



Church Leaders Call for Shared Responsibility Toward a Fair Society

All political parties need to acknowledge their shared responsibility to provide a just share of society's wealth and resources for all its citizens - especially the most vulnerable. In a joint statement, released 30th October, church leaders say this provision includes adequate income for everyone, fair taxation policies and access to good health care, affordable housing, and the ability to live sustainably.

Although acknowledging that the best development is that in which people face their issues and find solutions, the church leaders say that people cannot develop alone: "While churches are called to bring leadership for a strong ethic, underpinning fairness and responsibility, the role of government action remains essential for a fair society. The State has a responsibility for all its citizens and has the possibility of coordinated action and direction of resources beyond the range of individuals and small groups."

Bringing ethical questions to the proposals of political parties, the church leaders have asked, "How are the most vulnerable faring in this society? How will particular policies affect them? What decisions will be made about land? How efficient is our economy in producing wealth and income and ensuring its benefits are shared with all citizens?"

Included in the statement are basic principles that support these questions:

- Fair treatment for all members of society with particular care for the most vulnerable.
- Strong, safe communities and well-protected children.
- Fair access to good housing and health care.
- Spreading the taxation load fairly and proportionately across all sectors of society.
- Employment opportunities springing from appropriate training opportunities.
- No stigmatisation of those on low incomes.
- Practical recognition of tangata whenua/Māori and the Treaty of Waitangi.
- Culturally appropriate models of development can be part of a more decentralised system.
- Local and national development that harmonises with environmental and climate responsibilities.
- Our responsibility for others includes our Pacific context and global-scale justice matters.

"These are not privileges but part of the common heritage of humanity. Social welfare is part of a greater picture of social, economic and environmental priorities and decisions about spending. Caring for others makes us better people



Church leaders and advisors 2011: (left to right) Rev. Anthony Dancer, Most Rev. David Moxon, Rev. Charles Waldegrave, Most Rev. John Dew, Rt Rev. Peter Cheyne, Commissioner Donald Bell, Katherine Noble, Pastor Rodney Macann (seated) Betsan Martin, Trevor McGlinchey

and strengthens our community," the church leaders say.

"It's not every day that church leaders join together with a collective voice on an issue, which proves how strongly we feel about the importance of the State's role in providing for all members of society," says Rodney Macann, group spokesperson and National Leader of Baptist Churches of New Zealand.

Urging everyone to think about their values, especially during the General Election campaign, Rodney adds, "No matter what your faith or beliefs, consider your values, and then consider what direction you think our Government should take to ensure a fairer future for all New Zealanders."

Read the full statement at: www.nzccss.org.nz/news

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How Income Inequality is Affecting Tangata Whenua

Aotearoa New Zealand has seen the fastest growth in income inequality among the wealthy countries of the OECD - and the impact of this increasing inequality is hitting Māori the hardest. The good news is that if we reduce this inequality, Māori will undoubtedly benefit enormously.

The tenth Vulnerability Report, released by the NZCCSS and covering the period from April-June 2011, quotes Household Incomes in New Zealand, which shows that one in three Māori children are living in poverty. Therefore, addressing the issue of income inequality is paramount to ensuring Māori self-determination and wellbeing.

Project champion, Reverend Wayne Te Kaawa, encourages all Māori to make income inequality an Election issue. "My hope is that in this Election year, the issues of underlying factors that create poverty in this country will become an Election issue for individual politicians and political parties to honestly struggle with," he said.

The statistics paint a grim picture: one in three Māori children are living in poverty and 36% are living in benefit dependant households. Māori children are also 23 times more likely than European children to suffer rheumatic fever. Māori have a 50% higher rate of mental illness than non-Māori. One in four Māori males has spent some time in prison and, for the same crimes, Māori are arrested at three times the rate of non-Māori, are four to five times more likely to be apprehended, prosecuted and convicted than their non-Māori counterparts—and, in the case of Māori aged 10-13, this is six times more likely—and are seven times more

likely to be given a custodial sentence and eleven times more likely to be remanded in custody awaiting trial.

