

Church leaders' support

The following messages have been offered in support of the call for more action issued by the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) on 28 March 2008, **Aroha tētahi ki tētahi - Let Us Look After Each Other**:

Commissioner Garth McKenzie, Salvation Army

In our state of the nation report, *What Does It Profit Us?*, published by the Salvation Army in February, the point was made that an increase in spending on social policies is not itself a cause for complacency. Now is the time to give a higher priority to measuring the impact this spending makes. To ask who are we leaving out? And to ask, how will this contribute to a more just and compassionate society? Dollars don't speak, people do.

Right Reverend Pamela Tankersley, Moderator, Presbyterian Church

The issues being raised give an important forward-looking context for our Presbyterian communities. We support activity that encourages local churches to become involved in public issues and social action, to speak out in our communities, to respond to the call to serve those on the margins of society and to bring important issues to the fore. As a Christ-centred and community-facing church we bring our faith to everyday life.

Reverend Brian Turner, President, Methodist Church

Promoting justice and social responsibility is a key mission of the Methodist Church. To do that we have to listen and respond in humility to the stories of the people, tangata whenua and tauwi. We cannot support individuals, tamariki and whanau to reach their goals and build true neighbourhood if we do not heed the call to look after each other – aroha tētahi ki tētahi.

Archbishop John Dew, Catholic Archbishop of Wellington

The Catholic Church supports the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services in setting a just and fair society as a benchmark. If we are to live justly we should all be challenged to go beyond whatever market policies are in vogue in order to consciously examine the causes of social injustice and the causes of poverty. If we do not find a voice to resist the inequalities that are a feature of our society, who will?

Rodney Macann, Baptist Churches of New Zealand

The harsh lesson of unsuccessful social policies in New Zealand is that they result in widening gaps and persistent disparities within our communities. Churches respond by actively engaging with local communities to create a mutual care and respect for each other. As Baptists we vigorously seek to identify with God's heart-beat of love for our world and commit ourselves to being bringers of hope and justice.

Archbishop David Moxon, Anglican Church

All people in our diverse nation have the ability to discern ways to live just and compassionate lives and to exercise personal leadership to ensure the poor and the vulnerable are not abandoned. The challenge before our political leaders is whether they have anything different to say on the issues being put forward by the New Zealand Council for Christian Social Services. Those issues need to be considered as a whole, and they need to be part of a process of honest, frank debate. They are issues that we, within the Anglican Church, will continue to keep vigil over.