CHiLD
POVERTY
ACTION
GROUP

, we've got some sad news.

Kia ora ,

Today's Stats NZ release of child poverty data to the year ended June 2025 are highly concerning, but sadly, not surprising.

Data shows 14.3%, or around 169,300 children, are living in material hardship

That's 169.300 tamariki going without several essentials on a regular basis,

That's 10,000 more than the previous year, the highest since 2015, and is the third consecutive year of rising material hardship among our tamariki.

It's also heading the wrong direction from the target set in the Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018, which sought to bring rates down to 6% by 2028.

In short, we're not just off-track, we're going the wrong way.

You can read the Stats NZ release here.

Stats NZ Child Poverty Data

We'll have more on our website in the coming days regarding child poverty statistics and more deep-dive analysis from Dr Yu Shi. As you can see, there's a lot of information to absorb from Stats NZ today!

You can also read our media release here. So far today, we've spoken to Whakaata Māori, TVNZ, RNZ and the Mediaworks radio stations. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for our comments.

CPAG Media Release

But there's something you've already done to help turn that around.

You'll recall we recently submitted on the Budget Policy Statement 2026, and we asked you to support our submission with your own.

Today, we're pleased to share that **152 out of a total 170 submissions** on the BPS discussed or focussed on child poverty.

That's 89% of all the submissions the Finance and Expenditure Committee received!

	2025	2026	Change
Total submissions	50	170	**+120**

Submissions focused on child poverty	22	152	**+130**
Proportion of submissions focused on child poverty	44%	89%	**+45-point**

All of this is because of you, and your belief that child poverty needs to be a key election issue in 2026.

You can read all of the submissions here

Our Research and Programme Officer, Dr Yu Shi, was also invited to give an oral submission to the committee.

You can watch that here **(skip to 39 minutes and 12 seconds)**:

Our submission to the Finance and Expenditure Committee

As we begin to lock down our election year campaigns and areas of focus, we'll reach out with more ways like this that you can help make a difference, and make sure politicians can't turn away from child poverty.

The best way to get meaningful action toward the elimination of child poverty is by making sure politicians can't ignore it, and that happens when upstanding members of the community, like yourself, tell it like it is - a huge societal issue which is getting worse, not better.

Our heartfelt thanks to you for your ongoing commitment and perseverance to end child poverty in Aotearoa, and to help our tamariki flourish free from poverty.

Ngā mihi nui,
The team at Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG)