



“Our Social Workers In Schools (SWIS) have reported that when clients and families’ basic needs of housing, food, and warmth through proper clothing and shoes are met, the majority of children effectively engage in school activities with positive outcomes to their learning. Similarly the parents are more engaged and able to participate in the future planning of their children’s education.”

Presbyterian Support Services.

Introduction

In 1943 psychologist Abraham Maslow proposed a theory of human development based on a hierarchy of need – physiological, safety, love/belonging, esteem, self-actualisation. Seventy years on and, whilst theories of human development and motivation have evolved, the underlying premise of Maslow’s hierarchy remains valid - basic physiological needs must be met before we can develop to our potential. Feedback from Social Workers in Schools (SWIS) support Maslow’s premise - children flourish at school when they live in a secure healthy home, have access to nutritious food and are warm. Maslow’s theory is further supported when considered against a recent report released by Parliament’s Health Select Committee into improving child health outcomes.¹ The report is all about health inequities in adulthood that stem from basic physiological needs not being met in early childhood.

The theme of the 17th Vulnerability Report is barriers to affording these basic (physiological) necessities of life - food, shelter, warmth. For this quarter (September 2013), the story is one about families on low incomes who struggle to afford the basics, and the trade-offs these families make on a day-to-day basis - going without regular nutritious food, transport, GP and dental visits, living in substandard housing, and their children going without school related items and trips.

This quarter also tells the story of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and how the rate of change in the ‘basket of goods’ masks the true impact of inflation on low income households, whose primary expenses are consumed by a far narrower range of items (rent, food, electricity) when compared to higher income New Zealanders. We see that the average rate of change across rents and energy is far greater (11.9%) since 2010 than the average CPI rate across all groups (8.7%) for the same timeframe.

¹ Inquiry into improving child health outcomes and preventing child abuse with a focus from preconception until three years of age. Volume 1 & 2. Report of the Health Committee, November 2013.

Subgroup	Dec 2010	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Sept 2013	Rate of change
Average CPI Rate of Change across Rents and Energy					
	3.6	2.2	3.5	2.6	11.9

When the CPI increase for rents and energy is then seen against the rate of increase for the previous benefit categories, unemployment benefit [\$20.16, rate of change 8.1%] and for sole parents [\$17.33 rate of change 8.1%], the full extent to which families are struggling to afford some of the most basic necessities is clear. And there is a similar story about medium earners affording the basics.

Consumer Price Index (2008-13)

Benefit Type	Apr-09	Apr-10	Apr-11	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-14	Total Increase 2010-12 (3 yrs only)
Married, Civil Union, de facto, Couple with 1 or more children							
	317.30	323.52	335.66	341.60	343.68		
Average Rate of change %							
		2.0%	3.8%	1.8%	0.6%		8.1%
Sole Parent							
	272.70	278.04	288.47	293.58	295.37	NA	
		2.0%	3.8%	1.8%	0.6%	NA	8.1%
	Dec-08	Dec-09	Dec-10	Dec-11	Dec-12	Sep-13	
CPI Rate (prev Dec)							
		2.0	4.0	1.8	0.9		8.7

Notes:

- 1.1 less any increases associated with tobacco and alcohol
2. State benefits are increased by CPI on 1 April based on the CPI for the previous December quarter.

The September quarter shows also that payments remain the same as 1 April when they are adjusted to the CPI of the previous December CPI. For 2 quarters (June and September) there is no change to benefit levels and people living on benefits must always play catch up to the previous year's increase. On the other side of the Tasman, it seems Australia makes 6 monthly adjustments to reduce this catch-up period.

Median Weekly Earnings over 4 years

2010	2011	2012	2013	Total increase over 4 years
Median Weekly Earnings [Before tax]				
\$767	\$792	\$800	\$840	\$73 (before tax) (9.5% change)

Source: Statistics NZ

For this quarter, our social service providers continue to report an increased demand for budget advisory service, counselling services, food parcels, and housing. We also hear about the human cost of relentless financial pressure on family wellbeing as they struggle to meet the cost of basic necessities.



“Strained relationships within families are frequently due to financial constraints and are playing a contributing role to behavioural issues in children. Reasons given from parents for children’s absences (from school) include: no lunches, no petrol money, no warrant or registration to take children to school or being sick of their children being told off at school due to not wearing the correct uniform”

–Vision West

“Over the last three years we’ve seen a steady increase of demand for our services. For a lot of our families, to get their basics covered like rent, food and their power bills paid, that takes a huge proportion of their budget”.

–Salvation Army

“We are seeing an increasing number of people who just do not have enough money to pay their bills, meaning that food is compromised”.

–Catholic Family Services

“Lack of money for not only primary needs, but also for participating things such as sports and school trips”.

–Suzanne Aubert Compassion Centre.

“The main issue they (youth) have when presenting is having enough to eat and wanting to contribute to their household with food so they can stay at home”.

–Vision West

“Working low income families are increasingly unable to afford private rental accommodation. There are more extreme cases of homelessness and an acceptance that extreme overcrowding is no longer unusual

– 21 people from 3 family units sharing a 3 bed house, parents and children sleeping overnight in cars “.

