

# Inequality: A New Zealand Crisis

Edited by Max Rashbrooke

Published by  
Bridget Williams Books

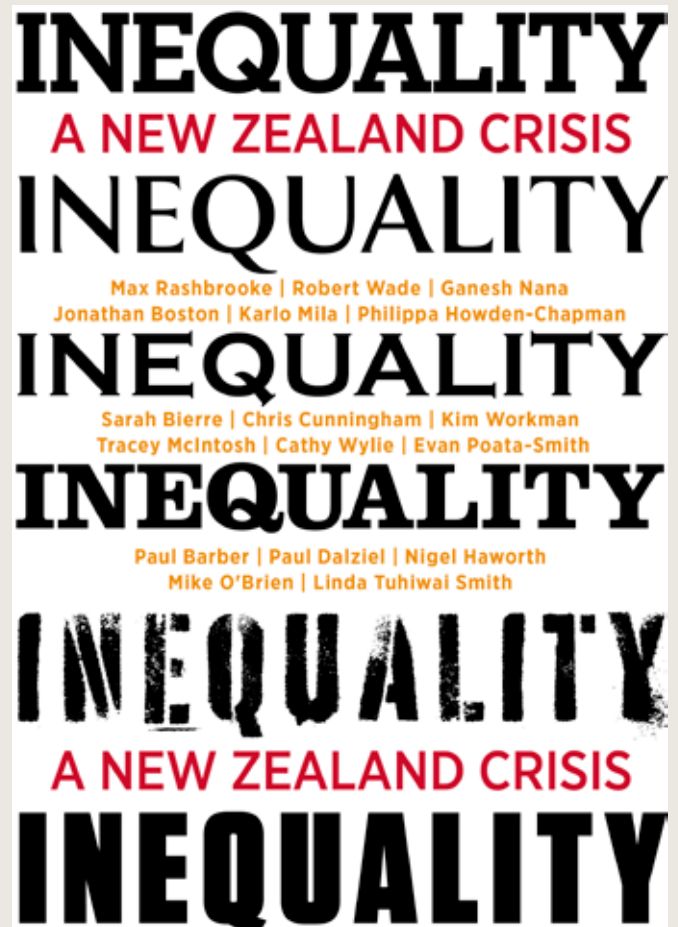
As the gap between rich and poor has widened dramatically across the developed world, New Zealand has experienced one of the most rapid increases in inequality of any country. This has become a source of concern to many New Zealanders, as evidence suggests that inequality harms us all, socially and economically. So dramatic has been this shift from a supposedly egalitarian society that the future has become difficult to grasp. What are the options for – and barriers to – tackling the gap between rich and poor?

This book presents key facts about New Zealand's rising inequality and makes a powerful case about its devastating impact. Expert contributors provide analyses across a range of topics, and show how markedly this 'fair country' has changed. Real-life stories tell us how inequality is affecting people at all levels of society.

*Inequality: A New Zealand Crisis* contributes to one of the most significant debates of our time.

## The team behind the book

- Max Rashbrooke is the editor and lead writer, bringing to the book journalistic skills, including the real-life stories (viewpoints) between each chapter.
- Expert contributors and viewpoints, see next pages.
- The advisory group, chaired by Professor Jonathan Boston, includes Paul Barber, Len Cook, Philippa Howden-Chapman, Tracey McIntosh, Bridget Robson, Bob Stephens and Kim Workman.
- Bridget Williams Books is an independent New Zealand company with a long track record of producing books of critical scholarship for a wide audience. See [www.bwb.co.nz](http://www.bwb.co.nz).
- The Bridget Williams Books Publishing Trust supports the writing and publishing of good non-fiction by BWB. See [www.bwbpublishingtrust.org.nz](http://www.bwbpublishingtrust.org.nz).



**Publication: 27 June 2013**

Print RRP\$39.99 | 240 x 170 mm

300 pages approx

Available in print and e-book

ISBN 9781927131510 | ISTC A0220120000222C3

**For interviews with Max Rashbrooke or contributors, contact Angela Radford, [angelaradford@xtra.co.nz](mailto:angelaradford@xtra.co.nz) or 09 579 7351.**

- The writing and publication of *Inequality: A New Zealand Crisis* is supported by the Bruce Jesson Foundation, the G Trust, the J.R. McKenzie Trust, Paul and Peter Monin, and the New Zealand Council for Christian Social Services. The publication is independent, and does not reflect the views of any organisation.

