



Te Ope Whakaora

# Public Sphere

FOLLOW US



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

**If liberty and equality, as is thought by some are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost. Aristotle (384–322 BC)**

## EDITORIAL

New Years is a time of reflection and anticipation for many. We reflect on the year that has been, and we look forward to what the New Year brings with anticipation. From where I sit, 2014 is shaping up to be a pretty good year. For the more politically minded of us, 2014 brings the excitement of a general election. While each election is always different, 2014 is of special significance to me as this is the first general election in which I am eligible to vote.

In deciding who will best represent me—as a young New Zealander who has followed national politics closely for a few years—I plan to look at each party’s policies regarding a few key issues, and from this decide which party best represents my views. I am very aware that no party is ever going to perfectly represent what I think, and in reality I know that when I cast my vote I may be voting for a party that has a policy I’m not so keen on. However, as I see it, nobody is perfect, but everybody can do their best. Likewise, a political party may not be perfect, but they may be the best available for the current time in our country’s history.

The first thing I will look at is whether or not a particular party’s policy will support continued growth of the New Zealand economy. New Zealand is beginning to come out the other side of the global recession, and many commentators worldwide are predicting that by the end of 2014, New Zealand will have one of the fastest growing Western economies in the world. Another sign of the recovering economy is the job market. As I again begin the search for part-time work to support me during the university year, I am noticing a difference in the number of jobs available compared to last year and the one before. As I see it, the economy, though significantly better than it was, is still recovering, and in a volatile international market, New Zealand cannot afford for it to weaken again.

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

Thus, a cautious approach to the economy should be taken by any incoming government.

This being said, the benefits from a strengthening economy need to be shared by *all* New Zealanders. Ideally, the party I choose to vote for will look at measures to help those struggling to make ends meet. In a country such as New Zealand, there should be no reason why a person cannot buy the basics at the supermarket and pay their bills in the same week. A strengthening economy should allow us to help give those currently struggling to take steps to improve not only their personal situation, but that of their family.

While investment in people is needed, so too is investment in business to allow for growth in key industries that will likely not only lead to further economic growth, but also more jobs—allowing more people to succeed. As a student, I have become aware that, on graduating, there is often more opportunity and better pay overseas. If New Zealand is to continue to succeed in the global marketplace, it needs to minimise the number of recent graduates leaving the country in search of greener pastures and greater opportunity by making staying in New Zealand an attractive option for graduates. This allows the investment the country makes in funding education pay off, as young New Zealanders invest their time here. When I graduate in a few years, I want to be faced with a real choice of where I will begin my career, rather than make the decision, almost by default, to go overseas so that I can earn enough to pay off my student loan quicker.

Although I have almost decided who I will cast my vote for, this is not the case for a significant part of the voting public. After all, if most of the public had decided who they would vote for months before, there would not be much point in political parties campaigning. My hope for this election is that those who cast their vote look at the policies presented to them by the various parties and

[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](mailto: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)



FOLLOW US



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

weigh up their options properly, rather than just voting for the incumbent MP for their area, or the party they (and their family) have always voted for. And from this consideration, then decide who will best represent them in Parliament.

**Samantha Ward, Summer Intern**

Samantha is studying law and biotechnology at the Victoria University of Wellington and has been with the Unit as part of our summer internship programme. If you know of any Auckland-based tertiary students who'd interested in being part of our next internship programme, encourage them to forward their CVs to [Justin\\_Latif@nzf.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Justin_Latif@nzf.salvationarmy.org)

## UNIT NEWS

### Save the Date for State of the Nation

Pencil 12 and 13 February in your diaries as the launch of the Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit's annual State of the Nation report. Launch events will be held around the country on these dates at a variety of times and locations. On the Wednesday 12 February, breakfast events will be held in Wellington and Auckland, along with a lunch event launch in Manukau and an afternoon event in Christchurch. On Thursday 13 February, our team will be split between Hamilton and Dunedin to present the report to people in these cities.

Venues and times are still be confirmed, but if you'd like to register your interest early, please email [justin\\_latif@nzf.salvationarmy.org.nz](mailto:justin_latif@nzf.salvationarmy.org.nz)

### Responding to alcohol reforms: PART 1—Local Alcohol Plans (LAPs)

The new Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 has brought massive changes to the sale, supply and regulation of alcohol in New Zealand. Over the past several years, The Salvation Army has consistently responded to these reforms through protest marches, submissions to government, meetings with politicians and other methods. Now, there are more opportunities for local corps and Salvationists in general to respond to alcohol issues in their areas: via Local Alcohol Plans (LAPs).

Under the new Act, territorial authorities can develop LAPs about how alcohol is sold and supplied in their

communities. Communities can input into these LAPs and can help limit the location of liquor licenses in specific areas or near specific facilities. They can also help limit the density of licences in a specific area. Some councils or territorial authorities have closed their LAPS, while most have not.

The SPPU is encouraging all Salvationists and corps to get together and contribute to their LAPs. If you want more information, SPPU have a one-page briefing paper we can send to you, as well up-to-date information on which LAPs are still open. For example:

- Auckland Council area: public consultation begins January 2014
- Hamilton City Council area: public consultation 14 January to 17 February 2014
- Christchurch City Council area: dates and process to be confirmed

This is another great opportunity for The Salvation Army to engage in key social, political and health issues. Email [ronji\\_tanielu@nzf.salvationarmy.org](mailto:ronji_tanielu@nzf.salvationarmy.org).

**Next time: PART 2—Irresponsible advertising and supermarkets**

## Submissions

2014 has just started, but Parliament already has a number of important pieces of legislation open for submission. The Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit made a submission to the **Parole Amendment Bill** in January on The Salvation Army's behalf.

We generally supported the Bill's introduction of risk milestones for inmates to work towards, as well as supporting the need for a more effective and just parole hearing process. We also continued The Salvation Army's call for greater investment by Government into effective rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for inmates.

Past submissions and publications from the Unit can be viewed on our [website](#).

[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](mailto: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)