At the same time, the Māori population is, on average, younger and growing faster than non-Māori, which means that younger Māori are the future face of our country and the carriers of the great richness of Māori traditions and culture; they are a tremendous resource and taonga. Choosing to invest in economic, health, social and education policies that help reduce inequality will have a significant impact on the future of all Māori people and, therefore, our country.

In her speech to the Māori Medical Practitioners Association, Tariana Turia said, "Welfare reform is not exactly a popular political strategy...But neither is it easy to wake up each morning, without having meaningful employment, or lacking sufficient income to provide for your family, or forever placed in the position of being denied or deprived opportunities that should rightfully be yours. Our collective negligence to our future can no longer be tolerated. We must all do more to open up opportunities and ultimately improve health and wellbeing outcomes."

Choosing to sign up to Closer Together Whakatata Mai (CTWM) is a way for you to show politicians and political parties that income inequality needs to be an Election issue. Choosing to vote for parties with policies that will help to reduce income inequality is another. Help bring an end to collective negligence to our future so that we can create a future for our tamariki, because our taonga is something we simply can't afford to lose.

TOKOROA Warm homes clean air

The Tokoroa Warm Homes Clean Air (TWHCA) Project is an inspiring story of positive social change. Over the past six years, nearly 800 homes in high deprivation areas within the South Waikato district have been insulated and clean air health appliances installed. The reported positive social implications of cleaner air and warmer homes are many including increased attendance at school during the winter months, decreased admissions to the hospital amongst the elderly, and more socially and physically active households. Previously high power bills have been reduced through more efficient heating, leaving families with greater financial capacity to meet other basic needs such as food and clothing.

The TWHCA initiative came from the community out of concern for the negative health implications of both poor air quality and cold damp, un-insulated homes. Research associated with the TWHCA Project identified the need for significant changes to improve air quality in Tokoroa. Over 60% of households use wood burners for domestic heating. Almost half of these were manufactured before 1995 and are contributing to the town's high winter levels of PM10 emissions. In the South Waikato District 90% of houses were built before 1980 and are therefore likely to be poorly or un-insulated.



A study undertaken in 2008 showed that the South Waikato District had one of the lowest levels of insulation retrofit activity in the Waikato DHB region relative to need, deprivation, ambient air temperature and air quality. Numerous community agencies are involved in the TWHCA project including the South Waikato Pacific Island Health Committee (SWPIHC) and Raukawa Trust Board.

Despite huge successes, secure funding has been one of the programme's biggest challenges. At the outset of the initiative, over 200 houses were insulated each year and the project employed three insulation teams. Now, due to reduced funding, approximately 50 houses per year are insulated and only one insulation team is employed. With increased funding the project could reach more people currently living in cold damp houses and provide much needed jobs.

The Tokoroa Warm Homes Clean Air (TWHCA) Project is a story of hope. The positive social outcomes of warm homes and clean air are many. As we think about redistributing wealth, and reducing economic inequality, it is important to remember what can be achieved when secure investment is made in community projects that increase community wellbeing. Healthy communities are good for all of us.



Closer Together Whakatata Mai CHAMPIONS

Cindy Kiro

Head of School of Public Health, Massey University



Income inequality and the impact on child outcomes, such as health, educational attainment, teenage pregnancy, employment levels, health status and other social outcomes, needs to be addressed in order for us to be healthy, independent and productive citizens of society. The pending Election

is an opportunity for important public policy issues to be debated, to inform the public about inequality and how it affects people, particularly those who are most vulnerable and to get the attention of political parties around change.

Rev. Wayne Te Kaawa

The Māori Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand



The issue of poverty and equity in society is an issue that Jesus addressed constantly within the Gospels. It is also an issue that God addressed constantly in the Old Testament. The Biblical message is quite strong that we should have a bias towards those in society who are poor, sick, unemployed and widowed. The

strength of a society is always not based upon whether we win the Rugby World Cup or the NRL; it is based upon how we care for the most vulnerable in our society.

