



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

- 2 DEC 2016



On 12 September 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *All correspondence from Bryan Perry to any Minister's office including emails since 1 July 2016*
- *All reports, advice, aide memoires, working papers, briefings, memos where Bryan Perry is or is one of the authors to any Minister's office since 1 July 2016*

The Ministry has decided to grant your request in part.

Please find enclosed a copy of all email correspondence from Bryan Perry to any Minister's Office, since 1 July 2016. This correspondence includes advice from Bryan Perry.

Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I believe the greater public interest is in the ability of individuals to express opinions in the course of their duty.

You will also note that the names of some individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

As you are likely aware, the following documents are publically available on the Ministry website at: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/monitoring/household-incomes/index.html:

- the August 2016 report '*Household incomes in New Zealand: Trends in indicators of inequality and hardship 1982 to 2015*' (referred to in the emails as the '*Incomes Report*'),
- the associated summary, '*The 2016 Household Incomes Report and the companion report using Non-income Measures (the NIMs Report): Summary*' (referred to in the emails as the '*Summary*' document),
- '*The material wellbeing of NZ households: Overview and Key Findings*' (Referred to in the emails as the '*Overview*' document) and

- *'The material wellbeing of New Zealand households: trends and relativities using non-income measures, with international comparisons' (referred to in the email as the 'NIMs report').*

The documents '*Communications Plan*' and '*Likely media focus and questions from elsewhere*', which were prepared prior to the release of the '*Incomes Report*' are withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I believe the greater public interest is in the ability of individuals to express opinions in the course of their duty.

As you will note, the document '*Graph briefing doc*' is withheld almost in its entirety. The graphs appear in the published reports, but at the stage the graphs were provided in this document, they had not been through the complete quality assurance process. As such, the majority of the document is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I believe the public interest in this material is met by the publication of the final versions of the graphs.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and attached documents available to the wider public after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Simon MacPherson
Chief Policy Advisor

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Monday, 18 July 2016 4:25 p.m.
To: 'S 9(2) S 9(2)(a)'
Cc: Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons; Media (MSD); S 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz; S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a) Simon MacPherson; Nic Blakeley; Sacha O'Dea; Justine Cornwall; S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: URGENT Poverty report - Student poverty study reveals disparities

Hi S 9(2)(a)

Note that the study group were secondary school students, and the focus is on the relationship between material deprivation and health outcomes.

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

In the short time available I haven't had a chance to read the report itself ... here are some initial thoughts from reading the release.

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

-
-
-
-
-
-

I have spoken with our youth policy people S 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression - I'll let you know if they come up with anything.

Regards,

Bryan

From: S 9(2) S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Monday, 18 July 2016 3:40 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: S 9(2)(a) Media (MSD); S 9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

Subject: URGENT Poverty report - Student poverty study reveals disparities
Importance: High

Hi, I've just been told Minister Goodhew (as acting Minister for SD) may be doing an interview at 5-6 today. This is not yet confirmed. But I'll give you a call Bryan to see if you have any insight on the report, which could be passed onto the Minister.

Media – FYI. (Interview is not yet confirmed).

Cheers, [S 9(2)(a)]

From: [S 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Monday, 18 July 2016 3:33 p.m.
To: 'Bryan Perry'
Cc: [S 9(2)(a)]
Subject: Poverty report - Student poverty study reveals disparities
Importance: High

Hi, apparently TV1 news has been in contact with the office re. the poverty report below. Any chance you have any insight/thoughts?

From: [S 9(2)(a)]
Sent: Monday, 18 July 2016 3:32 p.m.
To: [S 9(2)(a)]
Subject: FW: Student poverty study reveals disparities

Newsagent

Student poverty study reveals disparities

Monday, 18 July 2016 12:35 pm | University of Auckland Press Release

Tags: Politics, Child and Youth Issues, Newsworthy.

Student poverty study reveals disparities

University of Auckland - 18 July 2016

Almost one in five secondary school students and nearly half of all Pacific young people in New Zealand, live in poverty, according to a new study from the University of Auckland.

Results showed that 20 percent of New Zealand young people are living in households experiencing socio-economic hardship or poverty.

The significant ethnic disparities also showed that among Māori secondary school students, almost one third live in households experiencing poverty.

The study, just published in the International Journal for Equity in Health, investigated the association between socio-economic deprivation and secondary school students' health.

Researchers examined indicators of socio-economic deprivation, using data from the Youth 2012 study of 8500 secondary school students. They also studied the links between household poverty, neighbourhood deprivation and health indicators.

"The 20 percent finding is a similar result to other methods of estimating poverty such as those used by the Ministry of Social Development and the Child Poverty Action Group," says researcher Associate Professor Simon Denny, from the University's Adolescent Health Research Group.

The study grouped students by household poverty based on nine indicators of deprivation, including no car, no phone, no computer, parental worry about not having enough money for food, more than two people sharing a bedroom, no holiday with their families, moving home more than twice that year, garages or living rooms used as bedrooms, and no parent at home with employment.

Students needed to report two or more indicators before they were classified as experiencing poverty.

Researchers also examined the interaction between household deprivation with depressive symptoms, cigarette smoking, and obesity.

"There were two groups of young people living in poverty," says Dr Denny. "Fifteen percent were showing the effects of unaffordable housing and moderate levels of being unable to afford basic necessities."

"A further five percent experienced unaffordable housing and very high levels of material hardship, such as being unable to pay for basic necessities like a car, a phone, or food."

"One of the findings was that young people from households experiencing socioeconomic hardship and living in rich neighbourhoods, did worse than young people from households experiencing socioeconomic hardship and living in poor neighbourhoods," says Dr Denny.

They also experienced more depressive symptoms and higher rates of cigarette smoking.

"This was probably from being unable to participate in these communities due to being unable to afford it," he says. "But it could also reflect better social safety nets in lower socioeconomic communities."

Depressive symptoms and cigarette smoking were two to three times higher in the poverty groups compared to those students not experiencing poverty.

There were also higher rates of overweight and obesity among students experiencing poverty.

"Policies are needed that address household poverty alongside efforts to reduce socio-economic inequalities in neighbourhoods," says Dr Denny.

ENDS

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1607/S00200.htm>

Sent by Newsagent Media Monitoring - Copyright Scoop Media Ltd.

[Edit Settings](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Feedback](#)

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

✓
Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Tuesday, 19 July 2016 12:21 p.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)'
Subject: RE: Copy of final statement from hon Goodhew as requested

cool

From: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 July 2016 12:20 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Subject: RE: Copy of final statement from hon Goodhew as requested

Ooh... I'm out of the office until 1ish. Can call you once I'm back.

