

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

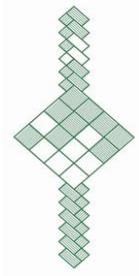
The Early Intervention Association of Aotearoa NZ

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 – 10 July 2017

EVENTS/MEETINGS/SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

Wellington Political forum CPAG /Tick for Kids – 26 July

From: CPAG - 10 July 2017

When: 26 July, 5.00 to 7.30 pm

Where: Nordmeyer Lecture Theatre, Level D, University of Otago, 23 Mein Steet, Newtown, WELLINGTON

CPAG and Tick for Kids warmly invite all our members and supporters to attend a Wellington Child Poverty Political Forum at University of Otago, Wellington on Wednesday 26th July. Hear from different political parties about their vision for a New Zealand where all children can flourish.

The forum will be chaired by Tony Dowell, Professor of Primary Health Care and General Practice and Head of Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Otago in Wellington.

The following representatives or candidates will be attending the forum:

Darroch Ball - NZ First; Carmel Sepuloni- Labour Party; Jan Logie - Green Party; National Party – TBC

Election Forum on Public Health – 29 August

From: Childwellbeing – 20 June 2017

When: Tuesday 29 August 5:30 at 7:00pm

Where: Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, 84 Taranaki Street, Wellington

Come and hear political candidates debate policies that affect the health and well being of New Zealanders at the **PHA Election Forum on Public Health**. Health spokespeople from all the major parties have been invited.

Link to Facebook event: <http://bit.ly/2ruQtU6>

Linda Clark will MC this event, which is brought to you by the Public Health Association's Wellington Branch. We are planning a live webcast for those outside Wellington.

Please support this event by popping the attached flier on your noticeboard, and/or sharing this email with your networks.

Flyer attached

REPORTS/RESEARCH/ARTICLES/RESOURCES

Risks of Harm from Spanking Confirmed by Analysis of Five Decades of Research

From: Mercy Jumo, Save the Children New Zealand - 7 July 2017

This study, [published in this month's Journal of Family Psychology](#), looks at five decades of research involving over 160,000 children. The researchers say it is the most complete analysis to date of the outcomes associated with spanking, and more specific to the effects of spanking alone than previous papers, which included other types of physical punishment in their analyses.

<https://news.utexas.edu/2016/04/25/risks-of-harm-from-spanking-confirmed-by-researchers>

Section 59 Crimes Act 1961: New Zealand is on the right track - why risk derailment?

From Prudence Stone – UNICEF NZ – 7 July 2017

UNICEF NZ has sent a factsheet and letter to all party leaders and the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Children regarding NZ First's recent call for referendum to Section 59.

UNICEF NZ did not release a public statement as the call from this party was clearly an election campaign item and did not deserve more oxygen.

They advise other organisations to please also take the direct advocacy approach rather than turn this into an election issue.

Fact sheet attached

OECD reports published – 21 June 2017

The OECD has published two reports on ECE
Read the full reports at the links below:

[Starting Strong 2017: Key OECD Indicators on Early Childhood Education and Care](#)

[Starting Strong V: Transitions from Early Childhood Education and Care to Primary Education](#)

Parenting Resource website

From: MoE – 20 June 2017

Minister Tolley officially launched the [Parenting Resource website](#) at the Ministry for Vulnerable Children Oranga Tamariki on 1 June 2017.

Developed primarily for the Family Start workforce, the resource contains comprehensive information about how babies and infants develop and how parents can provide an environment optimal for healthy child development.

The Parenting Resource is an online tool freely available to support anyone working with families with babies, infants and toddlers.

GOVERNMENT POLICY and LEGISLATION

Education Council – Pathway to support for part time/ relief teachers to meet practising certificate requirements

From Te Rito Maioha 1 July 2017

The Education Council encourages teachers to move to a full practising certificate within six years. The Education Council has recently introduced a pathway to support provisionally certificated part-time and relief teachers, working across multiple settings to gain Full Certification. It is for experienced teachers who have participated in some induction and mentoring but have been unable to gain a position of at least 0.5 FTTE for the required period.

You can access the Memorandum of Understanding [here](#).