–Monte Cecilia Housing Trust

“We supply food and clothing to families who cannot meet basic living requirements. Community workers provide a listening ear, advocacy and comfort to families under stress or who might be experiencing grief or an inability to cope with their situations. We also supply uniforms to students for a number of colleges and primary schools. The demand for these services continues to rise as the year unfolds

[–see Vision West graph].

“Rents are increasing, its creating a disposable income crisis”

–Monte Cecilia Housing Trust

Trends in the Cost of Living

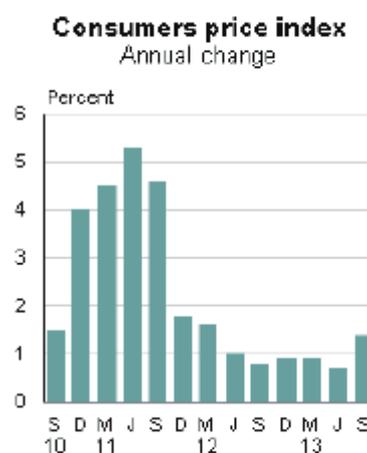
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the rate of change of goods and services purchased by New Zealand Households. However, it is an aggregate measure and as such only tells us part of the story. The narrative about families on low incomes being disproportionately hit by price increases is not captured by this measure. Feedback from social service providers do however provide insight into what is happening in communities and the story is consistent - struggling

families trying to pay for their basics - housing, electricity, food - and the trade-offs they make is food. Health (visits to the GP, dentist, audiologist etc) are also part of the traded off, along with school trips/activities and holidays, which are simply stuff of dreams. And high interest debt goes hand-in-hand with this relentless day-to-day poverty to afford these basic necessities.

The CPI rose to 1.4 % from the September 2012 quarterly to the September 2013 quarterly.

Here’s what this means when we look at prices for some of our basic necessities.

The Food Price Index for the September quarterly indicates



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Prices increases during the year to September 2013 include:	
Rentals for housing	Up 2.0%
Electricity	Up 3.6%
Petrol	Up 3.7%
Health	Up 3.7%

food prices overall have increased 1.2% from September 2012 to September 2013. This increase is associated with increases in:

- Fresh Milk (up 6.4%),
- Bread (up 3.7%)
- Butter (up 24%)

Fruit and vegetable prices have decreased 0.3% over the year to September 2013.

- Fruit and Vegetables (down 0.3%)
- Broccoli (down 29%)



- Lettuce (down 18 %)
- Tomatoes (down 7.1%)

Statistics New Zealand , October 2013

What Social Service Providers Are Seeing in Communities?

“A clear trend change is the rise in low income earners requiring budgeting support, advice and advocacy who are genuinely struggling to meet essential living expenses such as rent, water charges, power, food, vehicle and school related costs. In such cases often the result is forced lending or borrowing at very high interest rates, with the intent to contain arrears. Inevitably this leads to financial stress and genuine hardship as debt spirals out of control”

–Vision West

“Concerns to families we see are having enough to supply practical needs of a family such as clothing and food. Also families need correct uniforms so students do not find themselves in detention thus being tagged as ‘naughty child’ which in some cultures brings shame and stops the learning process”.

–Vision West

“Of most concern to families is paying the rent and power bill”.

–Salvation Army.

“We are just becoming busier. We have heard people talking about loan sharks as being the only avenue when desperate “.

–Catholic Family Social Services

Food

- Vision West Foodbank in Auckland reported food banks continue to be accessed at a high rate. On average they see 671 clients per month compared to 646 the same time last year.
- Presbyterian Support Services also point to an increased demand in food parcels for the first half of the year [see graph left].

Affording Health

“A recent family with scabies were charged more than \$80 for a visit to the Dr in addition to the cost of medication to treat the problem”

“Many families do not access dental treatment due to cost”

–Monte Cecilia Housing Trust

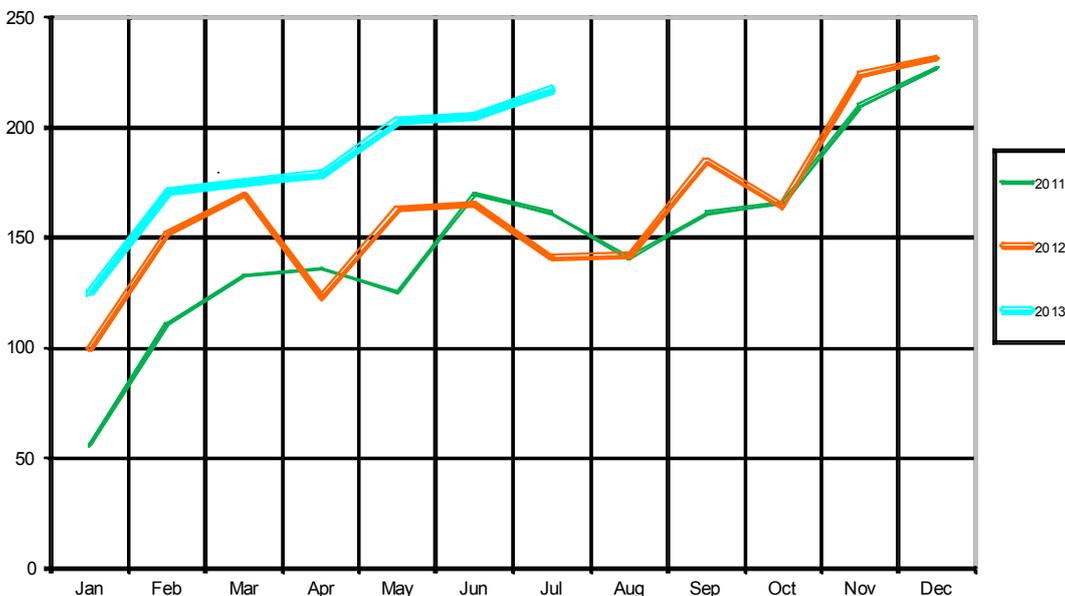
“More people coming in as their benefits have stopped. Increasingly these are sickness beneficiaries who do not have the money to go to the doctors to get the medical certificate required to renew their benefit”.

