

# Salvation Army report: poor Kiwis getting left behind, despite economic growth ▶

The Sallies' Alan Johnson says the Government needs to "aggressively" lift the minimum wage to get more Kiwis out of poverty.

Stagnant incomes and rising living costs are pushing more and more Kiwis into poverty, the Salvation Army says.

In its State of the Nation Report, released Wednesday, the charity paints a damning picture of poorer Kiwis being left behind despite economic growth.

This year's report *Kei a Tātou - It is us* showed pay packets for families on the breadline were being swallowed by rising living costs.



Chris MCKEEN/STUFF

State of the Nation report author Alan Johnson said the government needed to "aggressively" lift the minimum wage to lift more Kiwis out of poverty.

A "frightening" number of families now call on the 'Sallies' for food parcels – up 12 per cent after five years of static demand, the report said.

## READ MORE:

- \* [Govt sets poverty reduction target](#)
- \* [Poverty stats wrong](#)
- \* [What poverty looks like](#)
- \* [How to tell which Kiwi children are living in poverty](#)

The 67-page report covers 10 categories including children, crime and punishment, employment and income, social hazards, and housing.



ERIN TASKER/STUFF

A "frightening" number of families now call on Salvation Army food banks for food parcels - up 12 per cent after five years of static demand, the report said (file photo).

Salvation Army social policy director Lieutenant Colonel Ian Hutson pointed to growing social exclusion for the impoverished and "alarmingly high" suicide rates as problems which should "galvanise" New Zealanders as a society into action.

Although the economy grew by 14 per cent and job numbers rose 15 per cent between 2013 and 2017, sole parent beneficiary incomes only increased by six per cent, widening deficits in their household budgets.

"There was no discernible change in child poverty rates, and youth unemployment remained at around 20 per cent," the report said.

"While it is not the case for longer periods of time, it is clear that the benefits of this recent strong economic growth have not been shared across the board, or trickled down, as the theory would have it."

## **OUR CHILDREN**

Despite slowly closing gaps, "tens of thousands" of underprivileged youth face academic under-achievement and limited opportunity.

That put them at high risk of "anti-social and personally destructive behaviours", the report said.

It also partly blamed "liberal" immigration policies for contributing to youth unemployment.

"This suggests that as a society we are overlooking the needs and potential of our young."

Since 2012, the number of working age people receiving benefits has dropped from 339,000 to below 290,000.

Outcomes for children of families who have come off benefits remain untracked, the report said.

## **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**

Crime rates are falling, but more Kiwis are being imprisoned, especially for violent offending, the report said.

Prison numbers rose nearly a quarter from 8500 in 2014 to 10,470 by late 2017.

More than 22 per cent of prisoners are now held on remand.

The report also questioned prison's efficacy on preventing reoffending, stating one third of released prisoners are re-incarcerated within two years.

## **NO PLACE LIKE HOME**

Virtually all housing affordability indices have worsened since 2012, the report said.

The median price of an Auckland house now costs 13 times the average Auckland wage, as opposed to nine times in 2012.

Nationally, houses now cost seven times the average wage, when in 2012 it was six.

Meanwhile, housing shortages across New Zealand were linked to higher house prices and rents, the report said.

"Homelessness will increase at least over the next one to two years."

#### **SALVATION ARMY'S WAR ON POVERTY PLAN**

Report author and Salvation Army senior analyst Alan Johnson said the charity would "like to see a more liberal social policy approach" from the government.

More generous family support packages, more ambitious house-building programmes, and tighter regulations on gambling and alcohol were needed, he said.

"We also encourage the government to aggressively lift the minimum wage."

Of all issues, Johnson was hopeful the Jacinda Ardern-led government could have early success in lifting child poverty rates.

"I think the fact the Prime Minister is the Minister of Child Poverty Reduction places some emphasis on that. I think poverty is deeply ingrained and will be hard to reduce."

However, Johnson, a former economist, believes there is "a risk around the government's fiscal settings particularly if the economy doesn't do as well as they hope".

"It remains to be seen" if Ardern's government would be prepared to borrow more to fund its social programme if needed, Johnson said.

**- Stuff**

# What it means to be Samoan on Auckland Council



SIMON MAUDE / FAIRFAX NZ

Efeso Collins knows South Auckland's often 'stark, demeaning reality' because his family 'lived it'.

Only days after being elected into his new role as an Auckland councillor Efeso Collins faced a racist insult from the council .

A council usher at his swearing in ceremony refused to believe that Collins' Samoan wife, daughter and elders were entitled to VIP seats.

"How did we get to this, it's 2016 and my family is being treated like this?" Collins said some days later being interviewed at Otara Shopping Centre on a Sunday afternoon.

