



Te Ope Whakaora

# Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit

Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

## Unit Brief **October 2019**

### From the Director

*Another Salvation Army Congress has passed and for the SPPU at least another Just Action too.*

There were so many highlights to contemplate. The multi-culturalism, the words of the General, the music, the worship and so much more. It was the testimonies of two people in recovery—RayRay and Shane— and their journey out of addiction and into community, belonging and faith that was most memorable for me. They are miracles of grace that demonstrate so much hope and inspiration in place of despair and hopelessness. The integrated nature of both of their journeys of redemption involved practical support, loving relationships, a sense of belonging and a spiritual awakening. Integrated Christian mission at its best. The social and the spiritual.

In the Just Action Conference, the idea of bringing the spirit into the public sphere brought a more societal or public lens onto the mission of the Army. Professor Chris Marshall presented an inspirational paper using the parable told by Jesus of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37) to demonstrate the absolute necessity for any follower of Jesus to be a neighbour to those in need—no matter what race, religion or other difference. He emphasised the thought that compassion was at the centre of this parable (literally in the original text). The Unit attempts to do its part in the holistic gospel of Christ by emphasising the need for our churches, communities, nation and our world to provide the kind of support that exemplifies the idea of being collectively a good neighbour in our systems and policies. Compassion in action.

After all, for RayRay and Shane, some of the journey that led them into addiction related to inadequate policy and support around education, state care, domestic violence, prison, insecure housing and much more. Some would even say

they were more sinned against than sinning in their past life. Other policy around the provision of addiction programmes, supportive accommodation and more—along with the love and care of the people involved in the services—were all a part of their journey of recovery.

May we all love God with all our heart, mind and soul—and our neighbour as part of who we are in whatever sphere we find ourselves.

Nāku iti noa,

**Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Hutson**  
*Director—Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit*



## Out & About

### Speaking Presentations

- **03/09** Gave presentation on community research to Midlands Community Ministries Conference in Hamilton—Vincent & Ian
- **22/09** Preached at East City Corps. It was a wonderful time of fellowship. Ronji taught from Romans 12:1–2 and talked about justice for persecuted Christians and not conforming to the world's standards. Thank you to Ross and Jo Wardle and the East City Corps whānau—Ronji
- **04/09** Participated in Howard League panel discussion on minimum age of criminal responsibility at Victoria University, Wellington—Paul

### Submissions

- **Abortion Legislation Bill** The Moral and Social Issues Council (MASIC) drafted this submission with help from SPPU. There was only 1 submission from a local Corps which is disappointing. 25,000 submissions were received, nearly 3,000 asked for oral submissions. But the Committee is only hearing 150 submissions. We are concerned about the unfairness in this process.
- **Online Gambling Review (Dept. of Internal Affairs)** SPPU and Oasis drafted this submission. We advocated strongly against any expansion of gambling in NZ. But there seems to be a push for expansion from government. We also detailed harm minimisation measures that should be used here.
- **Inequities in Maori Health** Written submission to the Maori Affairs Select Committee on inequities in Māori health. The report focused on the experience of inequalities facing the communities The Salvation Army works. The brief submission highlighted some areas where inequalities are being reduced, and noting the need to focus on policies that create space for kaupapa Māori-based solutions.

### Government

- **03/09** Invited to announcement of interest rate cap for new Credit Contracts Legislation with other TSA staff—Ronji

- **05/09** Meeting with regulatory staff from the Commerce Commission—Ronji
- **06/09** Met with policy staff from Ministry of Pacific Peoples about housing, homelessness etc—Ronji
- **13/09** Attended the 2019 Parliamentary Drug Policy Symposium (Cannabis Reform) held in the Parliamentary Buildings—Ian
- **16/09** Participated in strategy testing for safer credit with Commerce Commission—Ronji
- **18/09** Ronji joined an experts group looking at the Government's Homelessness Action Plan. This work will continue for several months.
- **20/09** Attended Safer Credit intervention logic meeting with MBIE—Ronji
- **20/09** Met with cannabis referendum policymakers from Ministry of Justice—Ian & Vincent

### Stakeholder meetings

- **02/09** SPPU hosted Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner, Saunoamaali'i Dr Karanina Sumeo and Tuiloma Lina-Jodi Samu from the Human Rights Commission
- **02/09** Meeting to discuss progress indicators with Agnes Wong from Auckland Regional Public Health—Ronji
- **02/09** Meeting with NGO groups CPAG/Action Station/NZCCSS/FinCap alliance to support implementation of Welfare Expert Advisory Group report recommendations—Paul
- **04/09** Met with Nicola Sladden from the Banking Ombudsman Scheme—Ronji
- **05/09** Met with Nanette Moreau from Utilities Disputes Ltd around disputes resolutions schemes and lower income Kiwis—Ronji
- **10/09** Attended a meeting for the advisors to the national interdenominational Church Leaders at the Wesley Centre in Wellington—Ian
- **11/09** Attended the Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Trust Board (A community Alliance) members meeting in Auckland—Ian
- **18/09** FinCap Trust Board meeting—Ronji

Continued ...



- **18/09** Meeting with Kate Day, Social Justice Advocate for the Wellington Anglican Diocese
- **25/09** Met with Michael from Christians Against Poverty to discuss policy, advocacy and collaboration—Ronji

### Media

- **03/09** Radio interview with Labour List MP Anahila Kanongata'a-Suisuiki about abortion, euthanasia etc—Ronji
- **12/09** Ronji member of AM Show (TV 3) panel on cultural appropriation, Labour party scandals etc—Ronji
- **23/09** <https://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/news/lifting-lowest-incomes-vital-increase-wellbeing> Media release supporting the call for the government to put children and whānau wellbeing at the heart of welfare contained in the petition from Child Poverty Action Group and Action Station that was handed to the Prime Minister's electorate office.

### Community Advocacy

- **23/09** Mangere Housing Community Regeneration Group (working on the redevelopment of 10,000 houses in Mangere)—Ronji
- **24/09** Met with John Exton from Kingdom Budgeting Services in Christchurch—Ronji
- **23/09** September Supported handover of CPAG/ Action Station petition asking the government to implement a fairer welfare system Auckland—Paul
- **25/09** Attended a workshop on Christian NGOs and mission drift/mission true, led by the Wilberforce 21—Ronji

### Internal Salvation Army

- **10/09** SPPU team met with Hana Seddon and Irene Farnham about our SPPU's bi-cultural practice
- **10/9** Theological reflection for SPPU on Fa'amalu—SPPU
- **12/09** Attended the early morning blessing for the new Royal Oak Social Housing complex—Ian, Vincent, Paul
- **21/09** Chaired the Māori Ministry Council in Manukau—Ian

**We welcome your feedback**

PO Box 76249, Manukau, Auckland 2241

Phone (09) 262 2332 • [social.policy@salvationarmy.org.nz](mailto:social.policy@salvationarmy.org.nz)  
[twitter.com/SPPU](https://twitter.com/SPPU) • [facebook.com/SPPUNZ](https://facebook.com/SPPUNZ)

