

## **CLARIFICATION RE. POVERTY LEVELS**

UNICEF's press release (11/12/08) re. the Innocenti RC8 stated that NZ's child poverty rate was 22% - more than double the minimum standard for the OECD.

We need to correct this statement in view of the differing measures used to determine poverty levels.

The minimum standard set by UNICEF is 10%. This analysis uses the OECD poverty measure which is a 50% of median household income relative measure. The NZ child poverty figure on this measure was close to 15% in both 2004 and 2007 (slightly lower in 07 than in 04). The 2004 figure is available in any one of several OECD publications and in UNICEF's 2007 Innocenti Report Card on p7. The 2007 figure is available in the Ministry of Social Development's Household Incomes report.

The UNICEF press release used a figure of 22% for NZ determined by the Barnardos/Children's Commissioner's recent report. This 22% figure is the rate used as a measure based on household income after deducting housing costs (AHC), and using a higher threshold of 60% of the median.

We regret that our press release did not make the different measures clear and we hope that it does not detract from the very important information from this report and others, about the need to reduce the numbers of children living in poverty.