The former local board chairman, university teacher, student politician, DJ, father of one and now Auckland councillor, has promised to keep reminding his fellow - and predominantly white, middle-class - councillors about the realities of south Auckland.

## READ MORE:

[Collins' moving maiden speech](#)  
[Auckland Council's diversity problem](#)  
[Mangere homelessness parkup](#)

Collins kept the pitch of his Governing Body maiden speech, delivered the morning after his family's shaming, squarely on "thank you" to family and friends crediting them with helping the boy from Otara make good.

But listening to Collins' speech, this time with his family seated in their rightful place, there were painful hooks - and at times a palpable hurt and anger seemed to catch Collins.

"Today hundreds of children in my ward went to school hungry. . . hundreds of those families take the little they have, forced to decide between paying for food, the power or the rent from week to week.

"Those choices stark choices are disempowering and demeaning. I know this reality because it's the reality our family lived with, for years in Otara," he told other councillors.



AUCKLAND COUNCIL

Collins said he 'won't back down' telling Auckland Mayor Phil Goff 'what my community feels'.

Collins, son of Samoan migrants and the youngest of six, has two sisters who suffer from asthma brought on by an upbringing in cold, damp state housing.

One of the sisters also suffers from rheumatic fever heart complications while his older brother Tom, died aged 38 from a heart condition.

Collins, 42, who's on his way to a PHD, talked about the time one of his teachers at decile one Tangaroa College told him he was "too dumb" to go to university.

"There was a major part of my psyche that had believed [that teacher]"

What he didn't mention in his speech was jumping from Form Two (year eight in today's terms) straight to Form Three because *that* time teachers recognised his smarts.

Reaching the University of Auckland, Collins gained a bachelors, then a masters degree in education, he also served as Auckland University Student Association's first polynesian president.

Auckland councillor Efeso Collins says racist treatment of his family when they attended his swearing-in was not a one-off. He insists council staff need cultural training to avoid humiliating people.

Collins, the first of his family to reach university, "loved" being there. Having been one of only 17 Tangaroa College seniors he was now surrounded by hundreds of pacific kids and other ethnicities.

However, he also encountered racism.

He was in a first year education tutorial when students where asked why there weren't many Maori or pacific people at university.



SIMON MAUDE / FAIRFAX NZ

Efeso Collins outside his family's former state home on Otara's Preston Rd.

"A guy got up and said 'it's because they're dumb'", Collins said.

"For the first time in my life I felt really confronted by a comment I kind of felt throughout my life but it wasn't until he said it".

University colleague Harry Toleafoa, said Collins is part of a "new pacific generation coming through that is quite vocal and will no longer be passive".



MICHAEL BRADLEY/FAIRFAX NZ

A jarring experience at the University of Auckland forced Efeso Collins to come to terms with beliefs about his own ethnicity.

"[Collins] is not afraid to fight media, provide a [pacific people's] counter-narrative or deconstruct a narrative constructed by others," Toleafoa said.

Toleafoa believes Collins will bear witness to South Auckland pacific people's experience through his seat on Auckland Council.

"He's the voice of equity and fairness."

A member of the council's community development committee, freshman councillor Collins who promises to base himself in south Auckland at least one day per week, rattles off issues he'll be championing.

Rates, roads, public pools and housing.

"I've made it very clear to Phil [Goff] that I'm going to be very honest and won't back down telling him what my community feels".

With Auckland's 194,000 polynesian population, statistically four of Auckland's 20 councillors should be polynesian. But there's just Collins and fellow Manukau councillor Alf Filipaina.

His PHD thesis is: 'How do people from indigenous backgrounds navigate western leadership spaces.'

"To a degree I'm doing my PHD on a reflection of my own experiences".

Yet Collins is optimistic about the new council he's part of.

"I think it's going to be a great term, there's enough new people coming on to have quite an exciting discussion".

# Seymour: Govt's 'weasel' words on charter school move

ACT Leader David Seymour leads charter school pupils, families, friends and supporters on a protest march up Auckland CBD's Queen St protesting changes to government policy.

ACT leader David Seymour labelled Education Minister Chris Hipkins a "weasel" over legislation to scrap charter schools.

The Labour-led Government was "arrogant" in its consultative approach with charter schools, the MP for Epsom - and the political architect of such schools - said.

Seymour made the comments marching in driving rain with dozens of charter school pupils, their families and supporters up Auckland's Queen St on Sunday.

Students, parents and teachers of charter schools marched through central Auckland yesterday to protest against government plans to shut them down.

On Thursday, the Government introduced a bill to scrap national standards and charter schools.

