



## Sole Parents, Widows and Women Alone

These changes are National's next steps in our comprehensive reform of welfare.

They build on the positive outcomes of our Future Focus reforms that rebalanced obligations and support. These saw 13,000 people go off the Domestic Purposes Benefit and into work in the first year of implementation – a 16 per cent increase.

At present women can get a Widow's and Women Alone benefit, but men can't. It's now time, in the context of wider reforms, to finally update this. Our changes will modernise welfare to better suit New Zealand's needs.

### Key Facts

- There are 100,000 sole parents on the Domestic Purposes Benefit.
- 50 per cent of those on the Domestic Purposes Benefit have children five or older.
- 11,000 have children over 14 years old.
- 220,000 children are in benefit dependent homes.
- 4,800 children were born to people already on Domestic Purposes Benefit in 2010.
- Almost a third of Widows are under 55 years.
- 29 per cent of women on the Domestic Purposes Benefit (DPB) have had another child while on a benefit.
- Six per cent of those on the DPB have had two additional children, and 3 per cent have had three or more children while on a benefit.
- 22 per cent of children born last year were reliant on a benefit by the end of the year.

### National's changes

- Sole parents and partners with children over 5 into part time work.
- Sole parents and partners with children over 14 into fulltime work.
- Expectation to prepare for work before then, or people can be sanctioned.
- Hours of work are more flexible (10-20hrs or 20-40hrs).
- Work expectation resumes one year after the birth of subsequent child while on benefit.
- Beneficiaries expected to be available for, and actively looking for work.

### Who is affected by our changes?

#### Full and part time work expectations

**7,000** sole parents and partners of beneficiaries with children over 5 (part-time work requirement).

**13,400** sole parents and partners of beneficiaries with children over 14 (full-time work requirement).

**20,400 sole parents and partners in total.**

#### Widows and women alone work expectations

**700** widows with children 5-13yrs (part-time work requirement)

**8,800** widows and women alone with no children or children over 14 (full-time work requirement)

**9,500 widows and women alone in total.**

*These changes will be introduced to Parliament in March 2012 and will come into effect from October 2012.*