

SIAN

Issue 30

February 1993

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The SIA Newsletter is compiled and published by members of the Association for Social Assessment (Inc.) and distributed free to SIA Network members. Its aim is to encourage contact and sharing of information between all those interested in social assessment in New Zealand. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their various employers or the Association. Further information on ASA can be found on the last page of this issue of SIAN.

Communications and Contributions

SIAN welcomes reports, news, reviews, and help with typing of written copy onto computer and creating artwork / illustrations etc. Contributions on Macintosh or MS-Dos formatted disks are best, but not essential. Communications and contributions can be forwarded to the following people.

Social Impact Assessment Newsletter
P.O. Box 2581, Wellington, New Zealand
Contact : James Newell
Ph 04-384 8438, Fax: 04-384 8004 or
Nick Taylor Ph or Fax 03-313 8458

Association for Social Assessment (Inc.)

ASA CORE GROUP

The Core Group Members and Working Group for 1993 are as follows:

Name	Locality	Phone	Role
James Barnes	Wellington	(04) 472-0299	Convenor, Iwi
Noreen Barton	Wellington	(04) 475-7296	Working Group on Resource Management
Carolyn Blackford	Christchurch	(03) 325-2811	South Island Representative
Dianne Bucham	Wellington	(04) 389-9979	Convenor, Working Group on SA in Government
Doug Craig	Nelson	(03) 548-8925	South Island Representative
David Haigh	Auckland	(09) 794-420	Auckland Representative
Pat Hanley	Waitakere City	(09) 817-4674	Biculturalism
Karen Jones	Tauranga	(07) 571-8008	Working Group on SA in Local Government
Paul Lister	Wellington	(04) 380-8518	Secretary
Robin Munch	Manakau City	(09) 263-7100	Auckland Representative
Jamie Newell	Wellington	(04) 384-8438	SIAN Editor, Working Group on Social Monitoring
Ann Pomeroy	Wellington	(04) 472-0367	Treasurer, Working Group on Rural New Zealand
Tania Rei	Porirua	(04) 367-788	Iwi
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Julie Warren	Wellington	(04) 499-5025	External Relations, SIAN Editor
Vicki Wilde	Wellington	(09) 474-3400	Secretary
Alistair Wilkinson	Wellington	(04) 388-8460	Treasurer

1992 ASA CONFERENCE (AUCKLAND)

The Association for Social Assessment held its annual conference and general meeting from 30 October to 1 November 1992.

The theme of the conference was government reforms and more specifically impacts, structural changes, responses and opportunities.

An overview was given of the 'new right' ideologies fuelling the reforms. Characteristics common to central and local government restructuring were identified in brainstorming sessions.

The 10 commandments of local government reform penned and presented by Kaaren Goodall were thought provoking!

Ngati Paoa representatives outlined some effects of legislation changes on their iwi. We received a picture of under resourced people being consulted and expected to act within constraints imposed by others.

Four workshops were held:

- Social Monitoring
- Contracting
- Urban Sustainability
- Project siting

Comprehensive notes will be available from the Association soon. In summary, workshops we attended were:

Social Monitoring

Judith Davey talked about her work on "Birth to Death 3". This

is the third report using census statistics to create a picture of New Zealand.

Jamie Newell addressed access to national data collections especially the census.

In small groups people discussed ways of monitoring MCC's current work e.g. poverty and hardship reports were affirmed as valid monitoring.

The value of anecdotal reporting was stressed.

Contracting

The "rules" of contracting were presented giving clear guidelines to the points that should be included.

Urban Sustainability

An interpretation of urban sustainability and social impact was presented for discussion. The discussion was limited by lack of time.

All workshops were challenged to consider Maori perspectives.

The conference was heightened by the Saturday night activity - a barbecue, a Halloween party, rocking rolling and singing with a guitar till after 1.00 am.

On Sunday morning four speakers gave personal perspectives on the reforms which gave food for thought. (More data will be provided in the conference report).

The conference ended with the AGM of the ASA.

Robin Munch

THE "PRACTICALITIES OF SOCIAL RESEARCH" WORKSHOP

The workshop was held at Auckland University prior to the ASA Conference on Waihiki, on Friday 30 October. The goals of the workshop were "to review and update principles and practices of (and resources for) basic research methods used in social assessment research work as researchers and/or users". The course leaders were Charles Crothers and Phil Harington.

The programme was ambitious and most topics were covered briefly. Presentation was in lecture form which resulted in an overload of information.

The positivist and community-based research models were compared. The methodologies of each were explored. Components included ethics, gathering background material, surveys, sample size, data analysis.

Rules of contracts were presented. They included:

1. A stakeholder analysis i.e.:
 - who is the client?
 - who needs the research?
 - who is the audience?
 - what information is required?
 - what are they going to do with it?
2. Identifying hot spots, constraints, hidden agendas
3. Written contract
4. Evaluation

The question of who owns data and the rights of publication were discussed as an ethical issue.

The principal of "informed consent" was given priority. It was agreed that subjects should be advised of the type of evidence to be collected. Their involvement in the methodology and in the appointment of consultants was to be encouraged. Accuracy of findings should be checked with subjects.