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Tuesday, 19 July 2016 12:06:19 p.m.
To: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Copy of final statement from hon Goodhew as requested

To discuss

From: S 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 19 July 2016 10:04 a.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Subject: Fwd: Copy of final statement from hon Goodhew as requested

Bryan FYI Minister Goodhew's statement, if you haven't already seen this.

S 9(2)(a)

Begin forwarded message:

From: S 9(2)(a)@msd.govt.nz
Date: 19 July 2016 at 9:23:05 AM NZST
To: Nicholas Pole <Nicholas.Pole006@msd.govt.nz>
Cc: S 9(2)(a)@msd.govt.nz, S 9(2)(a)
S 9(2)(a)@msd.govt.nz, S 9(2)(a)@msd.govt.nz
Subject: FW: Copy of final statement from hon Goodhew as requested

Hi Nick

Here is the statement.

Regards

S 9(2)(a)

Acting Executive Manager to Brendan Boyle, Chief Executive
Ministry of Social Development, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140

Phone: S 9(2)(a)

MSD Purpose: We help New Zealanders to help themselves to be safe, strong and

independent | Ko ta mātou he whakamana tangata kia tū haumarū, kia tū kaha, kia tū motuhake.

From: S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 July 2016 9:18 a.m.
To: S 9(2)(a)
Cc: S 9(2) S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz; S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz
Subject: Copy of final statement from hon Goodhew as requested

Hi S 9(2)(a)

Copy of the final statement below:

Response to S 9(2)(a) (TVNZ) re: Salvation Army and Auckland Uni reports on material hardship – 18 July 2016

Final response:

I acknowledge that the Salvation Army is expecting increased demand through winter, and I appreciate the work that they do in our communities. The report aligns with the findings of the Household Incomes Report which MSD releases yearly.

We do accept there is an issue with children in hardship, and we've delivered on a promise to do something about it. The Child Hardship Package in Budget 2015 increased benefit rates for the first time in 43 years, and increased Working for Families payments to low-income working families. Those changes came into effect on 1 April, and around half a million children will benefit from them.

Our Kickstart Breakfast programme means that every week more than 27,000 school-age children sit down to a bowl of breakfast at more than 800 schools across the country. So far, more than 7 million breakfasts have been served in total.

We continue to encourage families experiencing hardship to contact Work and Income to ensure that they are receiving the support that is available to them.

Kind Regards

S 9(2)(a) Private Secretary, Social Development
Office of Hon Anne Tolley
Minister for Social Development
DDI: Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons

----- This email and any attachments may contain information that is confidential and subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, dissemination, distribution or duplication of this email and attachments is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify the author immediately and erase all copies of the email and attachments. The Ministry of Social Development accepts no responsibility for changes made to this message or attachments after transmission from the Ministry. -----

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Wednesday, 20 July 2016 1:21 p.m.
To: 'S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)'
Subject: RE: meet and greet with S 9(2)(a) (PMO)

ta

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons

From: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 20 July 2016 12:49 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Subject: RE: meet and greet with S 9(2)(a) (PMO)
Importance: Low

Thanks! I'll remind my middle office of your offer of a meeting too

From: Bryan Perry [mailto:bryan.perry001@msd.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 20 July 2016 11:40 a.m.
To: Simon MacPherson; Nic Blakeley
Cc: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a); S 9(2)(a); S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)
Subject: meet and greet with S 9(2)(a) (PMO)

Hi Simon and Nic

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons

This morning S 9(2)(a) met with S 9(2)(a) (DPMC) and S 9(2)(a) (PMO – the new S 9(2)(a)).

I asked for the meeting through S 9(2)(a). Its purpose was to facilitate a meet and greet with S 9(2)(a) and to start briefing him on poverty, hardship and inequality measures and the narrative around "what's the govt doing about it" ahead of the next HES-based releases planned for late August.

We used the two main CMH A3s to structure the conversation, and gave him copies of the two reports ... and will send a couple of other reports later today.

Went very well.

S 9(2)(a) asked for another one between now and when we brief him and DPMC on the new material later in August.

Regards, Bryan

----- This email and any attachments may contain information that is confidential and subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, dissemination, distribution or duplication of this email and attachments is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify the author immediately and erase all copies of the email and attachments. The Ministry of Social Development accepts no responsibility for changes made to this message or attachments after transmission from the Ministry. -----

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Thursday, 4 August 2016 4:16 p.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)'
Cc: S 9(S) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: meet and greet and process for release of Incomes report etc

Thanks S 9(2)(a) et's see. Bryan

From: S 9(2) S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2) S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 4 August 2016 4:10 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: S 9(2) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: meet and greet and process for release of Incomes report etc
Importance: Low

Thanks Bryan – great email.

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

From: Bryan Perry [mailto:S 9(2)(a)@msd.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 4 August 2016 11:37 a.m.
To: S 9(2) S 9(2)(a)
Cc: S 9(S) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: meet and greet and process for release of Incomes report etc

Hi S 9(2)(a)

Just following up on the idea we discussed about S 9(S) S 9(2)(a) coming over for a meet and greet with the Office and advisors ... to walk through the process for the upcoming release of the 2016 Incomes Report etc. We plan on the process being the same as usual, but with S 9(S) S 9(2)(a) new here and new staff in the office, I thought this could be useful in preparing the way. Wondering if there's a slot in the next few days?

We're looking at very early September for the release (6-7 Sep at the latest), with briefings on the key findings in late August for the office and the Minister. This would be a second visit if you/they wanted face-to-face, or just a paper briefing. The Minister wanted face-to-face last time, and perhaps with her Geneva trip to UNCRoC examination in mid-Sep she may want that again this time? .

We have discussed all this with PMO, DPMC and MoF's offices over the last couple of weeks.

Regards,

Bryan

----- This email and any attachments may contain information that is confidential and subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, dissemination, distribution or duplication of this email and attachments is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify the author immediately and erase all copies of the email and attachments. The Ministry of Social Development accepts no responsibility for changes made to this message or attachments after transmission from the Ministry. -----

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2016 2:52 p.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)'
Cc: Simon MacPherson; S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Minister's Meeting - Seeking briefing meetings re the release of 2016 Incomes Report etc

Thanks S 9(2)(a) we're in business. All good. Bryan

From: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2016 1:43 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: Simon MacPherson
Subject: Minister's Meeting - Seeking briefing meetings re the release of 2016 Incomes Report etc

Hello Bryan, your meeting to brief the Minister on the 2016 Income Report has been scheduled for Thursday 25 August, 10.45 – 11.30am.

