



Te Ope Whakaora

# Public Sphere

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News & Updates from The Salvation Army Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit | April 2014

**What a curious phenomenon it is that you can get men to die for the liberty of the world who will not make the little sacrifice that is needed to free themselves from their own individual bondage.** Bruce Barton

## EDITORIAL

### Something to Die For

It's an interesting coincidence and, I suggest, a significant juxtaposition: an otherwise ordinary week of work (or not) book-ended by Easter and ANZAC—and heralded by a 'blood moon' lunar eclipse.

'Interesting' because an event that moves in line with the lunar cycle coincides with an event set by official decree.

'Significant' because these two events represent many layers of meaning and value for people in this many-layered land.

Both Easter and ANZAC are statutory holidays—occasions many look forward to for layers of rest, relaxation, recreation, retail. And that a smaller number look to for reflection.

Both ANZAC and Easter are also 'holy' days—meaning 'set apart' for a particular purpose.

ANZAC is set apart to commemorate and celebrate events and encounters that help define our sense of being a nation together.

Easter is set apart to commemorate and celebrate events and encounters that helped define a new way of responding to life that, until recent times, provided most of the founding values of our nation.

Both Easter and ANZAC commemorate and celebrate 'sacrifice': the willingness of individuals to sacrifice their own life for others.

ANZAC represents those who fought (and died) for our nation to ensure our freedom from tyranny.

*Public Sphere* is an e-newsletter from The Salvation Army's Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit.

Easter represents one (Jesus Christ) who died (and lives —through his followers) to ensure freedom from tyranny over body, mind and spirit.

This Easter/ANZAC juxtaposition presented an opportunity to (alongside rest and recreation) reflect on what we would be willing to sacrifice for others. What cause or community are we willing to serve? And is that something worth dying for?

Andrew Hay, Assistant Officer, Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit

## RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

### 'Children' Journal: Faiths Against Violence

Check out the Children's Commissioner's latest issue (84) of *Children* journal. This edition explores some of the issues and experiences of faith communities when seeking to address family violence. It includes some inspiring first-hand stories from those training faith leaders, alongside articles that examine the complex role of faiths that wish to address family violence in their communities.

Access the journal at [www.occ.org.nz/publications/journal/](http://www.occ.org.nz/publications/journal/)

### Major Organisational and Legal Changes Coming

**Social Housing:** From 14 April 2014 the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) took over processing and assessing applications for social (state) housing in NZ. Salvation Army staff members have been involved in advising and preparing for these changes.

Get more info at [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/social-housing/social-housing-changes.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/social-housing/social-housing-changes.html)

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**Consumer Law:** Over the past few years, the Government has undertaken a long process of reforming consumer laws in New Zealand. The Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit has been involved in this process, presenting submissions, attending financial summits and meeting with politicians. Some of these changes have taken effect now, while others will come into effect in June 2014.

Get more info at [www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/legislation-policy/changes-to-consumer-laws/what-businesses-need-to-know/changes-applying-now/summary](http://www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/legislation-policy/changes-to-consumer-laws/what-businesses-need-to-know/changes-applying-now/summary)

**Financial Services Law:** There will also be major changes to credit contracts and financial services & lenders coming later in 2014.

Keep track at [www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/legislation-policy/policy-development/credit-review#progress](http://www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/legislation-policy/policy-development/credit-review#progress)

## COMING EVENTS

### Prevent People Trafficking Conference

5-6 June at Police College, Porirua



Have you ever wondered what it may be like to be exploited for your labour while living in a foreign land and being too heavily in debt to return home? One of our conference speakers will be sharing with us the grim reality that is life for many Indonesian fishermen on board foreign-chartered vessels.

Register at [www.salvationarmy.org.nz/pptc2014](http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/pptc2014)

## Just Action: In Our Backyard



Four conferences helping us explore how to live justly in our own communities. Each conference will run from 9 am, with closing comments around 4 pm. The registration desk will be open from 8 am.

### Venues:

- 21 August at Dunedin Salvation Army, 575 Princes St.
- 23 August at Sydenham Salvation Army, 250 Colombo St, Christchurch.
- 26 August at Wellington City Salvation Army, 92 Vivian St, Te Aro.
- 28 August at Auckland City Salvation Army's new complex, 18 Allright Place, Mt Wellington.