The stages of the research process were outlined as follows:

1. Problem identification, justification and specific action
2. Literature review
3. Theory development
4. Research design
5. Resource mobilisation
6. Pilot study
7. Field work
8. Data processing and analysis
9. Report writing
10. Reporting back

It was stressed that a clear theoretical framework should be developed and identified from the outset.

Data to support research was identified e.g. census data, Supermap, Household Labour Force Survey and other Department of Statistics products.

Handy tips to research were presented, e.g.:

- planning is essential
- ID is important
- debriefing process should be maintained
- a diary of issues should be kept
- remember who research is for, where it's going and who's paying
- consultant researchers and survey researchers have different influences
- beware of sampling pitfalls.

The day would have been more beneficial if participants had been able to choose two topics of interest to be covered in workshops in more depth.

Robin Munch & Teena Abbey
Community Advisers

Subsequent to the workshop the course leaders have produced a set of resource material. They acknowledge the problems caused by the wide needs of participants and broad scope of the presentations, and aim to organise some more focused workshops in the future. Contact Charles or Phil at the Department of Sociology, Auckland, if you have any ideas.

SOCIOLOGICAL JARGON

The following is an extract from the April edition of the Sociological Association Newsletter: "Reflections : through a glass, darkly" by Professor Jim Robb.

Most jargons consist largely of cliches which are not really technical terms but figures of speech used repetitively, and mannered sentence structures, again used repetitively. In short they obscure rather than aid precise communication ...

The main effect of jargon, it seems to me, is to enable people to feel that they belong to some group, or movement, which has some special value, and from this membership they gain feelings of security and even superiority ... Those who don't use the jargon are seen as second class practitioners - they haven't been born again...

A great deal of jargon is a substitute for thought by those who invent it, a fact that may not be realised by those who learn it from them, so that even those followers who really do know what they want to say may give their readers the impression, by using jargon to say it, that they don't.

Dianne Buchan

COMMENT FROM THE CONVENOR

1993 is the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Peoples. In this country, we continue to grapple with the consequences of over 150 years of systematic misrepresentation about the foundations of our contemporary identity. This has produced a legacy of unfulfilled aspirations for an indigenous people whose existence in Aotearoa predated European settlement by at least twice that amount of time. The impact of European settlement on a well established way of life has rendered it almost incapable of sustaining the potential, known to exist, of a highly intelligent and enterprising people. Statistics have proven that the attempted assimilation of the Maori ethos over the last 150 years, into a "New Zealand" way of life, has not been successful.

Recently acquired wisdom, gained mainly through Maori/Crown action in the law courts, has reaffirmed the Treaty of Waitangi as the founding document of the modern era. The partnership that was forged between the Maori and the Crown at the signing of the Treaty in 1840 has been aptly described by Ngai Tahu leader Tipene O'Regan (1988:Wai 22) as a "contract yet to be addressed".

The Maori claims settlement process has produced its first major result. The impact on public morale however is far from positive. A valuable contribution has been made by this generation to ensure future generations of New Zealanders both Maori and non Maori, do not remain ignorant of the true heritage of this land. There is however the potential for the current level of ignorance to compromise the capability of the population to come to terms with and accept the outcomes that the settlement process may produce. This is of particular concern with the prospect that settlements larger than the Sealords deal are likely to eventuate.

The lack of general information about why the settlement of Maori claims is important for the whole country could incite a generally fair minded public into deeper trauma and resentment as the settlement process gains momentum. Measured against other situations that the government has seen fit to explain, this situation merits serious consideration as an investment in stability for the future, particularly as we approach the year 2000.

What is needed is something that will, in the jargon of the PR industry, "accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative".

James Barnes (Convenor, ASA)

RAPID APPRAISAL (RA) IN HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN THE UK

This was a Wellington ASA session organised on the spur of the moment. It provided the opportunity to hear Grindl Dockery, a New Zealander currently based in Liverpool (UK), outline the application of RA in the context of some recent work she had been involved in applying RA to the assessment of Mental Health needs in Birmingham.

The session was held in the offices of the Central Regional Health Authority in Wellington on 4 February from 5.30 pm to about 7.30 pm. About 20 people came along. The session was too short

to do more than run over some of the thinking behind RA and give some examples of techniques used. RA has a well established network in the UK with some similarities to the Social Assessment network in NZ, and Grindl's visit provided the opportunity to build better links with that experience.

Grindl gained experience in Rural Rapid Appraisal during 10 years spent coordinating a district primary health care and community development project in the New Guinea highlands. Since 1988 she has been working in the UK mainly in the field of RA. She is currently teaching RA courses at the Department of International Community Health at the School of Tropical Medicine in Liverpool as well as doing local contract work in applied RA.

Rapid Appraisal is a form of participatory action research which uses qualitative methods (i.e. descriptive and explanatory) to gain a clearer understanding of the problems, perceptions and preferences of both communities and planners in relation to a particular issue. It is used widely as a research method for assessing the health and/or development needs of communities in the "developing" world and more recently in the so called "developed" world. It may be used as a forerunner to more exhaustive quantitative studies.