Paul Dalziel

Professor of Economics Lincoln University



Solid international research is emerging that shows countries with a closer income distribution do better on a wide range of indicators for personal and social wellbeing. We are all better off if our neighbours are healthy, well educated, warmly housed and able to fully participate in our community; anything else is a terrible waste of human potential.

Rev. Desmond Cooper

President Methodist Church of New Zealand



We are all charged with the responsibility to create a fair and just society, which is measured by the way we treat the least fortunate in society. Aotearoa New Zealand has a proud record of caring and is especially generous at times of disaster, whether at home or overseas.

To be Closer Together Whakatata Mai we urgently need to join together to reduce inequality in our land. Let us together restore the balance we once had and in doing so lay a firm, fair and equitable foundation for our mokopuna.

Take action NOW

www.closetogether.org.nz

It's Our Choice - Policies to Reduce Inequality

There are plenty of ways of achieving a reduction in income inequality and some of those options are discussed briefly below.

Read more about them at www.closetogether.org.nz.

Restraint

Lead by example: Leaders in business, local & central government and other organisations can lead by example and make a choice to restrain the growth in difference between highest and lowest paid in their organisations.

Shared ownership: Models of enterprise with ownership shared by the employees (e.g. cooperative and mutual) offer a more equitable share of business returns to those who are working in them and need to be more actively explored.

Attitudes: We need to work on changing our attitudes to inequality. We admire hard work and success of the wealthy and call those who are poor "lazy". It is time to realise what has happened to us as a result of the big divide and start challenging those assumptions in ourselves and those around us.

Employment: Increasing access to secure paid employment at fair rates of pay will help close the income inequality gap for those households that are able to work.

Regulation

Legislation: Government can help "raise the bar" through regulation and legislation. Raising the minimum wage has a strong effect on reducing inequality. Similarly, legislation to limit the highest pay levels may also be worth exploring.

High Pay Commission: A formal commission to investigate the huge pay difference could help find out just what has caused higher pay rates to increase so much.

Unions: Workers need to be supported to organise and bargain more effectively with employers.

Redistribution

Taxation: A fair progressive tax system is extremely important in ensuring income and wealth are more fairly distributed. New kinds of taxes need to be looked at such as wealth and capital gains taxes or financial transaction taxes.

Redistribution: Income support policies need to be well-designed and effective in raising those on the lowest incomes out of poverty. Working for Families and NZ Superannuation are effective in contributing to reduced income inequality and we need to learn from the strengths of these policies.

Universal Basic Income (UBI): If a UBI is set at a high enough level, it could make a huge difference to reduce inequality and poverty.



General Election 2011 – Guide to the Issues: Closer Together Whakatata Mai - reducing inequalities



The purpose of this Election Issues Guide is to provide a resource covering the main issues that affect the people our social services work with. Every day hundreds of agencies are working with thousands of children and families and older people, and with those needing support through counselling, housing, foodbanks, budget advice and the other challenges of living in poverty.

Our analysis looks at election policies through the lens of that work with the most disadvantaged – their experience of inequality – unfair access to resources and support and the poverty that this brings.

Church leaders are calling on political parties to look to our responsibility to each other and the common good in ensuring a just share of society's wealth and resources, especially the most vulnerable. This is a call we can all share in.

The Fairness Test

NZCCSS is using the **Fairness Test** to assess policies and asking how policies will increase or decrease fairness: whether they will lead to an increase or decrease in inequality of incomes, assets or access to services.

As this issue of Kete Kupu goes to print, not all election policies have been announced. As they become available, policies and analysis of them through will be online at www.closetogether.org.nz

POLITICAL CANDIDATES CHOICE

Ask your political candidate if they will sign up.

My "Closer Together Whakatata Mai" Choice is about choosing to build a fairer New Zealand, where the income gap between the rich and the poor is getting closer together... not wider apart.

