

Regional snapshot post

Hardship and poverty impact all regions of New Zealand, but the specific impacting each region are unique. The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) is calling on communities and political leaders to consider the issues facing their region in the 2026 Election. We can all be asking for a commitment to policies that will lead to real change that free New Zealanders from poverty.

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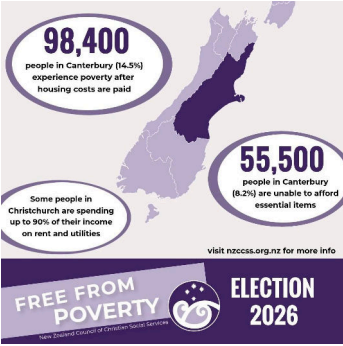
Auckland



Bay of Plenty



Canterbury



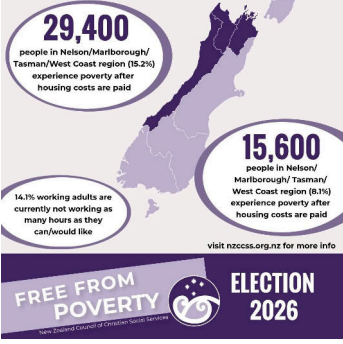
Gisborne/Hawke's Bay



Manawatū/Whanganui



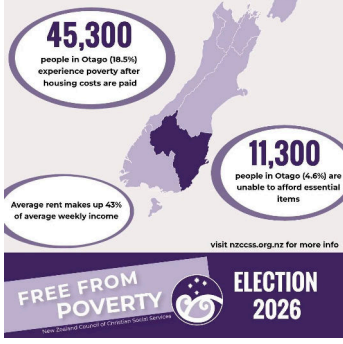
Upper South



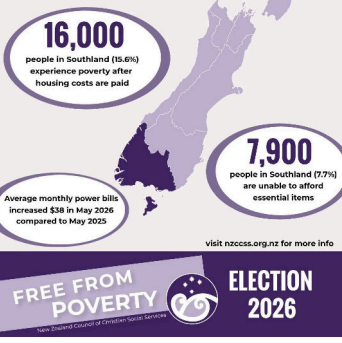
Northland



Otago



Southland



Taranaki



Waikato



Wellington



FREE FROM
POVERTY

New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services



ELECTION 2026

Poverty post

Hardship and poverty impact too many in New Zealand. The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) is calling on communities and political leaders to consider the issues facing those most in need in the 2026 Election. We can all be asking for a commitment to policies that will lead to real change that free New Zealanders from poverty.

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1 in 10
people
(10.2% of the population)
experiencing relative
income poverty (2025)

473,000
people experiencing
material hardship, unable
to afford essential items
(2025)



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ELECTION 2026

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POVERTY MONITOR

New Zealand Council Of
Christian Social Services

nzccss.org.nz

"These numbers are real people we meet every day — older New Zealanders trying to make fixed incomes stretch across food, power and other essentials, often after a lifetime of work and contribution."

 Jill Hawkey, Executive Director
Christchurch Methodist Mission

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This election, every party should be asked:

What will you do to stop poverty following New Zealanders into retirement?

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Now is the time to draw the line on poverty in later life.

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"The findings from the Monitor reflect what our teams are hearing from older people every day. Now we have the data and evidence that these challenges are widespread and deserve greater attention."

 Nicola Turner, Chief Operating Officer
Presbyterian Support Central

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"Poverty in later life is not just an economic issue. It is a hauora issue, a whānau issue, a community issue and a justice issue."

 Elizabeth Walker, CEO-Tāhuhu
Te Whare Ruru Rau o Meri

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25,000
older people are
living without the
essentials

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Women experience poverty at higher rates than men
in all ten measures

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1 in 5
older Kiwi are now
living in poverty

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ELECTION 2026