



STRONG FAMILIES, STRONG COUNTRY

We've broken the logjam that's been holding back the incomes of working Kiwi families.

After 2½ years of denying that it was possible to link the tax brackets to inflation, Dr Michael Cullen yielded to United Future pressure and did just that in the last Budget - even though he strangely delayed its implementation for 3 years. So the job's not done, but the journey has begun.

Several months ago, Education Minister Trevor Mallard poured scorn on United Future's push for interest rates on student loans to be cut to below 4%, claiming the country couldn't afford it. Just a few weeks ago, the same Mr Mallard admitted in Parliament that Labour's campaign pledge of reducing the interest rate to zero had its origins in Labour taking a look at United Future's policy and deciding it made sense. If the policy's implemented after the next election, it means more money for thousands of New Zealand families.

Families, especially those with young children, are responding ever more eagerly to United Future's policy of income-splitting for tax purposes. Under this scheme, the family breadwinner and the homemaker who looks after the kids can reduce their tax bill significantly by combining, then splitting, their incomes.

Plus we want to increase the family income by taking GST off your rates and making the first \$3000 of your earned income taxfree.

Successes in recent years:

In partnership with the people of Ohariu-Belmont. I've managed to save the Newlands Fire Station, ensuring a speedy response to the people of the area in emergencies; fought off an attempt to reduce the number of police stationed in the electorate; and helped develop the Northern Voluntary Service Awards.

These awards allow us to recognise the brilliant voluntary efforts of those who make our communities stronger and better places to live.

Over the years I've worked with literally thousands of local people on issues of concern to them, as well as with local schools and community agencies on many other matters. I've lobbied Ministers, local councils and others, as well as speaking out to ensure we get the best for the people of Ohariu Belmont. That's what being your MP is all about.



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Hon Peter Dunne: Serving the people of Ohariu-Belmont for 21 years