

Something to think about: November 6 October 2011

It is a bit difficult to focus on the impending election! Some of us are still in recovery mode post World Cup. Notwithstanding that and the remaining 'all's good' veneer that is lingering, we do have to look beneath the surface. As Christians it behoves us to consider matters with community wellbeing in mind and not only individual opportunity. This often means taking a longer term and view that includes many complexities. I have included today material from the Bishops and leaders of the mainstream churches for your consideration.

The Church Leaders 'Vision Statement for a Fair Society', prepared for the election begins with:

"The love of God is revealed in responsibility for others."

Core principles:

Some issues cannot be assessed by looking at specific policies –because they are about the philosophical orientation of parties. Here is a summary of some principles and values for a fair society:

Be Fair Is everyone included? Is inequality reduced? Is there a just sharing of society's wealth and resources? Is there a fair sharing of the tax load?	Be Good Stewards: What commitments are being made for the care of creation? What provisions are there for community needs and for places to play? Is the environment cared for eg climate change attended to? Are we encouraged to live sustainably?	Social wellbeing: How are children shown to be important? Are there commitments to child health, education and safety? How is family poverty addressed? Is whaanau ora included in policy?
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Those in need are not burdens to be borne grudgingly but brothers and sisters to be welcomed and accompanied... they have gifts to bring including exposure of hypocrisy and greed, and challenge to unfair systems...

[More information](#)

Social Wellbeing

How are children shown to be important?

Are there commitments to child health, education and safety?

How is family poverty addressed?

Are humane, preventative and remedial options provided for justice, and criminal justice?

Is Whānau ora included in policy?

Remember...

- Some issues cannot be addressed by looking at specific policies – ask what is philosophical orientation of the party?
- Concerns for inequality are rarely found in any one policy – they need to run through all policies.
- Health is affected by poor housing, inadequate income, and lack of public transport.
- Education is affected by health, sick under-nourished children, miss out on school.
- Climate change affects, supply of food, disease, water, quality of life in general.