

Priority issues for children in poverty	Short-term actions	Long-term actions
<p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>Many children live in poor quality and overcrowded houses (particularly Māori and Pasifika children) and suffer serious health conditions because of this</p> <p>Options provide opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>reduce over-crowding</i></li> <li>• <i>improve the quality of housing, particularly rental properties</i></li> <li>• <i>increase the number of social houses and other affordable housing</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Short-term actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigate immediate impact of poverty</li> <li>• Fiscally neutral or low cost</li> </ul> <p><i>Warrant of fitness for rental properties</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set a basic standard for rental properties (such as houses must have heating and insulation, sanitation, and be safe). Help landlords to meet the standards by introducing tax breaks for renovations and repairs.</li> </ul> <p><i>Accommodation Supplement (AS) and Income Related Rents (IRR)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AS and IRR are housing subsidies – about \$2 billion paid out each year. They need to be reviewed and refocused to work better for low-income families and whānau</li> </ul> <p><i>Housing and critical infrastructure</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include Housing as a priority in the <i>National Infrastructure Plan</i> and make finding solutions to the poor quality, and severe undersupply of affordable housing, a priority</li> </ul>	<p><b>Long-term actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment focus</li> </ul> <p><i>Social and community housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase number and quality of subsidised houses for low-income families and whānau</li> </ul> <p><i>Better assess housing need</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instead of expecting families to go between government agencies, establish a one-stop-shop assessment for housing needs</li> </ul> <p><i>Low-income home ownership</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase number of low-income families and whānau who own their own homes. The ways to do this include increasing home deposit schemes, while also encouraging investors to sell by introducing capital gains tax and land tax for rental properties, addressing challenges of building on Māori land</li> </ul> <p><i>Insulation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend the <i>Heat Smart</i> insulation subsidy programme and encourage landlords to insulate their rental properties by giving them tax breaks</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health and education</b></p> <p>We need to improve the antenatal and early years support for children and their parents and whānau, and the engagement of children and young people in poverty in school</p> <p>We must ensure children are not hungry in school, so they can learn</p> <p>Options provide opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Overcome barriers to children in low-income families attending ECE, especially Māori and Pasifika children, so they enter school ready to learn</i></li> <li>• <i>Ensure ‘universal services’ are reaching poor children, and improve integration of system</i></li> <li>• <i>Ensure schools play more proactive role in mitigating poverty and building resilience</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Short-term actions</b></p> <p><i>Health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure more pregnant women get health services before birth, including getting DHBs and midwives to be more responsive to vulnerable and hard to reach women in their communities</li> <li>• For all children at birth, establish an “opt off” enrolment into primary care (NHI), immunisation (NIR), and WellChild/Tamariki Ora</li> <li>• Support the Government’s <i>Free Child Health Care Scheme</i> to ensure free primary care visits for all children from 0-6 years of age, 24 hours/7 days a week</li> </ul> <p><i>Inter-agency and community partnership</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with schools, NGOs and private sector to provide food to hungry children, especially low decile primary and intermediate schools</li> </ul> <p><i>Education</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to implement <i>ECE Task Force</i> recommendations and progress work on initiatives to raise participation of Māori, Pasifika and disadvantaged children</li> <li>• Encourage schools and ECE centres in low SES areas to become ‘full schools’ or ‘community hubs’</li> <li>• Continue and expand support for teachers and parents to address young children’s behavioural issues</li> </ul>	<p><b>Long-term actions</b></p> <p><i>Health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress towards a single enrolment information system for child health and social services</li> <li>• Implement a common assessment pathway, service planning and delivery approach from antenatal to age 5</li> <li>• Increase focus (led by <i>Health Workforce NZ</i>) on building a workforce that knows how to engage with Māori, Pasifika, and socioeconomically disadvantaged groups</li> </ul> <p><i>Inter-agency and community partnership</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand the number of <i>Teen Parent Units</i> to more low decile schools with high teen birth rates</li> <li>• Sustain funding for youth-friendly health and social services in all NZ high schools, starting with low decile schools</li> </ul> <p><i>Education</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve quality of ECE by strengthening: quality measures for home-based services; services for under 2s; centre-based group size; and improve accountability measures</li> <li>• Encourage schools and communities to initiate more after-school and school-holiday programmes (particularly those programmes evidenced to mitigate the impacts of poverty)</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Māori children in poverty</b>  Māori children are over-represented in poverty statistics  While all measures should be developed with a view of working for Māori, some additional tailored measures are needed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to put in place strategies that will support more Māori students to achieve at school</li> <li>• Support the employment of Māori young people by promoting apprenticeships and training allowances, providing incentives to employers and extend initiatives to support community employment initiatives</li> <li>• Evaluate Rangitahi Courts and increase government support for initiatives which connect with young people in their community</li> <li>• Continue government support for parenting programmes that work with the wider whānau and address multiple issues</li> <li>• Government, iwi and Māori communities to support