Why? More equal societies - those with a narrower gap between rich and poor - are healthier, safer, more connected and more environmentally sustainable.

As a politician, I choose to commit to building a fairer New Zealand and will actively support policy measures that reduce income inequality and bring people closer together.

See a list of political candidates who have signed the choice at www.closetogether.org.nz

THE COST OF DOING NOTHING

Tax, Budget Deficits & What Can We Afford

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Cost of eliminating poverty (including child poverty) | \$800 million |
| Cost of NOT eliminating child poverty | \$8,000 million |

Leaving children in poverty in order to try and balance the Government budget in reality costs us more than it saves. It has been estimated that the cost of leaving children to grow up in poverty is at least \$6-8 billion which compares to the \$800 million Total Poverty Gap, which estimates the cost of raising the incomes of all the households below the poverty line and thus eliminating poverty (MSD 2011).

The Treasury Pre-Election Budget & Fiscal Update on 25th October will give a fuller picture of the state of the Government's books heading into the Election. Political parties are holding off some policy announcements until after then to allow them to do their sums on policies. In the meantime, the prevailing analysis is one of continuing high unemployment, wage and salary rises that are below inflation and Government spending restraint in health, social welfare, education and housing. Current Government policy is to control Government debt through reducing expenditure and not through increasing taxation. This decision means the only way that employment can increase, incomes rise, and Government expenditure increase is through economic growth. But growth prospects are modest to say the least, and unemployment is not expected to decrease significantly for at least another year, and reducing government expenditure will not help to stimulate economic growth.

Children and families – child-centred policy and our vulnerable children

The Government has issued a Green Paper www.childrensactionplan.govt.nz/ placing children at the centre of debate leading into this election, and that is a good thing. New Zealand has not been doing well for our children in recent years and we must take action. Our children rely on others to care, support and advocate for them. They are our future and almost half of them will be Māori and Pasifika in 15 years' time, yet many of these kids are growing up in poverty, poor health and with an education system that fails to meet their needs.

Targeting the most vulnerable or universal provision

The election debate should be around the question whether to focus mostly on the relatively few children that are described as the "most vulnerable" or have policies that seek to look after every child well with the aim that no child ends up among the "most vulnerable".

Applying the **Fairness Test** would suggest that policies need to ensure every child has sufficient support while ensuring that the most disadvantaged children receive well targeted assistance to help them get ahead.

Many things affect our children's wellbeing therefore no one policy will be the answer. We do know from research and experience what works for kids. So ask these questions of policies:

- Will they deliver sufficient income to allow families to look after themselves?



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- Will they deliver good, affordable housing for those kids' families?
- Will they be able to get primary health care quickly at no or very low cost?
- Will they offer education that helps them achieve their potential and understands their needs?
- Will they provide a living environment that is clean and healthy?
- Will they reduce violence and provide safer communities where those kids live?
- Will they ensure access to parenting skills training for those who need it?

Older People – solidarity between generations. Sharing our responsibility for care & support

The wellbeing of older people is closely tied up with the wellbeing of our children and young people. The active care and support provided by thousands of older people to grandchildren and families and as volunteer workers in the community shows the contribution older people make that cannot be fully measured through traditional economic models.

NZ Superannuation that is paid to all people over 65 and set at a rate indexed to the average wage means security for all older people from the worst of poverty. The success of this approach to income support should be the example and benchmark for other forms of social support such as welfare benefits. If we were to offer income support to our children at a similar level to that of NZ Superannuation, we would be able to eliminate the worst of child poverty in this country.

How will we pay for superannuation?

Our society must have a constructive debate about how to meet the rising cost of NZ Superannuation as more and more people reach the age of entitlement. Let us make this debate a constructive and compassionate one, where no child or older person gets left behind and all of us share fairly in the ample resources of our country.

What services will the Government fund?

