

MP's Name, Party, and Electorate				
Elector's Name				
Question / Issue Number	Question or Issue	Explanation to accompany question / issue	Further notes / issues to raise during the discussion	Summary of MP's Position
Preamble	Determine if the MP is happy for <b>Closing the Gap</b> to publish a summary of the points discussed and, if so, how they would like to proceed in reviewing th details to be published		The following questions expand on Brian MacKenzie's suggested agenda of: (a) canvas his familiarity with the evidence on the linkages between income inequality and social harm (b) sound out the level of his personal support for tackling the issues (c) offer to act in an advisory capacity to him on the policies and strategies which have most potential to make a difference.	
1	Is it fair that many of our well-to-do regularly avoid tax? In this regard have you read Treasure Islands Nicholas Shaxson			
2	How would he / she assess the equality of opportunity in New Zealand?		We would contend that, without a good measure of equality in the more general sense, equality of opportunity simply cannot exist	
3	Does he / she accept the evidence that New Zealand ranks as one of the least equal countries in the OECD group of countries?		On the basis of the difference in income between the top 20% and the bottom 20% average incomes NZ is probably in the top 10 least equal. There are various other measures which have been published - none are flattering to New Zealand.	
4	Is he / she aware of the strong correlation between income inequality and societal ills <i>and that this relationship is causal?</i>		Epidemiologists Wilkinson and Pickett have analysed data from a number of rich countries and have clearly shown that such a correlation exists <i>and that it is significant and causal</i> . Moreover, they have shown that everyone in a society is affected by greater inequality. <i>ie that more equal societies are better for all This causal relationship is further backed up by research and commentary from many others including The New Economics Foundation, The JR Rowntree Foundation, The Price of Inequality by Joseph Stiglitz, Ill Fares the Land by Tony Judt, Time for Outrage by Stephan Hessel, No Nonsense Guide to Inequality by Danny Dorling, Research by the UK Income Equality Trust.</i>	
5	Has he / she read <i>The Spirit Level?</i> And/or any of the other material mentioned above			
6	<i>If you do accept that there is a significant causal relationship between income inequality and societal ills, as a politician what are you doing about it. And your party</i>			

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7	<p>What is his / her attitude towards the following ideas?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trickle-down economics (also known as "a rising tide lifts all boats") works.</li> <li>• The rich are the "job creators," so giving them more money leads to more and better jobs</li> <li>• The cost of reducing inequality is so great that, as much as idealists would like to do so, we would be killing the goose that lays the golden egg</li> <li>• Markets are self-regulating and efficient, and any governmental interference with markets is a mistake</li> </ul>		<p>Would he / she be interested to know that Joseph Stiglitz, author of <i>The Price of Inequality</i> declares all the above are myths.</p> <p>Joseph E. Stiglitz is a winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics, a former chief economist of the World Bank, and a professor at Columbia University. His reasoning related to the above myths are contained in a New York Times article which can be found at <a href="http://campaignstops.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/10/26/stiglitz-some-are-more-unequal-than-others/">http://campaignstops.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/10/26/stiglitz-some-are-more-unequal-than-others/</a></p>	
8	<p>If you believe reducing the GAP is desirable, how can this be achieved</p>		<p>Any suggestion for change which they consider they thought of (first) will carry more weight with them than if we (or others) think of it first.</p>	