trusted workers and develop integrated service hubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop measures of Māori well-being and set targets to reduce poverty for Māori children</li> <li>• Develop and implement a strategy to prevent Māori homelessness</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pasifika children in poverty</b>  Pasifika children are over-represented in poverty statistics  While all measures should be developed with a view of working for Pasifika, some additional tailored measures are needed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lift the performance of government services, by working with Pasifika community and church groups, to ensure that the reduction of poverty is on par with other New Zealand children</li> <li>• Continue to find ways to ensure Pasifika children achieve at school, including promoting Pasifika languages</li> <li>• Bridge gaps between Pasifika learners, what skills they are gaining and employer's needs</li> <li>• Develop a strategy to make progress in Auckland for Pasifika children</li> <li>• Evaluate Pasifika justice initiatives (such as the Pasifika Youth Court)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop measures and indicators of well-being with Pasifika understandings of identity and success at their core</li> <li>• Encourage high-quality research to drive innovation in public services for Pasifika children</li> <li>• Support the implementation of a housing strategy for Pasifika families</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community and place-based partnerships</b>  Communities and families and whanau have important roles in improving conditions and building resilience for children in poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up small grants schemes to support community projects for families to overcome lack of resources and develop skills to improve their daily lives (eg, Marae community gardens and food and cooking classes)</li> <li>• Prioritise addressing child poverty in existing community grants schemes (such as COGS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government, in partnership with philanthropic organisations and businesses, create 'children's action zones' to improve outcomes for children living in poverty in high-deprivation communities</li> <li>• Evaluate more community programmes to identify what works</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Income and employment</b></p> <p>Provide adequate family income to meet basic needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Better target income support and tax systems so working and beneficiary families can meet basic needs of their children</i></li> <li>• <i>Ensure systems work to achieve the best outcomes for the child</i></li> <li>• <i>Encourage parents to work in a child appropriate way</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Welfare and Employment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better target income support to families with children by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shifting more support to families with younger children and larger families</li> <li>• encourage parents to work, with number of hours worked dependent on age of child</li> <li>• target limited resources to those most in need</li> <li>• ensure policies do not undermine family structures</li> <li>• review tax credits</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provide high quality and co-ordinated early childhood education (ECE) and out-of-school care services to support parents to get into work</li> <li>• Create incentives for Work and Income to better support parents into work</li> <li>• Publish take-up rates for benefits. Appoint a child development expert to the Work and Income Board</li> <li>• Encourage family -friendly work places</li> <li>• Increase support to students to get the skills needed and pathways into work, such as incentives for employers and supporting transitions from school to training</li> </ul> <p><i>Child support – pass on to parents</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Pass on’ child support paid to the custodial parent. Will encourage non-custodial parents to be named and be responsible for paying support to their children</li> </ul>	<p><i>Create a new income support payment – the Child Payment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create new payment (The Child Payment) to support all children. Target additional payments to families who need more. This could be funded by pooling a range of expenditure currently made for children</li> <li>• Review all child-related benefit rates</li> </ul> <p><i>Child support – guarantee payments</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crown guarantee of child support for young children in low income families through an advance payments model</li> </ul> <p><i>Help reduce debt through social lending</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government could partner with community and the banking sector, to provide loans to low-income families at low interest rates. Like the Australian Good Shepard Microfinance scheme</li> </ul>
<p><b>Implementing actions and monitoring progress</b></p> <p>Currently there is no way of knowing how well we are doing in improving poverty rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Introduce some standard measures of child poverty with specific targets and a way of monitoring progress towards them.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the Government to introduce a Children’s Act that will include poverty reduction as an objective. This Act could require a child poverty strategy. The initial actions for the strategy should be based on the above short and long term solutions</li> <li>• The Children’s Act should require measures and monitoring with specific targets for reducing poverty, along with appropriate accountability instruments. It could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting against a range of poverty measures to show all the different dimensions of poverty, include how long children are living in poverty, and what depth of poverty they live in</li> <li>• Establish targets for reducing poverty to short and long term impact, to be reviewed on a 3-year basis. An example of a long term outcome target is that NZ should aim to have child poverty rates fall so we move into the top group of the OECD (10+ years)</li> <li>• Monitor take-up rates of key programmes. The families that most need help are often the ones who do not receive it. This could include regular calculation and publication of information of the take-up of all relevant benefits and in-work payments for families with children, (including key second tier benefits like the <i>Accommodation Supplement</i> and the <i>Child Disability Allowance</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Establish appropriate accountability for completing strategy actions and achieving short term targets</li> </ul>	