

2020 ELECTION STATEMENT

Manaakitia te ara whakamua A fair and compassionate future for all

The New Zealand Council Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) believes that all people are made in God's image and therefore everyone has an inherent value and dignity – te tapu o te tangata. Jesus said, *"I came that they have life, and have it abundantly"*. (John 10:10)

Our vision of Aotearoa New Zealand as a fair and compassionate society, manaakitia te ara whakamua, is one where everyone has a 'liveable income' that meets their basic human needs, and enables meaningful participation in their community.

Many children/tamariki, youth/rangatahi and families and whānau are trapped in poverty. Their income, whether from a benefit or wage, is insufficient to cover the costs of safe, secure, warm housing, food, utilities and other basic essentials necessary for their health and wellbeing.

We believe government policies supporting the rights of all New Zealanders to receive a liveable income to meet basic needs, and to participate in a meaningful way in their communities, are fundamental to the protection of human dignity.

New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services works for a just and compassionate society in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We see this as a continuation of the mission of Jesus Christ.

In seeking to fulfil this mission, we are committed to giving priority to the poor and vulnerable members of our society and to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

In Election 2020 the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services calls on all political parties to commit to ensure that:

All New Zealanders have a liveable income

Increase benefit levels and support the payment of a liveable wage to ensure all New Zealanders have an income that provides the necessities of life and can meaningfully participate with dignity in our communities.

All New Zealanders can access sustainable, affordable, secure and quality housing

Immediately and substantially increase the construction of public housing in both the government and community housing sectors.