



学科导航4.0暨统一检索解决方案研讨会

Welfare reforms go under the microscope

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[摘要] 15 March 2007. Significant changes to New Zealand's welfare system are going unnoticed and unchallenged, according to social policy experts at The University of Auckland. The University's Public Policy Group will next week hold a one-day forum to provide critical debate on recent and proposed welfare reforms. The Public Policy Group is a cross-departmental association of academic policy researchers and analysts at The University of Auckland.

[关键词] Welfare reforms

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Significant changes to New Zealand's welfare system are going unnoticed and unchallenged, according to social policy experts at The University of Auckland.

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day forum to provide critical debate on recent and proposed welfare reforms. The Public Policy Group is a cross-

departmental association of academic policy researchers and analysts at The University of Auckland.

Forum organiser, sociologist Dr Louise Humpage says the reforms have been represented by government as the most significant overhaul of the welfare state in decades.

"Amendments to the Social Security Act will transform the idea of social security, from a safety net for all New Zealanders in need, to a coercive, work

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focused system that values paid work over all other forms of social and economic activity, including caring for children or sick relatives," says Dr Humpage.

The forum will also discuss the impact of the government's social policy reforms so far. The Public Policy Group believe the government has not dealt satisfactorily with rising inequalities and what John Key has identified as the emergence of an und

"This forum will be a place to debate the issues and consider whether the government's reliance on work, or John Key's emphasis on private charity, will fix these inequities," says University of Auckland sociologist Dr David Craig.

The forum will canvas the issues surrounding the Working for Families initiative, the phasing out of the Special Benefit and the proposed introduction of the Single Core Benefit. Issues to be addressed include the rising number of sickness and invali

low unemployment; the impact of work-

focussed welfare policies, and the experiences of lone mothers in paid work. Comparisons will also be made with welfare systems and reforms in Australia, Canada and Sweden.

Speakers from the disability sector, welfare advocates, local government and leading academics from New Zealand and overseas will present at the forum.

The event will culminate with a panel discussion on the future of welfare featuring Sue Bradford (Green Party MP), Judith Collins (National Party MP), Alan Johnson (Child Poverty Action Group) and David Craig (Sociologist, The University of Auck

The Where to for Welfare forum will be held Wednesday, 21 March from 9am to 4.30pm at the Conference Centre Lecture Theatre, 22 Symonds St.

