

The Children's Commissioner's Expert Advisory Group on Solutions to Child Poverty

Terms of Reference

Background

1. The extent of child poverty in New Zealand has been well documented. Approximately 20 percent of New Zealand children aged 0-17 live below the income poverty line.¹ Of these children, Māori and Pacific children are particularly over-represented. Children living in poverty experience widely disproportionate levels of social deprivation, poor living standards, poor health outcomes and lower educational attainment.
2. Disadvantage continues throughout an individual's life, particularly in terms of employability, income and mental health issues. As a country we compare poorly in international comparisons with similar nations regarding child poverty and wellbeing outcomes.
3. The Children's Commissioner has identified child poverty as one of his key priority areas for his five-year term.
4. To generate solutions to reduce child poverty in New Zealand, the Commissioner will appoint an advisory group of experts in the various fields relevant to the issue. The advice they provide to him will be furnished to the Government under s12(1)(k) of the Children's Commissioner Act 2003.

Role and Mandate of the Children's Commissioner

5. Under the Children's Commissioner Act 2003, the Children's Commissioner is an independent Crown entity with the statutory mandate to advocate for the advancement of children's rights, interests and welfare.

Scope

6. The Commissioner is seeking advice from the Expert Advisory Group that:
 - Takes a broad definition of child poverty. Advice will not be limited to income poverty, notwithstanding its central importance to the issue. A wider approach examining overall living standards, access to important services and social outcomes will be required;
 - Takes a systemic approach to defining the causes and consequences of child poverty;
 - In addressing the above matters, identifies the specific needs of Māori and Pacific children;

¹ based on a threshold of 60 percent of median household income

- Draws on the best available local and international evidence, including the range of actions taken in similar countries;
- Proposes a series of short-term actions to reduce child poverty and its effects. Such actions need to be realistic, pragmatic, effective, and take into consideration current and likely future fiscal constraints; and
- Proposes a longer-term strategy for reducing child poverty and its negative effects.

Purpose

7. An Expert Advisory Group on Solutions for Child Poverty ('the Advisory Group') will be established to develop and produce advice to the Commissioner on solutions to reduce child poverty and its effects. It will be supported by a small Secretariat.
8. Members of the Advisory Group will be recognized experts, drawn from a range of professional and disciplinary backgrounds and invited to participate by the Commissioner.
9. A Chair or Co-chairs of the Advisory Group will be also appointed by the Commissioner.
10. The Advisory Group will be tasked with making recommendations that:
 - Identify cost effective, readily achievable short term actions to reduce child poverty and its effects; and
 - Identify longer term measures, including legislative changes, designed to reduce child poverty and its effects.

Reporting timeframe and time commitments

11. The Advisory Group report must be completed and published by **Friday 14 December 2012**. An interim report will be provided to the Commissioner six months from the Advisory Group's first meeting.
12. The Advisory Group will meet in Wellington monthly. Each meeting will last one day. Each Advisory Group member will also contribute, as able, to the drafting or presentation of expert background papers and contribute to the interim and final reports.
13. In addition to these meetings, the Advisory Group will engage in community meetings to receive community feedback.

Voices of children and young people

14. It is essential that children's views and voices are included in this process. The voices and views of children and young people will be facilitated by the Office of the Children's Commissioner and be made available for the Advisory Group's consideration.

The Children's Commissioner's Expert Advisory Group on Solutions to Child Poverty Members of Expert Group

Co-Chairs

Professor Jonathan Boston
School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington

Jonathan Boston holds a Personal Chair in Public Policy at the School of Government, Victoria University. He was the Director of the Institute of Policy Studies during 2008-11 and Deputy Director during 2005-08. He has published widely in the fields of public management, tertiary education, social policy, comparative government, New Zealand politics and climate change policy. He was a member of the Tertiary Education Advisory Commission (2000-01) and the Strategic Policy Reference Group of the Ministry of Social Development (2004-08).