Two centres which focus experience of RA in the UK are the Institute for Development Studies in Sussex (which puts out the IDS Bulletin), and the Institute of Environmental Development in London which puts out ROA Notes. I understand that an International Conference on Rapid Appraisal (I understand it gives priority to pooling local indigenous practitioners experience) is being planned for October 1993 in Liverpool.

Further information on RA can be obtained by contacting Grindl Dockery c/o Ph NZ 073 463148 until the end of February and thereafter at 22 Pensarn Rd., Liverpool L13 2BH, UK, Ph 051-259-4355. Grindl is an independent research consultant specialising in RA interested in coming out to New Zealand again later this year or next to share her experience with RA.

Some (unscreened) references on RA are given below and I have some further notes left by Grindl Dockery for those interested:

- Society for People's Education & Economic Change. 1991. *Workshop on Participatory RA for Planning Health Projects.*
- Chambers, R. 1991. *Relaxed and Participatory RA Notes on Practical Approaches and Methods.* IDS, Sussex
- Srinivasan, L. 1990. *Tools for Community Participation.* A Manual for Training Trainers in Participatory Techniques. Prowess/UNDP

James Newell

FUTURE MEETINGS DATES AND VENUES

Next Core Group Meeting

Tuesday, 9th March.

Next Canterbury Group Meeting

Friday 26 February, 2.30 pm at Institute for Social Science meeting room, Creyke Road.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS COMING UP

SOCIAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP, QUEENSTOWN, MARCH 29 - 31

Is Your Community Group

Providing vital service to the local community?

Consulting with your local community to establish or maintain a service?

Hoping to tap into government funds?

Gathering information to present to a funding source?

Developing a community profile?

Looking at ways to monitor and evaluate your service?

This Workshop is timely for just such community groups and organisations.

The Workshop is aimed at community groups offering a wide variety of services - Employment Resource Centres, Community Resource Centres, Community Houses, Citizens' Advice Bureaux, Budget Advice, Rape Crisis, Women's Resource Networks, Community Workers involved with families

Topics will include:

Community Consultation/Developing Networks
Designing Surveys
Gathering & Interpreting Statistical Information
Putting the Information Together
Putting the Plan into Action
Monitoring & Evaluation

Contacts:

Sue Edwards Central Otago REAP, Box 281, Alexandra
Ph (03) 448 6891, Fax (03) 448 6890

Bruce Cassidy Community Funding Services, Alexandra
Ph (03) 449 2282

POST COLONIAL FORMATIONS: NATIONS, CULTURE, POLICY

Conference to be held at Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia
7-9 July 1993.

The Conference will be hosted by the Institute for Cultural Policy

Studies. Its purpose is to encourage exchange, debate and cooperation amongst researchers, policy workers and cultural workers from Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Papers are called to address the following issues:

“cultural studies, theory and research,
models of culture, the state and economy,
processes of cultural policy formation,
conceptions of multi-culturalism and the national formation,
the politics of aboriginal cultural practice,
the significations of post coloniality,
feminisms and cultural politics,
media regulation and deregulation,
cultural and heritage tourism,
museum policy,
sports, leisure and popular cultural forms,
parallel arts movements,
regionality, space and the local.”

The conference is being organised by committees in Australia, Canada and New Zealand. The New Zealand committee is Graham Bassett, Avril Bell, Claudia Bell, Charles Crothers, Roger Horrocks and Nick Perry.

Contact is The Administration Officer,
Institute for Cultural Policy Studies,
Faculty of Humanities,
Griffith University
Queensland 4111
Australia
Ph 61 7 875 7772
Fax 61 7 875 7730

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IAIA) 1993

The conference this year is to be held in Shanghai, China from June 11 - 15. This is a unique opportunity to visit China and meet with impact practitioners from Asia and the rest of the world. There will be some excellent post conference tours.

The theme of the conference is “Development and the Environment”.

For programme information contact Prof. Zhou, Liang-Yi or Prof. Alan Porter at the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Georgia Tech., Atlanta, Georgia, 30332-0205. Fax 001 404 894-2301 or Ph 001 404 894-2330.

The IAIA is an organisation designed to bring together researchers, practitioners and users of

- * Technology Assessment
- * Environmental Assessment
- * Social Assessment
- * Risk Assessment
- * and other forms of impact assessment.

BLACKBOARD

FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"Full Employment is Possible" has been chosen by the Steering Committee for the first major project of the Foundation for Social and Economic Development.

The Full Employment Project aims to come to grips with arguments, theory and research, across disciplines. It will relate to local initiatives and practical alternatives and sharpen the dialogue on a large variety of concepts and experiences, economic debates and social values studies.

The project will begin with the writing of a base for discussion. This paper will offer a vision and strategy for full employment in the future. It will give an overview of both the present research and also the practical alternatives that are emerging.

A data base, series of leaflets, popular forums, and national conference are planned. Support and funding are needed.

