



Aotearoa’s Job Crisis: Austerity, Alienation, and the False Promises of Capitalism

Across Aotearoa, thousands are struggling to find work as job listings disappear, applications go unanswered, and the government offers nothing but empty rhetoric. Those who returned to study in hopes of changing careers are facing rejection after rejection. Others, with years of experience in specialised fields, find that opportunities have dried up, leaving them stuck in limbo. Unemployment has risen to **5.1%**, the highest level since 2020, and projections suggest it will keep climbing.

INSIDE

Jacinda Ardern: The Myth of Kindness and the Reality of Division.....p5

Beyond the Crisis: An Anarcho-Communist Response to Aotearoa’s State of the Nation 2025.....p10

The State of the Working Class in Aotearoa: A Crisis of Capitalist Exploitation.....p14

Government reports confirm that **job advertisements have fallen across every industry and region**, with no sign of recovery in the near future. For those searching for work, the reality is bleak: hundreds of applications per role, fewer opportunities than ever, and no relief in sight. Meanwhile, policies targeting job seekers are being ramped up, forcing people to apply for jobs that do not exist.

This is not just an economic downturn—it is a manufactured crisis. Decades of neoliberal policies have gutted the public sector, driven wages down, and left workers with little security. Austerity has been sold as a solution, but it has only deepened the problem.

The Job Market is Rigged Against Workers

In the face of rising unemployment, the government and corporate media frame the crisis as temporary. They claim that **the job market will “bounce back”**, that things will improve with time. But for those experiencing it firsthand, the reality is much different.

The official unemployment rate does not account for those **stuck in casual or**

part-time work who need full-time hours to survive. It does not include those who have simply given up after months of unanswered applications. It does not consider the **rising number of overworked employees**, picking up the slack for colleagues who have been made redundant.

Instead of addressing the problem, the government is **introducing harsher sanctions on job seekers**, requiring people to prove they are actively searching for work, even when there are no jobs to apply for. This policy does not help people find employment—it only increases the number of meaningless applications flooding employers’ inboxes.

Austerity and the Myth of Efficiency

Over **9,500 public sector workers have been made redundant**, all in the name of “efficiency” and “fiscal responsibility.” But what has been gained? Those left behind in the workforce are expected to do **more work for the same pay**, leading to burnout, resentment, and further instability.

This is the neoliberal script we have seen time and time again:

1. **Cut public services under the guise of saving money.**
2. **Push displaced workers into a shrinking private sector.**
3. **Increase workloads for those still employed.**
4. **Watch wages stagnate while corporate profits rise.**

Austerity is not about efficiency—it is about transferring wealth from the working class to the wealthy. The burden of economic downturns is always placed on workers, never on the corporations and politicians responsible for the crisis.

The Working Class Exodus: Australia Beckons

As the job market in Aotearoa collapses, more and more workers are looking overseas. Many who have spent months applying for jobs in New Zealand **are securing positions in Australia with little effort.**

A recent survey found that **42% of those planning to leave New Zealand are considering Australia, where wages are higher, living costs are lower, and**

job opportunities are more abundant.

Unlike the usual wave of young graduates seeking adventure, this time it is **skilled professionals, experienced workers, and entire families** making the move. They are selling their homes and leaving for good.

This is not just a temporary phenomenon—it is a structural collapse. The government has failed to create an economy that supports its workers, and as a result, Aotearoa is **losing the very people needed to rebuild it.**

Capitalism's False Promises

In response to this crisis, political leaders claim that “**business confidence**” is **returning**, that “**green shoots**” of **recovery are appearing**, that tax cuts will somehow solve the problem. But who benefits from these policies?

- **The unemployed?** No. They are being punished for not finding jobs that do not exist.
- **The workers?** No. Those still employed are being forced to do more for less.

- **The public?** No. Essential services are being cut while living costs rise.
- **The bosses?** Yes. They are hoarding wealth, squeezing more productivity out of fewer workers, and keeping wages low.

This is **not a temporary crisis—it is capitalism functioning as intended.**

The system is designed to benefit the wealthy while keeping workers struggling just enough to remain desperate.