Dr Tracey McIntosh
Sociology Department, Nga Pae o te Maramatanga, University of Auckland

Tracey McIntosh is the Joint Director of the Centre of Research Excellence Nga Pae o te Maramatanga and Head of the Sociology Department. She has a strong record of research in processes of marginalisation and addressing issues that concern Maori. She also undertakes research looking at extreme death experiences (such as war).

Members

Dr Airini
Head of School, Critical Studies in Education, University of Auckland

Airini is an education specialist leading The School of Critical Studies in Education, at New Zealand's highest ranked research university. CRSTIE is unique in its focus on social and economic development through targeting critical education issues. Airini has worked for the United Nations Education and Scientific Co-Operation Organisation and holds Ministerial appointments to the UNESCO New Zealand Education Sub-Commission and the Winston Churchill Trust Board. Nationally and internationally Airini works alongside governments and those involved in change towards better education outcomes for all.

Dr Fiona Cram
Researcher, Consultant, Katoa Ltd

Fiona Cram (Ngāti Pahauwera) has a PhD in social and developmental psychology from the University of Otago. She has lectured in Social Psychology and has also been a Senior Research Fellow within IRI (the International Research Institute of Māori and Indigenous Education), at the University of Auckland. Fiona's research interests include Māori health, justice, and education. The over-riding theme of Fiona's work is Kaupapa Māori (by Māori, for Māori).

Professor Mark Henaghan
Dean of Law, University of Otago

Mark Henaghan is Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Otago, specialising in Family Law. He is co-author of *Family Law Policy in New Zealand*, 3rd edition LexisNexis Butterworths 2007, *Family Law in New Zealand*, 15th edition, LexisNexis Butterworths 2011, *Relationship Property on Death* 2004 Thomson Brookers (which won the 2005 J F Northey prize for the best published law book in New Zealand) and *Health Professionals and Trust*, Routledge (UK) 2012.

Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman
Deputy Head, Department of Public Health, University of Otago

Philippa Howden-Chapman is a professor of public health at the University of Otago, Wellington, New Zealand, where she teaches public policy. She is director of *He Kainga Oranga/ Housing and Health Research Programme* and the New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities. She has conducted a number of randomised community housing trials in partnership with local communities, which have had a major influence on housing, health and energy policy. She has a strong interest in reducing inequalities in the determinants of health and has published widely in this area, receiving a number of awards for her work. She is currently the chair of the WHO Housing and Health Guideline Development Group.

Phil O'Reilly
Chief Executive, Business New Zealand

Phil O'Reilly is Chief Executive of BusinessNZ, New Zealand's largest business advocacy group, representing thousands of businesses of all sizes.

Internationally, Mr. O'Reilly represents New Zealand employers at the International Labour Organisation, contributes to the governing body of the ILO, and is a Board member of the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD.

Nationally, he chairs the Government's Green Growth Advisory Group, the Capitalising on Research & Development Action Group and the Redundancy & Employment Transition Advisory Group, and is joint chair of the New Zealand Workplace Health & Safety Council and board member of the Innovation Board of the Ministry of Science & Innovation and the Council of the Royal Society of NZ. He serves on a number of other Ministerial and advisory groups.

Professor Richie Poulton
*Director Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Research Unit (DMHDRU),
Preventive and Social Medicine, Dunedin School of Medicine
Co-Director, National Centre for Lifecourse Research, University of Otago
Dunedin Study Theme Leader (Cardiovascular Health)*

Professor Richie Poulton is Director of the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Research Unit which conducts the Dunedin longitudinal study, one of the most detailed studies of human health and development ever undertaken. A multidisciplinary, longitudinal study of 1,037 babies born in Dunedin during 1972/73, the Study members have been followed up since birth, at age three, then every two years to age 15, and at ages 18, 21, 26, and 32. The latest assessment phase, at age 38, commenced in 2010 and is nearing completion (March 2012).

