

From: Privacy
To: [IncomeInsurance](#)
Subject: Submission on Income Insurance Scheme - Auckland Action Against Poverty
Date: Tuesday, 26 April 2022 10:53:55 am

Submission to MBIE re: Income Insurance Scheme from Auckland Action Against Poverty

We, Auckland Action Against Poverty oppose the Income Insurance Scheme in favour of Livable Incomes for All and Universal Services (which are universal in design) in ensuring the protection of all people, families and communities whether they're in work that's recognised or not.

Life isn't centred around work, contrary to what Westminster Politics, Capitalism and The Patriarchy would have us believe. And our work doesn't determine our worth, our worth is determined by our existence. Which means that all of us are equal in power and magic, contrary to what money would have us believe.

We believe if we're going to secure and protect the livelihoods of all of us as we're living through very precarious times, we need to look at transforming the source of our system - which is ensuring that all are provided for and taken care of, especially Papatūānuku. It's moving away from an adversarial, competitive and often deficit Politics to a Politics of Love, where relationships are grounded in reciprocity, sharing, accountability, healing and thriving for all. Again, including Papatūānuku.

We know that Covid has devastated our communities and economies, but we also want to acknowledge the communities that have been living through devastation and crisis long before Covid, or the Financial Crisis of 2008 or the Christchurch Earthquake, and the closing of local rural employers, amongst the constant changes of the workforce. Communities have deeply suffered at the continuing impacts of the institutions that have been established through colonisation and are upheld by ideologies that are far more detrimental than a NZ Income Insurance Scheme - that at the core of wanting to establish this system is the idea that people in paid work deserve to be taken care of, and those who aren't in (recognised) paid work, aren't. It's simple. This system is ok to elevate the status and importance of certain communities at the expense of others. We're saying this is beyond words fit for a submission to MBIE. This proposed scheme is but one way in which we prioritise certain communities over others, and hence why we're asking us to move away from these ideas, to other ideas about how we can be in relation with ourselves, each other and Papatūānuku.

We believe in Aotearoa being built from He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We believe Liveable Incomes and Universal Services (which are universal in design) can be bridges toward a society built on these sacred documents. We believe in an inclusive Aotearoa, where all are honoured for their existence and encouraged to thrive, without it being at the expense of each other and Papatūānuku.

The government knows the devastating impacts of poverty in our communities, especially in rural communities. They're aware of the importance of the first 1000 days for tamariki and how they determine how we fare as adults. They know about the toxic stresses of the current costs of living. They're aware of the impacts of family violence, especially children. They know about the gaps in Oranga Tamariki. They've been made aware of the abuse that children suffer when placed in state care. They're aware of the growing list - upward of 24,000 households - who are waiting for a public house. They know about Aotearoa having one of the worst youth suicide rates in the OECD. They know about the continuing impacts of colonisation on Tangata Whenua and Papatūānuku. They know that they need to do more, yet continue to make incremental changes, leaving the responsibility and accountability to other governments. Leaving the burden of addressing such massive gaps in inequality to their children and grandchildren, because they don't want to acknowledge what the Crown has done here, and put in the work to make it right. They know what they need to do to make it right, and they should make it right.

We want Liveable Incomes and Universal Services (universal in design) because these are universal in coverage, they centre all of our well-being, they give us the freedom to make the best decisions for ourselves, and the power to dream and live to our full potential. These things also protect us in a just transition as we move away from this society into one that honours all of our existence, especially that of Papatūānuku. We want these things because they're the right thing to do. We want these things because we have to encourage sharing. The sharing of resources, of power, of life, of joy, of experiences that uplift us all. The NZ Income Insurance Scheme doesn't allow for a vision and dream as bold as ours, or the things we want for our communities. These are our communities' birthrights.

Brooke Stanley Pao (on behalf of Auckland Action Against Poverty)