Superu report: Incomes and housing crucial to community stability – CPAG Response

From: CPAG – 30 June 2017

The findings of the latest [Superu Families and Whānau status report](#), provide clear evidence that addressing one issue at a time will not significantly improve the situation for many children who are living with the effects of income poverty, says [Child Poverty Action Group \(CPAG\)](#).

Associate Professor Mike O'Brien, CPAG's social security spokesperson, says the report highlights that poverty remains a major issue for many families and needs to be actively and positively addressed if families are to be well-supported.

"A comprehensive approach to supporting families needs to be developed across a range of fields. The narrow current social investment approach will not do that. If we are serious about giving all children the best possible opportunities in life, then a more inclusive and comprehensive social investment approach is needed, one which will provide services and programmes which all families can draw on as required."

CPAG says that policies must be designed with the needs of the whole family at the heart, including income support for parents.

Targeted funding for a specific few children based on 'risks', without addressing poverty as the root cause of deprivation and poor outcomes, means many children experiencing poverty without experiencing two or more of the defining risk factors may miss out on crucial support. As the Superu report indicates, while "some families who face multiple challenges go on to have positive outcomes, other families struggle to address these challenges."

That single parents are among those who face the most disadvantage proves more support should be provided to those struggling to raise children on welfare benefits. Work hours that do not meet their needs may mean they are denied support from Working for Families, in the In-Work Tax Credit portion that they may not be eligible to receive.

Struggling couples with young children have greater housing disadvantage, highlighting the crippling effects of paying market rental prices on reduced income, when social housing is not an available option.

Not surprisingly, families do better when they have a supportive extended family network, but in order to ensure that extended families are well placed to be supportive, they too need to be well-resourced, and with many families now with grandparents still working into later years or retiring into poverty, it is crucial

that parents are well-supported by welfare and tax credits to ensure all their children’s needs are met adequately.

“It is clear that stability and community are important for families and family support. Moving house continuously seriously thwarts the ability for families to find a supportive community network. The current failure to tackle housing affordability and availability creates enormous disruption for children and families. This needs to be addressed immediately,” says O’Brien.

The Superu report states, “Healthy individuals in healthy families are at the heart of a healthy society.” As such, it is crucial that the Government responds with real solutions to improving the lives of families where the children are experiencing severe disadvantage.

CPAG is releasing a series of policy priority papers outlining recommendations to improve New Zealand’s healthcare, education, welfare and housing systems. CPAG says that implementing these recommendations will substantially reduce the worst child poverty and improve the lives of all low-income families with children, and meanwhile contribute to a reduction in hospital admissions of children with poverty-related illnesses.

Access the Superu Families and Whanau Status Report here: [Superu Families and Whānau status report](#)

Heads up - Changes to the Immunisation Schedule

From: Te Rito Maioha 18 June 2017

From July 1 2017 there are some planned changes to the NZ National Immunisation Schedule with the Varicella or chickenpox vaccine (Varilrix) to be added to the schedule at 15 months for babies born after 1st of April 2016. It will also be available to 11 year old children who have not previously had chickenpox disease or the vaccine.

CPAG asks, what’s changed since Park Up For Homes?

From: CPAG – 16 June 2017

Please find below the latest CPAG PR reflecting on the year since the first Park Up For Homes event on June 16, 2016. <http://www.cpag.org.nz/news/cpag-asks-whats-changed-since-park-up-for/>

June 16 marks the anniversary of the inaugural event for the Park Up For Homes movement which took place at the Mangere town centre, Auckland. A year on, Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) asks, what does the housing situation look like now?

Park Up For Homes was started by a group of Mangere residents who were deeply concerned about the homeless in their neighbourhood who were appearing in high numbers, and the increasing incidences of families forced to sleep in garages, tents and often their cars. Homelessness among children is an issue that resonated strongly with CPAG, who got on board to support the cause.

The premiere event on 16 June 2016 saw around 1000 locals, including politicians and members of other key organisations like CPAG, join together in solidarity with those doing it tough, sleeping out for the night in their cars. While the weight of the cause was great, the events were light-hearted celebrations of the potential for many voices to make great change. Live musicians, storytelling for children and guest speakers contributed to the festivities and dinner and breakfast was served for all who participated. The event inspired organisers in eight other areas across New Zealand to hold their own Park Up For Homes, and over 2000 people in total contributed to the movement’s kaupapa - which was to have better circumstances provided for those in need.