For each follow-up phase, the Study members are brought to the Dunedin Unit where they undergo numerous assessments and measures of their health and development. Recent assessments have included a broad range of studies in the psychosocial, behavioural medicine and biomedical research areas. The age 32 assessment phase (2003/2005) was an outstanding success with 96% of the surviving Study members being assessed.

In 2007, he established and became a Co-Director of the National Centre for Lifecourse Research, a research centre based at the University of Otago in Dunedin, but with partners located at universities across New Zealand and internationally.

He has published more than 150 peer-reviewed scientific papers, with many appearing in leading international journals. His research interests are: developmental psychopathology, gene X environment prediction of complex disorders, and psychosocial determinants of chronic physical disease.

In 2004, he was awarded the New Zealand Association of Scientist's Research Medal and the Health Research Council of New Zealand's (inaugural) Liley Medal for Excellence in Health Research. In 2010, he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and was the joint recipient of the RSNZ Dame Joan Metge Medal for excellence and building relationships in the social science research community.

James Prescott

Senior Lecturer in Accounting & Programme Leader Accounting, Auckland University of Technology

James Prescott is a senior lecturer in accounting and programme leader for the accounting component of the Bachelor of Business degree. His research interests are in SMEs and Micro-enterprise business formation and sustainability and investigating business sustainability among pacific island owned and/or operated businesses in New Zealand. He has and currently serves on a number of community and government ministerial boards and trusts and is a director on a number of small companies. James has extensive networks with the pacific island community across a number of sectors including, education, health broadcasting and commerce. Dr Prescott is a Tongan born researcher and is fluent in both Tongan and English.

Major Campbell Roberts

Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit, Salvation Army

Major Campbell Roberts has over 40 years experience relating the work of the Salvation Army to social policy. He is a well known media spokesperson on issues of poverty and housing in New Zealand and has contributed to enquiries, commissions and policy forums on many and diverse social issues. He currently is the Salvation Army Social Programme Secretary for the New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga Territory and is the Director of the New Zealand Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit. The Unit has a mandate to reform New Zealand society and eliminate poverty by influencing and engaging national leaders in politics, business, government, education and the media.

Bob Stephens

Senior Associate, Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington

Bob Stephens retired as Associate Professor in Public Policy at Victoria University in January 2010. His research has been largely in the areas of social and public policy and tax reform. As a foundation Member of New Zealand Poverty Measurement Project, Bob developed a poverty measure suitable for the current economic and social policy environment in New Zealand. Bob has been involved in several international comparative studies, including the level of financial assistance for dependent children, child support, lone parents, social assistance and transparency of the budget process.

Dr Nikki Turner

General Practitioner,

Director of the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC)

Senior Lecturer in the Division of General Practice and Primary Health Care, University of Auckland

Nikki works as a practising General Practitioner and Director of the Connectus Centre University of Auckland which is a coalition of child health and social services focusing on maternal and infant health, well child health, adolescent health and immunisation programmes. She currently works from Wellington, based in the University School of Medicine, Wellington and as a general practitioner with the Pacific Health Service, Newtown Union Health Centre.

Nikki sits on a number of New Zealand Ministry advisory committees around child health and immunisation issues representing the Immunisation Advisory Centre and the RNZCGP. She is Chair of the Immunisation Technical Forum. She is an executive member and health spokesperson for the Child Poverty Action Group and a Board member of NZ UNICEF. Nikki's main personal interests are in child poverty and preventative child health.

Sharon Wilson Davis

CE, Tamaki Ki Raro Trust

Sharon has been the Chief Executive of Strive Community Trust formerly Tamaki Ki Raro Trust for the past 15 years and is based in Mangere South Auckland. She has 20 plus years, experience, as an owner operator in the hotel hospitality industry in New Zealand and Australia.

Sharon was a member of the Welfare Working Group and is appointed to the Auckland Social Policy Forum

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