Kind regards, S 9(2)(a)

From: Bryan Perry [mailto:S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)@msd.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2016 10:13 a.m.
To: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Cc: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a); Simon MacPherson; Nic Blakeley
Subject: Seeking briefing meetings re the release of 2016 Incomes Report etc

Hi S 9(2)(a)

We are planning on publishing the next Incomes Report on Tue 6 September (10 am preferably). The House starts its 3-week September sitting on Tue 6.

I spoke with Hon Tolley at MCCP last week and she:
(a) wants it out before she heads to Geneva for UNCRoC in mid-September
(b) wants to front PQs and media herself before she goes.

Tue 6 is the earliest we can be ready.

We'll have briefing material to the Office on Mon 22 Aug. I suggest a one hour meeting with Office staff to discuss process and content – Tue 23, Wed 24 or Thu 25 would be good. I think it is important to have S 9(2)(a) and S 9(2)(a) at this meeting too.

I will be ready to brief the Minister face-to-face any time from Thur 18 on (if she wants that). The Monday 29 Aug option we discussed sounds good but I can do it earlier as required. I imagine that it may be useful as preparation for aspects of the UNCRoC review in Geneva as well as for the release itself. I think that she found last year's face-to-face valuable – able to ask questions and have an interaction that a paper briefing alone can't fully capture.

Regards,

Bryan.

----- This email and any attachments may contain information that is confidential and subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, any use,

dissemination, distribution or duplication of this email and attachments is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify the author immediately and erase all copies of the email and attachments. The Ministry of Social Development accepts no responsibility for changes made to this message or attachments after transmission from the Ministry. -----

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2016 11:58 a.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)'
Cc: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a) Simon MacPherson; Nic Blakeley; S 9(2)(a) Justine Cornwall;
Media (MSD)
Subject: RE: Oral Opposition Question - on Poverty - BP comments

Hi S 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

Still, to the content itself:

The article uses the 60% AHC moving line measure and calls it “the poverty line”.

- MSD's position (and the government has endorsed this) is that a range of measures are needed to properly understand what is happening for the more materially disadvantaged.
- The one the author selected is strongly impacted by what happens to the median. From 2013 to 2014 the median rose strongly, and the numbers below 60% of the median also rose. However, the evidence is clear that there was little or no change in the real (CPI adjusted) incomes of low income families from 2013 to 2014. This weakness in the relative approach is exactly why MSD recommends the use of anchored line income measures for its primary low income (poverty) measures.
- Looking at trends in material hardship rates for children, they have fallen in the recovery after the GFC, and there is no sign of any rises (21% at the peak, down to 14% in 2014 using the EU's standard measure).

The article then moves on to assert that all the 300,000 have all the ills and disadvantages that only some of the poor have.

- Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

-
-
-

The alleged claim from the new NZ UNICEF head that as a society we have “normalised poverty”

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

AHC incomes are under pressure, this is clear

- The MSD reports note that on an AHC basis relative child poverty rates in 2014 are roughly double that in the 1980s. This is because housing costs (rent etc) have risen faster than incomes.

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

NZ child hardship rates are above those of the richer western European nations with whom we have traditionally compared ourselves

- The MSD NIMs reports have reported this for some time
- We do have an issue. The government has a plan and action to address this ... see standard messages.

Maori and Pacific poverty and hardship rates

- Maori and Pacific low-income (poverty) rates are roughly double Euro/Pakeha rates (Incomes Report, p112) – both overall and for kids
- Household crowding rates for Maori and Pacific have fallen in the last decade, but are still high (40% Pacific and 20% Maori) compared with the overall rate of 10% (Euro = 4%)

Trust this is of use.

Regards,

Bryan

From: S.9(2) S.9(2)(a) [mailto:S.9(2) S.9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]

Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2016 10:48 a.m.

To: Bryan Perry; S.9(2) S.9(2)(a)

Subject: Oral Opposition Question - on Poverty

Importance: High

Hi – op oral question on poverty – Checking in with the middle office to see what they need. But feel free to provide your thoughts! S.9(2)(a)

Jacinda Ardern – Question 6

What recent publicity does she think led The Guardian writing an article titled “New Zealand’s most shameful secret: we have normalised child poverty?”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/16/new-zealands-most-shameful-secret-we-have-normalised-child-poverty>

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2016 4:04 p.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(a)'
Subject: RE: A thank you!: Oral Opposition Question - on Poverty - BP comments

Thanks S 9(2)(a) yes, Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

S 9(2)(g)(i)

From: S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2016 3:59 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Subject: RE: A thank you!: Oral Opposition Question - on Poverty - BP comments

In case you missed it... ☺

<https://www.parliament.nz/en/watch-parliament/ondemand?itemId=177377>

From: S 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2016 1:36 p.m.
To: 'Bryan Perry'
Subject: A thank you!: Oral Opposition Question - on Poverty - BP comments
Importance: High

Good work Bryan... please see (and enjoy!) the 'thank you' below ☺

From: S 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2016 1:33 p.m.
To: S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Oral Opposition Question - on Poverty - BP comments

Please thank Bryan for this from us.

Cheers,

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons

Private Secretary (Advisory) | Office of Hon Anne Tolley MP
5.5 Beehive | Private Bag 18041 | Parliament Buildings | Wellington 6160 | New Zealand
DDI: S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz

From: S 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 August 2016 12:00 p.m.
To: Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons@parliament.govt.nz; Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons
<S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Oral Opposition Question - on Poverty - BP comments
Importance: High

Very helpful thoughts from Bryan re. the article and poverty claims:

Hi S 9(2)(a)

A few thoughts.

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

The article uses the 60% AHC moving line measure and calls it “the poverty line”.

- MSD’s position (and the government has endorsed this) is that a range of measures are needed to properly understand what is happening for the more materially disadvantaged.
- The one the author selected is strongly impacted by what happens to the median. From 2013 to 2014 the median rose strongly, and the numbers below 60% of the median also rose. However, the evidence is clear that there was little or no change in the real (CPI adjusted) incomes of low income families from 2013 to 2014. This weakness in the relative approach is exactly why MSD recommends the use of anchored line income measures for its primary low income (poverty) measures.
- Looking at trends in material hardship rates for children, they have fallen in the recovery after the GFC, and there is no sign of any rises (21% at the peak, down to 14% in 2014 using the EU’s standard measure).

