

# Will the benefit system deliver for New Zealand in the future?

## INTRODUCTION

*“I know of no safe depository of the ultimate power of the society but the people themselves and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion.”*

~ Thomas Jefferson

1. Why has the wisdom of the past eluded us?
2. We should be emphasising wellbeing rather than welfare.
3. Policies need to offer dignity, hope, purpose and responsibility to beneficiaries.
4. There is an urgent need to move away from the entrenched “fix it” modus operandi.
5. Heightening Community care and concern for whānau is warranted
6. Whānau Ora is an opportunity for some to counter the overwhelming dependency on benefits.
7. Exciting initiatives around employment, education, health, justice are possible by simply thinking differently.
8. Increased funding, of itself, is counter productive.

The future wellbeing of our country depends on the courage of Governments to change what isn't working for many beneficiaries or indeed for the country.

Unwinding the status quo is a challenge of some magnitude and requires, in my view, the ability to gain the understanding of beneficiaries and ultimately their “buy in” to proposed changes.

To answer the question therefore I personally don't believe that perpetuating the current system will deliver for New Zealand in the future.

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