Write to FSED
C/- Florence Pui, PPTA
PO Box 2119
Wellington

WORKSHOP ON APPROACHES TO RURAL COMMUNITY STUDIES

The workshop was organised by MAF Policy, Head Office, MAF, Wellington, December 3, 1992. The workshop was based around a number of short presentations. These were:

Robin Johnson	"Introductory Remarks"
Ann Pomeroy	"The Research Agenda"
Warren Moran	"Conceptual Approaches to Family Farming"
Olivia Wilson	"Farm Family Surveys in Southland"
Nick Taylor	"Social and Institutional Monitoring: the Case of the RLMP"
Greg Blunden	"A Rural Labour Typology"
Mary Jane Rivers	"Rural Women"
John Fairweather	"Ethnographic Decision Tree Modelling"
Hugh Campbell	"Some Problems with Field Work Design and Application"
Rosemary Smith	"Women in W. Southland"
Tania Rei	"Ka Awatea in Hokianga"

MAF intend to publish the proceedings. Contact Dr Ann Pomeroy (04 472 0367) for further information.

MAHI AWATEA REPORT

Mahi Awatea is a Foundation for Research, Science and Technology-funded project which examined the effect of unemployment on the Taiwhenua o Heretaunga, and the implications for iwi development. The researchers include Paul Spoonley, Christine Teariki, James Newell and members of the Taiwhenua. The interim report appeared in May 1992, and the final report will be published in early March 1993.

The research covers a number of areas. Individual Maori were interviewed to assess the different cohort experiences of work while marae within the Taiwhenua's area offered their views of their experiences with government work and training schemes, their resources and marae economies (mauritangata) and how they have been affected by unemployment. The final report offers a detailed statistical analysis which uses the material from the 1981, 1986 and 1991 censuses as well as Household Labour Force Survey statistics to see what the employment and other experiences (such as education) of the communities within the Taiwhenua as compared with those of others, Maori and non Maori, within the Taiwhenua area of Heretaunga, the broader Ngati Kahungunu region and New Zealand as a whole. Finally, there is a brief review of government-funded work and training schemes.

The initial research seeks to provide the Taiwhenua o Heretaunga with a data base which then allows them to use the material to promote their own interests and to make important resource and other decisions for the future. In the research and feed back process to the communities who took part, the research has had a number of spin-offs as marae and individuals are encouraged to consider issues in a slightly different light, or to develop their own data bases and sources of information. Further research is anticipated as the data base is extended and up-dated.

The Mahi Awatea report will be available from the Taiwhenua o Heretaunga, PO Box 718, Hastings for \$15.00.

CURRENT WORK

Theme: The Impact and the Impacts of Poverty

Poverty arose many times as a central focus of discussion at both the ASA conference on Waiheke Island (in a luxurious resort setting) and at the conference of the Sociological Association of Aotearoa/Association of Social Science researchers on social policy at Victoria University in December (to the background drone of touring cars racing the streets of the waterfront).

We discussed poverty as an impact of successive government policies, the outcome of restructuring in the economy and changes to our system of social welfare. We also discussed the impacts of poverty on the lives of individuals and families and the many organisations in the community who meet the daily needs of people trapped in poverty -young and old - and who advocate on their behalf.

Discussion ranged from anger and outrage to reasoned arguments. We heard the “stories” of those who live and work on low-incomes and support them. There were technical arguments about measuring what poverty means in terms of income, housing health, education and support services. We heard the frustrations of community researchers and those conducting social needs assessments, who are told that their data are flimsy, or subjective, or anecdotal (seemingly the worst epithet to be thrown at us). We were also urged to collect stories, to build a data base.

To some the revelation of extensive poverty, by any statistical measure or grass-roots appraisal, appears new and horrifying. But wasn't Brian Easton providing statistical measures of extensive poverty in the early 1980's and Charles Waldegrave has provided a consistent message for some time? What is happening out there now? What is entrenched, what is new?

Workshop and informal discussions revealed a strong theme of fragmented efforts at assessing poverty as an impact, and the impacts of poverty on peoples' lives. So often the work of advocacy research by an individual or organisation is knocked back. Yet it seemed that when all the work is taken together, with some systematic social monitoring, a very clear picture has emerged. (Some of the current work is highlighted below). Professional researchers were urged to back up community researchers with advice on methods, analysis and presentation. More networking is needed.

In a presentation to the Social Policy conference, Dr Andrew West used some revealing statistics to show how, relative to other areas such as horticulture, social research is poorly funded, dominated by universities and fundamental research with less applied work, and usually carried out by individuals and small teams in very small packages. The alternative was put as large programmes carried out by research institutes. Of course, there are advantages in both, and we need to have small projects as well as the large ones. But larger programmes do not have to be undertaken only at an institute or departmental level. Social researchers and social assessment people in particular, are used to working in networks. Perhaps it is time we stitched together a big bid or two to FORST, bringing together a number of research contexts, data sources and types, and conceptual approaches. There should be a role here for the ASA with its working groups. There is no shortage of vital topics.

Nick Taylor

SUMMARY OF IMPACT OF HOUSING POLICIES ON OLDER PEOPLE

Age Concern National Office, and branches, have been conducting surveys of older people and the impacts of government policy on them.