The article then moves on to assert that all the 300,000 have all the ills and disadvantages that only some of the poor have.

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

-
-
-
-

The alleged claim from the new NZ UNICEF head that as a society we have “normalised poverty”

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

-
-
-

AHC incomes are under pressure, this is clear

- The MSD reports note that on an AHC basis relative child poverty rates in 2014 are roughly double that in the 1980s. This is because housing costs (rent etc) have risen faster than incomes.

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

-

NZ child hardship rates are above those of the richer western European nations with whom we have traditionally compared ourselves

- The MSD NIMs reports have reported this for some time
- We do have an issue. The government has a plan and action to address this see standard messages.

Maori and Pacific poverty and hardship rates

- Maori and Pacific low-income (poverty) rates are roughly double Euro/Pakeha rates (Incomes Report, p112)
– both overall and for kids
- Household crowding rates for Maori and Pacific have fallen in the last decade, but are still high (40% Pacific and 20% Maori) compared with the overall rate of 10% (Euro = 4%)

Trust this is of use.

Regards,

Bryan

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2016 1:01 p.m.
To: 'S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)'
Subject: RE: Lines for reporter - Poverty & Household Incomes

Will do

From: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2016 12:50 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)
Subject: Lines for reporter - Poverty & Household Incomes
Importance: High

Hi Bryan – are you please able to let me know if you're okay with the highlighted lines below.

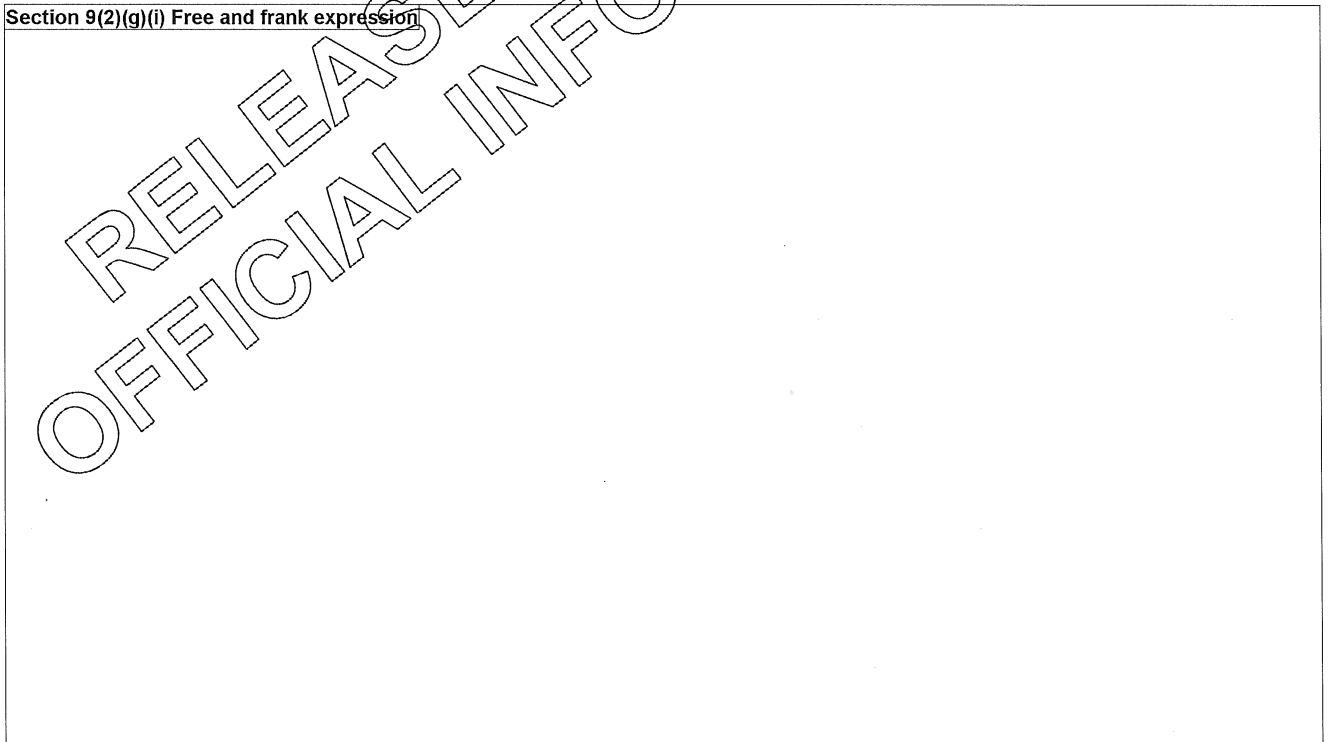
The reporter from The Guardian has come back to the Minister requesting a statement.

Can you confirm you're okay with those lines or any changes by 1.30pm?

Call if easier ☺ S 9(2)(a)

From: Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2016 12:47 p.m.
To: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)
Subject:

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression



Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2016 1:31 p.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)'
Cc: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a) Simon MacPherson; S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Lines for reporter - Poverty & Household Incomes

Hi S 9(2)(a)

I think it's good, but suggest adding the extras in red / highlighted green.

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

She claims there that the OECD uses the AHC 60% REL measure. The OECD doesn't even use any AHC measures as most member countries don't produce the data. The OECD uses 50% of median BHC and using that NZ is in the middle of the pack. Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

Regards, Bryan

From: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2016 12:50 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: Lines for reporter - Poverty & Household Incomes
Importance: High

Hi Bryan – are you please able to let me know if you're okay with the highlighted lines below,

The reporter from The Guardian has come back to the Minister requesting a statement.

Can you confirm you're okay with those lines or any changes by 1.30pm?

Call if easier ☺ S 9(2)(a)

From: S 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2016 12:47 p.m.
To: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject:

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2016 9:16 a.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(a)'
Subject: RE: Sending you a text :) EOM

tx – got it – no worries with me – is it OK with Hon Tolley?

From: S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2016 9:15 a.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Subject: Sending you a text :) EOM

S 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary | Office of the Hon Anne Tolley
Minister for Social Development
Parliament Buildings | Wellington | Phone: +64 4 817 9882 | Mobile: +64 29 200 8281

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Monday, 29 August 2016 10:26 a.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)'
Cc: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Graphs Doc - and Key messages
Attachments: Graph briefing doc v2 2016.docx; c4_Headline v4 Mon 29 Aug.doc

Hi S 9(2)(a)

Here's the graphs and Key Findings draft docs – both slightly finessed since you last saw them.