A Different Future is Possible

This situation is **not inevitable.** The job market is collapsing not because of some natural economic cycle but because of deliberate policy choices—choices that prioritise corporate profits over people’s well-being.

We do not have to accept this. Instead, we must demand:

- **An end to austerity.** Reverse public sector cuts and create jobs in health, education, and infrastructure.

- **A living wage for all.** If a job does not provide a dignified life, it is not a job worth having.
- **A universal basic income.** If the state refuses to provide jobs, it must provide economic security.
- **Workers’ control over industry.** If businesses refuse to employ people, **workers should take them over.**

Most importantly, we must **reject capitalism as the only possible system.** The job market is not failing—**capitalism is.**

The future does not belong to corporations or politicians. It belongs to **the workers, the unemployed, the struggling, the exploited.** It belongs to those who refuse to accept that their lives should be dictated by the whims of a broken system.

It is time to **organise, resist, and fight for a future that puts people before profit.** Because if we don’t, the only thing waiting for us is another rejection letter. alternative and a fresh way of doing stuff, we suggest leaving the misnamed ‘Labour’ Party behind and trying a new approach

Jacinda Ardern: The Myth of Kindness and the Reality of Division

The release of *Ardern: Prime Minister* is the latest attempt to mythologise Jacinda Ardern's tenure as a time of compassionate and decisive leadership. The documentary frames her as a selfless leader who guided New Zealand through crises, from the Christchurch terror attack to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, for us, this hagiography obscures the real impact of her government: increasing inequality, expanding state power, and deepening social divisions. The reality of Ardern's leadership is far removed from the carefully curated narrative of "kindness" and "transformational politics" that the film promotes.

A Neoliberal in Progressive Clothing

Ardern's rise to power was built on promises of radical change. Labour's

2017 campaign vowed to fix the housing crisis, reduce child poverty, and overhaul the economy to serve working-class interests. Yet, by the time she resigned in 2023, New Zealand's inequality had worsened, the housing market remained inaccessible to ordinary people, and the government had failed to challenge the economic structures that keep capital entrenched in power.

Instead of confronting the root causes of social issues, Ardern's government relied on progressive branding while maintaining the neoliberal status quo. The housing crisis was met with half-measures like Kiwibuild, which failed to deliver affordable homes. The government increased welfare payments slightly but kept the punitive welfare system intact. The much-hyped Fair Pay Agreements were too little, too late—scrapped as soon as National regained power.

For all the talk of transformational leadership, Labour's economic policies primarily benefited property owners, banks, and corporations. Ardern's government continued to subsidise landlords and failed to implement a meaningful wealth tax. Despite

unprecedented state intervention during the pandemic, the government refused to take structural steps toward economic justice. Instead, it handed billions to businesses while ordinary workers were left struggling.

COVID-19: From Unity to Division

The documentary portrays Ardern's handling of COVID-19 as a heroic success story, but in reality, her government left behind a deeply polarised nation.

In 2020, Ardern was lauded internationally for New Zealand's elimination strategy. The "team of five million" rhetoric painted the response as a collective national effort, yet the burdens were not shared equally.

Working-class and Māori communities bore the brunt of lockdowns, job losses, and economic hardship, while property owners and the wealthy profited from soaring house prices.

By mid-2021, frustration was growing. The MIQ (Managed Isolation and Quarantine) system became a symbol of government failure, arbitrarily locking out thousands of New Zealanders while celebrities and business elites secured priority access. Families were separated,

workers were stranded, and public trust in the system eroded.

Vaccine Mandates and the Erosion of Trust

One of the most divisive aspects of Ardern's COVID-19 response was the implementation of vaccine mandates. While vaccination could be seen as crucial for public health, the government's heavy-handed approach alienated many. Instead of engaging with vaccine-hesitant communities—particularly Māori and working-class people with historical reasons to distrust state healthcare—the government imposed mandates with little discussion. This only deepened opposition and pushed many toward conspiracy-driven narratives.