[The following information supplied by Age Concern is based on Household Expenditure and Income Survey 1990/91, Department of Statistics and data collected in regional surveys]

- * 16,167 older people in Housing Corporation accommodation are facing rent increases while their pension is frozen.
- * For over 5,000 single older people the first rent increase is between \$7.50 and \$17.50 a week - equal to between 22% and 47% of their average weekly expenditure on food, or up to a 15% reduction in all non-rent expenditure.
- * If similar rent increases apply in the second round thousands of pensioners will have to cut back by between 44% and 100% on each and all of the following areas of expenditure:
 - medical goods
 - health services
 - public transport
 - clothing
 - pets
 - toiletries & cosmetics
 - stationery & publications
 - tobacco & alcohol
 - financial, insurance & legal services
 - personal goods & services
 - leisure, recreational & education goods & services
- * No assistance is available to assist pensioners facing hardship as a result of these increases - the accommodation supplement payable has already been offset from the increase.
- * In order to qualify for additional assistance, a single pensioner would need to be paying 55% of their net pension on rent (more than double the pre 1991 budget levels).
- * The rent increases are hitting the “at risk” group of older people. The 1990 Quality of Life Survey of Older People found:
 - * 73% of 60+ renters had incomes under \$12,000 gross
 - * 40% of 60+ renters considered their income inadequate to meet basic everyday needs
 - * 50% of 60+ renter have fair or poor health
- * 74% of pensioners surveyed in Housing Corporation accommodation in Wellington in March 1992 said they would have considerable difficulty paying for any rent increases and 62% had not yet received any information about the rent increases they could expect.
- * 3,615 people aged 60 to 64 years may face additional rent increases for “unmatched” accommodation and have not been guaranteed tenure if they are unable to pay the increase.

SURVEY OF HOUSING CORPORATION TENANTS WHO RECEIVE GUARANTEED RETIREMENT INCOME (GRI).

The following are extracts from a paper presented to the Social Policy Conference, Wellington, Dec. 1992 by Oona Grant, Age Concern Wellington Inc.

At its AGM in Nov 91 Age Concern N.Z. noted:

(a) that the special benefit would not be available to assist pensioners in Housing Corporation Accommodation who could not afford rental increases.

(b) that the Quality of Life Survey found that older people in rental accommodation were among the most needy, due to a high incidence of low income, poor health, older age and living alone status.

(c) that it should consider collective action by members of Age Concern to safeguard the welfare of this group.

The Quality of Life Survey had also established that the Housing Corporation or a Local Authority is the landlord for 70% of the 14% of older people in rental accommodation.

A total of 82 people aged 60+ with no personal income in addition to National Superannuation (as it is now named) participated in the survey.

Preparation time for this survey took approximately one month and the actual survey was conducted over a two week period at the end of March - six weeks in all.

Results were collated and showed that:

32% of respondents indicated that they were managing at the moment.

51% of respondents indicated that they were "just managing".

17% of respondents said that they were not managing now.

Respondents were asked to describe in their own words how they were managing at the moment so far as rents were concerned.

Examples of responses from those who had stated that they were "Just managing" or "Not managing" were as follows:-

"Live from day to day."

"Barely managing at present."

"Every corner cut now."

"Insufficient for everyday needs."

"Currently low standard of living."

"No phone since last year."

Many respondents reported feeling "upset", "sick", "worried" or "confused" about the rent increases. Many were aware in general terms that there would be rent increases but had no idea of the scale of the increases and also expressed concern about the possibility of having to move and their reluctance to do so.

AFTER THE CUTS - SURVIVING ON THE DOMESTIC PURPOSES BENEFIT

Working Paper No. 12, October 1992, Department of Sociology, University of Canterbury.

This is a comprehensive report providing qualitative data and many "stories" about the impacts of poverty and the survival techniques of people affected. The following is an extract from the introduction.

How are those on the Domestic Purposes Benefit surviving the benefit cuts? What strategies do they use to make their benefits stretch further? How do they ensure that their children are warm, properly fed and have money for school trips when there isn't enough the pay for rent and power, shoes, school uniforms and the repair of the fridge? How are some sole parents on the DPB surviving the 'benefits wars' in Aotearoa/New Zealand?

Early in 1991 Christine Dann and Rosemary De Plessis decided that it was important to study the effects on households of the benefit cuts announced in the December Economic Statement and implemented on 1 April 1991. In June they received an internal research grant from the University of Canterbury for a small scale study of the experiences of parents on the Domestic Purposes Benefit.

With the help of a number of voluntary organisations in Christchurch, they managed to contact 23 people on the DPB who agreed to talk about the impact on them of the cuts and their survival strategies. After the Cuts is based on Christine Dann's conversations with the 22 women and one man who participated in this study.

The people we interviewed are imaginative, resourceful and innovative managers - they budget, they barter, exchange, garden, bottle, freeze, collect driftwood for their fires and research the cheapest place to shop each week. They scour the second hand shops, go on YMCA working holidays which enable their children to get away while they cook for others, exchange information about cheap doctors and special allowances, babysit for one another and collapse with exhaustion. Their unseen work enables the benefits they receive to stretch further than they otherwise would as they patch together a variety of strategies for survival.