A thought - what say I come over and walk S 9(2)(a) through seeing he missed the main briefing? I could bring some lines with me – could do at 10am tomorrow morning, but not today.

Let's discuss. Suggest you try my mobile Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons

Regards, Bryan

From: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Monday, 29 August 2016 9:25 a.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: Graphs Doc - and Key messages
Importance: High

Good Morning Bryan (and S 9(2)(a))

Can you pretty please send me a soft copy of your 'graphs' document... I'm keen to give S 9(2)(a) a copy and talk him through it, but I've written all over mine!

Also – in terms of key messages, I understand that you don't want to narrow down the information provided to the public.. i.e. this is what the report says, this is what it doesn't say...

S 9(2)(a) is, however, very keen to be provided with the key messages (really plain English) from the report. (This is what the report says, this is what it doesn't say..)

I know these 'key messages or findings' are indicated in the 'graphs' document, but, would it please be possible for you to provide some snappy key lines for S 9(2)(a)

More than happy to discuss this request.

If this is possible, would it be okay to get these lines by COP today or by 10am tomorrow?

FYI - It sounds like S 9(2)(a) keen to front-foot the release – this could possible mean a PR or a Patsy.

Do call as needed, cheers S 9(2)(a)

S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary | Office of the Hon Anne Tolley
Minister for Social Development
Parliament Buildings | Wellington | Phone: S 9(2)(a)

DRAFT ONLY as at Mon 29 Aug 2016 – NO FINAL QA

2016 Household Incomes and Non-Income Measures Reports

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

DRAFT ONLY – NO FINAL QA

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Appendix

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

MSD's Household Incomes Report and companion report using Non-Income Measures:

Headline Findings Mon 29 August 2016 10am Draft only

The reports and the release

- a suite of three documents this year:
 - Household Incomes Report
 - the companion report using non-income measures such as the ability to keep the home warm, pay the bills, repair the appliances, have a couple of decent pair of shoes, a good meal each day, purchase commonly desired non-essentials, and so on (the NIMs report)
 - a 40-page Overview and Key Findings document – this replaces the Overview that used to be at the front of the Incomes Report
- they update previous releases with analysis from Statistics New Zealand's 2014-15 Household Economic Survey (HES)
- MSD business-as-usual website release proposed for 9.30am Thu 8 Sep. No MSD media release.

The HES incomes data

- The survey runs from July one year to June the next. The HES income question asks about incomes in the 12 months prior to the interview. This means therefore that for the 2014-15 HES, for example, the income data mainly reflects incomes in calendar 2014.

Headline findings

- **Strong real income growth for most income groups from HES 2008-09 to HES 2014-15 ...**
 - BHC median up 3% pa in real terms in the post GFC recovery phase (ie 3% pa above CPI)
 - net gains of around 8-10% in real terms from HES 2008-09 to 2014-15 for all income groups from the top of the bottom decile (P10) up
 - this is better than many OECD countries whose middle incomes have been flat since the GFC (eg UK, Ireland, France, Italy, Germany, and the US)
- **... but**
 - the rises at P10 (top of bottom decile) mainly reflect rises in real terms for NZS in recent years – incomes for beneficiaries and those reliant on minimum wage jobs (many of whom are in the bottom decile) remained steady in real terms so did not contribute to the P10 rise
 - the trajectory of incomes after deducting housing costs (AHC) is less favourable for the medium to long-term picture as housing costs now make up a much larger proportion of the household budget for most – so, for example, P10 AHC incomes in 2015 are still a little lower in real terms than P10 incomes were in the 1980s, whereas BHC incomes are higher in 2015 for all income groups.
- **There is no evidence of any sustained rising or falling trend in BHC household income inequality over the last two decades using the Gini and top 1% share measures**
 - the share of income received by the top 1% of tax-payers has been steady in the 7-9% range since the mid 1990s, up from 5% in the late 1980s
 - the Gini measure of inequality is a popular one, but because it uses information on all household incomes it is susceptible to showing large fluctuations because of sampling issues for very high income households:
 - the 2015 HES (like the 2011 HES) has an unusually high number of very high income households which leads to a high Gini number and makes the Gini trend unstable
 - for the lower 99% there is no evidence of any sustained rising or falling trend in the last 20 years, using the Gini
 - we know from the tax records that the trend for the top 1% share is also flat, so

- there is no evidence from the Gini measure of any sustained rising or falling trend for household income inequality in the last twenty years.¹
- o apart from a blip in 2011, the 90:10 ratio was flat from 2004 to 2015, and like the top 1% measure the 90:10 showed a large rise from the last 1980s to the early 1990s – there was a slight rise in the 90:10 ratio from the mid 1990s to the mid 2000s, but much less than the earlier large rise
- o incomes after deducting housing costs (AHC incomes) are more unequal than BHC incomes, as housing costs make up a higher proportion of the household budget for lower income households than they do for higher income households. AHC income inequality was a little higher from 2011 to 2015 compared with the mid 2000s and earlier.
- **Housing affordability issues (rent, mortgage, rates ... relative to income) remain for the lower two income quintiles**
 - o 43% in the bottom income quintile had housing outgoings of more than 30% of income, and 32% spent more than 40% of their income
 - o these are high historically, but it does look as if the rates have plateaued for both Q1 and Q2
 - o as at June 2016, 50% of all renters receiving AS paid more than half of their total income on housing, up from 40% in 2007 (MSD admin data)
 - o there are regional variations, as indicated by analysis of rental information, for example ... but reliable HES-based regional analysis is not feasible because of sample size.
- **There are some housing quality issues, especially for children – they are concentrated among those already experiencing material hardship on other basic items**
 - o for 10% of children, their household reports a major problem with dampness and mould (~110,000 children)
 - o for 13% of children, a major problem with heating / keeping it warm in winter (~140,000)
 - o for 7% of children, their household reports both issues (~75,000)
 - o 70% of those reporting these issues live in rental accommodation – 45% are in private rental and 25% in HNZG houses – with the rates around 15% and 35% respectively
 - o 80% of the problems are reported by the lowest material wellbeing quintile.
- **Low income (poverty) and material hardship trends for children are flat or falling depending on the start date or measure used**
 - o for monitoring trends, the reports use as their primary measures:
 - a fixed line income measure AHC, 50% and 60% of median
 - a material hardship measure with a less and a more severe threshold
 - o child numbers using an AHC anchored 50% of median line are down from their GFC peak of 209,000 to 170,000 on average in 2014 and 2015, a little below pre-GFC numbers
 - o using the higher AHC anchored 60% of median line numbers are down from 275,000 at their peak in the GFC to 240,000 on average in 2014 and 2015, a little below pre-GFC numbers
 - o child material hardship numbers are down from 220,000 in the GFC to 150,000 on the standard EU measure, and are fairly steady around 80,000 to 100,000 on the more severe EU measure
 - o relative income poverty was up in 2013-14 because the median rose 5% while lower incomes were flat or slightly rising – much was made by some of the “45,000 rise in child poverty

