Happy Docs – Doctors and Documents!

GP Presentation - 2013
Dr David Bratt
Principal Health Advisor
Ministry of Social Development
Today’s Challenge

- What do you want to know?
- What do you need to know!
- What’s the problem? - and how big is it?
- What happens now
- Health Benefits of Work – a clinical imperative
- Welfare Reform – what’s that about?
- Making the right thing the easy thing to do
ARE WE THERE YET?

JUDY, DO YOU SEE THAT ELDERLY COUPLE DOWN AT THE OTHER END OF THE COUNTER?

YEAH, WHAT ABOUT THEM?

I WAS JUST THINKING...

THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT YOU AND I WILL LOOK LIKE IN ABOUT TEN YEARS OR SO.

YOU DO REALIZE THAT'S A MIRROR AT THE END OF THE COUNTER, DON'T YOU?

Work and Income
Te Hiranga Tangata
A Service of the Ministry of Social Development
Children and Families in NZ

- How many New Zealand children live in a household where there is no-one in paid work?
  - (a) 1 in 3 ? (33%)
  - (b) 1 in 5 ? (20%)
  - (c) 1 in 8 ? (12%)
  - (d) 1 in 20 ? (5%)
Children and Families in NZ

- How many New Zealand children live in a household where there is no-one in paid work?
  - (a) 1 in 3 (33%) – in Northland
  - (b) 1 in 5 (20%) – in NZ
  - (c) 1 in 8 (12%) – adults out of work
  - (d) 1 in 2 (50%) – Maori children in Northland
How many working-age (18 to 64yr) adults and their families in NZ depend on a tax-payer funded Benefit for income?

- (a) 50,000 ?
- (b) 150,000 ?
- (c) 250,000 ?
- (d) 350,000 ?
How many working-age (18 to 64yr) adults and their families in NZ depend on a tax-payer funded Benefit for income?

- (a) 50,000 ?
- (b) 150,000 ?
- (c) 250,000 ?
- (d) 350,000 – 13% = 1 in 8
The numbers are people too!

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>1 March 2013</th>
<th>31 July 2008</th>
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<td>UB</td>
<td>51,031</td>
<td>20,712</td>
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<td>(UBY)</td>
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<td>DPB</td>
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<td>SB</td>
<td>- 59,128</td>
<td>46,964</td>
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<td>IB</td>
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<td>85,745</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>- 13,691</td>
<td>22,304</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>320,396</strong></td>
<td><strong>273,824</strong></td>
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## Close to Home – The Bay

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<tr>
<td>• UB</td>
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<td>- 51,031</td>
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<td>• Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>- 13,691</td>
<td>- 1,212</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 320,396</td>
<td>- 29,209</td>
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A Life of Ease – Yeah Right!

- How much does a Solo-parent get on the DPB to support themselves and their family?
  - (a) $250 a week?
  - (b) $300 a week?
  - (c) $350 a week?
  - (d) $400 a week?
# The Financial Reality

**Benefit rates (May 2012)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Net per week</th>
<th>Gross per year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UB &amp; SB &lt; 25yr</td>
<td>$170.80</td>
<td>$9,923</td>
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<tr>
<td>UB &amp; SB &gt; 25yr</td>
<td>$204.96</td>
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<td>UB &amp; SB couple</td>
<td>$341.60</td>
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<td>IB – single</td>
<td>$256.19</td>
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<td>IB – couple</td>
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<td>DPB</td>
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[Work and Income Te Hiranga Tangata](https://www.workandincome.govt.nz)
Context

- NZ average wage - $855 a week net
- Average earnings before tax $49,875 a year
- NZ Minimum wage $13.50 an hour
- Minimum wage equals $28,080 Gross a year
- Remember Solo parent gets $16,950 Gross
Determinants of health

• What are some of the things which you think contribute to a person’s “Health”?
Determinants of health

- education
- employment
- income
- housing
- access to medical and related services
A Challenge

- If the patient sitting in front of you currently requesting a Medical Certificate for a Sickness Benefit was a worker with a job to go back to – how long would you expect to certify them for as “incapable of any suitable work”?
Prescribing Considerations?

- What am I treating?
- Is the treatment based on evidence?
- Is it effective?
- What are the possible side-effects?
- What are the adverse effects?
- Interactions?
What do we know being out of work?

- Loss of Income
- Destructive on self-respect
- Risks of ill-health
- The “psychological scar” persists
- Trans-generational effects
- All up unemployment is bad for your patients