Government should fund services for older people that allow all older people easy access to support services – at home, in supporting housing or residential care. Applying the **Fairness Test** would suggest that the most vulnerable and those on lower incomes receive the most funding and those with higher income and asset wealth are expected to contribute more to the costs of services. We have some choices to make – fund the full costs of a smaller volume of services targeted at those with lower incomes (and expect those with higher incomes and asset wealth to purchase their own services) or pay the full cost of universal services and recover the costs elsewhere (e.g. through taxation, social insurance).

How can we deliver quality services with well trained staff?

Increasing the training and skills of the workforce is a great investment for our whole community. But current

government funding models in home support and residential care still assume low rates of pay for caregiving staff. Over the past decade much work has been done to develop national qualifications and support caregivers to complete training and our funding system needs to recognise this.

Poverty & Exclusion – end the blame game

There has been considerable change to the social welfare system over the past three years culminating in the Future Focus welfare legislation and the Welfare Working Group Report recommendations. The Government has made it clear that it intends to implement at least some of the recommendations and will be announcing how they plan to do this in the lead-up to the election.

What kind of welfare system will do we want to see?

The **Fairness Test** asks what kind of policies will reduce inequality and bring us closer together? The Welfare Working Group recommendations are extensive and Caritas has produced an excellent summary of the welfare choices in their "Guide to the Welfare Debate" (www.caritas.org.nz). A key point to remember is that there is no "affordability crisis" for our main benefits at present. The actual debate is about our attitudes to those in hardship.

Welfare Working Group recommendations revolve around increased work testing, reduced hardship assistance and more sanctions and penalties. The Alternative Welfare Working Group puts the wellbeing of beneficiaries at the centre, a balance of rights and responsibilities between government and beneficiaries, and values all forms of work, including the unpaid caring and voluntary work of those on benefits.

Housing – the unaffordable dream

Housing policy in New Zealand is suffering from extraordinary neglect. The housing market is failing people on lower incomes badly. In previous generations many Kiwis gained their security in retirement through owning a debt-free house. This prospect is already out of reach for one third of New Zealanders and the proportion is growing. The building and construction sector has lost 22,000 jobs since the recession began in 2008 and we are not building enough of the right type of houses for our future needs.

The private rental market, especially in the larger centres, is characterised by poor quality, unhealthy rental properties that are often over-priced. The supply of affordable rental properties is insufficient, with Housing NZ barely increasing some of its stock of housing, local authorities trying to sell off their social housing, and the community housing sector still years away from being able to provide significant numbers of affordable housing units. Meanwhile houses are overcrowded as more than one family shares houses, garages and sheds. Homelessness is a significant problem, with many people hovering on the edges of temporary and insecure accommodation and boarding houses.

How can we build enough housing units to meet our needs?

We must look to Government to invest on our behalf in providing the kind of housing that the private sector seems incapable of providing on its own. Doing this could create thousands of jobs as well as good houses.



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How can we build affordable housing that is near to employment, public transport and education?

Continuing to allow the sprawl of low density housing on the edges of our towns and cities will not do this.

Christchurch earthquake

The massive physical and psychological devastation caused by the Canterbury earthquakes will powerfully influence the whole of the New Zealand economy and wider society over the coming years.

- Resources have been mobilised but will those resources be applied fairly and equitably in a timely fashion?
- Will resources be channelled to the most vulnerable communities and individuals?
- Will we take the opportunity that disaster brings to rebuild in a way that is resilient and flexible for a 21st century full of social, environmental and economic unknowns?

Social Services – who is doing the supporting and caring?

Church based social services are part of the wider community and voluntary sector. New Zealand's tradition is

that the work of this sector is complimentary to the primary role of Government in ensuring the wellbeing of all New Zealanders.

The Community Sector has issued a pre-election briefing that has five themes: (www.comvoicesnz.com)

- 1 Establishing a measurable goal for reducing inequality in New Zealand.
- 2 Engagement and capacity building of sector organisations to strengthen communities.
- 3 Funding sustainability and innovation: by implementing the code of funding practice and researching incentives for social enterprise.
- 4 Recognition of need for long-term social change beyond three year term including the place of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the constitutional debate.
- 5 The need for updated information about the scale and scope of the community sector.