CPAG said that a top priority of the Government should be to build many more state homes.

Success of the #ParkUpForHomes campaign can be measured by the increased public and media awareness of homelessness in New Zealand, and a notable change in the narrative about what being homeless really means.

A few highlights (and lowlights) of the past year:

Nine Park Up For Homes events!

RNZ Checkpoint reported on a young girl with aspirations of academic success forced to do her homework in a van which was her family's temporary home.

LifeWise continues their Big Sleepout campaign to end youth homelessness

An Our ActionStation petition asking the Government to develop policy around homelessness was presented to Parliament

CPAG noted that the social housing 'Priority A' waiting list had increased dramatically - up 49% in December 2016, from the same period the year before.

An expose of the horror that is children residing in boarding houses.

But what is being done by our policy makers to improve the situation for many families suffering?

The Government has thankfully responded by distributing more and more emergency housing grants, and said it would continue to do so while the need is high. But many such grants were recoverable, simply throwing families into greater levels of debt.

Buying motels as temporary housing units was a common news item, but not a response that addresses the chronic shortage of state houses in many cities across New Zealand.

State house evictions had doubled due to methamphetamine contamination, but no plans to address the causation, rehabilitation or re-housing.

Announcements of increasing housing by 34,000 in the next 10 years are a matter of smoke and mirrors. This figure is distributed over a range of builds and transfers - while social housing stock is likely to only increase by 765 new builds.

Accommodation supplement increases in Budget 2017 were a welcome response to inadequate incomes, but still the issue of new builds remains at large, without an adequate plan to address the need.

The layers of homelessness are many. From the rough sleepers to the families living in their cars, to overcrowding in share houses, to slum dwellings where proprietors reap the benefits of those less fortunate. These all impact in detrimental effects on child health and wellbeing. Thankfully the public is gaining a much greater understanding of the severity of the issues.

Homelessness cannot be allowed to become the status quo and it is important that policy change remains on the public and political agenda. More must be done - movements like Park Up For Homes give the issue momentum and help maintain it as an important public and political issue.

Bex Rillstone, one of the founding members of the Park Up For Homes movement says that the events ignited a spark of hope for many.

"While we still battle with a housing crisis in Aotearoa, and face a challenging winter ahead, we have hope that the collective voices of people wanting change can really make a difference," says Ms Rillstone.

"Park Up For Homes has inspired a change in the narrative around homelessness, an increase in funding for emergency housing and an important political debate that continues one year on."

CPAG will continue to encourage New Zealand's policymakers to improve housing accessibility, and will be publishing a range of housing recommendations as part of our policy priority series A New Zealand where children can flourish, in July.

Poor Report Card results show New Zealand is failing its children

From: CPAG – 15 June 2017

CPAG's response to the latest UNICEF Innocenti Report Card 14 <http://www.cpag.org.nz/news/poor-report-card-result-shows-new-zealand/>

Child Poverty Action group (CPAG) says that New Zealand's failure to improve the situation for many children is evidenced in the latest Innocenti Report Card 14 Building the Future: Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries by UNICEF, and calls for the Government to make it's primary goal to dramatically improve the physical and mental health of children.

The report focuses on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ranks 41 OECD countries on how they are doing with each goal. It presents data on the numbers of children affected by specific issues.

Depressingly, New Zealand's ranking for children's outcomes poorly compared with most other countries across many different SDG measures. Particularly concerning is that New Zealand is ranked 38th out of 41 countries for child health and wellbeing:

We continue to have a high neonatal mortality rate;

We now have the highest youth suicide rate in the OECD (15.9 per 100,000 among children aged 15-19);

The teenage birth rate is still high at 23.3 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19, though this is a reduction from 28.7 per 1,000 in 2005;

New Zealand also has a higher-than-average child-homicide rate;

High numbers of children are experiencing food insecurity and material deprivation.

The long-term impact of poverty on children's health can be severe, and the situation for many children has become desperate. Small measures within the latest Budget to address these issues will not come into effect until April 2018, and for many children this will simply be too late.