## Publicist Angela Radford

For interviews, extracts and review copies

Phone: 09 579 7351 | Mobile: 027 540 1104 | Email: [angelaradford@xtra.co.nz](mailto:angelaradford@xtra.co.nz)

## Bridget Williams Books

PO Box 12474 | Wellington 6144 | New Zealand

[info@bwb.co.nz](mailto:info@bwb.co.nz) | 04 473 8128

---

## CONTENTS

### PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

#### 1. Why Inequality Matters / Max Rashbrooke

The many reasons why inequality is one of the most pressing issues of our time

#### 2. Inequality and New Zealand/ Max Rashbrooke

The facts and figures about the distribution of income – and wealth – in New Zealand

### PART TWO: ISSUES AND DEBATES

#### 3. Inequality and the West / Robert Wade

Why inequality has risen internationally, how it's been justified, and the arguments against it

#### 4. The Cost of Inequality / Ganesh Nana

Why reducing inequality would improve our economic performance

#### 5. What Kinds of Inequality Matter? / Jonathan Boston

The moral case for seeking to equalise incomes, opportunities and status

### PART THREE: CONSEQUENCES

#### 6. Only One Deck / Karlo Mila

How inequality affects Pacific communities

#### 7. Housing and Health / Philippa Howden-Chapman, Sarah Bierre and Chris Cunningham

How the great housing divide creates inequality – and damages our health

#### 8. Crime, Imprisonment and Poverty / Kim Workman and Tracey McIntosh

Why more unequal societies are more punitive, and have more people in prison

#### 9. Schools and Inequality / Cathy Wylie

The impact of rising inequality on children's ability to learn – and teachers' ability to teach

#### 10. Māori and Inequality / Evan Poata-Smith

Why Māori have fallen further behind Pākehā – and gaps have opened up even within Māori society.

### PART FOUR: A CALL FOR CONCEPTS

#### 11. Reducing Inequality / Paul Barber

A vision of a more equal society – and how we could get there

#### 12. Education and Skills / Paul Dalziel

How better skills training can foster greater opportunities and lift incomes

#### 13. The Rewards of Work / Nigel Haworth

Empowering ordinary staff and workers to reduce differences in salaries

#### 14. A Better Welfare System / Mike O'Brien

How the tax and benefits system could do more to promote equality and support individuals

#### 15. The Future is Now / Linda Tuhiwai Smith

The choice for Māori between a more equal and a more unequal future

---

## VIEWPOINTS

*Don't let it get entrenched*, Damian Christie

*When even average isn't enough*, Craig and Kristine Absolum's story

*Not in it for the money*, interview with Ian Taylor

*The value of support*, interview with Pete Bryant

*Income, not budgeting, is the issue*, interview with Tamara Baddeley

*Engineering division? How the motorway system helped create two Aucklands*, Chris Harris

*Rebuilding divisions?* interview with Mary Richardson

*The State as parent and warden*, interview with Stan Coster (Dokta)

*So, what school did you go to?*, Asher Emanuel

*Better by design: back to the Māori future?*, Anake Goodall

*Generosity and restraint: an individual response*, Kate Frykberg

*There's just so many obstacles*, interview with Kelly Belcher

*Better together*, interviews with employees of DSK Engineering

*Unconditional income: thinking outside the box on welfare*, Gareth Morgan and Susan Guthrie

---

## EVENTS & ARTICLES

Articles and events so far include:

- A 2012 *Listener* piece on boarding houses by Max Rashbrooke.
- Two public forums at Te Papa in 2012; see Te Papa's YouTube channel.
- Packed out session with Max Rashbrooke at Auckland Writers and Readers Festival in May.

More events:

- *Inequality: A New Zealand Crisis* will be launched on 27 June at the National Library, Wellington.

- Professor Jonathan Boston is hosting a conference on inequality at Victoria University on 18 July.
- Professor Robert Wade from the London School of Economics is presenting public lectures around the country: Auckland – Monday 8 July; Dunedin – Thursday 11 July; Christchurch – Friday 12 July; Wellington – Tuesday 16 July.
- Further discussions and debates around the country are planned for August and September.

