeps in the living room with her two kids. There are three bedrooms in the house, but they are too cold to use.

Political Parties Score Cards

From: UNICEF NZ – 11 September 2017

UNICEF NZ surveyed the Parties on five policy measures from each of our Tick 4 Kids matrix of issues surrounding child poverty - education, health, family violence, housing and income - and developed these scorecards from the results. <https://tick4kids.org.nz/News/Political+Parties+Scorecards>

They collated policy measures from the Tick 4 Kids coalition partners and chose the most popular five to test the party candidates on. The following simplified scorecards cover education based policy, family violence, health, housing and income measures. The results are as follows:

They now ask that we:

- find a place for them on your websites
- print out a set for dissemination at public forums
- share the link to the resources on Tick 4 Kids website on your twitter, facebook and instagram with the hashtags #tick4kids #everychildcounts #decision17

Ngā Take Whakahirahira a Hapori – Community Priorities in the upcoming election

From: Hui E! Community Aotearoa - 23 August 2017

[Read our General Election 2017 Report](#)

Every community organisation has goals unique to the communities and people for which it advocates. In our General Election Report released today, we identify community-wide issues that appear between community sector voices leading up to the election next month.

The major areas of concern relayed to us by the organisations we spoke to include housing, social disadvantages, children needs, addiction and mental health, and the environment. While the report highlights many of the concerns by the community sector, it also offers many possible solutions proposed by those who work on the coal-face of community development.

Ngā Take Whakahirahira a Hapori is the result of research, outreach and interviews with many of the not for profit non-governmental organisations, that together comprise part of the community sector in Aotearoa New Zealand. Many of these organisations actively advocate for policy ideas to address community problems. Several have produced election manifesto and messages, and there is a strong sense that part of the solution must come from better collaboration between the community sector and the government, and better recognition of the value of their services.”

We wish to encourage policymakers to turn to this report and listen, for organisations and individuals to keep talking and advocating, and invite candidates to work with these organisations to build a stronger government and community sector moving forward.

Download today's [press release here](#). You can help by spreading the word and sharing the report on your social media pages, your website and with your networks.

GOVERNMENT POLICY and LEGISLATION

Educators first in line to vote early for pay equity

From: NZEI – Te Riu Roa - 11 September 2017

Media Statement

When early voting opened this morning, early childhood teachers were among a group of women led by Kristine Bartlett who met in central Wellington to vote for equal pay.

Teachers Donna Eden from Owairo Bay Kindergarten, and Karen O’Leary and Mel Burgess from Adelaide Early Childhood Centre in Newtown are at the forefront of the NZEI Te Riu Roa ECE pay equity project.

They joined women working in a range of different industries including health care, residential aged care and tertiary education who wanted to lead the charge to vote early for equal pay.

The trio are backing NZEI and CTU’s call for everyone who cares about fair pay for women to vote for a party that will not stand in the way of pay equity claims.

Ms O’Leary said those parties that supported the progress of the Pay Equity Bill were putting more roadblocks in the way of women who were seeking pay equity.

“If this bill becomes law, it is going to be extremely difficult for more female-dominated sectors to repeat the success of Kristine Bartlett and her union E tū, who won significant pay rises for aged care workers,” she said.

“We want to be able to tell our children and grandchildren that we voted for pay equity for women and that our votes made a difference.”

In June, NZEI launched a claim for pay equity for early childhood teachers and staff, uniting the private and public early childhood sector in a historic bid for fair pay. NZEI has a group of potential claimants and is in the process of putting a case together. [More information can be found here](#).

Ministry of Education Updates

Risk Index to replace Equity Index

From: MoE ECE Bulletin – August 2017

The Minister of Education recently announced that the Equity Index will be replaced in 2020 with a Risk of Not Achieving Index (Risk Index). The Minister also announced that no early learning service or ngā kōhanga reo will see a reduction in their funding as a direct result of this change.

The Equity Index will be replaced by a Risk Index in 2020. The Risk Index will be used to calculate Equity Funding Component A and Targeted Funding for Disadvantage. Early learning services me ngā kōhanga reo will be funded based on their estimated number of hours attended by children at risk of educational under-achievement due to disadvantage. The factors that will make up the index will be finalised in the next stage of work.

Read more about the Risk Index on Education.govt.nz.

Education Act Update – cohort entry and compulsory attendance

From: MoE ECE Bulletin – September 2017

Education Act changes relating to cohort entry and compulsory attendance at school took effect in July 2017.

From Term 1 2018, new entrants enrolled at a school that has adopted a cohort entry policy will be able to start school at the beginning of the term closest to their 5th birthday, or the beginning of a later term, up until they turn 6.

Changes have been made to the Education Act so that children under the age of 6 are now required to regularly attend school once they are enrolled.

