



Te Ope Whakāora

# Public Sphere

News & Updates from The Salvation Army Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit | February 2011

**‘The person who opens a school door, closes a prison.’ Victor Hugo**

## FEATURE

### SOCIAL ISSUES

## The state of our nation

*Stalled*, the Salvation Army’s fourth annual State of the Nation report was launched on 11 February, with events in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Hamilton. This State of the Nation report continues our review of the social progress that New Zealand is making with children, crime and punishment, work and incomes, housing and social hazards.

Major Campbell Roberts, Director of SPPU comments: **“The results are somewhat under-whelming: a few things have improved over the past one or two years, a few things have got a little worse and most things have not changed at all. The problems of unaffordable housing, alcohol-fuelled family violence, child poverty and youth disaffection are as they were four years ago. Despite their importance and despite the public concern expressed about them, little has changed. In effect, meaningful social progress has stalled.”**

→ **Read *Stalled* State of the Nation Report 2011**

## UPDATE

### SPPU NEWS

## The future focus of SPPU

The strategic direction of SPPU has been finalised and in 2011 our research will focus on five critical areas:

1. Welfare reform
2. The demographic tsunami
3. Housing
4. Inequality
5. Trafficking in persons

**Click here to subscribe** (Public Sphere does not necessarily represent the official views of The Salvation Army)

We welcome your feedback → **Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit** | New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga Territory | **Auckland Office:** PO Box 76249, Manukau City, e: social\_policy@nzf.salvationarmy.org, p: (09) 261 0883, m: 027 450 6944, f: (09) 262 4103 | **Wellington Office:** p: (04) 802 6269

[www.salvationarmy.org.nz/socialpolicy](http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/socialpolicy)

**Public Sphere** is an e-newsletter from The Salvation Army’s Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit. It contains updates, commentary on current public issues, and publications from the Policy Unit.

## PUBLIC ISSUES

### SOCIAL HAZARDS

## Alcohol reform

The Salvation Army believes the following will reduce the harm experienced by individuals and the wider society:

- the tax on alcohol should increase by 25% at least
- the blood alcohol level with which people can drive motor vehicles must be lowered
- the drinking age needs to go back up to 20
- the advertising and marketing of alcohol needs to be severely limited
- there must be an increase in the number of alcohol treatment places funded by Government.

### WELFARE

## The welfare debate

Welfare is more than an economic issue. Welfare dependency is embedded in deeper issues of inequality in our society. It should not be sidelined by debates about the economy.

The Salvation Army has made a submission to the Welfare Reform Working Group.

→ **Read our submission** to the Welfare Reform Working Group

### Social Policy Unit Staff

**Major Campbell Roberts**, Director, Wellington and Auckland; **Alan Johnson**, Senior Policy Analyst, Auckland; **Chris Frazer**, Social Justice Advocate, Wellington; **Ronji Tanielu**, Social Policy Analyst, Auckland; **Malcolm Irwin**, Communications and Theological Reflection. **Follow Campbell Roberts/SPPU on twitter**

**DuncanCotterill**  
LAWYERS

Thanks to Duncan Cotterill for their support of SPPU