

Health policies

Voting starts Sept 11 and goes to Sept 23. You MUST enrol before election day. If you are working on election day, your boss has to give you time off to vote.

Comparing what the parties say with NZNO's priorities

✔ aligns with NZNO priorities X not aligned with NZNO priorities – neutral

NZNO priorities www.nzno.org.nz

National www.national.org.nz

ACT www.act.org.nz

NB: After 9 years in power, National judged on outcomes, not election promises

1. Sustainable fully utilised nursing workforce

Nurse-entry-to-practice positions for all new graduates. Fully utilise all nursing scopes of practice – NP, EN, RN. Support new care models, eg endoscopy nurses, NPs. Fund advanced nurse training, education & leadership. Implement a Māori workforce strategy. Sustainable recruitment & retention (includes IQNs, Pacific nurses). Systematic, long-term workforce planning.

2. Investment in public health

Strong universal public health system. Increase funding to keep up with population, costs. Overarching model of care – Te whare tapa whā. Screening, immunisation, fluoridation, folate interventions. Restore \$2.3b shortfall in health funding. Substantially increase the public health workforce.

3. Primary health care approach

Increase health promotion – screening, prevention, literacy. Support informed self-management at all levels of care. More early intervention for addiction, mental/sexual health. Support healthy living – homes, food, communities, tobacco, alcohol. Implement healthy food environment index. Flexible funding for community-based initiatives.

4. Tamariki Ora: child and youth health

Address child poverty: income, housing, food, health care. Universal access to free health care for under-18s. Universal adolescent health services. Health at centre of care, protection & justice processes. Whānau ora: wrap-around health/education/social services. Nurses in all schools.

5. Safe clinical environments

Commit to safe staffing: CCDM in all settings. Health & safety, including safe staffing, clauses in all CAs. Resource infrastructure – facilities, equipment, data. Cultural competence & safety. Kaupapa Māori wards in all DHBs. Mandatory safe staffing standards for aged care by 2020.

6. Safe, fair employment

Progressive tax to fund public services, higher wages, equity. Living wage. Facilitate union representation & good faith bargaining. 26 weeks' paid parental leave (PPL). Strengthen health & safety surveillance, education. Protect ability to legislate for health in free trade agreements (no TPPA). Remove funding disparities for Maori & iwi providers.

7. Social and health equity

Act on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Integrated action on determinants of health. Matauranga Māori-based services. Health impact assessments (HIA) for all major projects. Integrated action on antimicrobial resistance, climate change, unfair trade & migration.

✔X More nurses, but workforce not up with population or demand.
X Limited (60%) NEtP and voluntary bonding placements for RNs only, declining EN workforce, new grad unemployment, increased students fees.
X Lack of long-term, integrated health workforce planning.
X Cutback on nurse leadership positions in DHBs.
X No collaboration or development of Māori workforce strategy.
✔X Progress on removing barriers to expanded practice, eg RN prescribing, pilot for RNs in PHC, but weak implementation.

X Vote Health has not kept up with CPI (underfunded by \$2bn).
X Targeted rather than universal health, eg 'social investment' pilots.
✔X Expanded but not fully supported national screening programmes.
✔ Increased funding for PHARMAC; ACC & HQSC supported.
X Shift in focus of NZ Health Strategy away from PHC to 'tel-health', IT, individual responsibility, public-private partnerships.
✔ Improved funding/consistency for ambulance/emergency services.

✔ More funding for GPs & pharmacists to increase access for some.
✔ DHB healthy food & drink policy; voluntary health star rating.
X Missed opportunities for collaborative, multidisciplinary PHC. – Significant reduction in PHOs, including union health centres.
X Funding disparities for Māori and iwi providers remain.
X Privatised PHC – eg Buller integrated health facility proposal.
✔ Increased immunisation, B4 school checks.
– Disability & healthy ageing: individualised funding, home-based care.
X Weak action on alcohol, tobacco and drugs.

