



Te Ope Whakāora

Public Sphere

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News & Updates from The Salvation Army Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit | February 2012

‘Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.’ Maria Robinson, writer and scholar

EDITORIAL

The dust is settling and the picture is becoming slowly clearer. The winners and the losers are identifiable now. The nation’s collectively held breath can now be happily released. The leaders of the winning teams pose triumphantly to the nation. The battlefield is strewn with the losers looking forlorn (or possibly victims depending on your viewpoint). They are now re-grouping so as to re-load and renew their quest in the future. The nation continues to wait with baited breath to see what will happen now that the proverbial dust is settling.

And that was just with the All Blacks winning the Rugby World Cup in 2011!

Last year, our national election was held, in the shadow of national World Cup euphoria. We now have another three years of a National-led Government. We have a markedly different political landscape in 2012, with the Greens growing in popularity, Labour waning and New Zealand First rising from the political phoenix’s ashes. Even in this new political climate, the social conditions for large pockets within our nation’s population still remain dire.

The Salvation Army will launch its annual State of the Nation report on 17 February. Titled *The Growing Divide*, this report will again explore some of the key social and economic indicators of well-being affecting our nation. Additionally, over the next several months, we will release a series of publications discussing topics including trafficking in persons in the Pacific, and youth unemployment and disengagement.

Despite the ecstasy of winning an international sports tournament, there are still some serious issues facing our nation today and into the future. Surely our nation can come together to address these critical issues, just as it came together for the Rugby World Cup? Surely!

Ronji Tanielu, Policy Advisor, Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit

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

NEWS

Divides in our nation continue to grow

The Unit will release our annual State of the Nation report on Friday, 17 February 2012. *The Growing Divide* will detail and discuss some of the key indicators of the growing inequality in our nation. We will launch this report in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, and Dunedin, with a briefing in Christchurch on Friday, 24 February. For more information, contact ronji_tanielu@nzf.salvationarmy.org

Advocacy on Critical Issues

→ ‘The Inconvenient Truths’ Pacific Trafficking in Persons Forum Report is now available. It details the Forum, which the Unit hosted in December 2011, and includes presentations from all the speakers. [Read the full report.](#)

The Unit will also be releasing the following papers to continue our advocacy on critical issues facing our nation:

→ **Youth NEET Paper**—the Unit is commenting on the state of our young people who are classed as not engaged in employment, education or training (released March 2012).

→ **Auckland Housing Affordability Report**—the second piece in a three-part series on housing in our nation (released April 2012).

Green Paper for Vulnerable Children

The Unit is making an overview submission to the Government regarding their *Green Paper for Vulnerable Children*, due on 28 February 2012. The Unit’s submission will be made in conjunction with submissions from Salvation Army corps and Community Ministry centres around the country. For more information or assistance with your submissions, please contact ronji_tanielu@nzf.salvationarmy.org or 09 261 0886.

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