Children's food and health take priority - adults have to be nearly dead before they visit the doctor and visits to the dentist are impossible. Contrary to notions that they exhibit a debilitating

dependency, the sole parents in this study are fiercely independent. Many find their dependency on the state problematic, but necessary at the moment. Some use the foodbanks when they are pressed, some have had other forms of support from church based social services. A number of them are preparing to enter paid work when their children are older, some have completed courses directed at improving their skills and enhancing their chances of getting a job.

There is a brief summary of some of the issues which emerged during the tape recorded interviews and two lunch-time meetings with those who participated in the study. Detailed discussion of these issues is found in later chapters of the report.

Christine Dann and Rosemary Du Plessis

POVERTY AND HARDSHIP IN MANUKAU CITY

In November 1991, March 1992 and June 1992 the Community Activities Committee received reports outlining effects of Government policies on Manukau residents.

The following are extracts from a report that updates the situation in Manukau.

The New Zealand Employment Service provided statistics on registered unemployed people in the Manukau Employment District and the New Zealand Household Labour Force survey.

These indicate that unemployment has remained constant and it still at a level which causes concern.

In the Manukau Employment District, 27,043 people are registered as unemployed.

The Household Labour Force survey indicated that 15.7% of the Manukau workforce is unemployed.

The unemployment rate is highest among Pacific Islanders, Maori and young people.

36.3% of the Pacific Island workforce is unemployed
33% of the Maori workforce is unemployed
7.5% of the Pakeha workforce is unemployed
34.8% of the 15-19 year old workforce is unemployed
23.6% of the 20-24 year old workforce is unemployed
16.6% of the 25-29 year old workforce is unemployed
11.05% of the 30-59 year old workforce is unemployed

A study carried out at the Medical School Injury Prevention Research Centre in the University of Auckland Medical School in 1991 found a strong correlation between childhood injury morbidity and unemployment rates. Unemployment was used as a measure of socio-economic disadvantage. Morbidity rates were found to be above average in the central urban area and South Auckland.

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL SOCIAL MONITORING

The Christchurch City Council is continuing work on social monitoring, to follow up its earlier report "Meeting Social and Welfare Needs" (1991). The Council are looking at developing a system of social indicators for monitoring the impacts of social policy on Christchurch. They are looking at preparing a report by July, and would be interested to hear from anyone else doing this sort of work. Please contact Martin McGuire Ph 03 3791660

A NEW ZEALAND POVERTY MEASURE

This is a report currently in draft form prepared by R.J Stephens, P.R Frater and J.H. Ward, of Business and Economic Research Ltd., Wellington. The (September 1992) draft has been circulated to a selected mailing list for discussion and comment and completion in 1993. It is being prepared as part of a research study assisted by the Foundation for Research Science and Technology. The purpose of the paper is to establish a measure against which the adequacy of standards of living can be determined for the population of New Zealand. The paper starts with a notion of what constitutes poverty, operationalises it, and then imposes the resulting poverty line on official statistics in order to measure the degree of poverty within the community. The research seeks to measure the incidence of poverty in New Zealand.

WHAT IS AN ADEQUATE INCOME?

Independent researchers John Cody and David Robinson have interviewed a group of low income families in the Wellington region as part of a project developing a methodology for measuring income adequacy.

Some initial findings indicate that :

the general impact of welfare policy changes has been cumulative. Changes having an impact on low-income families include reduced income through benefit cuts and increased prices of rental housing, school fees, pre-school care, prescriptions and other medical costs.

There is growing uncertainty, and in some cases fear, about the future. Most families with pre-school and primary age children feel that the real crisis will come when their children reach their teens and are affected by peer pressure over clothing and involvement in out of school activities.

This concern for the future is coupled with hope that things will change and that it may be possible to train or re-train and get a full-time job at some stage. However, in looking for the light at the end of the tunnel, many felt that the tunnel will be around ten to fifteen years long and they are fearful as to whether they will be able to survive that long.

The lack of clear information from Government on the future of housing, benefits and pensions means that people must make their own decisions on what the future holds and what they can do to influence their own futures.

Budget records show food expenditure is often the first to be cut back. It can be reduced through limiting purchases to basic items such as bread, cheap cuts of meat, flour etc. In addition, through the use of food banks regular budget expenditure on food can, on occasion, be replaced altogether. More than half those interviewed make regular use of food banks. A family may get a food parcel in the week when there is a one-off expense such as buying a school uniform and there is no money available for food. Prior to the benefit cuts most respondents shopped at the supermarket first and then paid their bills. Now what food and household items are bought depends on how much money is left over, rather than what is needed.

Clothing expenditure is also flexible and is negligible in many cases. Children's clothing is often provided through hand-me-downs, swapping with other families and grants from social service agencies. Adult's clothes are usually bought second hand and in all cases in the survey amount to an insignificant item of expenditure.