–Salvation Army

“People are not going to their GPs because they cannot afford to or they have outstanding bills which keeps them from going. Also people cannot afford the cost of prescriptions”.

–Salvation Army

Food Parcels - 2011 / 2012 / 2013 Comparison



Source : Presbyterian Support Services



Housing

Accessing affordable and high quality housing remain an issue for the September 2013 quarter regardless of whether people are looking to rent in the social housing sector, or in the private housing sector, or looking to buy.

“Our housing register is now seeing 50-60 enquiries per month which is almost double last year. It seems in part due to HNZC policies for getting tougher and evicting tenants for no-declarations (partners & income).”

–Vision West

“No safe stable suitable place for families to live. The challenges is affordability for private rentals for working families”

–Monte Cecilia Housing Trust

“Homelessness and prevention strategies being neglected and overlooked by government which is focusing on housing supply and homeownership as the only solution”.

–Anonymous.

“On housing and reforms” some people have been impacted by the welfare reforms. Requirements such as enrolling children into ECE are difficult to sustain if you are transient”

–Monte Cecilia Housing Trust

Social Housing Sector

There has been a lot going on in the social housing sector since government's acknowledgement of a 'market failure' to deliver low cost housing. Feedback from our social service providers however suggest the cost of renting is forcing a significant numbers of families and individuals into overcrowded, unhealthy and short-term living conditions that include caravan parks, tents and boarding houses.

“There is little process re: waiting lists and communication with those on the list. No one gets back to you, haven't been updated. Communication is very difficult and it is unknown if people are registered in one or more places. Some have been on the waiting list for over 1 year and still no sign of anything changing”.

–Vision West

“Many families are advised that they are ineligible for HNZ or told that they will not be given a house. At times these families are Priority A or B and are in severe housing need. It appears that some staff in the HNZC call centre are actively trying to discourage people from accessing their entitlement

–Anonymous.

“Rheumatic fever initiatives a good one but only shuffles the pack – not creating any more houses “

–Monte Cecilia Housing Trust

As at July 2013 there were:

- 1339 on the 'A' Waiting List up 203.6% change since July 2012
- 2575 on the 'B' Waiting List up 18.1% change since July 2012

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, August 2013.

Whilst there are strict criteria to join Housing New Zealand waiting lists, even given this the increase since last year is significant.

Private Rental Sector

“Landlords appear to be creating more fixed (short) term tenancies which allows them to terminate tenancies of one tenant and re-let to another at an increased rate rather than justify an increase for an existing tenant”.

“Obviously a high demand for rental accommodation. There has been steady (and to some significant) increase in rent which seems to be pushing some to run into financial difficulty in other areas”.

–Vision West

“Rents are increasing with average 3 bed rental in Ranui and Mangere \$380-390 a week. High % of disposable income being spent on covering rent. RTA provides little protection to tenants who have poor knowledge of their rights and won't enforce these rights because of risk to relationship with landlord”

“Māori whanau appear to be over-represented in the Ranui Caravan Park with approximately 50% of people accessing housing advice identifying Māori.”

–Monte Cecilia Housing Trust

Average private weekly rents in the year to July 2013:

- Christchurch City - \$387 per week up 12.3% since July 2012
- Auckland - \$444 per week up 3.8% since July 2012
- Wellington City - \$406 per up 4.4% since July 2012
- National average was \$356 per week Up 3.5% since July 2012.

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, August 2013.

Home Ownership

Home ownership remains elusive for the vast majority of New Zealanders. It is yet to be seen whether the Reserve bank minimum deposit requirement for first time loans has a positive effect on house affordability.

- The National median house price increased to \$400,000 (up 7.8%, \$29,000) over the year to September 2013.



- Canterbury/Westland median house prices increased to \$375,000 (up 13.6%) over the year to September 2013.
- Auckland medium house prices increased to \$570,000 (up 10%) over the year to September 2013.

Source: REINZ, October 2013

The New Zealand Economy: What the Economists Are Saying?

The official word from economists is that New Zealand’s economy is slowly picking up and there are expectations of ‘increased economic activity’ over the next three year. The key driver for this activity is identified as the Canterbury rebuild [Quarterly Labour Market report QLMR, August 2013].

This positive talk is supported by aggregate data presented in the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) for the September 2013 quarterly:

- Over the year to September 2013, employment increased 2.4% (54,000). 2, 272,000 New Zealanders are employed; and
- unemployment decreased by 23,000 (13%).