Shockingly, New Zealand does not capture data for many of the SDG indicators, compared to most other OECD nations. New Zealand has provided insufficient data for the SDG of ending child poverty, and no internationally comparable data on the rates of child obesity, or adolescent mental health.

"Given New Zealand's extreme youth suicide rate it is a huge gap that we do not collect standard data on the mental health of teenagers," says Professor Innes Asher, CPAG health spokesperson and paediatrician.

"The link between child mental health and poverty cannot be ignored, and a sudden jump to high-cost health care at age 13 may mean teenagers do not get to see the doctor when they need to.

"Early primary health care can stop the worsening of illnesses such as depression, pneumonia, rheumatic fever and serious skin infections."

The report comments that, "commitments to Sustainable Development Goals made by governments now need to be translated into programmes and public investments."

Dr Nikki Turner, health spokesperson for CPAG, says that, "The first thing Government should do to improve children's health outcomes is urgently focus on improving household incomes for those families in greatest poverty and enabling warm, dry and secure housing.

"To support improved health outcomes particularly for our youth we should expand the zero-fees scheme for primary health care and prescriptions for all children up until their 18th birthdays. This is working for children under 13, and is just as important in teenagers," says Dr Turner.

"It is essential that all schools are equipped to provide a comprehensive range of quality health care services appropriate for the age of the pupils, and their health needs.

“Furthermore, a greater focus on coordinated support for maternity care and infancy is needed to reduce our poor neonatal outcomes.

“We need a much broader and inclusive approach to social investment so that we can achieve the SDG targets by 2030, rather than the highly-targeted approach the Government has required of Oranga Tamariki,” says Professor Asher.

CPAG welcomes the Government’s new Better Public Services targets, with the commitment to reduce avoidable hospital admissions among children aged 0-12, and also commends the commitment to reducing incidences of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI).

Policies that support better incomes and housing for families, as well as early detection and timely access to treatment of health problems in children, are fundamental to ensuring that all children thrive and have the opportunity for good life outcomes, and that New Zealand fares better in the next report.

CONSULTATION

IHC Survey – closes 14 July

From: Andrea Jamieson, IHC New Zealand Inc – 26 June 2017

IHC is measuring how New Zealand is doing for people with intellectual disabilities and we are keen to ensure the situation for children and young people with intellectual disability is part of the picture. Below is a link to a short survey for people with intellectual disability, their friends, family members and supporters.

Please click here to take part

The survey is brief and available to complete until **July 14th**.

IHC would appreciate input from people with an intellectual disability, a friend, family member or supporter, or those involved in the disability support sector.

IHC Advocacy is also running focus group discussions with people with intellectual disabilities to get their views and experiences.

Please note, this survey is about people with intellectual disabilities and not a general disability survey. If you have any queries, please contact Claire Stewart claire.stewart@ihc.org.nz or Trish Grant trish.grant@ihc.org.nz

Consultation Document - A Sugary Drink Tax for New Zealand (policy brief) by NZ Beverage Guidance Panel – consultation closes 1 August 2017

From: New Zealand Beverage Guidance Panel – 10 July 2017

The Policy Brief on A Sugary Drink Tax for New Zealand is now open for public consultation.

This document is authored by the New Zealand Beverage Guidance Panel (NZBGP)

The consultation period **CLOSES** on Tuesday **1st August 2017**.

Please find attached:

- i) the Policy Brief titled: **A Sugary Drink Tax for New Zealand**
- ii) the official submission form (in WORD & pdf)

Any submissions need to be sent via e-mail to Gerhard Sundborn by Tuesday 1st August at: g.sundborn@auckland.ac.nz

These documents will also be available on the FIZZ website to view and download (www.fizz.org.nz)

Schools to consult re cohort entry

From: MOE – 20 June 2016

Schools considering introducing cohort entry will be able to start consulting with their communities from next month.

The recent changes to the Education Act mean schools can fully adopt a cohort entry policy after they've consulted with their staff, the parents of current and prospective students, and local early childhood education services me ngā kōhanga reo.

For more information on cohort entry, visit Education.govt.nz.
