

## 3 THINGS YOU CAN DO BEFORE THIS YEAR'S ELECTION

1. Find out more about the extent and nature of child poverty in your local community and in New Zealand overall.
2. Attend a local election meeting and discuss children's issues with your local candidates.
3. Think about what it means to cast your vote in the interests of children.

And then (if you're eligible to do so) ... VOTE!

### FURTHER READING

*The 'Our Children' chapter in The Salvation Army's 2017 State of the Nation Report, Off the Track.* Online at [www.salvationarmy.org.nz/OffTheTrack](http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/OffTheTrack)

*Household Incomes in New Zealand: Trends in Indicators of Inequality and Hardship 1982 to 2016.* Online at [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/monitoring/household-incomes](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/monitoring/household-incomes)

*'The Determinants of Health for Children and Young People in New Zealand (2014).'* Online at <https://ourarchive.otago.ac.nz/handle/10523/6383>

[www.justspeak.org.nz](http://www.justspeak.org.nz)—representing the youth and rangatahi voice in the criminal justice conversation

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS: [www.prayeratparliament.org.nz](http://www.prayeratparliament.org.nz)



### IT TAKES A CHILD TO RAISE A COUNTRY

Tick for Kids is a movement designed to engage politicians and the public in discussion about what needs to be done to improve life for children in New Zealand.

To find out about Tick for Kids election-related activities, visit [tick4kids.org.nz](http://tick4kids.org.nz)

 [tickforkids](https://www.facebook.com/tickforkids)

 [@Tick4kids](https://twitter.com/Tick4kids)

### WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

PO Box 76249, Manukau, Auckland 2241

(09) 262 2332 | [social\\_policy@nzf.salvationarmy.org](mailto:social_policy@nzf.salvationarmy.org)

[www.twitter.com/SPPU](https://www.twitter.com/SPPU) | [www.facebook.com/SPPUNZ](https://www.facebook.com/SPPUNZ)

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



**Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit**

Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

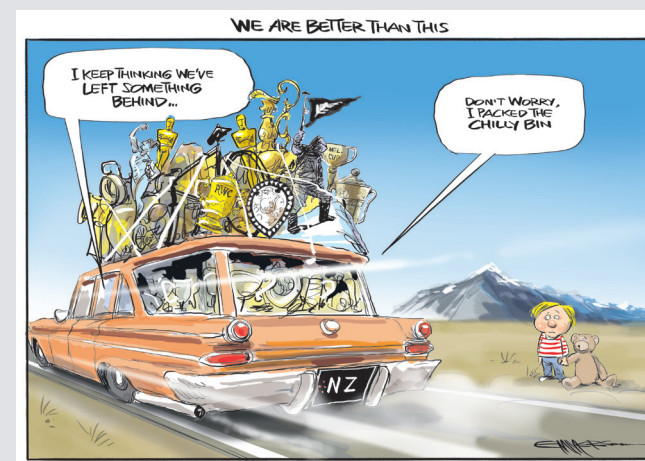
Te Ope Whakaora

# ELECTION

SERIES 2017

Make your vote count

## OUR CHILDREN



**Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit**

Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

Te Ope Whakaora

“WHEN JESUS SAW THIS, HE WAS INDIGNANT. HE SAID TO THEM, **“LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM,** FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE.”

MARK 10:14 (NIV)

“WHOEVER WELCOMES ONE OF THESE LITTLE CHILDREN IN MY NAME **WELCOMES ME;** AND WHOEVER WELCOMES ME DOES NOT WELCOME ME BUT **THE ONE WHO SENT ME.”**

MARK 9:37 (NIV)

## KEY INFORMATION

Although there is no ‘official’ measure of child poverty, the Ministry of Social Development annually reports child poverty rates by a number of widely agreed measures.

A commonly used and broad measure of child poverty based on household incomes suggests 25% or 270,000 New Zealand children live in relative poverty. This number has changed little over the past 10 years.

Around 40% of these 270,000 children live in ‘working poor’ households—those working and receiving wages and salaries. The remaining 60% live in households reliant on welfare benefits.

85,000 New Zealand children are estimated to live in circumstances of severe hardship as defined by European Union standards.

In 2016, Child Youth and Family received notifications for possible abuse or neglect to more than 60,000 children or 6% of the child population. Of these notifications, more than 13,000 children were found to have been abused or neglected.

There are approximately 40,000 potentially avoidable hospital admissions of children each year. Most of these admissions affect New Zealand’s poorest children.



## A CORE PRINCIPLE

*‘May we always care for our children, not counting the cost, so that they may never believe themselves to be mistakes, but always know their infinite worth.’*

POPE FRANCIS