

Solutions to child poverty

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Expert Advisory Group on
Solutions to Child Poverty

Solutions to Child Poverty in New Zealand

Issues and Options
Paper
for Consultation

28 August 2012



Numbers

- 25% - 270,000 children living in poverty in NZ
 - 11% in 1986
- Cost of child poverty - 3% of GDP
 - NZ\$6 billion
- Five 15-65 year olds per retiree
 - 2.5 in 2031
- OECD 1.6 children per couple
 - NZ 2.6

Principles

- Evidence-based, robust, pragmatic
- Investment approach
 - Invest now to prevent problems in future
- Fiscally conservative
- Invest for greatest effect
 - First 5 years of life

Continue

- Immunisation -> 8 months
- ↑ Maori & Pacific in ECE
- ↑ Maori & Pacific w NCEA L2 & 4
- Prevent rheumatic fever
- ↓ serious child assaults
- Insulating and heating HNZC homes



Income

- Reform IWTC -> 0-5y
- Work out of poverty
 - ECEC must be available & high quality
- Universal Child Payment
 - More for 0-5
 - Universal -> most in need
 - Low compliance costs
 - Current contact details available for transient



Housing

- Of children in poverty
 - 20% HNZC
 - 50% private rental
- ↑ social housing
- Add housing to National Infrastructure Plan
- WOF for rentals
 - Accommodation Supplement only for compliant houses
 - Accelerate depreciation on improvements



Health

- Access to antenatal care
- Triple enrolment as opt-off
- Single enrolment database
- ↑ connectivity between systems



Education

- Schools as community hubs
- Food in schools
 - Partner w NGO & business
 - School culture matters
 - Does not stigmatise
 - Need not -> dependency
 - Integrated into curriculum
 - Mechanism to engage families



Business

- Family-friendly workplaces
- Partner with schools & NGOs
- Joint ECEC & after-school care provision



What next?

- Read the report!
 - www.occ.org.nz
 - share it
- Write an op-ed, blog, Facebook
- Talk to your friends
 - What are you prepared to sacrifice so children's needs are met?