The 2022 anti-mandate occupation at Parliament was a culmination of this alienation. While far-right elements were present, many protesters were ordinary people—workers, Māori, small business owners—who felt betrayed by a government that had preached kindness but refused to engage with their concerns. Ardern's government dismissed the protesters entirely, allowing police to violently disperse them instead

of addressing the legitimate frustrations that Labour’s policies had helped create.

The Shift to “Living with COVID” and the Betrayal of Workers

By late 2021, Ardern’s government abandoned the elimination strategy, pivoting to “living with COVID.” This shift, largely driven by business interests, prioritised economic concerns over public health. The same government that had demanded strict compliance from the public was now forcing workers back into unsafe environments.

By 2023, the Labour government had alienated both sides of the COVID-19 divide. Those who had supported strict public health measures felt betrayed by the sudden policy reversal, while those who opposed mandates and lockdowns had already lost trust in the government’s legitimacy. The result was a fractured society, where resentment festered long after Ardern’s departure.

State Power and the Expansion of the Surveillance State

Ardern’s tenure also saw an expansion of state surveillance and policing. Following the Christchurch attack, the government

passed sweeping gun control laws, but also increased funding for the police and intelligence services. The new firearms registry, while framed as a safety measure, has been used as an excuse for greater state monitoring. The Royal Commission into the attack revealed that intelligence agencies had spent more time surveilling Māori, Muslim, and activist groups than actually preventing far-right terrorism—yet Ardern’s government did little to address this. During the pandemic, the government deployed heavy-handed policing to enforce lockdowns, disproportionately targeting Māori and working-class areas. This pattern continued with the anti-mandate protests, where state repression was prioritised over dialogue. Despite Labour’s progressive image, its approach to law and order remained authoritarian, treating dissent as a problem to be suppressed rather than a sign of systemic failure.

Ardern’s Departure: Avoiding the Consequences

In January 2023, Ardern announced her resignation, citing exhaustion. But her departure also allowed her to escape the political consequences of the crises she

had overseen. Labour was already struggling in the polls, and the divisions created by her government's policies had weakened the left's credibility. Her successor, Chris Hipkins, was left to manage the fallout, but by then, the damage was done.

The documentary frames Ardern's resignation as an act of humility, but in reality, it was a strategic retreat. She left behind a fractured Labour Party, an increasingly disillusioned working class, and a political landscape more volatile than when she took office that led to the election of a right-wing coalition. Her exit allowed her to maintain her global reputation while leaving others to clean up the mess.

The Danger of the Ardern Myth

The Ardern: Prime Minister documentary is not just a sanitised account of her time in office—it is an ideological tool designed to reinforce the illusion that progressive rhetoric can substitute for real change. By presenting her as a leader who embodied kindness and empathy, the film distracts from the fact that under her watch, inequality

deepened, state power expanded, and social divisions worsened.

For anarcho-communists, the lesson of Ardern's tenure is clear: genuine transformation will not come from within the political system. Labour, like National, serves the interests of capital, maintaining the structures that keep workers and marginalised communities oppressed. The real task is to build power outside the state—through grassroots organising, direct action, and community-led solutions that challenge the status quo.

Ardern's legacy is not one of radical change, but of missed opportunities and deepening contradictions. The challenge now is to ensure that the next iteration of progressive politics does not fall into the same trap of empty symbolism over real action.



Beyond the Crisis: An Anarcho- Communist Response to Aotearoa's State of the Nation 2025



The [State of the Nation 2025](#) report by the Salvation Army paints a bleak but unsurprising picture of life in Aotearoa under capitalism. It reveals what many of us already feel every day—an economy designed to serve profit, not people, and a state that perpetuates inequality rather than dismantles it. The report highlights three fundamental needs for human

flourishing—**kai (food)**, **kāinga (housing)**, and **whānau (family and community)**—and shows how, across all measures, our society is failing to meet these basic human rights.

But let's be clear: this isn't a crisis of poor decision-making, bad policy, or economic mismanagement. It's a feature of the system itself. Under capitalism, poverty isn't a glitch—it's a tool. Housing insecurity isn't accidental—it's profitable. Rising imprisonment rates don't reflect a failing justice system—they're a symptom of state violence protecting capitalist and colonial interests.