State housing rents have been the cause of most concern. During the period between the first and second interview one family had a \$22 a fortnight rent increase. At the first interview the budget only showed a \$1.74 per fortnight credit, and the rent increase coincided with an additional \$4 per week re-payment to DSW for fire-wood. This has pushed the budget "manoeuvrability" to the limit. The short-term solution being to "juggle" payment of the phone and power accounts between payment periods.

An emerging trend is the use of loans to finance current expenditure items such as heating (DSW firewood advances), purchase of specific clothing such as shoes and winter coats and car repairs. Several respondents regularly use a \$100 bank account overdraft facility to pay for the supermarket shopping which is effectively paid for "in arrears".

The high interest payments on most forms of loans means that the real cost of items is seldom acknowledged. It is the ease (or difficulty) of gaining credit and the total credit amount available that is seen to be important rather than the interest rates. Interest rates being paid varied from 0% for a DSW advance to 47.4% (finance rate including charges) for an item on hire purchase.

Debt is a normal part of life and although most of those interviewed had as an objective "to avoid debt and save for the future" there was a regular pattern of debt replacement. As soon as one item is paid off or one loan repaid another loan is taken out in its place - the fortnightly loan repayment becomes a form of "revolving credit" to enable the household budget to function rather than repayment for a specific, one-off item.

Input from a social service agency is almost essential for a household to operate on a welfare benefit level. Examples of support include :

grants for purchase of shoes and bedding, part-grant for children's sports or club fees and uniforms, or towards the cost of children's camp, weekend relief care of children, school holiday programmes, child-care (fees charged but some subsidy is available), payment of GPs and prescription charges and food parcels.

In addition, the social support provided through self-help groups associated with a church or social service agency are often the only form of social contact and "leisure" activity.

A "panel of experts" (at living on a low income) drawn from the respondents have met with staff from the Department of Statistics and from the BERL Poverty Line study to critique the Department's expenditure categories and aspects of the Poverty Line study.

The next stage of the programme involves forming focus groups of low income householders who manage their finances efficiently. Issues to be covered in these groups include (i) the link between income and expenditure and (ii) changing patterns of household expenditure and the effects of changes to public funding of social services, particularly housing and health.

The researchers would be interested in hearing from anyone who is carrying out similar monitoring of the impact of Government policy changes on low-income households.

David Robinson

[based on an article which appeared in a recent issue of *Signpost*]

POVERTY RESEARCH IN AUCKLAND

Early in 1992 the Auckland Forum for Social Research held a session on poverty research in Auckland which provided an overview of the range of research and the wider policy concerns on this set of issues. Auckland shares with other areas in New Zealand a similar type of response with a considerable amount of 'voluntary sector' concern and research, some local authority interest and involvement, an extreme interest from central government agencies and very little academic response. Not surprisingly, the resulting profile of poverty research is propelled by moral fervour, uneven in quality and coverage, deficient in research design and policy relevance, insufficiently underpinned by theoretical frameworks, and directed onto the 'victims' rather than to examining and illuminating the overall casual structure which shapes the various aspects of poverty.

In the board sociological framework which I am using to guide my research in this area, I am trying to look at several domains of poverty (in terms of areas of life such as housing, unemployment, health etc) and in terms of each of:

- objective circumstances,
- subjective appreciation of circumstances, and
- behavioural coping strategies,

endeavouring to trace through different casual paths through looking at the different types of household which suffer from these different forms of poverty. (In turn, these different ways in which households are 'at risk' needs to be linked back to an understanding of the changing opportunity-structures in NZ, Auckland, and especially South Auckland). While using the household as the main unit of analysis, care is taken to develop

careful measures of its boundedness and the extent to which its resources are drawn on (and contributed to) by other than 'usual' household members.

Other Auckland work of particular relevance includes:

-monitoring reports from the North Shore Council of Social Services, Manukau City Council, and the Manukau Healthy City Project;

-Robin Kearns and Max Abbott's work on homelessness and housing stress;

-the family nutrition study from the Manukau office of the Auckland Area Health Board.

My own work in this area has included:

-a small-to-medium sized two-wave study of households in a council housing area to investigate the impact of the 1991 benefit cuts;

-a social profiling exercise with 1991 census data across the range of Auckland suburbs to identify areas of social deprivation, together with some of their social correlates (this uses overcrowding indices and average income as its main social indicators);

-an attempt to examine the social distribution of poverty in terms of other social characteristics using the 1990 Election Survey data-set;

-a relatively-large sized survey of household quality of life in Manukau (in conjunction with Graham Roberts and Carl Groves of Manukau Polytechnic and for the Manukau Healthy City Project);

-a large survey of household overcrowding and its links with ill-health amongst the half-dozen census areas of Manukau which have the highest proportion of overcrowded households (in conjunction with Robin Kearns and for the Manukau City Council).

Reports on the first three studies are available, some limited preliminary results from the QOL survey are available and the overcrowding survey is to be implemented during late February. A further project I would like to work on with 1991 census data is to examine variation in the social characteristics of households in terms of an index of 'household relative income deprivation'. The whole project also needs theoretical consolidation, since its components (so far) are built from opportunistic empirical projects.