GDP on the Up

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) also shows promise of economic improvement. The QLMR, August 2013 advises (GDP) is up by 2.5% in the year to March 2013, and the general view among economists is that “growth is likely to continue at a steady pace”. [See Graph 1 below]

Annual Wage Rates : What Size of the GDP Cake Are You Taking Home?

The Labour Cost Index (Salary and Wage rates): September 2013 quarterly advises the annual wage rates has increased by 1.7% in the year to September 2013. But sitting underneath this statistics is some cautious news for those awaiting a ‘trickling down’ from an improving economy in their pay packets.

Some more facts:

- 54% of salary and wage rates in the Labour Cost Index rose in the year to the September quarter, down from 56% in the year to September 2012 quarter.

Out of this 54% there were:

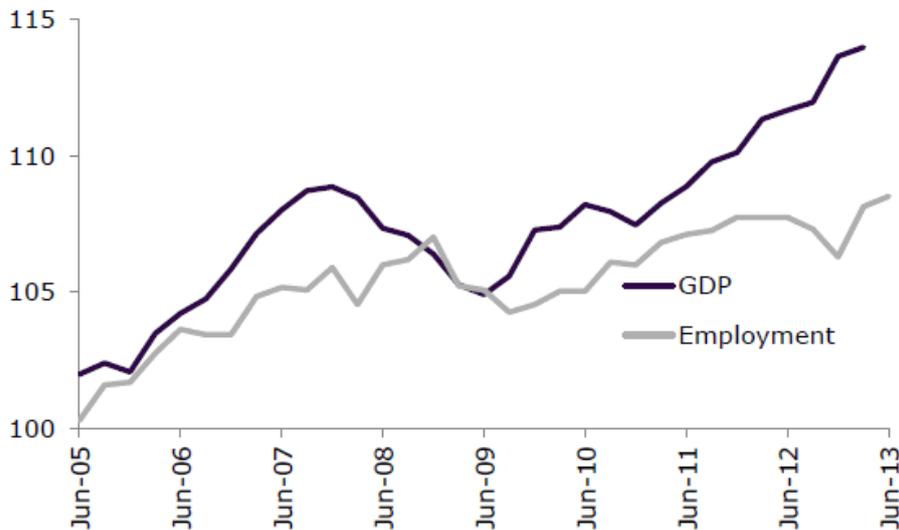
- a median (middle) annual increase of 2.5% (the lowest since the December 2000); and
- a mean annual increase of 3.3% (the lowest since the September 2000 quarterly).

[See Graph 2 below]

"We can no longer trust in the unseen forces and the invisible hand of the market. Growth in justice requires more than economic growth, while presupposing such growth: it requires decisions, programmes, mechanisms and processes specifically geared to a better distribution of income, the creation of sources of employment and an integral promotion of the poor which goes beyond a simple welfare mentality".

Pope John Francis [Evangelii Gaudium]

Figure 2: Quarterly GDP and Employment Index (March 2005 = 100)

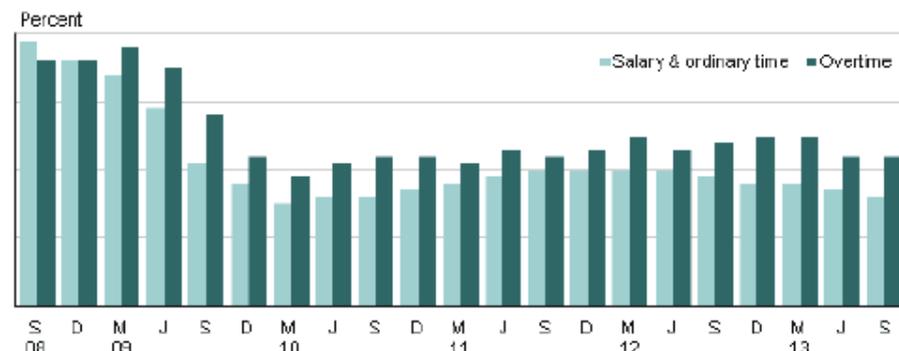


Graph 1: Source: Statistics NZ, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Salary & ordinary time and overtime wage rates