For those of us committed to an anarcho-communist vision for Aotearoa, this report serves not just as a wake-up call, but as undeniable proof that reform is not enough. The system is working exactly as it was designed to. It's time to dismantle it and build something better—rooted in mutual aid, collective ownership, decolonisation, and true freedom for all.

The Manufactured Crisis of Poverty

One of the most damning revelations in the report is the rise of food insecurity in

Aotearoa, particularly among families with children. Over **400,000 people now require welfare support**, the highest level since the 1990s, and half of all Pacific children go without food often or sometimes. For many whānau, the basic human right to kai has been stolen by a system that prioritises profit over survival.

But let's not be fooled into thinking this is about scarcity. There is no shortage of food in Aotearoa. What we have is a system of **artificial scarcity**, where food is treated as a commodity rather than a human right. Supermarkets rake in record profits while families go hungry. The state steps in with welfare payments and food parcels not as a solution, but as a band-aid on a bleeding wound caused by neoliberal policies and corporate greed.

The rise of poverty is not a failure of capitalism—it's capitalism working exactly as intended. The working class is kept precarious, wages are driven down, and dependency on low-paid, insecure work ensures the system remains profitable for the elite. Meanwhile, the state acts as an enforcer, making life just bearable enough to avoid outright rebellion.

The anarcho-communist alternative is clear: **mutual aid and food sovereignty**. Communities must reclaim control over their own food systems through collective gardening, cooperative farming, and the dismantling of corporate monopolies on food production and distribution. Real security comes not from state handouts but from self-organised systems that put human needs before corporate greed.

Housing as a Site of Struggle

Housing is another area where the state's complicity in upholding capitalist interests is brutally clear. The report reveals worsening rental affordability, increasing homelessness, and a shortfall of over **4,000 homes** just to keep up with population growth. This is not a housing shortage—it's a crisis manufactured by speculation, commodification, and the unchecked greed of landlords and developers.

Let's call it what it is: **housing in Aotearoa has been transformed into an investment scheme** for the wealthy. Houses sit empty while thousands sleep on the streets or cram into overcrowded rooms. The government's tightening of

emergency housing access has left many without shelter, and Pacific and Māori whānau bear the brunt of this injustice, facing the highest rates of rental stress and the lowest rates of home ownership.

Māori initiatives have shown glimpses of what a decolonial approach to housing could look like—**housing led by and for Māori communities**, grounded in whanaungatanga (relationships) and collective responsibility. Yet, these initiatives remain underfunded and undermined by state structures that prioritise capitalist interests over tino rangatiratanga (self-determination).

From an anarcho-communist perspective, the solution is radical and unapologetic: **abolish landlords**. Housing should be a collective resource, not a profit-making tool. Empty homes must be expropriated and returned to those who need them. Community-led housing cooperatives, grounded in mutual aid and collective ownership, offer a model for housing that prioritises people over profit.

The Prison-Industrial Complex and State Violence

One of the most harrowing revelations in the report is the rise of violent crime and the growing prison population—especially among Māori. Despite overall crime rates declining, **violent crime is increasing**, and the prison population has grown to nearly **10,000**. The report makes it clear: Māori are **twice as likely** to be the victims of violent crime and remain vastly overrepresented in prisons.

This isn't accidental—it's by design. The prison-industrial complex in Aotearoa, like in every capitalist state, serves a dual purpose: it disciplines the working class and upholds colonial power structures. Māori over-incarceration is not a side effect; it is a continuation of colonisation by other means. The state's reliance on punishment rather than restoration ensures that cycles of violence continue, feeding back into a system that profits from repression.

The answer is not more prisons, harsher sentences, or “tough on crime” rhetoric. Instead, we must look towards **abolitionist frameworks** that dismantle the prison system and replace it with **restorative and transformative justice**—models that prioritise healing,

accountability, and community-led responses to harm.