Charles Crothers

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7. Just Another Experiment, Auckland Methodist Mission, PO Box 5104, Wellesley Street, Auckland.
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11. Poverty and Income Adequacy Distribution, development of time series on poverty lines, income gaps and distribution of income adequacy; draft report available from BERL, PO Box 10277, Wellington.
12. Winners and Losers: Work and Unemployment (The Experiment Continues), Auckland Methodist Mission PO Box 5104, Wellesley Street, Auckland.
13. New Zealand Association of Citizen's Advice Bureaux report on impact of social policy changes, PO Box 9777, Wellington.
15. Report from Christine Dann at Canterbury University on a series of interviews with beneficiaries.
16. Interviews with 100 beneficiary households in Flaxmere carried out by John Moananui.
17. Monitoring work being carried out by Liz Hicks at Barnado's.

Further information on these references can be obtained from David Robinson who compiled the above list. Phone or Fax (04) 475-9275.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

FARMER AND FARM WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

By Ruth M. Houghton and Anthony Wilson, University of Otago Consulting Group. Published as MAF Policy Technical Paper 92/6, June 1992.

FAMILY FARMING AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Key Papers Number 2, Centre for Rural Social Research, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Charles Strut University-Riverina. Edited by Margaret Alston. 1991.

This collection of papers provides a searching look at farming in Australia and New Zealand in the 1990's from several perspectives. The future of family farming is addressed in a number of these papers, a future clouded with uncertainty and marked by the

vicissitudes of a global economy, intensive restructuring in agriculture, a weakening commitment to intergenerational transfer and an increasing level of pluriactivity as families take up diverse economic options. The current severe crisis in agriculture makes it difficult to predict how family farming will survive into the 21st Century. We hope that this collection will provide useful and though provoking information for all those interested in the plight of family farming whether they be members of farming families, politicians, policy makers, media commentators, academics or students.

THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FACTORS ON HEALTH

This provides a review of some research examining the link between socio-economic factors and health. The factors identified as having a potentially significant impact on health, and therefore included in the report were : income, education, social class, unemployment, housing, ethnicity, gender, family structure, and area of residence. Several hundred studies were reviewed.

The research was carried out by the Public Health Association of NZ for the Department of Health and published in December 1992. The primary writer was Helena Barwick. It is accompanied by a second report, "The Bibliography of Relationships Between Economic and Social Factors and Health" also prepared by the Public Health Association of NZ for the Department of Health. Copies of the report are available from the Public Health Association of NZ.

NEW ZEALAND REGIONAL RURAL DIVERSITY - PART ONE : A 1986 PROFILE

MAF Policy Technical Paper 92/14

This is part one of a two part statistical profile of New Zealand rural diversity and change at a regional level. It was prepared to illustrate with statistics on demographic characteristics, employment patterns, ethnic composition, income levels, migration patterns and other social indicators the wide diversity of rural New Zealand. The information in the report is presented in the form of copious maps and tables of supporting statistics.

The paper was prepared by James Newell of Monitoring and Evaluation Research Associates for MAF Policy Wellington. It is available from the Manager, Rural Affairs, MAF Policy, PO Box 2526, Wellington.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN TO THE RURAL ECONOMY - STAGE ONE : SCOPING REPORT

MAF Policy Technical Paper 92/4

This reports on the first stage of a two part study that is looking "at the paid and unpaid work of rural women, and how this work, which often goes unnoticed, contributes to the rural economy". The report brings together published and unpublished information to provide an overview (or scoping study) of the role and contribution of rural women today compared with their role and contribution in the past; how this contribution stands alongside that of rural men, and alongside that of urban women and men. The study also looks at the work of rural women in terms of their own hopes and aspirations and at the way in which this work is formally recognised.

It is planned that the second part of the study will use in-depth discussions with rural and farm women, and women involved with agricultural and rural service industries to take a closer look at issues raised. The second report also aims to focus on the barriers against and opportunities for rural women to contribute to the economy.

The paper was prepared by Mary-Jane Rivers for MAF Policy, Wellington. It is available from the Manager, Rural Affairs, MAF Policy, PO Box 2526, Wellington.

CEDAW REPORT

In early December the Minister of Women's Affairs, Jenny Shipley released the report Status of New Zealand Women 1992 - the second periodic report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

This issue has been compiled and edited by Nick Taylor and James Newell. Lay out and typesetting were done by David Press and James Newell in Wellington. Erik Norder, Taylor Baines and Associates, also assisted with typing. As usual, we note that the copy and information in the newsletter is only as good as the network out there. In recent issues we have kept to the idea of a major theme, in this case on poverty.

We would like to have any news about your activities, comments on professional practice, information on new reports, and if possible written summaries.

ASA (Inc.) Membership

Please support ASA by becoming a member! If you are already a member - pass the enclosed membership form on to someone else who you think may be interested. Membership fees for 1993 are \$10 for those on low incomes and \$30 for others (including organisations) .

Membership is now about 140, but there are still quite a few unpaid subscriptions