All sectors combined

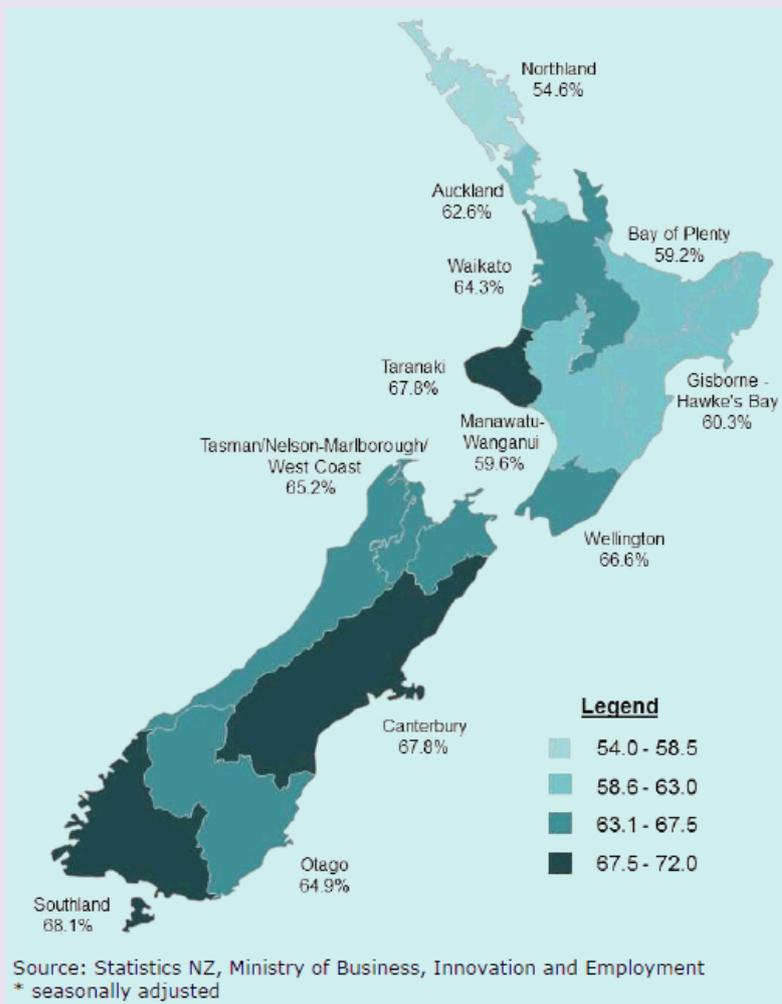
Percentage change from same quarter of previous year



Graph 2: Source: Statistics New Zealand



Regional Winners and Losers In the Job Stakes



[Note the Labour Market Quarterly [LMQR], August 2013 provided the most current data at the time this report was written.]

Regional variation continues to dominate New Zealand's employment story. Auckland and Canterbury made the biggest gains in terms of growth over the year to June 2013, by an additional 20,400 (up 2.9%) and 16,900 (up 5.6%) respectively. The strongest employment regions are Southland (68.1%), followed by Canterbury and Taranaki who both sit on the same employment rate (67.8%). In contrast, the weakest employment regions are Manawatu-Wanganui (down 3.5%), Gisborne/Hawkes Bay (down 2.9%), and Northland (down 1.8%) [See Appendix 2 for regional employment figures].

The August 2013 QLMR talks about the unemployment rate reflecting skill shortages at a regional level due to the 'geographical immobility of labour' ..'These variances can persist if those unemployed choose not to seek employment in other regions' (p17). There is no discussion in QLMR on the role of social and cultural connectedness on well-being and community resilience. A transient workforce, without community roots, free to move

around looking for employment seems the key message here. [LMQR, August 2013].

When we look beyond this aggregate data to different population groups across New Zealand again we see winners and losers as one would expect in a highly competitive market economy, where competition is the accepted norm and the dignity of work is considered outdated.

The September quarterly has a wee bit of good news for Tangata whenua (unemployment is down -0.3%) but if we compare the rate for this quarter to five years ago the story is still bleak - 13.6% of Māori are unemployed (39,200). There is a similar story for Pasifika, women and youth.

Māori

In the year to September 2013:

- 39,200 Māori were unemployed. The unemployment rate for Maori was 13.6% in the year to September 2013, down -0.3 % since September 2012 (40,400) and 5.6% higher than five years ago.
- 249,800 Māori were employed compared to 252,400 since 2012 (down 1%). The last five years, the employment rate of Maori decreased by 6.4% from 62.3% to 55.9%.
- The labour force participation rate for Maori was 64.6% for the year to September 2013, 1.7% decrease since September 2012, and a 3.0 decrease over the past five years.

Pasifika

In the year to September 2013:

- 18,100 Pasifika were unemployed in the year to September 2013. The unemployment rate for Pasifika was 15.9 in the year to September 2013, 0.8% increase since September 2012, and 9.1 % higher than five years ago.
- 95,700 Pasifika people were employed compared to 106,600 over the year to September 2012 (down 10%).
- The labour force participation rate for Pasifika was 59.8% for the year to September 2012, 2.0 % decrease since September 2012, and a 4.4% decrease over the past year.

Women

In the year to September 2013:

- 79,400 females were unemployed. The unemployment rate for females was 7.0% in the year to September 2013, and 3.1% higher than five years ago.



- 1,047,500 females were employed compared to 1,044,400 in September 2012. Over the last five years, the employment rate for females has decreased 1.4% from 59.5% to 58.1%.
- The labour force participation rate for females was 62.5% for the year to September 2013, 0.3% decrease since September 2012, and 0.6 decrease over the past five years.

Not in Employment Education or Training [NEET]

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) are among our most vulnerable citizens. The official word for the September quarter is positive on NEET, with the rate for youth (15-24 years) falling to 11.4 % - 'the lowest youth NEET rate since the December 2008 quarter'. And over the year to September 2013 officials advise the NEET rate fell by 2.0%. However, these optimistic words are somewhat tempered when we turn to the NEET rate for specific population groups: Māori, Pacifica and Female, and listen to feedback from our social service providers. Yes, there is some gain but overall data for the September quarterly indicates life remains bleak for a large group of young people who are not in a job, education or training.

"The main issue they (youth) have when presenting is having enough to eat and wanting to contribute to their household with food so they can stay at home".

"Counselling for youth and families has increased dramatically. Bullying, depression, self-harming and an ability to communicate in families has led many youth to a sense of isolation and depression. Much of the work comes from youth mental health".