**CLOSER TOGETHER
WHAKATATA MAI**



REDUCING INEQUALITIES

www.closertogether.org.nz

Campaign for MMP

This election is also a vote on whether to retain our existing electoral system or look at alternatives. Go to the Campaign for MMP website to www.campaignformmp.org.nz to learn more.



Legislation and Submissions

Inquiry into the determinants of wellbeing for Māori children

The Māori Affairs Select Committee has initiated this inquiry which we expect will be followed up once the new Parliament convenes in early December. The Terms of Reference are:

1. The historical and current health, education, and welfare profiles of Māori children. This would take account of the transmission of life circumstances between generations, and how this impacts on Māori children.
2. The extent of public investment in Māori children across the health, education, social services, and justice sectors– and whether this investment is adequate and equitable.
3. How public investment in the health, education, social services, and justice can be used to ensure the wellbeing of Māori children.
4. The social determinants necessary for healthy growth and development for Māori children.
5. The significance of whanau for strengthening Māori children.

6. Policy and legislative pathways to address the findings of this inquiry.

There is no closing date for submissions, but it is recommended that submissions be 'on the table' for the new Parliament to support the need to reconvene the Inquiry. www.parliament.govt.nz

Green Paper – Resources to support submissions

The plan with the Green Paper is to have a web place where we can help people do good submissions. There we will have links to other useful material on line, a guide to making a submission, and our submission to date. We are currently finalising a paper on "Doing our best for vulnerable children" which takes a step back from the Green Paper and looks at (1) why we would want to do anything for vulnerable children, and (2) if we were to do our best for them, what would that look like? That will also go on the website.

Readers may be interested in a recent document put out by the Families' Commission which could be helpful for work in this area: Investing in the Early Years www.nzfamilies.org.nz/web/investing-early-years/



Public Service Cuts - Jobs, Skills and Knowledge Being Drained Away

In less than three years, 5,500 jobs have been shed or left vacant.

In less than three years, nearly 2,400 jobs have gone from the core public service and crown entities. When you add unfilled vacancies – often a cover for job cuts – the total is a staggering 5,500.

The cuts are set to continue as public departments and agencies shave nearly a billion dollars from their budgets; the government has told chief executives it expects them to find, from existing budgets, the money they had previously been given to fund retirement savings scheme contributions.

Increasingly, the responsibility for delivering services is also being offloaded to community sector organisations - without the funding to match. This is coming at a time when many organisations are already struggling with increased demand for the services they provide.

Human costs

Every job cut is an actual person lost, along with their skills, knowledge and experience. Many others are worried about what the future holds and how they will continue to pay the mortgage and other bills. Wellington has been severely affected but jobs are now being stripped from the regions. Back-office staff have been hit hard but so too have scientists and technicians.

Fragmented

You cannot remove over 5,000 positions without services being affected. Unlike a big hit such as the closure of an entire hospital which immediately affects and angers the public, the cuts are fragmented. It is not until a service that used to exist suddenly isn't there that the public starts to feel the effects.

Or when public safety is put at risk because of a run-down, under-staffed public sector lacking the resources to deliver vital services. The last two decades are littered with disasters whose origins can be shot home to public sector cuts.

- The Cave Creek tragedy of 1995 saw the loss of 14 young lives when a viewing platform collapsed. The inquiry blamed cuts to DOC funding and the minister eventually resigned.
- The Pike River disaster, with the loss of 29 lives last November might have been averted if the powers and capacity of the mine inspectorate hadn't been seriously downgraded in the 1990s.
- Leaky homes are a disaster with immeasurable financial and human costs and one which has still some way to go – the result of a gung-ho approach in the nineties that stripped away building regulations and the scrapped the apprenticeships that provided a skilled workforce.
- As the environmental disaster of grounding of the Rena unfolds, questions are being asked about funding for disaster response at Maritime NZ.