In practice, this means investing in community-led initiatives that address the root causes of harm: poverty, trauma, and systemic inequality. It means supporting Māori-led justice initiatives that are grounded in tikanga Māori and honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Decolonisation and Tino Rangatiratanga

One of the most insidious myths perpetuated in public discourse is that Māori receive “special treatment” under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The reality, as the report shows, couldn’t be further from the truth. Māori continue to face deep structural inequities across every measure—**higher unemployment rates, lower incomes, disproportionate incarceration**, and worsening outcomes in education and health.

When Māori seek to exercise tino rangatiratanga, they are met with resistance from a state that fears any real challenge to its colonial foundations. Yet, where Māori-led initiatives have been

given space to operate—such as in housing, education, and care of tamariki—they have delivered better outcomes than state-led interventions.

For anarcho-communists, decolonisation is not just a moral obligation—it’s fundamental to the dismantling of capitalist and colonial structures. True liberation in Aotearoa means supporting Māori sovereignty and creating space for Indigenous-led governance, free from the constraints of state power and capitalist exploitation.

Decolonisation is not about integrating Māori into the existing system—it’s about **dismantling that system entirely** and rebuilding from the ground up, with Māori leadership and self-determination at the core.

The Path Forward: An Anarcho-Communist Vision for Aotearoa

The Salvation Army’s report lays bare the consequences of a system built on exploitation, inequality, and control. But while the statistics are grim, they also serve as a call to action for those of us

who believe in a future beyond capitalism and colonialism.

An anarcho-communist future for Aotearoa would be built on four core principles:

1. Mutual Aid and Collective Care

Communities supporting one another through solidarity, not charity. This means creating networks for food distribution, housing support, and direct action—led by the people, for the people.

2. Decolonisation and Tino Rangatiratanga

True recognition of Māori sovereignty, the return of stolen land, and support for Māori-led initiatives that operate independently of colonial state structures.

3. Abolition of Capitalist Structures

The dismantling of private property, landlords, and wage labour. Building worker-owned cooperatives, local assemblies, and collective ownership of resources.

4. Restorative and Transformative Justice

Moving away from punitive justice systems and investing in community-led conflict resolution, healing, and rehabilitation that address the root causes of harm.

Conclusion: No One Is Coming to Save Us—We Save Each Other

The State of the Nation 2025 report exposes a brutal truth: **the state will not save us**. The government's role is not to protect the vulnerable but to maintain the status quo for the wealthy and powerful. The rising rates of poverty, homelessness, and incarceration are not accidents—they are the logical outcomes of capitalism and colonialism.

But within these crises lies a radical opportunity. The cracks in the system reveal spaces where communities can rise up, reclaim power, and build something better. It starts with mutual aid, with direct action, with solidarity—and with the understanding that the fight for justice in Aotearoa is inseparable from the fight for Māori sovereignty and the dismantling of colonialism.

We cannot wait for politicians or policies to save us. The power to create a better world lies in our hands—**the people, united, organised, and committed to building a future free from oppression, exploitation, and state control.**

The time for reform is over. The time for revolution is now.



The State of the Working Class in Aotearoa: A Crisis of Capitalist Exploitation

The Mood of the Workforce survey, conducted annually by the New Zealand

Council of Trade Unions Te Kauae Kaimahi, lays bare the brutal reality of life under capitalism in Aotearoa New Zealand. The 2025 report exposes deepening inequality, systemic exploitation, and widespread dissatisfaction across key areas of life—work, housing, taxation, healthcare, and governance. The findings reveal a class war waged from above, where workers bear the brunt of austerity, overwork, and economic insecurity while the ruling elite consolidates its wealth and power. For AWSM (Aotearoa Workers Solidarity Movement), this report reinforces the urgency of direct action, grassroots solidarity, and the fight for a world beyond capitalism. The crises facing workers are not incidental—they are features of a system designed to serve the wealthy at the expense of the many.

Overwork and Understaffing: A Strategy of Profit Extraction

A key theme in the survey is the intensification of work without corresponding increases in staffing or wages. Workers describe increased workloads due to hiring freezes, job cuts, and restructuring, all designed to maximise employer profits while pushing

workers to the brink of exhaustion. The government's underfunding of public services and the private sector's obsession with cost-cutting have resulted in rampant burnout, declining morale, and worsening mental health.

“Workload has got to the point of overwhelming.”

