

Economic Policy Centre

The University of Auckland Business School

Pensions and Intergenerational Equity Hub (PIE) Annual Report 2023

PIE engagements and outputs

During 2023, PIE drew attention to the many issues facing the ageing population that remain unresolved. We noted that many superannuitants who are struggling in the rental market are ineligible for additional assistance because they fail the asset test. To have no more than \$8,100 in cash to qualify for any assistance is unacceptable but remains unresolved.

We also engaged in the debate over [asset and income testing residential aged care](#) and the unfairness of the treatment of couples.

We questioned the role of the NZSF. As PIE has argued the NZ Super Fund does not guarantee any aspect of NZ Super, see [here](#).

Perhaps we need to follow the UK's lead and reconsider the value of annuities as a way of funding older age. See [Annuities are back in favour](#).

To improve equity in tough times, PIE recommended making [employer contributions of 3% mandatory for all KiwiSavers, whether on a savings suspension or not](#).

PIE Commentaries

This section of the PIE webpage encourages debate about policies and issues that impact on pensions and intergenerational equity.

[PIE Commentary 2023-17: Age Friendly Auckland Symposium.](#)

[PIE Commentary 2023-16: The coalition agreement for Working for Families will fail to achieve National's objectives but tweaks could improve it.](#)

[PIE Commentary 2023-15: University underfunding is compounded by their greater corporatisation.](#)

[PIE Commentary 2023-14: The new government needs a simple fix to improve child poverty - here's what it should do](#)

[PIE Commentary 2023-13: Who is asked to bear the costs of old age](#)

[PIE Commentary 2023-12: Structuring taxes to achieve equitable and efficient outcomes.](#)

[PIE Commentary 2023-11: The strange coalescence of agreement by Labour and National on Working for Families.](#)

[PIE Commentary 2023-10: NZ's housing market drives inequality – why not just tax housing income like other income?.](#)

[PIE Commentary 2023-9: Buy now, pay more for it later...](#)

[PIE commentary 2023-8: When do we ever learn: Shadow banking?](#)

[PIE Commentary 2023-7: All for an extra \\$20 a week?.](#)

[PIE Commentary 2023-6: How do we talk about tax fairness?.'](#)

[PIE Commentary 2023-5: Auckland Council's airport shares - the big question that wasn't asked.](#)

PIE Commentary 2023-4: Why it is fair and wise to retain eligibility to NZSuper at age 65..

PIE Commentary 2023-3: How should Auckland City Council think about its investment in Auckland International Airport?..

PIE Commentary 2023-2: What is the purpose of the Ports of Auckland?.

PIE Commentary 2023-1: Who is asked to bear the cost of fighting inflation today?.