Fees (GST inclusive): Early Bird \$85 until June 30 (Student \$79); from 1-31 July, full fee \$129 (Student \$79); from August 1, late fee \$155 (Student \$99).

Online and printable registration forms at [www.salvationarmy.org.nz/justaction](http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/justaction)

## ACTIVITIES

### Reports & Articles

**'What is Social Justice, Anyway?':** written by Major Sue Hay, published in 'War Cry' magazine 5 April to support the Territorial Strategic Mission Plan Goal 3 to 'Fight Injustice'.

Read it at [www.salvationarmy.org.nz/our-community/faith-in-life/life-matters/what-is-social-justice](http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/our-community/faith-in-life/life-matters/what-is-social-justice)

**Update Report on the State of Pacific Peoples in New Zealand:** Ronji Tanielu is writing this update, supported by Alan Johnson. This will be released in May 2014.

**Quota Family Project:** Ronji is working on this with The Salvation Army Manukau Community Ministries and Immigration NZ

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## Submissions

- **Religious Workers Immigration Policy:** Major Campbell Roberts was invited to give feedback on this policy, introduced in 2011, to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.
- **Health and Safety Reform Bill:** Ronji Tanielu supported Libby Wilson from The Salvation Army Personnel Department in preparation of our submission to this Bill.

Read the submission at [www.salvationarmy.org.nz/research-media/social-policy-and-parliamentary-unit/submissions/health-safety-bill](http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/research-media/social-policy-and-parliamentary-unit/submissions/health-safety-bill)

## Out & About

- **University of Auckland:** Alan Johnson presented a paper to the Communique Series at the School of Architecture titled 'The new politics of social housing'.
- **Official Statistics Users Forum:** Alan Johnson delivered a presentation to this forum at Te Papa Tongarewa titled 'Popularising social statistics'.
- **Manukau SuperClinic:** Alan Johnson presented on 'Health Professionals as Public Advocates' to Primary Health Nurses at the SuperClinic.
- **Corrections Department:** Ronji Tanielu attended a high-level meeting on behalf of the Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit, posing questions around recidivism, prison populations, and Māori and Pacific numbers in prison.
- **Immigration NZ:** Ronji Tanielu attended a consultation and workshops around Pacific new migrants to New Zealand and immigration issues for new migrants in general.
- **Fairtrade Wellington Board:** Chris Frazer attended a meeting of this Board as a trustee representing The Salvation Army. Wellington is a 'Fairtrade City', the first in the Southern hemisphere.
- **Minister of Consumer Affairs:** Honourable Craig Foss met with members of Manukau Community Ministries and the Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit to discuss the Credit Contracts and Financial Services Law Reform Bill, which tightens rules for lending and interest rates.

- **Families Commissioner:** Alan Johnson and Major Sue Hay met with Clare Ward, Chief Executive of the Families Commission.
- **Members of Parliament:** Major Campbell Roberts and Major Sue Hay met with Chester Borrows (Minister of Courts, Associate Minister of Social Welfare), Te Ururoa Flavell (Maori Party), Barbara Stewart (NZ First) and Poto Williams (Labour).
- **Nakhle Group:** Major Campbell Roberts and Major Sue Hay, together with two representatives from The Salvation Army Manukau Community Ministries, visited Te Mahia Village in relation to emergency housing at the village and how to introduce social supports.
- **Christchurch Faith Housing Group:** Major Campbell Roberts facilitated a meeting of faith-based (and other) organisations seeking to progress a proposal to work collectively to provide social and community housing in Christchurch. Sue attended to network and observe.
- **Anglican Social Justice Unit:** Kate Day, from this Christchurch-based unit, visited SPPU to ask questions and learn more about our history.
- **Monte Cecilia Housing Trust:** David Zussman, from this Auckland agency, met with Ronji Tanielu to discuss housing issues in Glen Innes, East Auckland.
- **Auckland City Council:** Ronji Tanielu met with Rouruina Brown from the Council to discuss the financial wellbeing project being launched with 20 families in Auckland.
- **Waimahia Inlet Project:** Major Campbell Roberts met with this group providing future housing in South Auckland.
- **Statistics New Zealand:** Major Campbell Roberts had a briefing session with senior management staff.
- **World Vision NZ:** Major Campbell Roberts and Major Sue Hay met with John Sinclair to discuss our respective social justice agendas.

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