–Vision West

"Money, housing, sexual health, addiction issues, lack of employment" are of most concern to youth.

–Suzanne Aubert Compassion Centre

"Lack of jobs, train opportunities" are the issues we see are of most concern to youth.

–PSN

Over the year to September 2013, 15-24 years age group:

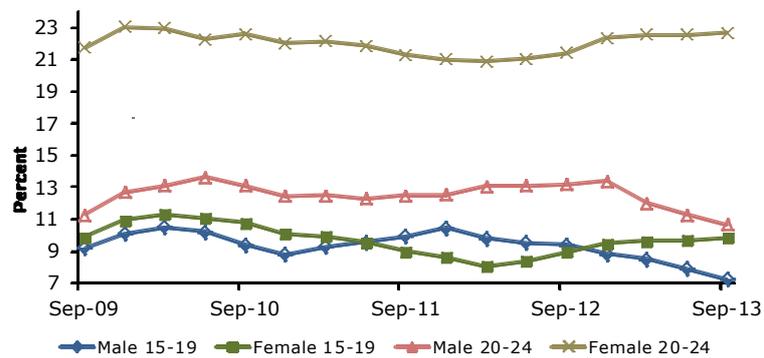
- 17.4% of Māori males and 28.5% of Māori females were NEET compared with 9.3% of all males and 16.4% of all females in this age group. (Compared with 16.6% of Māori males and 27.6% of Maori females that were NEET in September 2012).
- 11.1 % of Pacifica males and 28.4% Pacifica females are NEET in September 2013 (compared with 15.4% of Pacifica males and 21.6% of Pacifica females in September 2012).

Compared to:

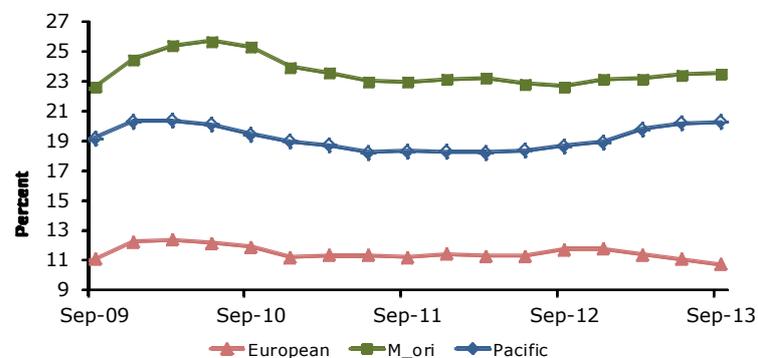
- 22.7% of females were NEET (21.4% September 2012)

Source: MIBIE

NEET rates by age-group and gender, 2009-2013



NEET rates by ethnic group, 2009-2013



Impacts of Welfare Reforms : What Are Service Providers Seeing in Communities

Policy Changes

The impact of welfare reforms is starting to be seen in our communities. It is early days but some of the issues our service providers are seeing include: the impact of benefit sanctions on housing security, the availability of appropriate and family friendly employment, cost and availability of child care.

Refer to Appendix 4 for an overview of key policy changes to social welfare policy.

"Welfare Reforms are already having an impact, for example, we know of 2 previously homeless individuals who have been stood down from their benefit, which is putting their leases at risk, which may well result in them becoming homeless again".

–PSN

"Most clients with children at school have taken on the new reform with acceptance. The challenge is finding & securing local employment with hours that suit care-giving arrangements and costs. Keeping in mind there are many single parents that don't have extended family or support to help with afterschool care. Those with children under 5 are torn between bettering their



income, skills and experience however want to be at home to raise their children”.

–Vision West

“This places more demand onto single parents of either gender. If working they are at times unable to fulfil other parental obligations and supports. It is particularly difficult if a child is unwell and cannot attend ECE or school”.

–Monte Cecilia Housing Trust

“We have heard stories of people being told that they should consider jobs that are quite inappropriate – eg an evening job for a woman with young children, or a job where travel is required out of town to get to work”.

–Catholic Family Social Services

“The verbal feedback is one of hesitancy due to the following factors:

- *Minimum wage vs centre fees*
- *Hours of work not always aligned with centre hours especially if shift work is involved.*
- *Not enough in budget to begin with because of prior and current house-hold & credit debt.*
- *Mums reluctant with children under 5 as expressed they would prefer to be the ones being their own children’s caregivers rather than strangers.*
- *Waiting lists for preferred centres are a challenge?*

–Vision West

State Benefits

The data below represents June 2013. From July 2013 seven main benefits were replaced by three new categories of state benefits: Job Seeker Support, Sole Parent Support and Supported Living Payment. Future editions of the Vulnerability Report will capture this change.

Domestic Purpose Benefit (DPB) Related

Includes DPB Sole Parents, DPB Caring for Sick or Infirm, DPB Women Alone and Emergency Maintenance Allowance.

The June 2013 DPB data reflects typical child rearing patterns - Recipients are mostly mature women (aged 25-39 years) at home caring for their child (or children) until they attend school at 5 years. Only a small percentage of recipients receive a DPB for ten years or more. There are 8,000 fewer recipients of the DPB over the year to June 2013 but this figure does not tell us how their children are faring when the main caregiver is working?