## READ MORE:

- \* [Fight reignites over charter schools](#)
- \* [National standards scrapped](#)
- \* [Auckland charter schools vow to fight closure](#)

Hipkins said there had never been a "mandate to introduce this privatised form of education".

"The previous government put them in in a backroom deal with ACT, without talking to the electorate first," the minister said on Sunday.



SIMON MAUDE/STUFF

"I think Education Minister Chris Hipkins has been a weasel, so far he's hiding behind misinformation [on charter schools]," ACT leader David Seymour said.

"We are negotiating in good faith with each charter school on a case by case basis. The issues that have been raised are largely administrative, such as governance.

"Negotiations will include introducing greater flexibility in these areas."

Hipkins earlier said the Bill ends the previous government's failed national standards and charter schools experiments.



SIMON MAUDE/STUFF

Perhaps 100 charter school pupils, families and supporters joined ACT leader David Seymour protesting proposed government changes to charter school policy.

"Both National Standards and charter schools were driven by ideology rather than evidence. Both were rejected by the vast majority of the education sector. The Government's strong view is that there is no place for them in the New Zealand education system," he said.

"My preferred option is to explore early termination of contracts by mutual agreement."

But Seymour labelled Hipkins a "weasel – so far he's hiding behind misinformation".



KEVIN STENT/STUFF

Minister of Education Chris Hipkins said there was no mandate for charter schools.

"He's refusing to front up to the people that he's truly affecting," Seymour said.

"If he thinks making these schools into state schools keeping their special character that attracted the kids in the first place then he does not understand education let alone partner schools."

"We're here today to send a message to the government they cannot arrogantly cancel these kids' futures."

"If they wanted to be in a state school, they'd be in a state school – why take away their choice?"

Seymour said 12 existing and four planned charter schools officially given the previous National Government's approval would be affected if the new government's legislation passes.

"More than 1500 pupils" would lose the schooling their parents had chosen for them, Seymour said.



SIMON MAUDE/STUFF

Education Minister Chris Hipkins is "refusing to front up to the people that he's truly affecting," David Seymour claims.

Several uniformed pupils from Albany's military academy style Vanguard Military School attended the march.

"I hope the government will realise they've made an error that they need to take a take a step back and realise the success of these schools and ask themselves if they shouldn't be keeping the partnership school model in some form rather than chopping it off the knees before they've even really consulted anybody."

First-time protester Jan Franklin said she was marching "because I believe in these charter schools".

Despite all his children being educated in state schools, Warkworth resident Barry Houlbrooke said he was there because he "liked the concept of charter schools".

"I just want to get Jacinda [Ardern] out of education I just want to see people educate their kids outside the state system."

Charter schools will meet with the Ministry of Education on February 13 to discuss their future.

**- Stuff**

# Summer storms highlight waterfront Auckland's approaching risk

SIMON MAUDE

Last updated 17:37, February 9 2018



SIMON MAUDE/STUFF

Like much of coastal Auckland, parts of low-lying Bayswater Marina now lie within Auckland Council's coastal inundation zone.

King tides and summer tropical cyclones could threaten Auckland waterfront property, including valuable North Shore land, modelling shows.

Large parts of the North Shore would be exposed to powerful sea level surges, including Bayswater Marina's planned multimillion-dollar apartment blocks - something the marina's developer says plans are "future-proofed" against.

An [interactive map](#) shows a 2 degree Celsius temperature rise, considered mid-range by scientists, would raise sea levels 4.7 metres - enough to inundate much of the Takapuna\Devonport peninsula, including the marina.



SUPPLIED

A 2 degree Celsius temperature rise could eventually raise sea levels more than 4.7 metres swamping much Auckland coastline including Bayswater Marina.

The marina's 300-apartment development has been fiercely opposed by local groups who claim an influx of residents would choke nearby Lake Rd.

**READ MORE:**

- \* [Councillor: watch out for more floods](#)
- \* [2017's record-breaking weather](#)
- \* ['Intolerable' sea rise for coastal communities](#)
- \* [Controversial marina project back on](#)
- \* [After the flood](#)

Marina developer Simon Herbert said his company's apartment project accounted for sea-level rises recently assessed by Auckland Council's Unitary Plan process.



AUCKLAND TRANSPORT

Early February's ex-cyclone Fehi combined with a king tide flooded Tamaki Drive.

"This has provided a framework that balances and provides for use of coastal areas and ensuring the uses are future-proofed."

Early February's ex-cyclone Fehi, combined with a king tide, tore chunks out of Narrow Neck Beach's seawall, inundated Little Shoal Bay, flooded Tamaki Drive and once again threatened homes in Maraetai.

