

Hi there, I wish to make a submission in regards to the drivers of persistent disadvantage.

Housing

I believe that housing is a fundamental human right, and as such, the government should have to provide housing to any and all who need it. Simply placing people in temporary accommodation is not an acceptable alternative. We as people and rightful residents should have access to healthy, affordable, long-term housing. This will allow us all to settle into a community to become better-functioning members of society while reducing the mental-health burden that housing places on so many.

Furthermore, the government should not only meet shortages, but should actively provide (at a rate which is reasonable, relative to average wages and living costs) which is dispersed throughout cities so slums are not created. The New Zealand government should be beholden to meeting certain levels of community housing. Additionally, that housing should meet or exceed current “healthy homes” requirements.

Education

I believe that we need to look at a more equitable education model. Our current system does not appear to provide an equal education for those of all socio-economic backgrounds. High-quality, free education right through to tertiary level needs to be available to all rightful residents. We should adjust our models to prioritise elevating poorly performing districts. We could achieve this with targeted funding through smaller classroom sizes and targeted wages to encourage better performing teachers into lower socio-economic areas. To do this we will need to increase teachers wages, based on performance and location of employment.

At tertiary level, we should have a significant number of full scholarships available to people of disadvantaged backgrounds. These should be distributed based on educational performance at secondary level. And must encompass an agreed upon percentage of all secondary students and to anyone reaching certain levels on top of that. In addition to this, free tertiary education should be provided at Polytech level to all jobseekers. We should make available te Reo Māori studies, bookkeeping and other life skills training.

Healthcare

Healthcare should always be a priority. We should increase community involvement and through scholarship, add a greater ethnic diversity to our nurses and GP's. These scholarships should be available in order to target poorly covered communities. Especially those where distrust of our current system and inequitable outcomes persist.

Summary

Inequality and persistent disadvantage can only be counteracted through radical system changes and increased funding. Additional to what I have mentioned above, I would see a UBI added to the mix. The current system of benefits and minimum wages has failed to produce a more egalitarian society and we must look at alternatives.

I understand that this will all require a change to taxation and believe that we as rightful residents should be proud to contribute to an increase in overall welfare throughout New Zealand.

Thank you for your consideration.

Adrian Hobson.