



Media Release

SAVE THE CHILDREN WELCOMES PASSING OF CHILD POVERTY REDUCTION BILL

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Save the Children NZ (SCNZ) welcomes the Child Poverty Reduction Bill passing its third reading in Parliament yesterday, showing the Government's commitment to lifting children out of poverty and ensuring children are a priority in New Zealand.

SCNZ Advocacy, Strategy and Research Director Jacqui Southey said, "While much remains to be done to tackle child poverty in Aotearoa New Zealand, the passing of this Bill is a fundamental step towards ensuring that governments will prioritise ending child poverty now and into the future."

The latest Child Poverty Monitor shows that one in five New Zealand children are living in homes without access to enough food or adequate healthy food, and children in the most disadvantaged communities are twice as likely to end up in hospital as those living in areas of economic and social advantage.

Ms Southey said, "We deeply concerned about the current situation. Children raised in poverty start life at a big disadvantage. Being poor means more than just not having money – it means material, social and emotional deprivation, as well as impoverished living conditions and less access to services. Poverty creates obstacles to children's survival, development, protection and participation in decisions that affect their lives.

"We are heartened to see that some of the recommendations from our submission have been considered and taken on board. Particularly the inclusion of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which provides an opportunity to advance implementation of the Convention, especially for those children whose rights are currently least met.

"We fully support the sentiments of the Prime Minister's goal of making New Zealand the best place in the world to be a child; ending child poverty is essential if this goal is to be realised.

"Our submission was one of the 632 submissions on the Bill. We also collaborated on a high level joint submission lead by Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa (ACYA) and Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), which was supported by 37 organisations across the children sector.

"We look forward to the implementation of this Bill and seeing how it will improve the lives of children in Aotearoa for the better."

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About Save the Children

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. In New Zealand and around the world, we work every day to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. When crisis strikes, and children are most vulnerable, we are always among the first to respond and the last to leave. We ensure children's unique needs are met and their voices are heard. We deliver lasting results for millions of children, including those hardest to reach. We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.

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