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CHILD DEVELOPMENT?; EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE ON FAMILY INCOME AND CHILD OUTCOMES; ESTIMATING THE DOLLAR COSTS TO NEW ZEALAND OF CHILD POVERTY; CONCLUSION; 3 MYTHS, MISCONCEPTIONS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS; Claim 1: There is little or no real child poverty in New Zealand; Claim 2: Many parents are lazy or irresponsible or misuse their resources and thus deserve to be poor; Claim 3: The real problem is that some people have too many children; Claim 4: Assisting poor families will simply encourage them to have more children
Claim 5: The real problem is poor parenting
Claim 6: We can't do anything about child poverty; Claim 7: We can't afford to reduce child poverty; Claim 8: Reducing or even eliminating child poverty is relatively easy; Claim 9: Merely increasing the incomes of poor families will not solve child poverty; CONCLUSION; HOW BEST TO REDUCE CHILD POVERTY; 4 FINDING SOLUTIONS - THE BIG ISSUES; DEVELOPING GOOD POLICIES; Ethical considerations; Principles of justice; Investing in the future; The rights of children; APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES; SPECIFIC BIG-PICTURE ISSUES; Increasing the statutory minimum wage
A benefit strategy versus an employment strategy
CASH TRANSFERS VERSUS IN-KIND ASSISTANCE; UNIVERSAL VERSUS TARGETED ASSISTANCE; CONDITIONALITY AND SANCTIONS; ADEQUACY; OTHER RELEVANT POLICY CONSIDERATIONS; Sensible macro-economic policy settings; Indexation; Building on existing policy settings; CONCLUSION; 5 INCENTIVISING ACTION ON CHILD POVERTY; THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CHILD POVERTY: WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?; A LEGISLATIVE SOLUTION; Setting the objective; Defining and measuring poverty; Fixed-line and moving-line measures; Material hardship; Severe poverty; Persistent poverty
Integrated poverty measures

Sommario/riassunto

Between 130,000 and 285,000 New Zealand children live in poverty: these alarming figures are widely discussed, yet often poorly understood. Jonathan Boston and Simon Chapple look hard at the questions, and identify some real options for action.