Climate Change Minister James Shaw said a working group including central and local government and the insurance industry is "still working through" how coastal inundation would affect policy around issues like property insurance and disclosure of climate risk on coastal land sales.



SUPPLIED

Auckland Council's coastal inundation map highlights in blue parts of Bayswater Marina within the coastal inundation zone.

The Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group is expected to release its policy option report as early as March.

People considering long-term investment in coastal property should [consult the working group's "grim" report](#) released in 2017, Shaw said.

"You can get away with building a picnic table at the beach" but not costly investments like housing and infrastructure.



SUPPLIED

Large parts of Auckland's coastline, highlighted in blue, now fall within the coastal inundation zone.

A [Regional Land Elevation Map](#) shows parts of Bayswater Marina and other parts of Auckland region coastline are "at risk" lying within 50cm to 100cm elevation above mean high water springs.

Auckland Council's coastal inundation zone also shows parts of the marina likely to be affected by flooding events.

The council's Auckland-wide planning manager Phill Reid said, under the Resource Management Act, resource consents can be refused if "there is a significant risk from natural hazards".

## THE SCIENCE



SIMON MAUDE/STUFF

Ex-cyclone Fehi also tore chunks out of Narrow Neck Beach's seawall.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, between 1880 and 2012, the world's temperature has already risen an average 0.85 degrees .

By mid-century it's possible global warming, largely caused by human activity, will have raised temperatures by 2C.

If temperatures continue to increase, the Antarctic's land-locked ice could melt into the sea drastically raising sea levels eventually swamping many coastal areas.

Warmer sub-Antarctic temperatures aided by loss of ice mean tropical storms are more likely to drift south to New Zealand.

In 2017, the New Zealand Government's Climate Change Adaptation Technical Advisory Group released its Stocktake Report which said "one-in-a-hundred year inundation events" would now happen once every four years in Auckland.

Also, based on mid-range sea-level rise projections, within 50 years, inundation events would on average happen every year in Wellington and every second year in Dunedin.

One district council has wasted no time heeding the Stocktake Report.

In February, the Thames-Coromandel District Council adopted a 1.88m potential sea level rise by 2150 in its 2018-2028 Long Term Plan.

**- Stuff**

# Winter is one month shorter, Niwa data shows



123rf

Niwa data shows the country's average winter temperature has jumped the rails, up by one degree compared to 80 years ago.

Climate change has slashed the length of New Zealand winters by a third, Niwa data shows.

The discovery shows on average our three-month winters have decreased by 30 days to two months.

"If this trend continues we eventually won't have winters anymore," Niwa principal climate scientist Dr Brett Mullan said.



SUPPLIED

By 2050 there may be no winter as we know it, Niwa principal climate scientist Dr Brett Mullan said

The country's average winter temperature has jumped the rails, up by 1 degree Celsius compared to 80 years ago.

#### READ MORE

- \* [NZ skifield's warmer winters](#)
- \* [Kiwi climate change is here](#)
- \* [Sea level rise could swamp our cities](#)
- \* [Climate change could impoverish towns](#)
- \* [Global warming emissions must be cut](#)

"This is a consequence of rising temperatures around the globe, and such trends in colder temperatures and frosts will influence the life cycle of plants and animals," Mullan said.



ROBYN EDIE/STUFF

Warmer, shorter winters have forced Kiwi ski fields to invest millions in snow making technology to stay open

"The figures showed that, if a threshold of 9 degrees Centigrade was chosen, then there was an average of 100 days per year between 1909 and 1938 when the temperature was less than 9C, compared to only 70 days per year between 1987 and 2016."

Climate scientists consider 30 years to be the minimum amount of time to come up with a statistically meaningful long-term average, he said.

"Winter has contracted about equally from both ends."



IAN FULLER

The South Island's Fox Glacier has been in retreat since at least 2005.

By 2050 there may be no winter as we now know it, he said.

Already our glaciers have been in retreat, Kiwi ski fields have been forced to invest millions in snow-making technology to stay open while overseas prematurely melting winter snowpacks have been blamed for devastating floods.

Winter's length will continue to fluctuate because of factors including varying predominance between opposite cycle [El Niño](#) and [La Niña](#) weather patterns.



Low-lying New Zealand communities like South Dunedin are especially at risk from rising flood levels blamed on climate change.

Niwa has forecast a 70 per cent chance warmer, wetter La Niña weather will boost 2017/2018 summer temperatures.

Compared to the North Island, the South Island will experience dryer summer conditions.

**CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS NZ IN MANY WAYS**

The Royal Society's 2017 [Climate change and health report](#) said climate change "threatens" New Zealander's "health and well-being".