---

## CONTRIBUTORS

### **Paul Barber**

Paul Barber is a policy advisor at the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) and leads the council's flagship programme, Closer Together Whakatata Mai – reducing inequalities.

### **Sarah Bierre**

Sarah Bierre is a research fellow in the He Kainga Oranga/ Housing and Health Research Programme, at the University of Otago, Wellington.

### **Jonathan Boston**

Professor Jonathan Boston is the Director of the Institute for Governance and Policy Studies in the School of Government at Victoria University of Wellington. The author of numerous books and articles, he is a leading contributor to policy debate in New Zealand on a range of issues, and was the co-chair of the Children's Commissioner's Expert Advisory Group on Solutions to Child Poverty in 2012.

### **Chris Cunningham**

Professor Chris Cunningham is the Director of the Research Centre for Māori Health and Development at Massey University, Wellington. He is a co-director of He Kainga Oranga/ Housing and Health Research Programme.

### **Paul Dalziel**

Paul Dalziel is Professor of Economics at Lincoln University, and was the leader of one strand of a recent major research project looking at the links between education and employment.

### **Nigel Haworth**

A labour market specialist at the University of Auckland, Professor Nigel Haworth is a former chair of the Partnership Research Centre and the Centre for Housing Research. He fulfils a number of roles, in and outside the university, including membership of the New Zealand Labour Party's Policy Council and the International Labour Organization's Century Project.

### **Philippa Howden-Chapman**

An expert on health inequalities at the University of Otago, Wellington and the author of research on poor housing and health, Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman is director of He Kainga Oranga/ Housing and Health Research Programme and the New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities. She has received a number of national awards.

### **Tracey McIntosh**

A senior lecturer at the University of Auckland, Tracey McIntosh (Tūhoe) has extensively researched issues around Māori development, imprisonment and marginalisation. A former director of the Centre of Research Excellence Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, she was also a co-chair of the Children's Commissioner's Expert Advisory Group on Solutions to Child Poverty.

### **Karlo Mila**

Karlo Mila's work spans the arts, commentary and academia. An award-winning poet of Tongan, Samoan

and Palagi descent, she has also worked on Pacific health research, been a columnist for the *Dominion Post*, and recently completed a PhD in sociology on Pacific peoples.

### **Ganesh Nana**

Chief economist at research and consultancy firm Business and Economic Research Limited (BERL), Ganesh Nana has over 30 years' experience in economics, including as a lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington and working overseas. He is a regular commentator on the New Zealand economy for various media.

### **Mike O'Brien**

Mike O'Brien is Associate Professor at the University of Auckland, and the Convenor of the Child Poverty Action Group. A leading figure in welfare debates, he was also the head of the Alternative Welfare Working Group.

### **Evan Poata-Smith**

Evan Te Ahu Poata-Smith (Te Rarawa, Ngāti Kahu) is head of Indigenous Studies at the University of Wollongong. Prior to this he taught at the Auckland University of Technology and the University of Canterbury. More recently he was a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at Northern Arizona University where he taught in the Applied Indigenous Studies and Sociology programmes. His research focuses on Māori political and social change.

### **Max Rashbrooke**

Max Rashbrooke has written for national newspapers and magazines in Britain and New Zealand, including the *Guardian*, the *National Business Review* and the *Listener*. He was the recipient of the 2011 Bruce Jesson Award.

### **Linda Tuhiwai Smith**

Professor Linda Smith (Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Porou) is Pro-Vice Chancellor Māori and Dean of Te Pua Wānanga Ki Te Ao School of Māori and Pacific Development at the University of Waikato.

### **Robert Wade**

A Professor of Political Economy at the London School of Economics, New Zealander Robert H. Wade is a leading international writer on globalisation, inequality and world financial systems, author of the award-winning book *Governing the Market*, and winner of the Leontief Prize in Economics, 2008.

### **Kim Workman**

Founder and director of Rethinking Crime and Punishment, Kim Workman (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Rangitāne) was head of the prison service 1989–93, among other public service roles. He received the International Prize for Restorative Justice in 2005, and was awarded a QSO in 2007.

### **Cathy Wylie**

Cathy Wylie is chief researcher at the New Zealand Council for Educational Research. She leads Competent Children, Competent Learners, a longitudinal study of children's development, and has just published *Vital Transitions*, a major book on the school system.