¹ Last year's Incomes Report said that “there is still no conclusive evidence of any sustained rise or fall in income inequality since the mid 1990s but that if the next survey shows a Gini at or above this year's level, then that will be reasonable evidence of a rise compared with a decade previously”. The Gini did rise, but given that both the top 1% and the 90:10 trends remained flat, MSD further investigated the impact on the Gini of issues with very high incomes in the HES. It concluded that sampling issues for very high income households were making the Gini measure unreliable and misleading when all incomes were included in the analysis, noting that the issue was particularly serious for HES 2014-15. Statistics NZ and the Treasury support MSD's analysis and conclusion.

numbers" – this is an example of why the reports recommend against the use of fully relative measures for monitoring trends in the short to medium term, and against reading too much into year-on-year trends.

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

- **The material wellbeing of the vast majority of older New Zealanders continues to be good to very good**
 - the 65+ have lower AHC income poverty rates and lower hardship rates than other age groups
 - internationally, older New Zealanders have very low hardship rates in league tables for the richer countries
 - the relatively good position reflects the mix of universal public provision (mainly NZS) and the private provision built up by most of the current cohort over their lifetime - a key component of this private provision is mortgage-free home ownership which is relatively high among the current cohort.
 - there is high dependence on NZS for most: for example, 60% of singles and 30% of couples report less than \$100 pw per capita from non-government sources
 - the small group (4-8%) that do have financial challenges are, unsurprisingly, those who rent and have little other than NZS for income
 - declining mortgage-free home ownership for the cohorts approaching "retirement", and elevated low income rates for older working age adults living on their own suggest that this small group (4-8%) may grow in coming years.
- **The "working poor" remain an issue for NZ as for other OECD countries**
 - even with the assistance from WFF and child care subsidies, an estimated one third to one half of children in hardship are from working families with no benefit income in the previous 12 months
 - this is a real challenge for most OECD countries, and policies to help grow employment, provide jobs with credible pathways to higher wages, improve educational achievement and lift wages and are central to addressing it
- **International comparisons**
 - strong broad-based income growth from 2008 (just before GFC) to 2015, better than many others in OECD (eg US, Ireland, France, Spain, UK)
 - household income inequality (BHC) flat and just above the OECD average
 - note: very few countries collect housing cost information in their income surveys, so there are no international league tables for AHC income inequality
 - household wealth inequality about average for the OECD
 - hardship rates for older New Zealanders very low, with NZ in the top 5 along with Norway and Denmark
 - child material hardship rate at the EU median for the expanded EU, but NZ rates are above the rates for the richer western European countries with whom we have traditionally compared ourselves.

Appendix

- **UN's Sustainable Development Goals**

- In September 2015 all 193 UN member states formally adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which includes a new set of global goals (the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)) which replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). One of the differences between the SDGs and MDGs is that the SDGs are universal rather than just focussing on "developing countries".
 - one of the targets for Goal #1 is that member states "by 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions" (Goal 1.2)
 - one of the targets for Goal #10 is that member states "by 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average" (Goal 10.1).
- The indicators for all these matters are already covered by the reports.

- **A common misunderstanding: attributing some or all of the list of deprivations surveyed in the HES and elsewhere to all children in low-income households**

- not all children in low-income households are in hardship, and not all children in hardship are from low-income households – there is an overlap of only around 40%, as there are factors other than income that determine living standards
 - nevertheless, some commentators, NGOs and others develop a narrative that starts with a high number of children in low-income households, then goes on to make it sound as if all these children suffer many serious deprivations – this is not the case, and it ignores the specific advice and warnings in the reports (these have been further strengthened this year)
 - an example using a specific item illustrates the fallacy:
 - HES collects information on "major problem with dampness and mould"
 - for children in households in the bottom AHC income quintile (ie around 27% of all children), "only" 17% live in homes that report this issue – this is around half of all the 110,000 children in households reporting dampness or mould as a major problem
 - though this is 17% more than what most would consider acceptable, it is well off 100% or even "most"
 - and 110,000 is much less than 300,000
- when households are ranked by their MWI (or DEP-17) rather than income, the households with these sorts of issues get better identified and they cluster at the bottom
- when looking at the bottom quintile using the MWI, 28% of children are in households reporting the issue, around three quarters of all the 110,000 children in households reporting dampness or mould as a major problem
- a recent occurrence of this misinformation occurred in the week of 15 August in two Op Eds in the Guardian by a freelancing New Zealander, with support from UNICEF New Zealand – it lead to a PQ to Hon Tolley.

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Tuesday, 30 August 2016 10:12 a.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)'
Cc: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Ahead of UNCROC

Hi S 9(2)(a)

It's at the printer now. I'll bring a final for S 9(2)(a) this morning (stapled).

The plan is that tomorrow we deliver the Overview (from the printer) and all the briefing material.

Hard copies of the two main reports will be available Monday lunchtime next week.

Howzat?

Bryan

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 August 2016 9:52 a.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: Ahead of UNCROC

Good morning, looking forward to 11 o'clock.

Just a quick FYI ahead of the meeting.

S 9(2)(a) He's really keen to get a copy of the final Overview document (or near final) as soon as possible. Bryan do you have an ETA for this?

S 9(2)(a) is also keen for the office to be provided with a hardcopy of the Income Report and Non Income Measure's Report once released/available too.

Happy to discuss, S 9(2)(a)

S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary | Office of the Hon Anne Tolley
Minister for Social Development
Parliament Buildings | Wellington | Phone: S 9(2)(a)

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Wednesday, 31 August 2016 2:20 p.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(S 9(2)(a))'
Cc: S 9(S 9(2)(a))
Subject: RE: Sorry - hardcopies of the final published reports - can we please have 4 printed copies of each... apparently everyone needs one :) EOM

No problem – Overview today and full reports on Monday

From: S 9(2)(S 9(2)(a)) [mailto:S 9(2)(S 9(2)(a))@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 August 2016 2:13 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: S 9(2)(S 9(2)(a))
Subject: Sorry - hardcopies of the final published reports - can we please have 4 printed copies of each... apparently everyone needs one :) EOM

S 9(2)(S 9(2)(a)) | Private Secretary | Office of the Hon Anne Tolley
Minister for Social Development
Parliament Buildings | Wellington | Phone: + S 9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Thursday, 1 September 2016 8:33 a.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)'
Cc: S 9(S) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: 4 tasks - almost there

Hi S 9(2)(a)

Am working on these now. Targeting 10.30 am.