Inspiring People in Aged Care

Working with older people is challenging, skilled and very rewarding – this is the message behind a new website promoting careers in services for older people (www.inspiringpeople.co.nz). Several NZCCSS member agencies have been part of this joint workforce development project between home-based and residential aged care providers and Waikato District Health Board. As Project Manager Bee Pears says, "There are so many nurses, caregivers and managers in the aged care sector whose energy, passion and skills are inspiring. Our hope is that this website will support them and inspire others to join them." The website provides information and stories about working in aged care as well as career information and resources for training.

The Waikato workforce project also included the inaugural Waikato Times "Make a Difference Awards" held in March this year, and a range of 'inspiring people' promotional material that can be ordered on the website. Among those involved in the project are NZCCSS members Atawhai Assisi, Tamahere Eventide and Enliven Waikato. They welcomed this joint project as a very constructive way to help meet the considerable challenges in recruiting and upskilling staff in both home support and aged residential care.

2011 Conferences

Jigsaw National Conference

He Oho Rere!

2-4 November 2011 Te Papa, Wellington

For the full conference programme and to register go to the Jigsaw conference website: www.jigsaw.org.nz/

NFP Sector Conference

Rethinking social profit sector strategies and management

21-23 November 2011, Amora Hotel, Wellington

For further details on the agenda and registration options please visit the conference website.

www.conferenz.co.nz/conferences/nfp-sector



Nuku Tahi – Hikoi Tahi – Maranga Tahi Moving Forward Together

NZCCSS Services for Older People Conference, 29–30 March 2012 Wellington

The programme is taking shape for our NZCCSS Services for Older People Conference 2012 at the award-winning new venue on Wellington's fabulous waterfront Te Raukura – Te Wharewaka o Poneke.

Our theme celebrates the goal of getting Closer Together across all forms of services for older people and understanding what it means to build services that meet the needs of all older people in all their diversity. Residential aged care, retirement housing and home and community support will need to meet needs across all income and wealth levels and with growing cultural diversity among older people and their carers.

Keynote Speakers

We are fortunate to be welcoming a great range of speakers who are prominent researchers and leaders in services for older people and introduce two of those speakers below.

Professor Simon Biggs



We are delighted to welcome Professor Biggs to New Zealand from the Brotherhood of St Laurence in Australia. He is also Professor at the Gerontology & Social Policy School of Social & Political Sciences, Melbourne University. His work has covered community care, intergenerational relationships, lifestyles and retirement communities and spirituality and ageing.

Professor Chris Cunningham



Professor Cunningham is Director, Research Centre for Māori Health & Development, Massey University. He has a leading role in researching what works for older Māori in promoting their health and wellbeing. He is ideally positioned offer insights into how “mainstream” and “Māori-stream” services can interact to do the best for older Māori across all parts of sector.

Join us at our conference, it is an ideal place for CEOs, Board members and managers to share and extend your knowledge and networks at a conference tailored to the needs of your organisations. Registration is highly affordable at under \$400 and the conference programme and registrations will open in late November at www.nzccss.org.nz.

Conference Contacts:

Sponsorship and registration:

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Social Services in Aotearoa New Zealand - NZCCSS Conference 2012

Reviewing – Re-thinking – Responding – Renewing
NZCCSS Conference 18 - 19 April 2012

Optional Day/Auckland Services into the Future
20 April 2012

This conference will provide CEOs, managers, senior staff and board of governor members of community based (NGO) social services with vital information on the future of social service provision in New Zealand. This will be a challenging and thought provoking conference that explores the thinking behind government policy and practice and provides an opportunity for the sector to begin to develop an alternative vision for our whānau, families and communities.

This is a ‘must do’ conference for those planning, managing and delivering services and advocacy that lead to real change for marginalised and vulnerable New Zealanders.

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