Further information is available on education.govt.nz

More Food Act verifiers available for early learning services

From: MoE ECE Bulletin – September 2017

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has worked hard to increase the number of verifiers for organisations like early learning services who operate under a Food Act National Programme. There are now over 100 verifiers throughout the North and South Islands, 47 of whom work for local councils.

Read more information on Food Act verifiers on [our website](#).

Caring for animals: guidelines for teachers and students

From: MoE ECE Bulletin – August 2017

We have a duty to provide for animals in our care, including meeting their physical, health and behavioural needs. Early learning services are also required to implement safe and hygienic practices with regard to any animals, and animals must be restrained at all times.

Further information is available on Education.govt.nz.

Paul Hutchison: Next PM should pick up child health plan agreed by all parties

From Child Wellbeing Network – 30 August 2017

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11912470

Harsh punishments on sole parents fuel child poverty, says CPAG

From: Child Poverty Action Group - 15 September 2017

Media Statement

Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) says that urgently removing Sections 176, 177, 178 from the Social Security Legislation Rewrite Bill and extending the In-Work Tax Credit portion of Working for Families to all children irrespective of their parents' hours of work are critical moves an incoming Government must make to ensure the wellbeing of all children in New Zealand.

CPAG applauds Newshub journalist Lisa Owen's important expose of the harm caused by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) imposing sanctions on sole parent support recipients who don't name a father.

Benefit sanctions are financial repercussions that occur as a result of non-compliance with the obligations that the system imposes on a benefit recipient. A sanction that reduces the sole mother's benefit by \$22 per child for not naming a father is particularly punitive, and while the MSD aim is to make liable fathers pay their child support, it instead reduces the support the mother receives for her children.

This punishment increases by a further reduction of \$6 per child for continued failure to comply.

CPAG says that applying the removal of a basic need, treating it as a privilege, is willful systemic abuse.

According to Associate Professor Mike O'Brien, CPAG social security spokesperson, sanctions do nothing but cause harm - and the children bear the brunt.

"The MSD says it has no evidence that sanctions work. Given the importance attached to evidence-informed policy, why then do we continue to apply sanctions? What we do know is that they make life worse for these children and their mothers."

"Punishing the children by removal of their livelihood is not a way to support the mothers - inevitably it makes a difficult situation much worse," says O'Brien.

"Often sanctions result in loss of benefit entitlements entirely, and we don't know what happens to these people. Are they in well-paid jobs? Or are they confined to the ranks of working poor, or do they have no income at all?

"Information about where they go in between, or the impacts upon their children is missing.

"What we are seeing is increased poverty in New Zealand, high demand for food parcel services that charities are struggling to keep up with. This is likely a consequence of sanctions and families moving off benefits and into much poorer situations.

"We only know for sure what the Superu and the Household Incomes Report report tells us, and that is the rate of return to a benefit among sole parents is high, and the Household Incomes report tells reveals a huge percentage of all New Zealand's children are in poverty."

Associate Professor Susan St John says many of the families affected have the punishment compounded because they are denied the full Working for Families entitlement.

"Not only do they miss out on a portion of their children's financial support because of being punished for not naming a father, but they are being punished for being classified as non-working, and lose crucial tax credit support," says St John.

"This is at least \$72.50 per week that could go along way to alleviating poverty for the worst off children."

A sole parent is expected to work a minimum of 20 hours a week and be off a benefit to qualify for the payment, while a couple is expected to work at least 30 hours between them.

"Between sanctions and paid work hours criteria tied to children's payments, we have a system that directly discriminates against sole parents, and mothers in particular. What kind of society are we to allow this harsh punishment to continue?"

Every child should be able to flourish in NZ - #Tick4Kids

From: Child Poverty Action Group - 12 September 2017

Media Statement

This week advocacy movement Tick for Kids is launching a campaign to engage politicians and the public in discussion about what needs to be done to improve life for children in New Zealand, and to encourage voters to align their vote according to the needs of children. The launch is marked today by an event that provides West Auckland children an opportunity to grill politicians on their priorities for children and young people.

The Tick for Kids movement is supported by a large group of organisations dedicated to improving child well-being, including Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG).

CPAG supports the initiative by Tick for Kids, who are calling for safe, affordable and healthy housing for all children and their families, accessible, quality early childhood education and care (ECCE) for every child, and a fully-funded health system ensuring everyone gets the care they need, when they need it.

"More and more young people are becoming aware of the political situation in New Zealand, and how it impacts on their own lives, thanks to educators and advocacy groups such as Tick for Kids and Rockenrol," says Janfrie Wakim, CPAG Co-convenor.

"Because many policies directly impact on their wellbeing, it's important to hear what children have to say about forging a New Zealand that meets all their needs to thrive.