PAULO WHITAKER

Tropical disease-bearing mosquito species could migrate and take hold in a warmer New Zealand, the Royal Society report said.

"These include direct effects such as increased exposure to heat waves and weather events but also indirect effects, such as reduced water safety or challenges to our mental health."

Tropical disease-bearing mosquito species could migrate and take hold in a warmer New Zealand, the report said.

"In the Australasian region our climate is changing.



LUKE MACGREGOR

In January 2017, London's Trafalgar Square was flooded because of heavy winter rain and melting snow.

"There are long-term trends toward higher air and sea surface temperatures; increased frequency of extreme heat events; fewer events of extreme cold; and changes in rainfall patterns," the report quotes.

Rising temperatures mean New Zealand is in for increased flooding, fire and infrastructure damage.

Thanks to projected sea level rises, populations, especially coastal communities, are at risk of displacement too.

Waterways are at risk of increased algal blooms and microbial contamination threatening fresh water supplies.

Higher temperatures could also harm people's mental health and wellbeing while worsening outdoor air quality could raise asthma and pollen allergy rates.

**- Stuff**

# Naturopathy under microscope after cancer sufferers speak from under shadow of death



SIMON MAUDE/STUFF

"It was like a detox, a purge, I've never seen anything like it, the amount of things she had to take, but the naturopath said 'no, no Jane's got to keep on doing it, you're killing the cancer,'" Mike Malcolm recalls.

It is late July. An Auckland woman sits at her dining room table, frail, cosseted in a wool-knit beanie, brittle wisps of hair poking out.

She knows her time is running out. She doesn't know it, but she will be dead in two weeks.

First, though, she wants to speak out to call for regulation of naturopaths after her bitter experience with alternative therapies.



SUPPLIED

Cancer Society of New Zealand medical director Dr Chris Jackson said cancer patients should consult oncologists and medical doctors about using alternative therapies.

"From my point of view the naturopath has used people like me as guinea pigs," the Auckland woman told Stuff. "I don't think naturopaths should try to heal cancer. I trusted in naturopathy, I don't trust in it any more."

**READ MORE:**

\* [Dr Tom: Hopes springs eternal in cancer treatment](#)

\* [Anger at leech cancer cure claim](#)

\* [Cancer sufferers put hope in bleach water](#)

\* [What caused my cancer?](#)



SUPPLIED

Despite the ravages of last-ditch radiotherapy, Jane Norcross-Wilkins married "soul mate" Mike Malcolm in December, 2016.

She is one of two women who died of cancer this year, after trusting in a naturopath to cure them.

The other, Jane Norcross-Wilkins, 55, did two last things before her death: she married longtime partner Mike Malcolm in a poignant ceremony and she emailed the naturopath one last time: "I strongly suggest you set up supervision for yourself ... I do not wish to continue as your client."

The two couples offered their experiences as a cautionary tale for those fighting cancer by alternative means.

The naturopath strenuously rejects the suggestion she promised to cure either woman's cancers. "I would never say to a patient I could stop their cancer," she insists. "My words to patients are always, 'there are no guarantees for treatment – they're always my words'."

In New Zealand, naturopaths are unregulated, able to set up shop with no professional oversight. Even the country's largest naturopath association wants regulation – but pleas have thus far fallen on deaf ears.

It will be too late for the Auckland woman we interview at her dining room table – but she wants others to know, to be warned.

In July 2013 she had been diagnosed with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), a pre-cancerous breast condition. Her oncologist told her she had a "50/50" likelihood of contracting breast cancer, and recommended an immediate double-mastectomy.

"I was shocked and scared of surgery, I'd never had surgery. Then you face one breast, both breasts, no breasts, you start looking for alternatives."

Unaware some DCIS strains are more aggressive than others, she believed time was on her side and she could try alternative medicine.

This couple, too, had heard encouraging stories about the naturopath's success-rate. They travelled to her clinic in August 2013.

On her website, the naturopath said she had an MDipNat.Herb from the South African College of Natural Medicines, which she said was affiliated with Cape Town University.

"I'll try and help you," the naturopath said.

The naturopath continued treating the Auckland woman over the internet using words such as "tumours" and "cancer". "At this stage there is nothing to worry about," she emailed.

Apart from a gruelling regime of daily natural supplements, for a time the naturopath told her to simply apply ointment to her breasts.

The woman emailed the naturopath photos of her bruised breasts: "Hi, those green spots definitely little tumours," the naturopath replied. "It looks like there is just the start of cancer, would most probably have developed into major pictures!!! ... fantastic those come out".

A week later the Auckland woman sent more pictures.

