

# We can create a **better CITY:**

As we prepare to rebuild Christchurch, it's time to address some important social issues that threaten our progress. All children deserve to grow up in a city that cares for them.

## by ending **CHILD POVERTY**

### The facts about child poverty

Poverty develops amid social and economic policies that consign some people to a life of reduced opportunity and continual stress.

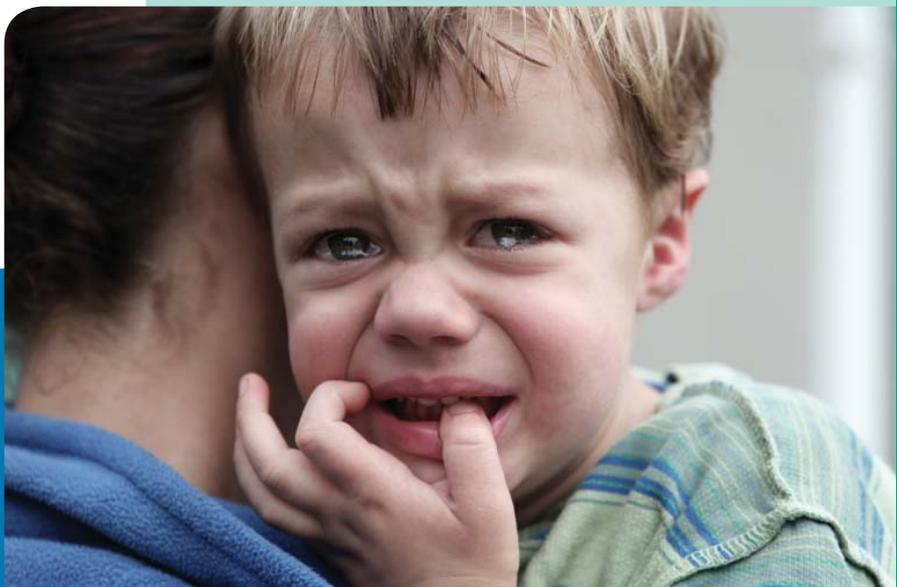
Children who grow up poor are likely to become parents of poor children. This means that poverty is often passed from generation to generation.

- One in five of our children live in poverty.
- Our child poverty rates are above the average of other developed countries.
- Those living on low incomes have 5-6 years lower life expectancy.
- A child growing up in poverty is three times more likely to be sick than a child growing up in a higher-income household.
- Poor families are exposed to higher proportion of social hazards such as gambling and alcohol, e.g. pokie machines are five times more likely to be concentrated in low income areas.

#### For a child, poverty means:

- Not having adequate clothing and a balanced diet.
- Feeling uncomfortable inviting friends to your house.
- Not being able to go out as much with your friends.
- Not being able to go to University.
- Feeling ashamed and different.
- People look down on you because you can't afford what they may have.
- Not experiencing the everyday things that other children have in their lives.
- Being embarrassed when asked what presents you got for Christmas.

**It doesn't have to be this way. Ending child poverty is achievable.**



# Rebuilding Christchurch

Dealing with poverty is one crucial part of the wider story about building a great city. We all need access to the things we need to flourish.

## To end child poverty we need...

### A poverty reduction plan

We need to develop a coordinated set of policies which deal simultaneously with the causes and symptoms of poverty. We can set poverty reduction targets to ensure we make progress on this complex issue.

### Jobs for all at decent pay

People wanting to escape the poverty trap need access to employment opportunities that provide real income. We must develop a regional strategy for full employment.

### A solid head start for every child

Every child from a low-income family needs access to high quality early childhood and school education.

### Education and training options for parents

Parental education is one of the strongest influences on outcomes for children.

### Affordable quality housing

A safe and comfortable place to come home to is an essential foundation for all of us. Options such as affordable housing and rental accommodation can provide healthy supportive environments for people on low incomes.

### A real measure of our progress

All of our recovery plans and policies must include an assessment on how they impact child poverty in our city. We cannot afford to allow this problem to persist.



*"Foolishly and wickedly false...to say [the poor] are poor because they are idle."* JOHN WESLEY (FOUNDER OF METHODISM)

Over 200 years ago Wesley asserted that blaming poverty on the poor was a damaging view. Today's evidence shows that Wesley's view still holds: Poverty is systemic within society. Those born to it are much more likely to remain in poverty than their peers.

[www.mmsi.org.nz/our-views.html](http://www.mmsi.org.nz/our-views.html)

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