"Children are very empathetic, an important value to recognise," says Wakim.

"It is of deep concern for CPAG that so many children in New Zealand suffer the effects of income poverty and material hardship. For decades political parties have failed to ensure an adequate standard of living for children and families. We want all political candidates to prioritise children by implementing policies that will ensure all children have the same opportunities for good outcomes."

Currently, policies are failing to ensure children in low-income families are able to have a warm safe and secure home, that they have enough income to sustain their basic needs and to keep them free from illness and poverty-associated anxieties.

CPAG is calling for zero fees doctors' visits and prescriptions for all children up until they turn 18, as well as age appropriate health-care in schools, adequate education funding, and 100% degree qualified teachers in teacher-led centre-based ECCE settings. CPAG is also asking all parties to commit to improving to Working for Families tax credits and welfare benefits. Removing the discrimination inherent in accessing the In-Work Tax Credit (worth at least \$72.50 per week to low income families) is fundamental as is a comprehensive review of housing in New Zealand - building more state homes and having a Warrant of Fitness on all rental housing is vital.

CPAG has recently launched a series of background papers outlining policies to support better, child-centred systems. Find out more about what it will take to ensure we have a New Zealand where all children can flourish [here](#). #Tick4Kids

ENDS

Bold plans needed to tackle child poverty, not vague promises

From: Child Poverty Action Group - 5 September 2017

Media Statement

Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) says bold plans are needed, not vague promises that the current Government will reduce child poverty numbers by 100,000 some years in the future.

National's 2018 Family Incomes Package will help some very low-income larger families. But while 50,000 children may be moved above a very low income-based poverty line (50% of the national median income after housing costs) - we need to see hardship alleviated for many more than this group who are facing the worst of poverty.

"We need to see a commitment to reducing income poverty that is based on the internationally recognised income poverty measure, that is 60% of the national median income (after housing costs), as well as material hardship, and qualitative measures such as admissions to hospital for preventable diseases," says Associate Professor Mike O'Brien, CPAG's social security spokesperson.

"Right now, 14% of children in New Zealand are living in material hardship. Reducing that percentage figure by 10 points - to 4% - would mean 110,000 less children living at the extreme end of material deprivation. This should be the very start of an initial national goal which must go further."

CPAG has repeatedly drawn attention to the deterioration of the Working for Families (WFF) programme under National.

"Over the past nine years WFF tax credits have been eroded, and there has been no CPI adjustment since 2012," says Associate Professor Susan St John, CPAG's economics spokesperson.

"Much of the increase announced for 2018 by National is simply catch-up. If National truly wanted to begin to tackle child poverty it would have made these changes this year.

"Built-in clawbacks in National's new WFF policy will be very bad for the working poor," says St John.

Under National's Family Incomes Package, on April 1, 2018 the annual income threshold for maximum WFF eligibility will reduce from \$36,350 to \$35,000 and the rate at which the payments reduce will go up to 25 cents for every dollar earned over that very low threshold (from 22.5c currently).

"Proper indexation should see the threshold increased to \$45,000. Low-income working families at this income miss out on \$2500 they should have," says St John.

CPAG says that it is wrong for the government to point to 60,000 fewer children dependent on benefits is evidence of reducing poverty.

"We know fewer people are receiving welfare benefits, but we don't know where they go to after that, or if they are any better off financially. What we do know is that food parcel charities are experiencing higher demand, and more families are living in cars and garages," says O'Brien.

"Furthermore, of the 295,000 children experiencing income poverty, 37% are in households where there is at least one adult in full-time employment.

"Unless supports are indexed annually according to wages and cost inflation, they quickly fall behind.

CPAG says that National's package entrenches reliance on the Accommodation Supplement which is stringently means tested. Any impact the Accommodation Supplement increases have on reducing poverty will depend on what happens to rents.

"Unless there are tighter controls on rents and more permanent housing solutions provided urgently, the increases will just continue to top up landlords incomes," says O'Brien.

Every Child's Right to a Healthy Home

From: Child Poverty Action Group - 5 September 2017

Media Statement

Today at 5:30pm Every Child Counts and the Child Poverty Action Group are hosting a housing forum, asking political parties what they will do to improve access to healthy, affordable housing.

The housing crisis is reaching devastating proportions in New Zealand, and while Government has increased its expenditure on emergency housing grants and transitional housing spaces, this is only a temporary solution to a much bigger problem - families are living in substandard housing that is causing alarming rates of illness, particularly among young children, and many do not have a home at all.

The Every Child Counts coalition is calling for all political parties to commit to ensuring all children in Aotearoa New Zealand live in healthy, warm homes.