Bryan

- How others measure
- UNICEF critique
- What reports don't say
- No country better than us in monitoring

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Thursday, 1 September 2016 2:31 p.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(a)'
Cc: S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: S 9(2)(a) is going to speak to Smith's office with the aim of them agreeing to meet with you :) He'll let us know how he goes. EOM

ta

From: S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 1 September 2016 2:28 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: S 9(2)(a)
Subject: S 9(2)(a) is going to speak to Smith's office with the aim of them agreeing to meet with you :) He'll let us know how he goes. EOM

... if the meeting with Smith's staff goes well, they may well extend it to a meeting with the Minister ☺

S 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary | Office of the Hon Anne Tolley
Minister for Social Development
Parliament Buildings | Wellington | Phone: S 9(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Friday, 2 September 2016 10:05 a.m.
To: 'S 9(2) S 9(2)(a)'
Cc: S 9(2) S 9(2)(a); Simon MacPherson; S 9(2)(a) Nic Blakeley S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Time change for online publishing of Income's Report

9am all OK with us. Bryan

From: S 9(2) S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 2 September 2016 9:47 a.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: S 9(2) S 9(2)(a); Simon MacPherson; S 9(2)(a)
Subject: Time change for online publishing of Income's Report
Importance: High

Good Morning Bryan – can you please note the amended time for the release of the publication online.

Can the publication please be released at 9am not 9.30am on Thursday, 8 September.

S 9(2)(a) is currently drafting a PR – this will be sent over today for your review and QA (thanks!).

The draft PR will include a link to the report on the MSD website ☺

(ps. I understand S 9(2)(a) will have liaised with the other Min offices on this change to release time, so no need to do that.)

Do call as needed. Cheers, S 9(2)(a)

1. This communications plan incorporates the communications and media plans for the release of the report *Household Incomes in New Zealand: trends in indicators of inequality and hardship 1982 to 2015* ("the Incomes Report"), and the companion report on material wellbeing using Non-Income Measures ("the NIMs Report") on Thursday 8 September at 9.30am at 9.00am.

S 9(2) S 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary | Office of the Hon Anne Tolley
Minister for Social Development
Parliament Buildings | Wellington | Phone: Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons

L

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Friday, 2 September 2016 1:57 p.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)'
Cc: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: For comment and feedback - today please

Hi S 9(2)(a)

Looking good. I've made a few comments in blue.

Bryan

From: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 2 September 2016 12:42 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry; S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: For comment and feedback - today please
Importance: High

Hello – below is a rough draft of the PR for release next week. S 9(2)(a) is keen to find out if this is all factually correct so far.

Note – the Minister has not seen this.

Can you please read through and provide a fact-check and comment as needed.

• Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

Call if you have significant concerns.

It would be great if we could have your response as soon as possible today, or by 3pm?

Thanks! S 9(2)(a)

Incomes report shows NZ on right track

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

Link to report xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Media contact: Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons

Notes to editors:

Key findings include:

- The NZ median household income (before deducting housing costs) grew on average by just under 3 per cent each year in real terms between 2011 and 2015 and net gains between 2009 and 2015 are better than for many OECD countries, such as the UK, Australia, Italy, Spain, France, Germany and the US.

- Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Friday, 2 September 2016 2:12 p.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)'
Cc: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: figures For comment and feedback - today please
Attachments: Table C.docx

Hi S 9(2)(a)

Table C.1 in the Incomes report (attached) has the figures you want, but at some point I think that iMSD should QA it as there is a difference, for example, in the number of kids in ben fams (all up) and those in ben fams (under 65). My figures are all from iMSD.

Bryan

From: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 2 September 2016 2:04 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: figures For comment and feedback - today please

Thanks!

Hmmm – are you able to provide the figures for this statement – from para 6... or would I need to get these from iMSD? (2014... figures to align with report)

There are XXXX fewer children in benefit dependent households than xxxxx, and XXXXX fewer on a benefit than XXXXX.

From: Bryan Perry [mailto:bryan.perry001@msd.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 2 September 2016 1:57 p.m.
To: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Cc: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: For comment and feedback - today please

Hi S 9(2)(a)

Looking good. I've made a few comments in blue.

Bryan

From: S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 2 September 2016 12:42 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry; S 9(2)(a) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: For comment and feedback - today please
Importance: High

Hello – below is a rough draft of the PR for release next week, S 9(2)(a) is keen to find out if this is all factually correct so far.

Note – the Minister has not seen this.

Can you please read through and provide a fact-check and comment as needed.

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

Call if you have significant concerns.

It would be great if we could have your response as soon as possible today, or by 3pm?

Thanks! S 9(2)(a)

Incomes report shows NZ on right track

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Link to report xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Media contact: S 9(2)(a)

Notes to editors:

Key findings include:

- The NZ median household income (before deducting housing costs) grew on average by just under 3 per cent each year in real terms between 2011 and 2015 and net gains between 2009 and 2015 are better than for many OECD countries, such as the UK, Australia, Italy, Spain, France, Germany and the US.
- There is no evidence of any sustained rising or falling trend in household income inequality (before housing costs) in the last two decades. (this is true for the GINI / top 1% approach, but the 90:10 did rise a little from the mid 90s thru to 2004 ... could possibly add "based on the GINI and top 1% share measures"? Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression)
- Housing affordability and quality issues XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
- There is no evidence of any increasing depth of relative income poverty over the last two decades.
- There is no evidence of any rising child poverty or child material hardship or income poverty trends (after housing costs) in recent years. Trends are either flat or falling.

