

Student 4: High Achieved

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

The social issue I am focusing on is the problems for people who are on low incomes in NZ that cannot afford homes of their own. As a result of unaffordable housing, overcrowding issues and a poor housing stock 300,000 New Zealand families are living in unacceptable housing conditions.

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A recent international survey rated housing in New Zealand as severely unaffordable. 360 Cities worldwide - of which eight are in New Zealand - were surveyed and ranked by affordability. New Zealand ended up at the bottom of the list, with Auckland being most unaffordable. Even London was considered more affordable than Auckland.

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Rents and house prices in New Zealand have increased over the past twenty years at a much faster rate than household incomes. These days an average New Zealand house can cost six to eight times higher than household income, while three times is considered affordable.

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A large number of people on low incomes live in older housing stock, which are most often cold and damp. Lack of heating and insulation means that homes are ill-equipped to deal with winter temperatures. These poor conditions are linked to increased illnesses and infections, especially in young children. The flow-on effects from this unhealthy environment erodes families' hope and self-worth, and impairs children's ability to succeed in school. In addition, cold, damp homes cost a lot to heat, which is unaffordable for many low income families.

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Many New Zealand families share their home with other families to save money, which leads to overcrowding. The most recent statistics show that 10% of New Zealand households are overcrowded. Overcrowding is more common for Māori (23%) and Pacifica people (43%).

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Habitat for Humanity is a place where you can donate things you no longer need which they sell in order to make money to build homes for people living in poverty. They also work to upgrade people's house if they have difficulty doing so. They believe that no matter what housing solution we provide; the outcomes are the same: a foundation for a better life.

My group and I are going to volunteer at the Habitats for Humanity store and help them sort through all their clothing and things they are donated that they give to people in need and sell in the store, profit made from the store sales are donated to charities and used for the houses that Habitats for Humanity build, every 24 hours they complete 115 houses around the world. The action we are going to take is to go to Habitat for Humanity located at 29 Bryant Rd, Te Rapa on 7th September 2016.

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One of the rights of the people in poverty in NZ have is to be treated with respect and feel as if they are part of the community even if they don't have somewhere to live or somewhere to even stay. They have the right to feel as if they still matter to the community. They should be treated equally as others in the community and not be treated differently because they are in poverty.

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The people who run Habitats for Humanity have the right to be treated with consideration and respect as they are trying to do a good thing by helping the community with their store. we will make sure that we thank them at the end of the day and that we do what they want us to do as we are there helping out.

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They also have responsibilities to meet health and safety requirements and this we need to make sure that we are wearing suitable clothing and following their rules as we are in their store.

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They have a right, as a manager, to tell us what to do and making sure that we follow all the instructions that we are given at Habitats for Humanity so that we will be able to meet our responsibilities as volunteers at the store.

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One reason for selecting this action is that once I found out more about Habitats for Humanity I felt the need to find out more and help them out. I found out that although they are a nonprofit place they help the community by having the big warehouse full of clothes, DVD's/CD's, toys/games and household furniture for cheap prices that are affordable for families who don't have a lot of money. Another reason for selecting the action is that I believe that Habitat for Humanity is making a difference in people's lives and getting them their rights to a home that is adequate. My action in helping at Habitats for Humanity will help the community in need to meet their responsibilities in caring for people in poverty. The main aim of this organisation is improved housing positively impacts all these factors within a family's life. These outcomes benefit not only the family but the wider community, the economy, and society as a whole. Addressing the housing issue is more than an act of charity, it is an investment in the future of our society. By our action of helping out in the local store we will help not only the community but also the wider community by taking time out of our day to help out where we were needed within the store.

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Michael Anthony O'Brien, an associate professor from the school of social work at Auckland University, who is also a member of the Child Poverty Action Group believes that the government is doing as little as they can but that groups like Habitat for Humanity are making the right moves in order to support people's right to have a house and shelter. Helping out Habitat for Humanity means that the group can in turn help many others. He believes it is important to help others and values organisations that are trying to change the circumstances for those below the poverty line. He is influenced by a human rights ideology, where he sees the importance of everyone being allowed to get their human rights especially the right to a decent standard of living

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■■■■■, a habitat for humanity volunteer thinks it is great that others are getting involved in the organisation by helping out. She believes in supporting those less fortunate than themselves and thinks that it is important to be altruistic. She like the fact that we are volunteering. She has a human rights perspective whereby she values the importance of helping people get their rights and allowing them the dignity of a good life with appropriate shelter and support.

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