"Wow, girl this looks great," the naturopath replied. "The top one looks at this stage there is nothing to worry about ... you can just apply zambuck ointment to that to draw out the last anger and puss ... do you have that, can I courier you some?"

The woman spent thousands on myriad pills, drops, powders and ointments the naturopath advised her to take.

"My treatments got more and more, I had to get up 15 minutes earlier to go through all my stuff."

The woman gradually grew more fatigued taking the supplements yet she felt she was receiving treatment: "I got the impression she's doing something".

By her last appointment, in June 2014, the woman says she felt "overwhelmed".

"I felt like my system collapsed, I gave the supplements back because I didn't believe in them any more".

Her body under pressure, the woman stopped being treated by the naturopath, they parted amicably the following month.

### **'NO EASY WAY TO TREAT CANCER'**

"Cancer IS an exhausting disease," the naturopath tells *Stuff*. "There's no nice way to treat cancer, you show me a patient who is doing anything that is making them feel better.

"People think because [my treatment is natural] it should feel good. It's not, there's no easy way to treat cancer."

Tumours, cancer – at this point shouldn't the naturopath have stopped and suggested the woman go back to her oncologist?

"It's not my place to refer them to a specialist," she tells us. "I can't do that because I'm a naturopath."

Crucially, the naturopath's interpretation of the woman's response to the ointment came as mammograms and controversial thermograms the woman was using, as an early warning strategy, were coming back clean.

Oncologist and Cancer Society of New Zealand medical director Dr Chris Jackson says any claims that thermography can diagnose cancers, and ointments cure them, are "hocus pocus".

"They may help people feel better but there is no scientific evidence that they work to cure or treat cancer."

Cancer patients should consult oncologists and medical doctors over using alternative therapies, Jackson says.

New Zealand Society of Naturopaths vice-president Sharon Erdrich says the society wants tighter regulations.

"In Germany, naturopaths are very heavily regulated, there's regulation in the United States and Australia has some controls."

Even though there is "potential for harm, basically anyone in New Zealand can call themselves a naturopath," Erdich says.

Claire Austin, health workforce group manager at the Ministry of Health, says non-regulated health professions may apply to become regulated but the health ministry determines suitability by considering the profession's risk of harm to the public.

Regulation is not being considered as the ministry has not received an application from naturopaths to become regulated under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

Health practitioners including naturopaths remain subject to the Health and Disability Code of Rights, "whether they are regulated or not".

Consumers may complain to the Health and Disability Commissioner about care.

## **HOPE SLIPS AWAY**

After the naturopath, the Auckland woman saw another naturopath but eventually went back to her doctors. She had a double mastectomy in January 2016.

Before dying, the woman confronted the naturopath by email about her treatment methods and unavailability.

And with days left to live, the Auckland woman asks one last time, "I don't understand why there are no regulations?"

It's late July. Pale, hunched, shuffling, months after her cancer had spread to her lymph nodes, the woman holds on.

"If we could make a difference there with regulation, that would help everyone – that would help the naturopath," she says.

"I'm starting my chemotherapy, it's quite exciting, the hope is it will shrink the existing cancer but it has spread, I don't know how much hope there is.

"I don't want to lose hope."

It was not to be. This month, she passed away.

And the naturopath? We give her a final phone call.

She's closing her holistic health practice in September, she says.

"I've just had it. At the end of the day it's a thankless job, I've given my life to people to try and help them, I've had enough".

## **MARRIED UNDER A SENTENCE OF DEATH**

Mike Malcolm's voice is gentle but the anger jabs out.

It's six months since his wife, Jane Norcross-Wilkins, 55, succumbed to a decades-long battle with breast cancer.

Desperate, the couple had sought last-ditch help from the naturopath, only to come away drained and betrayed by the "false hope" and dubious treatment she meted out.

Then, this month, Mike learned of the other Auckland woman who succumbed to cancer after being treated by her.

Mike, grieving, wants the naturopath held accountable. His response is human and understandable.

In 2011, Jane knew her cancer, back from a 10-year remission, would kill her.

She just wanted more time, a bargain with death. "OK, if I can't beat it, I can work with it and see how far I can go," Jane told her husband.

The couple had heard heartening things about the naturopath. "Jane had heard she was the next best thing since sliced bread," Mike recalls.

So in late December 2015 they travelled to a clinic she ran in the central North Island.

Upfront with the naturopath about Jane's terminal cancer diagnosis, they listened as the naturopath held court. "She's good at talking herself up, she highlighted how certain parts of the cancer process can be interrupted or changed with processes she used, stopped and reversed.

"You could listen to her all day, she's very knowledgeable, she explains things in layman's terms."

