

# Policy 2017

## Social Development



### Backing work over welfare

National believes people are better off in paid work so they can live independent lives and provide a better future for their children. We are supporting our most vulnerable while ensuring they work with us to improve their lives.

The combination of strong economic growth and our welfare reforms has seen the number of people on a benefit continue to fall, while we have provided to support those who need it.

When it comes to sole parents we are focused on better outcomes for their children. Under National sole parents on a benefit have to enrol their child with a GP and in ECE or school and keep up to date with Well Child checks. Sole parents also now have to find part time work once their youngest child turns three.

Around 1,600 people a week are leaving the benefit to take up full time work and more than 61,000 fewer children are living in benefit dependent households.

National will build on that success, ensuring we the right balance of support and personal responsibility to help people get ahead.

**“National believes in helping people to help themselves, ensuring they lead better, more independent lives.”**

– Social Development spokesperson  
Anne Tolley

### Policy highlights

- First Government to raise benefit rates in over 40 years
- \$2b Family Income Package will see low and middle income families on average \$26 a week better off
- Reduced the projected cost of the welfare system to the taxpayer by \$13.7b over the last five years
- Reduced the number of sole parents on a benefit by 31 per cent over the past five years
- 61,000 fewer children living in benefit dependent homes
- Providing intensive support to 120,000 beneficiaries to help them move off a benefit
- Providing greater support to clients with health barriers to help them lead more independent lives
- Mutual obligations have seen an average of 1,600 people a week leave benefits and start full time work
- More support and greater obligations on young beneficiaries to get them into work

# National is...

## Getting people into work

Thanks to National's focus on work and supporting people back to lead better, more independent lives we now have:

- Over 61,000 fewer children living in benefit dependent homes
- 57 per cent fewer teen parents on a benefit than in 2009
- 31 per cent fewer sole parents on a benefit than five years ago
- 120,000 people receive intensive case management support to help them off a benefit
- 97 per cent of beneficiaries under 18 are enrolled in education or training

**"National's \$2b Family Income package will raise the incomes of families by an average of \$26 a week."**

– Social Development spokesperson  
Anne Tolley

**"Under National, we have the lowest number of sole parents on a benefit since 1988."**

– Social Development spokesperson  
Anne Tolley

## Saving taxpayers money

- Helping people off benefits and into work helps improve their lives and reduces the burden on the taxpayer
- Since 2012 we have seen a decrease in future costs to the taxpayer of \$13.7b

# National is...

## Finding innovative ways to help

- Flexible childcare assistance for sole parents working non-standard hours
- Increased support for long term beneficiaries
- Working with DHBs and GPs to better support beneficiaries with health issues
- Partnering with employers to help people with disabilities and long term health conditions enter employment
- Identifying and tackling inter-generational benefit dependency
- Increased Paid Parental Leave



## Working with communities

National believes that communities are best placed to drive real change so we are working with them to tackle social issues. We are:

- Supporting 10 regions across the country to grow businesses, visitors, investment and jobs through Regional Growth Plans
- Working with families and communities to fight the impact of gangs and reduce membership
- Partnering with private firms and NGOs to deliver affordable credit to low-income families in 11 communities
- Trialling a whole of family approach to family violence, supporting the victims and working with the perpetrators
- Investing in 1125 more Police staff to keep communities safer
- Focusing on providing primary healthcare in communities and encouraging people to lead healthier lives

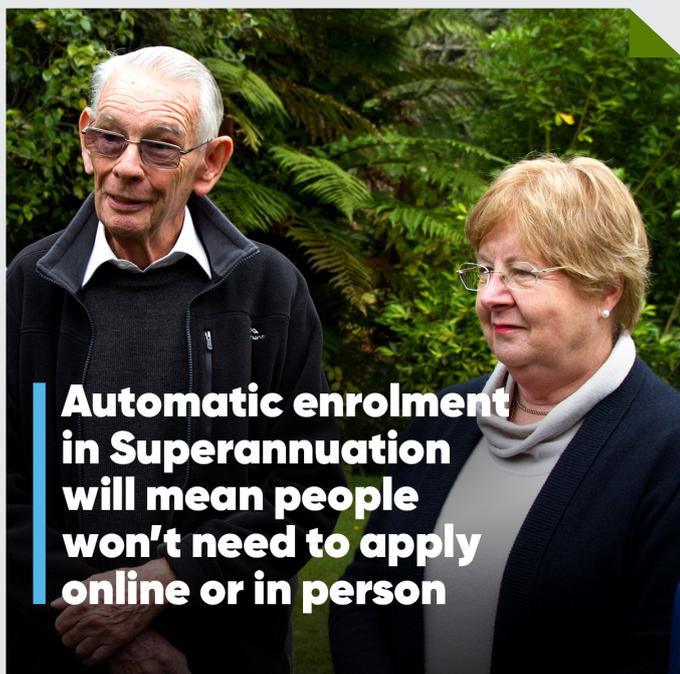
# What we will do next...

## Help people into work

- Support and sanctions to ensure drug use doesn't stop beneficiaries starting work
- More support for beneficiaries with mental health and addiction issues
- Provide financial management training to give young beneficiaries better skills to manage their finances
- Trial childcare support to help parents on benefits take up work and study
- Help overcome barriers to employment, study or training

**"We will clamp down on recreational drug use among beneficiaries and get them into work."**

– Social Development spokesperson  
Anne Tolley



**Automatic enrolment in Superannuation will mean people won't need to apply online or in person**

## Make things simpler

- Make more services available online and over the phone so support and advice is more readily available
- Help people apply for jobs online and over the phone to help them into work faster
- Allow people to apply for financial support, update details and cancel benefits online

# What we will do next...

## Stop young people becoming long term beneficiaries

- We will invest an extra \$18m a year to help more young people become drug free and move off the benefit into work
- All people under 25 on a benefit will receive intensive one-on-one case management to help them get a job
- That support will also come with increased obligations
- They will have to take up education or training and pass drug tests to ensure drug use is not a barrier to work
- If they fail to take up these opportunities, they will lose all or part of their benefits until they do so

**“National will help more young people become drug free, move off the benefit and get a job to help ensure they reach their potential.”**

– Social Development spokesperson  
Anne Tolley

## Don't put it all at risk

- A Labour/Green government would roll back our welfare reforms, leading to more long term beneficiaries and greater cost on tax payers
- Labour thinks people shouldn't be supported to look for work and they also want to give people more money to stay at home. This will result in more children growing up in homes reliant on a benefit
- The Greens believe that people on the job seeker benefit should have absolutely no obligations to look for work. This will lead to a significant increase in those on the benefit and sets a very poor example for our young people, and increases the burden on taxpayers