- There were 104,000 people receiving the DPB at the end of June 2013.
- Over the year to June 2013 the number of people who receive the DPB decreased by 8,000 (7%).
- DPB recipients are still more likely to be female (88.0%), aged 25-39 years and caring for a child under 6 years.
- The duration receiving a DPB is: 23% (1 in 4) had received a DPB continuously for less than one year. 39% (2 in 5) received a DPB continuously for between one and four years. Only 10% had received a DPB continuously for ten years or more.

Invalid’s Benefit

The June 2013 Invalid Benefit data indicates little change over the year to June 2013.

- At the end of June 2013, there were 84,000 working-age people (aged 18-64) were receiving an invalid’s benefit, which was an increase by 100 (0.2%) compared to June 2012.
- 37.8% of recipients are aged 40-54 years and 36.3 % are aged 55-64 years.
- 31.2 % of recipients have a psychological or psychiatric condition.
- 12.7 of recipients have an intellectual disability.
- 34.4 % of recipients have been receiving an invalid benefit for 10 years.

Sickness Benefits

The June 2013 sickness benefit data indicates little significant change over the year.

- At the end of June 2013, 59,000 working people were receiving a sickness benefit, which was a decrease of 300 or 0.5 %.
- The most common reason for being on a sickness benefit remains psychological or psychiatric conditions (42.8%), followed by musculo-skeleton disorders (15.6).
- 41.8 % of recipients receive a sickness benefit for less than one year and 38.1% of recipients receive a sickness benefit for between one and 4 years. Only 9.5% of recipients receive the benefit for 10 years or more.



Hardship Assistance

Requests for hardship assistance for food, electricity, accommodation are all indications of how our most vulnerable people are managing to afford the basics. In all categories of assistance, there is a continued trend in the over-representation of tangata whenua.

The following data Number of Special Needs Grants for all clients nationally for Food June 2013.

Quarter Ended	Ethnicity	Benefit Group				Total
		Main Benefit recipients	NZ Super Veteran Pensions	Non Benefit and No Benefit	Orphan Benefit Unsupported child's benefit	
Jun-13	Maori	28,805	634	5,128	73	34,640
	Other Ethnic Groups	34,787	1,503	8,538	50	44,878
	All	63,592	2,137	13,666	123	79,518

Gas and Electricity

Quarter Ended	Ethnicity	Benefit Group				Total
		Main Benefit recipients	NZ Super Veteran Pensions	Non Benefit and No Benefit	Orphan Benefit Unsupported child's benefit	
Jun-13	Maori	2,657	87	12	3	2,759
	Other Ethnic Groups	2,556	171	22	2	2,751
	All	5,213	258	34	5	5,510

Accommodation Supplement

Number of accommodation supplement (AS) clients nationally as at June 2013 excluding orphan benefits and unsupported child benefit.

Quarter Ended	Ethnicity	Benefit Group					Total
		Main Benefit recipients	NZ Super Veteran Pensions	Non Benefit and No Benefit	Youth Payment	Young Youth Payment	
Jun-13	Maori	72,456	4,057	9,184	461	445	86,603
	Other Ethnic Groups	137,999	27,629	45,903	631	377	212,539
	All	210,455	31,686	55,087	1,092	822	299,142

TAS

Temporary Additional Support clients nationally as at March 2013 and June 2013 excluding.

Quarter Ended	Ethnicity	Benefit Group					Total
		Main Benefit recipients	NZ Super Veteran Pensions	Non Benefit and No Benefit	Youth Payment	Young Youth Payment	
Jun-13	Maori	14,273	376	448	7	38	15,142
	Other Ethnic Groups	34,179	2,491	2,142	21	44	38,877
	All	48,452	2,867	2,590	28	82	54,019



Improving Child Well-Being

A clear indication of improvements in child well-being is a decline in the number of care and protection notifications and follow-ups. The Vulnerable Children Bill is intended to improve just this for vulnerable children through regional children's teams, and a mix of both legislative and non-legislative measures. The Bill is currently at the Select Committee stage and if passed data below will provide a good indicator of the effectiveness of the legislation to improve the well-being of vulnerable children.

Number of Care and Protection (C&P) Notifications and FARs

Quarter	C&P Notifications	C&P FARs	C&PFARs with Ethnicity Māori
Jul-Sep2012	37,535	15,974	7,323
Jul-Sep2013	36,100	14,776	6,780

Notes to accompany table:

C&P notifications: The numbers in the tables do not represent the number of distinct clients.

Some clients may have multiple notifications during the period.

Number of Children and Young People in Out of Home care and Protection Placements (CIC)

As at	CIC	Māori CIC
30-Sep-12	3,869	2,000
31-Dec-12	3,783	1,996
31-Mar-13	3,836	2,070
30-Jun-13	3,844	2,113
30-Sep-13	3,906	2,182

Ethnicity: Please note that clients may have multiple ethnicities.

Although Child, Youth and Family captures all ethnicities for a client we only report on the primary ethnicity as selected by the client and their family.

Clients and their family are not always consistent in the primary ethnicity that they select.

An ethnicity is not always recorded.

