

Raise the DPB to a Living Wage!

Reverse the 1991 Benefit Cuts.

The Benefit cuts of 1991 devastated the social fabric of New Zealand, causing enormous hardship for thousands of women and children. The lack of pay equity and the lowered wages and casualised work caused by the Employment Contracts Act further increased the impoverishment of women and children. The new employment legislation has done little to reverse this trend. Diseases of poverty such as meningitis are soaring at alarming rates.

Research has shown that the health of women on the DPB is poor; and well below the national average.¹ Adequate housing is still unaffordable for most mothers on the DPB, except for the few in state housing. Rents and House Prices in Auckland are soaring. Food prices are rising to unaffordable levels. Single mothers are forced to “budget” by reducing food items. Electricity and phone bills, and other expenses such as transportation and medical expenses, cause regular crises for many single parent families.

Instead of receiving an adequate income; women on the DPB are expected to apply for top ups, and special grants and benefits. WINZ has been notorious for not informing women what they are entitled to; and doing everything it can to block women from receiving their entitlements. The process of applying for these extras is intrusive, humiliating, intimidating, and time consuming. The Government's attacks on our livelihoods constitute **violence against women and children**.

In addition, many women find it difficult to leave violent and abusive relationships because of the difficulties they would face trying to survive on the DPB, or on the extremely low pay that many women get. Family violence and abuse also leads to teenage girls living on the streets and being forced into prostitution.

Value the Work done by Sole Mothers.

Mothering is work. We are raising society's future workers and citizens. It is society's responsibility to support mothers and children.

Free High Quality Childcare.

Mothers on the DPB, like all mothers, need free childcare. Increase Childcare subsidy to 100% of costs! Childcare is society's responsibility. Stressed out mothers with young children need a break, and mothers in paid work need childcare support with no extra costs.

Breastfeeding Breaks, and School Holiday Breaks.

Sole mothers, like all mothers, who are in full or part time work, need working conditions that are compatible with the needs our families.



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Support our Study and Training Choices.

The Training Incentive Allowance is provided under extremely limited conditions, preventing many sole mothers from reaching their full potential, or from training for well paid occupations.

Reduce Abatement Rates, No Secondary Tax.

DPB beneficiaries are penalised for working part time by extremely high abatement rates (benefit cuts). We must also pay a high rate of secondary tax, discouraging us from obtaining part-time work that could lead to full time work. This keeps us in a poverty trap.

Abolish work-testing of DPB Recipients.

Mothers on the DPB whose youngest child is 7 or older are required to seek work or training for 15 hours a week, 52 weeks a year. This takes away our control of our own lives and denies us the right to seek employment appropriate for our family's circumstances.

Stop Scapegoating us ! Support Our Civil Rights! Stop Spot Checks!

We are tired of talkback hosts, editors, and politicians running down single mothers, in sexist, abusive, and discriminatory ways! Like other minority groups we are blamed for the failures of the unjust system. We have few civil rights. WINZ officers can knock on the doors of single mothers at any time, unannounced, and demand to be let in. If they are refused, the benefit is stopped. Our bank accounts can have money deducted from them.

We Need Union Support.

Most mothers move between mothering and paid work during their working lives. We need unions that support the rights of workers in both paid and unpaid work.

Money for the Poor, not for War!!

- **Women do two thirds of the world's work and get five percent of the income. Most of this work is unpaid.**
- **In a world where \$900 billion is spent annually on arms, it is time that all mothers, including single mothers, demand that society values our work, and takes care of our needs, and those of our children.**
- **In solidarity with the mothers of Argentina and Venezuela, we demand adequate support for single heads of household.**
- **In solidarity with the mothers and children of Iraq, suffering a starvation blockade, we say "No, to the War on Iraq!", and "No, to the poverty of women and children!"**

CONTACT : DPB ACTION GROUP:

c/- **021-2685978** or email: **dpb_action@yahoo.co.nz**

Website about I.W.D. actions around the world : **http://womenstrike8m.server101.com**

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