Jane was put on a gruelling regime of expensive natural remedies. She discovered homeopathic melatonin sold to her for \$50, retailed elsewhere for \$12; vitamin C caplets sold for \$140 retailed for \$87 over the counter.

Mike explains: "It was like a detox, a purge, I've never seen anything like it, the amount of things she had to take. But the naturopath said 'no, no Jane's got to keep on doing it, it's a little bit hard at the start but you're killing the cancer, you're giving the cancer an environment it can't live in'.

"But Jane couldn't live like that."

The naturopath, who had also promised Jane could call her anytime, was progressively harder to get hold of, voice messages went unreturned, emails took days for any answer.

In January 2016, Jane spent three weeks in hospital, yet the naturopath didn't inquire about her patient.

Angry emails sent to the naturopath ended with Jane and Mike dumping her late the following month.

A final March 2016 letter from Jane to the naturopath ended: "I strongly suggest you set up supervision for yourself and a highly experienced practitioner to ensure that you are working ethically ... I also suggest you look into registering with a body such as the NZ Natural Health Council or the NZ Society of Naturopaths Inc.

"I do not wish to continue as your client," Jane concluded.

The naturopath apologised profusely, and promised not to treat cancer sufferers any more. She refunded the cost of some of Jane's medicine's.

Despite the ravages of last-ditch radiotherapy, Jane Norcross-Wilkins married "soulmate" Mike Malcolm that December.

Jane died on February 8 this year at her Pt Chevalier home, surrounded by her husband, her daughter Mary and other family.

**- Sunday Star Times**

# Surf Life Saving boss pleads for full government funding

SIMON MAUDE

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SIMON MAUDE/STUFF

Surf Life Saving New Zealand chief executive Paul Dalton said life saving clubs shouldn't go it alone asking for funding from the new government.

Cash-strapped volunteer emergency services like surf life saving clubs should be careful what they wish for, a chief executive has said.

On Tuesday, Surf Life Saving Northern Region's chief executive Matt Williams called for the government to treat surf clubs as fully-funded emergency services.

However, Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLNZ) chief executive Paul Dalton said life-saving clubs shouldn't go it alone asking for funding from the new government and should work with other largely volunteer rescue groups.



SUPPLIED

Surf Life Saving Northern Region's Matt Williams, left, said, "It's almost negligent for the government to leave [surf life saving clubs funded] as they are."

Williams said his 17 northern region clubs, which supervised more than 500,000 beach-goers last year, gets "zero" direct government funding despite providing an "essential service".

**READ MORE:**

- \* [Surf life saving's 2017 warning](#)
- \* [Deficit fuels extra ambulance charge](#)
- \* [OPINION: Why aren't ambulances govt funded?](#)

Despite rescuing nearly 300 people from the country's "most frequented, highly dangerous, patrolled surf beaches", Williams said his clubs are struggling to maintain services beach-goers depend on.



SIMON MAUDE/STUFF

Surf life saving clubs should be fully funded as essential emergency services, Matt Williams said.

Clubrooms were deteriorating at "huge cost" while stretched volunteers were on the cusp of giving up their time.

1600 volunteers worked 60,000 patrol hours last year.

"We get zero dollars, not a cent from central government," Williams said.



ALLEN ZHANG

West Auckland's popular Piha is one of the country's most dangerous surf beaches yet its life savers struggle for funding, it's claimed.

"It's almost negligent for the government to leave things as they are.

"We've already had a reduction in services this year," volunteers were "literally limping off beaches, doing 12-hour shifts" covering shifts paid lifeguards used to cover.

Williams said government surf life saving oversight has been shunted between several ministries in the last eight years.



DAVID UNWIN/STUFF

"We've already had a reduction in services this year," volunteers were "literally limping off beaches, doing 12-hour shifts" covering shifts paid lifeguards used to cover, Matt Williams said.

Surf Life Saving Northern Region needs \$12 million per year to meet existing commitments despite increasing demand, Williams said.

Most funding comes from philanthropic grants and fundraising drives.

It's time for surf life saving to "have a conversation" with the new government and regional councils "who are now going through their funding rounds," Paul Dalton said.

But Paul Dalton said going it alone would mean the country's 74 surf clubs risk alienating other volunteer-based groups including Coastguard, the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council and Search & Rescue New Zealand.

The millions in funding needed by each group really adds up, presenting more challenges to "long-term sustainability" he said.

"We need to be coordinated in what we ask for from the government, you do have to be careful for what you work for".

Dalton is unsure if volunteer groups understand the implications of accepting full government funding either becoming part of a ministry and answerable to a minister.

Presently, SLNZ is working through Water Safety New Zealand on approaching government, Dalton said.