----- This email and any attachments may contain information that is confidential and subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, dissemination, distribution or duplication of this email and attachments is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify the author immediately and erase all copies of the email and attachments. The Ministry of Social Development accepts no responsibility for changes made to this message or attachments after transmission from the Ministry. -----

Table C.1
Individuals in EFUs in receipt of an income-tested benefit or NZS (30 Jun to 2012, 31 Mar thereafter)

	Total working age EFUs in receipt of an income-tested benefit (000s)	All people (adults and children) where prime recipient of an income-tested benefit is under 65 (000s)	Children (<18) dependent on a recipient of an income-tested benefit (all ages), (000s)	NZS/VP recipients (000s)	Proportion of children (<18) dependent on a recipient of an income-tested benefit (%)	Proportion of all people under 65 in an EFU in receipt of an income-tested benefit (%)	Proportion of whole pop in an EFU in receipt of an income-tested benefit or NZS/VP (%)
1998	368	701	281	477	30	21	31
1999	372	701	277	468	28	21	30
2000	364	684	271	461	27	20	30
2001	354	662	263	454	26	19	29
2002	343	638	256	458	25	18	28
2003	334	622	253	467	24	18	27
2004	309	584	245	473	24	16	26
2005	290	548	233	484	22	15	25
2006	280	523	221	498	21	14	24
2007	281	485	205	513	19	13	24
2008	258	482	200	525	19	12	24
2009	310	554	221	542	21	15	25
2010	333	591	233	561	22	16	26
2011	328	591	232	581	22	15	27
2012	320	575	227	608	22	15	27
2013	310	552	217	628	20	14	26
2014	295	518	200	655	19	13	26
2015	284	493	187	681	18	13	26
2016	280	480	179	706	17	12	25

Sources: Columns 1-4, MSD Statistical Reports and Information Analysis Platform
Columns 5-7 use population estimates from Statistics New Zealand for the denominator

The average size of beneficiary units has declined from 1.9 in 1998 to 1.7 in 2016.

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Monday, 5 September 2016 10:06 a.m.
To: 'S 9(2)(S 9(2)(a))'
Cc: S 9(2)(S 9(2)(a))
Subject: RE: Orange overview report for Min Smith

Yes, ma'am.

Hon Smith and his people will get a couple of Oranges, the Headline (internal) summary and the Graphs ... as will Hon Bennett and her people.

bp

From: S 9(2)(S 9(2)(a)) [mailto:S 9(2)(S 9(2)(a))@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Monday, 5 September 2016 10:01 a.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: S 9(2)(S 9(2)(a))
Subject: Orange overview report for Min Smith

Hello! S 9(2)(a) just asked for copies or a copy of the Orange Overview Report to be provided to Min Smith's office.

Given you're visiting them this afternoon – am I correct in assuming you're take a copy or copies with you?

S 9(2)(S 9(2)(a)) | Private Secretary | Office of the Hon Anne Tolley
Minister for Social Development
Parliament Buildings | Wellington | Phone: + S 9(2)(a)

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Monday, 5 September 2016 11:05 a.m.
To: 'S 9(2)S 9(2)(a) [redacted]'
Subject: duh

Operator error sorry !

From: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a) [redacted] [mailto:S 9(2)S 9(2)(a) [redacted]@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Monday, 5 September 2016 10:49 a.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Subject: RE: updated Comms Plan for Incomes Report release

I'm blind... I cannot see JRF info in the attached.

Help a poor woman out ☺

From: Bryan Perry [mailto:bryan.perry001@msd.govt.nz]
Sent: Monday, 5 September 2016 8:40 a.m.
To: Media (MSD); S 9(2)(a) [redacted] S 9(2)S 9(2)(a) [redacted]
Subject: updated Comms Plan for Incomes Report release

Hi all

I have updated the Comms Plan with two changes:

- The 9.00am rather than 9.30 am release time on Thursday
- Information from the UK abt a JRF release on Tuesday.

Regards, Bryan

----- This email and any attachments may contain information that is confidential and subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, dissemination, distribution or duplication of this email and attachments is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify the author immediately and erase all copies of the email and attachments. The Ministry of Social Development accepts no responsibility for changes made to this message or attachments after transmission from the Ministry. -----

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Tuesday, 6 September 2016 1:09 p.m.
To: 'S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)'
Cc: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: URGENT - Benefit figure to support PR - ASAP please today

Hi S 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

Regards, Bryan

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons

From: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a) [mailto: @parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 6 September 2016 1:02 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: URGENT - Benefit figure to support PR - ASAP please today
Importance: High

How about this:

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

From: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 6 September 2016 12:41 p.m.
To: 'Bryan Perry'; S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)
Subject: URGENT - Benefit figure to support PR - ASAP please today
Importance: High

Hi Bryan and S 9(2)(a) you please able to source the correct number for this statement (see XXX below). It's part of the draft PR from Minister Tolley.

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

Also – can you please fact-check the below and feedback as soon as possible today please (ideally before 3pm)

Call as needed, thanks **S.9(2)(a)**

Incomes report shows NZ on right track

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Bryan Perry

From: Bryan Perry
Sent: Tuesday, 6 September 2016 3:43 p.m.
To: 'S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)'
Cc: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: URGENT - Benefit figure to support PR - ASAP please today

Yes, good idea.

From: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 6 September 2016 1:33 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: URGENT - Benefit figure to support PR - ASAP please today

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

From: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 6 September 2016 1:13 p.m.
To: 'Bryan Perry'
Cc: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: URGENT - Benefit figure to support PR - ASAP please today

Fab, thanks – will chat to S 9(2)(a)

From: Bryan Perry [mailto:bryan.perry001@msd.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 6 September 2016 1:09 p.m.
To: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)
Cc: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: URGENT - Benefit figure to support PR - ASAP please today

Hi S 9(2)(a)

In a narrow fact check mode, this all looks good. The 72k/40k info is accurate the way you have put it.

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

Regards, Bryan

From: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a) [mailto:S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 6 September 2016 1:02 p.m.
To: Bryan Perry
Cc: S 9(2)S 9(2)(a)

Subject: FW: URGENT - Benefit figure to support PR - ASAP please today
Importance: High

How about this:

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

From: S 9(2) S 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 6 September 2016 12:41 p.m.
To: 'Bryan Perry'; S 9(2) S 9(2)(a)
Subject: URGENT - Benefit figure to support PR - ASAP please today
Importance: High

Hi Bryan and S 9(2)(a) are you please able to source the correct number for this statement (see XXX below). It's part of the draft PR from Minister Tolley.

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

Also – can you please fact-check the below and feedback as soon as possible today please (ideally before 3pm)

Call as needed, thanks S 9(2)(a)

Incomes report shows NZ on right track

Section 9(2)(g)(i) Free and frank expression

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

----- This email and any attachments may contain information that is confidential and subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, dissemination, distribution or duplication of this email and attachments is prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify the author immediately and erase all copies of the email and attachments. The Ministry of Social Development accepts no responsibility for changes made to this message or attachments after transmission from the Ministry. -----