“Non-replacement of staff due to government funding cuts has put increasing pressure on those remaining.”

This is not an accident. It is a deliberate strategy of capitalist exploitation—more work extracted from fewer people while profits accumulate at the top. It mirrors the global neoliberal trend of making labour precarious, forcing workers to compete in a low-wage, high-demand environment that benefits the ruling class. The capitalist class, represented by employers and the state, has made it clear that they have no interest in protecting workers' well-being. This results in a race to the bottom, where workers are expected to be grateful just to have a job, despite worsening conditions.

Job Security and Redundancies: Precarity as a Tool of Control

The increasing instability of employment is a key concern among respondents. Mass layoffs, outsourcing, and restructuring have left many workers fearful for their futures. A sense of walking on eggshells pervades the workforce, with employees feeling disposable and undervalued. Public sector workers, in particular, have faced an aggressive assault on their job security, with funding cuts forcing them into constant cycles of uncertainty and burnout.

For AWSM, this highlights the structural function of precarity under capitalism. When workers are insecure, they are less likely to challenge authority, demand better wages, or push for improved conditions. This is a deliberate strategy to keep workers compliant and dependent on the system. The only way out of this cycle is through solidarity, mutual aid, and the establishment of worker-controlled structures that prioritise collective well-being over capitalist profit motives.

Management and Corporate Control: The Tyranny of the Boss Class

Survey responses expose a toxic power

dynamic between workers and management. Decisions affecting livelihoods are made without consultation, communication is non-existent, and Human Resources (HR) functions as an enforcer of austerity, not a supporter of workers. Many workers feel their voices are ignored, and management structures prioritise efficiency and cost-cutting over human well-being.

“People have left or been ‘optimised’ and are not being replaced. The amount of work is increased and we are expected to do more for no increased income.”

“As a public servant, I feel much less valued and my job security feels more tenuous.”

This is capitalism in action: a hierarchical system where workers are disposable and management rules with unchecked authority. In the anarcho-communist society we envisage, workplaces would be run cooperatively and democratically, ensuring that those who produce the wealth have control over their own labour conditions.

Housing: A Rigged System That Keeps the Working Class DownThe survey

confirms what working-class communities already know: housing in Aotearoa is a crisis deliberately created by capitalist policies. Respondents highlight:

**Unaffordable house prices and rents
The destructive role of investors and landlords**

Exploitative rental conditions and tenant insecurity

The impact of government policies that favour property speculation

Housing has been transformed into a commodity rather than a fundamental human right. Landlords extract wealth from workers through rents that increase far beyond wage growth. Respondents report being forced to stay in unhealthy, unsafe housing or being subjected to random evictions whenever landlords decide to cash in on the housing market. The anger in the report is justified. Housing should be socialised and controlled by communities, not by landlords and speculators. The only solution to the crisis is abolishing the landlord class and transitioning to cooperative, collectively owned housing models that remove profit motives from shelter.

“My landlord lost his tax breaks, so he put the rent up by \$50 per week. When the government restored them, he put it up another \$50 per week. I think it tells a story.”

“We have a 70-year-old friend living in our garage because it’s too expensive to live alone.”

Taxation: The Redistribution Lie

The survey exposes how Aotearoa’s tax system protects the wealthy and punishes the working class. Respondents overwhelmingly support a capital gains tax, wealth taxes, and progressive taxation, yet governments—Labour or National—have refused to implement them. Key grievances include:

No capital gains tax on property means landlords accumulate wealth tax-free.

Inheritance laws allow generational wealth to concentrate.

Wage earners pay significantly more tax than corporate elites.

“It is indefensible that someone earning \$50,000 per year pays tax while someone who sells a \$1m property pays none.”

Anarcho-communists go beyond simply demanding a fairer tax system. Taxation under capitalism functions as a tool of state control and wealth redistribution within the system itself, rather than as a mechanism for real economic justice. A truly just system would eliminate wealth accumulation through abolition of private property, expropriation of corporate wealth, and collectivisation of essential resources.

Healthcare: Privatisation and Neglect

Complaints include:

Waiting lists for essential procedures stretch beyond a year.