PIE publications and media

- St John, S (2023) "New Zealand's housing market drives inequality. Why not just tax houses like any other income?" published in Nov [2023: A year of consequence—Essays that got the world talking](#), The Conversation, editors Grattan, M and Bergman J, Thames and Hudson, Australia
- St John, S (2023) [The coalition agreement for Working for Families is very weak but tweaks could improve it](#). Daily Blog 27th November
- Dale, C & St John (2023) [Who'll pay to care for us when we grow old, and then even older?](#) Newsroom 12th November, republished Senior Watch 13th November, republished Ageing Well National Science Challenge Newsletter - Issue #5, 2023, St John [Radio NZ, The Panel, 15th November](#)
- St John, S (2023) [If NZ's new government wants a simple fix to improve child poverty, here's what it should do](#) The Conversation, 10th November, republished NZ Herald
- Dale, M C & St John, S (2023) quoted by Mary Holm in [NZ Herald](#) 28 October
- Dale, M C (2023) Auckland Council's Advisory Panels outline key priorities to [Councillors](#) 16 October
- Dale, M.C. (2023) [Auckland Council press release](#) quotes Dr M.C.Dale 13 October
- St John, S (2023) [The Labour-National consensus on family support means the election won't change much for NZ's poorest households](#) The Conversation, 12th September
- St John, S (2023) [So this is the best we can expect from the Working for Families \(WFF\) review?](#) 14th August 2023
- St John, S (2023) [What are we to make of welfare and Working For Families reform now?](#) Daily Blog 10th August, 2023
- St John, S (2023) [PIE submission on the Tax bill, July 2023 and oral January 2024](#) Taxation (Annual Rates for 2023–24, Multinational Tax, and Remedial Matters) Bill – commentary on the Bill. Pension and Intergenerational Equity Hub PIE.
- St John, S: TV Newshub, [Super debate rages: Expert says raising age 'very blunt instrument', doesn't tackle issue](#),
- St John, S: Waatea interviews, <https://waateanews.com/2023/05/16/susan-st-john-faculty-of-business-and-economics-and-economics-advisor-to-child-poverty-action-group-2/>: [Green tax plan could fix poverty trap - Waatea News: Māori Radio Station](#)
- St John, S and O'Brien M (2023) [Modelling income adequacy for those on benefits](#) Report based on a welfare model developed for CPAG by Dr Yun So, Economics Policy Centre, University of Auckland.
- Dale, M.C. (2023) Member of MSD expert advisory group. See the press release on the Social Wellbeing Agency website: [here](#). Read the report here: *Older people experiencing vulnerability and multiple disadvantage in New Zealand*.
- St John, S (2023) [NZ's housing-market drives inequality- why not just tax houses like any other income](#). The Conversation, 21st June 2023, also Stuff, interest.co.
- Dale, M.C. Radio Waatea Tuesday 13 June 2023 <https://waateanews.com/2023/06/13/dr-claire-dale-research-fellow-economics-retirement-policy-and-research-centre/> Why it would be grossly unfair to delay everyone's access to the pension.
- Dale, M.C.: Stuff.co.nz & [Why it is fair and wise to retain eligibility to NZSuper at age 65](#), Stuff and The Post 2 June 2023.

- St John, S, O'Brien, M (2023) [Fix "Working For Families" income assistance for children in low-income families](#), CPAG 2023 Policy Brief series
- O'Brien, M , St John, S, (2023) [Benefit income adequacy](#) CPAG 2023 Policy Brief series
- St John, S, (2023) [Outdated income relationship rules](#) CPAG 2023 Policy Brief series
- St John, S (2023) [Let's have some straight talking on tax](#). Interest.co.nz. 25 April 2023
- St John, S. (2023) [A prayer to the god of small things](#), Daily Blog 24th April 2023
- St John, S (2023) [Let them eat cake](#) Daily Blog 23rd March
- St John, S. (2023) [What comes next Labour? Time for transformational change- PLEASE Lets just do it this time](#). Daily Blog 10th February 202
- St John, S (2023) [We need to talk about the New Zealand Super Fund](#), Daily Blog 1st February
- St John.S (2023) [Flying blind into the recession](#) Daily Blog 27th January
- St John,S (2023) [Serious deficiencies in the social policy processes](#) Daily Blog 7th January
- St John, S (2022) [Basic Income for the old and the young in New Zealand](#). PIE Briefing 2022-2

PIE presentations and podcasts

- "Age Friendly Auckland Symposium: Uplifting the voices of older people", Dr Claire Dale chaired panel discussion: *Combating ageism in Tamaki Makaurau*. 1 November.
- Claire Dale spoke at The New Zealand Association of Gerontology conference 6-8th September [Rethinking Ageing](#). See PIE presentation 2023-1: [NZAG Provider Consensus for Flourishing in Aged Care..](#)
- Susan St John was a guest speaker at the 1st Annual Pension Conference 14th September hosted as a virtual event by [Pensión Research & Consulting: Building Gold Standard for Private Pensions](#) See: PIE presentation 2023-2: [What does the unique New Zealand approach to pensions policy offer women?- The features of the unique pensions framework of a secure, adequate, basic income \(New Zealand](#)
- Susan St John was an invited to take part in New Zealand's Population Conference 29-30th August [Population futures in an uncertain world: The changing face of Aotearoa](#), Auckland University to commemorate the life of demographer Emeritus Professor Ian Pool. She spoke on the policy implications of ageing.
- Susan St John addressed the AGM of the Children's Rights alliance, 27thSeptember.
- Claire Dale and Susan St John ['KiwiSaver as a world leading auto enrolment scheme'](#) Podcast recording: auto-enrolment and DE&I – what the UK can learn from New Zealand Friday 11 August