The Every Child Counts (ECC) coalition is made up of UNICEF, Barnardos, Save the Children, Plunket and Mana Ririki. ECC along with the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), Public Health Organisation, Save our Schools, Renters United, ActionStation, United Community Action Network (UCAN NZ) and Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa (ACYA).

Lisa Woods, Executive Officer for the Every Child Counts coalition, says that for the wellbeing of all children, every political party must commit to a rental warrant of fitness (WOF) and the development of a national housing strategy.

Research clearly shows the devastating impact poor housing has on child health and wellbeing. In New Zealand there are about 40,000 hospital admissions of children every year with preventable illnesses that have links to poverty and unhealthy housing.

"There are very serious humanitarian considerations here, as well as economic consequences," says Woods.

A recent report from the Building Research Association of New Zealand (BRANZ) demonstrated that overall rental housing is of poorer quality than owner-occupied housing. The BRANZ 2015 House Condition Survey showed that 51% of rented houses and 66% of owner-occupied ones were in good or excellent condition. This means that 49% of rented houses were in poor condition.

"This is utterly unacceptable," says Woods.

"But it's not problem that needs to stick around - there are policy solutions readily available. A compulsory WOF for all rented properties, including state homes, would guarantee decent quality housing, and reduce the risk of illness among children.

"We are calling for all parties to commit to a national housing plan.

"This is critical to pull together different threads, identify gaps, and ensure accountability. Too often there has been a piecemeal approach to housing solutions, when we know from research that meaningful change will only come from comprehensive action across a range of areas," says Woods.

"The strategy needs to specifically address the needs of children and should support the Māori Housing Strategy - He Whare Āhuru He Oranga Tāngata. Community Housing Aotearoa's document: "Our Place" provides a strong basis for developing a strategy.

"Without an overarching plan, individual policies, no matter how positive, will not add up to the fundamental change we need to see.

"Improving housing quality is one piece of the puzzle - there are many other parts to improving access to safe, affordable, healthy housing, including addressing ways to reduce fuel poverty and ensuring families have adequate incomes."

For more information on the forum in Wellington this afternoon contact Lisa Woods at Every Child Counts on 0211228273.

Parental income test needs urgent attention

From: Child Poverty Action Group - 31 August 2017

CPAG press release on Labour's tertiary education announcement

<http://www.cpag.org.nz/news/parental-income-test-needs-urgent-attention/>

People's Review report shows urgent policies needed, says CPAG

From: Child Poverty Action Group - 23 August 2017

CPAG press release in response to The People's Review of Renting report by ActionStation and Renters United.

<http://www.cpag.org.nz/news/>

Make eliminating child poverty New Zealand's No.1 priority

From: Child Poverty Action Group - 22 August 2017

CPAG press release on Working for Families.

<http://www.cpag.org.nz/news/make-eliminating-child-poverty-new-zealands/>

REPORTS/RESEARCH/ARTICLES/RESOURCES

Growing up in NZ Study funding reduced

From: Katie Tuck, Growing up in NZ Study - 7 September 2017

Growing Up in NZ has had their funding drastically reduced such that they will only be able to collect data on a third of their nearly 7000 participants for the current 8yo data wave. This is hugely short-sighted, leaving out the stories of so many of the cohort. It also risks damaging the high retention rates and impairing the study's ability to detect the origins of disease and disadvantage that it has been so carefully designed to uncover.

Our family have given hours of time - as have every other study family - and made ourselves vulnerable, for the good of New Zealand children. A group of study families have started a petition in the hopes of drawing attention to the funding cuts and redressing them.

We would be grateful if you would sign and share the petition widely.

https://our.actionstation.org.nz/petitions/save-nz-s-largest-study-of-children-and-their-families?just_launched=true

NOTICES

Four RFPs focus on Māori and Pasifika learner success

From: Ako Aotearoa – National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence

Through their newly announced RFPs, Ako Aotearoa is committing to co-fund up to four projects aimed at making a significant difference in retention, completion and outcomes for Māori and Pasifika learners. Deadline for delivery of responses is 5pm, Friday 6 October, 2017.

Any enquiries to Alexia Tuhi, Ako Aotearoa at: a.tuhi@massey.ac.nz

Child Poverty Action Survey

From: Donna Provoost, Director – Strategy, Rights & Advice, Office of the Children's Commissioner

The Child Poverty Monitor releases data on child poverty in New Zealand every year (www.childpoverty.co.nz)

The partners: Otago University, JR McKenzie Trust and the Office of the Children's Commissioner are reviewing this resource, using an independent external evaluator. Please respond to this survey, which should take about 10 minutes.

Answers are anonymous, and we will only receive and report on aggregated results, without identifying anyone.

Click the button below to start the survey. Thank you for your participation!

[Begin Survey](#)