GP visits and medication are unaffordable.

Rural communities face even worse neglect.

The capitalist state is systematically underfunding public health care, forcing people into for-profit alternatives while ensuring that only the wealthy have access to high-quality medical treatment.

The logic of capitalism dictates that health care should be treated as a business opportunity rather than a universal right.

“I forgo seeing a doctor because GP visits are too expensive and my medication is not subsidised.”

“My sister in Australia got treatment a week after diagnosis. My niece in Levin had to wait six weeks just for a consultation.”

Privatisation is not just creeping in—it is being forced upon us by design. We demand a public, community-driven healthcare system where treatment is a human right, not a commodity.

Government and Leadership: A State in Service of Capital

Survey respondents overwhelmingly reject the current government, describing it as corrupt, out of touch, and serving the interests of the wealthy over the people.

They highlighted:

Cuts to public services while offering tax breaks to the rich.

Failure to address the cost of living crisis.

Rollback of workers’ rights and environmental protections.

Perceived corruption and cronyism

Austerity policies that harm the working class

A lack of representation for workers

and marginalised groups

The destruction of public services for private gain

“This is a government for the rich. Workers’ rights are being decimated while tax relief is given to the wealthy.”

“Our public services are being gutted in real time while the government blames workers for the failures of capitalism.”

The state is not a neutral body; it is the enforcer of capitalist interests. A system that serves landlords, corporations, and private interests cannot be reformed—it must be dismantled. This disillusionment with the political system should be viewed as an opportunity for anti-capitalist organising. When people see that the state serves the interests of the wealthy, they become more open to direct action, community organising, and self-determination outside of government structures.

Electoral politics will not provide solutions. The state, whether controlled by conservatives or liberals, will always prioritise the capitalist class. Real change will only come from direct worker control,

grassroots resistance, and the dismantling of hierarchical power structures.

A Vision for Worker-Led Revolution

The survey captures the growing class consciousness among Aotearoa's workers. From job insecurity to unaffordable housing and the erosion of public services, it is clear that the system is designed to benefit a wealthy minority at the expense of everyone else. People recognise that capitalism is failing them, yet mainstream solutions—electoral reform, state-led policies—will not fix what is fundamentally broken.

What Comes Next?

Challenge the legitimacy of the state and capital

Union Radicalisation – Unions must move beyond bargaining and demand direct worker control of industries.

Tenant Strikes & Housing Cooperatives – Renters must collectively refuse exploitation and reclaim housing.

Mutual Aid & Worker Solidarity – Communities must self-organise healthcare, food systems, and housing, bypassing the state and capital.

Abolition of Wage Labour & Capitalist

Ownership – Workplaces must be collectivised, owned by those who labour in them.

The Mood of the Workforce report is not just a list of complaints—it is a call to arms. The people of Aotearoa are waking up to the failures of the system. The question is no longer if change is needed, but how far we are willing to go to seize it.

Build the New World Now

We do not need permission from capitalists or politicians to reclaim what is ours. Now is the time to act, organise, and dismantle the structures of exploitation that keep us trapped. The solution lies not in the ballot box, but in direct action, worker-led struggle, and the creation of a system based on human need, not profit. – a world based on solidarity, equality, and communal self-governance.

Abolish capitalism. Build Anarchism
The time to act is now.

Survey results available here: <https://union.org.nz/mood-of-the-workforce-2025-results/>



Aotearoa Workers' Solidarity Movement (AWSM) are an Anarchist-Communist group in Aotearoa/ so-called New Zealand.

Since 2008 we have promoted the creation of non-hierarchical grassroots democracy and classless, stateless societies here and internationally.

We exist so our ideas can be more widely known, understood and adopted by working people. We see this theoretical knowledge and its application as essential in the struggle to replace the dominant economic system of capitalism.

Therefore, we have the ultimate aim of becoming a direct action organisation that is physically engaged in daily struggles.

We encourage sympathisers to join us and help contribute to this process.

Contact: aotearoa_anarchism@riseup.net

Blog: <https://awsm4u.noblogs.org/>

For Anarchy