Appendix 1

Subgroup	Dec 2010	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Sept 2013	Rate of change
Actual rents for Housing	1.6	2.0	2.4	2.0	8.0
Household Energy	5.6	2.4	4.6	3.2	15.8
Average CPI Rate of Change across Rents and Energy	3.6	2.2	3.5	2.6	11.9

Appendix 2: Regional employment Figures June 2013 quarter

Table 4: Regional employment figures, June 2013 quarter

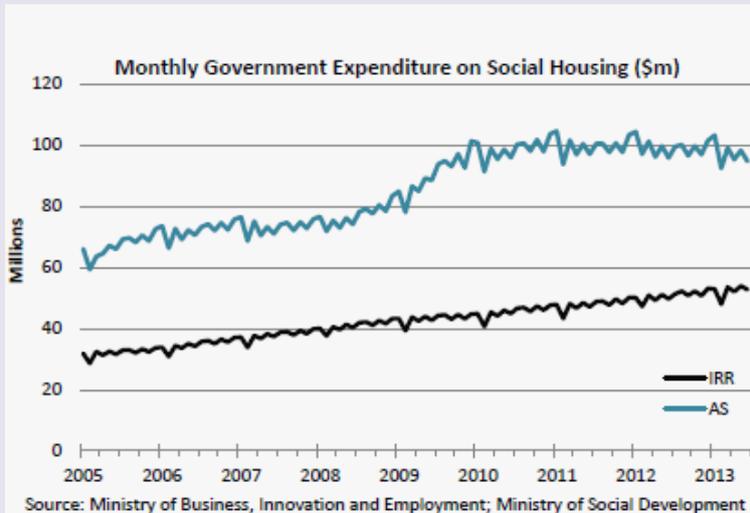
Region	Employed	Additional employed (annual)	Employment change (annual)	Employment Rate	Employment Rate Change (annual)
Northland	66,180	-1,854	-2.7%	54.6%	-1.8pp
Auckland	729,291	20,448	2.9%	62.6%	-1.0pp
Waikato	198,304	-133	-0.1%	64.3%	0.3pp
Bay of Plenty	115,426	2,004	1.8%	59.2%	1.6pp
Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	102,101	-39	0.0%	60.3%	-2.9pp
Taranaki	62,975	939	1.5%	67.8%	2.2pp
Manawatu-Wanganui	110,514	-7,696	-6.5%	59.6%	-3.5pp
Wellington	267,849	-3,748	-1.4%	66.6%	0.2pp
Tasman/Nelson-Marlborough/West Coast	93,287	-1,739	-1.8%	65.2%	1.0pp
Canterbury	321,733	16,929	5.6%	67.8%	3.9pp
Otago	116,505	-4,839	-4.0%	64.9%	-1.6pp
Southland	53,820	-4,200	-7.2%	68.1%	-2.7pp
Total All Regional Councils	2,241,730	16,216	0.7%	63.7%	-0.1pp

Source: Statistics NZ, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

* seasonally adjusted



Appendix 3: Monthly Government Expenditure on Social Housing



Appendix 4: Overview of Key Changes to Social Welfare Policy

September 2010:

- Part-time work tests for Domestic Purposes Benefit-Sole Parent clients with children aged six years and over; Unemployment Benefit recipients need to reapply after 12 months, and undergo comprehensive work assessment;
- Graduated sanctions if obligations are not met;
- More frequent medical assessments for Sickness Benefit clients in the early stages of receiving a benefit.

May 2011:

- Sickness Benefit recipients for more than 12 months have received compulsory reviews.

August 2012:

- 16 and 17 year olds needing benefits have been required to work with a youth service provider, have their finances managed, and be engaged in education or training. Failure to meet all the requirements risks the payment being stopped.
- A similar approach is being applied to 16-18 year old parents who must enroll their child with a medical provider, send them to an early childhood education program while the parent is in training.

October 2012:

- People on the Domestic Purposes Benefit and partners of people on Unemployment, Sickness, Emergency and Invalid's benefit whose youngest child is aged between five and 13 years have been expected to be available for part-time work, and accept any offers of suitable work.
- If their youngest child is aged 14 or older or they don't have

any children, they are expected to be available for full-time work, and accept any suitable offers.

- If a person on a benefit has another child after 15 October 2012, once that child turns one year old, their work obligations are based on the age of their next youngest child.

July 2013:

- The government introduced some new obligations called social obligations. Parents or caregivers with dependent children receiving a benefit will be required to 'take reasonable steps' (term not defined) to make sure their children are:
 - Enrolled in and attending an approved early childhood education programme from the age of three, until they start school;
 - Enrolled in and attending school, starting from age five or six years;
 - Enrolled with a GP or with a medical centre that belongs to a Primary health organisation;
 - Up to date with core Well Child/Tamariki Ora checks until they turn five years old.

All previous categories of benefits will replace by three new categories:

- 1) Jobseeker Support for those actively seeking and available for work;
- 2) Sole Parent Support for sole parents with children under 14 years;
- 3) Supported Living Payment is available to persons providing full-time care to a person who would otherwise require hospital care, rest home care, or residential disability care.

Vulnerability Reports are available on our website www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz. If you are involved in a social service agency and would like to contribute to future issues please contact:

NZCCSS ph. 04 473 2627 admin@nzccss.org.nz

Disclaimer:

While every effort has been made by NZCCSS to accurately collect and interpret statistics and data provided in this report it is recommended that readers check original data sources where possible.