SUPPLIED

Peeni Henare said he will "commit" to discussing "how best" government can support Surf Life Saving New Zealand.

Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector Peeni Henare said he's aware of SLNZ's request for more funding.

Although not directly funded by government, SLNZ does receive grants through various ministries and Henare said he would need to meet with respective ministers to discuss any changes.

"I will commit to talking to my colleagues and have a discussion on how we can support and what more can we do."



AUCKLAND COUNCIL/SUPPLIED

While helping fund surf life saving, Auckland Council needed to balance the "needs of other organisations that also require our support," councillor Penny Hulse said.

### **COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Matt Williams has praised Northland and Waikato regional councils' commitment to funding surf life saving clubs in their areas but is concerned about Auckland Council support.

He said council's new 2018-2028 Draft Long Term Plan gives no specific allocation to life saving clubs.

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board chairman Vern Walsh said the board wouldn't notify each life saving club's 2018 operational allocation until February.

Auckland Council Environment and Community Committee chairwoman councillor Penny Hulse said the club's council capital funding contribution has yet to be decided in ongoing the 2018-2028 Draft Long Term Plan process.

While helping fund surf saving, council needed to balance the "needs of the many other organisations that also require our support," Hulse said.

"I would certainly like to see more funding for Surf Lifesaving Northern Region and would welcome a discussion with central government".

**- Stuff**

# New study confirms New Zealand's 'ladette' problem drinkers



123RF

Addiction clinician Simone Barclay said young women were now drinking "just like the lads".

Alco-pop guzzling young women are the new face of New Zealand's drinking problem, a first-of-its-kind study shows.

Massey University researchers Martin Wall and Sally Casswell interviewed 1496 people for their study, which identified distinct behaviour "clusters" that drinkers fell into.

Women under 24 who purchased RTDs from off-licences were found to drink, on average, nearly 24 litres per year.

That was more than twice the amount consumed by the next cluster of female problem drinkers, and more than the heaviest male drinker cluster too.

## READ MORE:

- \* [Harmful drinking affects women too: study](#)
- \* [Teen drinking laws 'poorly implemented'](#)
- \* [Teens drinking to get 'smashed'](#)

Wall and Casswell's study also found that problem drinking amongst younger woman wasn't a problem a generation ago when they checked earlier research studies going back to the mid-eighties.



STUART GRANGE/STUFF

Alcohol Healthwatch executive director Dr Nicki Jackson said young women were consuming in excess of four times the amounts recommended in New Zealand's low-risk drinking guidelines.

"We didn't find too many studies that had done anything similar, and they didn't usually focus on characteristics," Wall said.

"The methodology of grouping is quite common, but the thing we did – by using drink-of-choice and the place where they drunk, off-premises or on-premises – that, as far as I know, hasn't been done before."

Alcohol Healthwatch executive director Dr Nicki Jackson said the research "reinforces the role of off-licences in alcohol-related harm" in New Zealand.

"Drinkers are increasingly choosing to purchase their alcohol from these outlets, resulting in them now selling around 75 per cent of all alcohol in New Zealand."

Young women were consuming in excess of four times the amounts recommended in New Zealand's low-risk drinking guidelines, Jackson said.

That placed them and others at "extreme risk of alcohol-related harm".

Auckland addiction treatment clinician and recovering alcoholic Simone Barclay said the rise in female problem drinking was partly a sign of a changing society.

"One flipside of woman's changing roles is 'girls can do anything', girls are less lady-like – and so they should be. [Heavy drinking] is one way it is manifesting, they're drinking just like the lads," she said.

"Our society has got a very high tolerance for drunken 'high jinks'. We need to lower that threshold."

Wall said law changes which allowed supermarkets to sell alcohol could have been partly to blame for the increase in problem drinking among women.

In 1990 New Zealand supermarkets were allowed to sell wine, then in 1999, beer.

Beforehand, when people visited off-licences, "everybody [knew] the only reason you're going in there is to buy alcohol", Wall said.

"With supermarkets, it's just part of the weekly shop. We do speculate that that change may have been a factor for increasing drinking among women."

Jackson also noted that research showed massive increases in hazardous drinking among middle-aged men and women.

"It is perhaps not surprising this is the same population group that began their drinking journey when the availability of beer and wine increased rapidly following their sale in supermarkets."

Wall and Cresswell published their study, *Drinker Types, Harm, and Policy-Related Variables: Result from the 2011 international Alcohol Control Study in New Zealand* , in the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical And Experimental Research* .

New Zealand's two largest supermarket group owners, Foodstuffs and Progressive Enterprises, have yet to respond to requests for comment.

**- Stuff**