X Health missing from flawed Vulnerable children's legislation.
X Highest rate of youth suicide in OECD.
✔ Childhood obesity plan; free fruit in schools.
✔X Healthy families initiative underfunded, community responsible.
✔ Extended funding for under-13s GP visits; PPL upped to 18 weeks.
✔ Nurses in low-decile schools only.
✔ Sudden infant death & foetal alcohol prevention programmes.

✔ CCDM in all DHBs, but inconsistent, and slow acting on analysis.
✔ Development of several national clinical strategies – palliative care, cancer control programme etc.
X No mandatory safe staffing in aged care.
X Inadequate support for mental health workforce.
X Cutback on nurse leadership positions in DHBs.
✔ Funding for new hospital in Dunedin.

✔ ACC Health Sector Action Plan to reduce harm to health workers.
✔ Legislated against zero-hours employment.
✔ Pay equity for health-care workers but...
X ... subsequent loss of jobs & mental health workers left out.
✔X Increased labour inspectorate but still too small.
– Small rises in minimum wage (to \$15.72) and youth rate (\$12.60).
X Wage increases do not reflect productivity increases.
X Progressing TPPA despite impact on health and equity.
X Increased barriers to IQN residency, so low retention.
X Low wages & disparities in Māori & aged-care services.

✔ Signed up to Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.
X Increased poverty, homelessness, precarious employment.
X Climate change and environment: minimal action on emissions, water quality, but \$10bn for roads.
X No health impact assessments.
X No halt to highest rate of increasing inequity in OECD.
✔ National anti-microbial resistance strategy.

Limited role for govt – less regulation, more competition, lower taxes, reduced public services, individual responsibility, welfare only for the most vulnerable and severely disabled.

X Reinstate student loan interest.
X Remove tertiary fee caps.
X No visible health workforce planning

X Narrowly targeted funding.
X User pays for those who can afford health care.
X Competition and privatisation.
X Reduced cost of public services, ie user pays.

X Increase contestability of funding.
✔ Increase availability of contraception.
X No identified public health interventions.

X Lifetime limits on all welfare eligibility, including sole parent support.
X Punish criminals early in life for minor crimes.

X Less regulation (usually means less safe environments).
X reduce spending on public infrastructure.

X Scrap minimum wage.
X Reintroduce youth wage.
X Reduce all income tax.
– Superannuation: increase age to 67.
X Unfettered free trade.

X Outsource welfare.
X Remove all Māori representation.
✔ Encourage Māori-focused solutions to poverty.
X Pro-immigration, but without protections for migrants.
X Abolish emissions trading scheme.

► Over these three pages, we've taken a snapshot of eight political parties' policies and compared them with NZNO's priorities. The parties may release further relevant policies before the election. Go to their websites to find out more.

► Use this chart to debate the issues, question politicians and become a more informed voter. Use your vote and **SHOUT OUT FOR HEALTH** in this election.

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Labour

www.labour.org.nz

- ✓ Increase nurses in public, mental and youth health.
- ✓ Pay parity with DHBs for nurses and HCAs in aged care.
- ✓ More frontline health workers, especially in mental health.
- ✓ Three years free post-school education.
- ✓ Support Māori & Pacific education.
- ✓ Adjust student support for cost of living.
- ✓ Voluntary bonding of nurses in public sector to reduce student debt.
 - Establish centres of vocational excellence.
- ✓ Significant funding increase for strong public health system.
- ✓ Commitment to restore health funding shortfall.
- ✓ Commitment for public health funding to keep up with growing, ageing population.
- ✓ Review mental health & addiction services.
- ✓ 10-year plan to make dental care affordable for everyone.
- ✓ Restrict advertising/sales of alcohol, unhealthy food & drink.
- ✓ Two-year pilot of primary mental health teams at 8 sites.
- ✓ Intersectoral and multi-disciplinary approach.
- ✓ Implement Law Commission recommendations on alcohol & drugs.
- ✓ Quality care for older NZers – aged care commissioner.
- ✓ Support front-line services, primary prevention.
- ✓ Lower blood-alcohol limits.
- ✓ Support tobacco-free Aotearoa New Zealand.
- ✓ National bowel cancer screening programme.
- ✓ Comprehensive school-based youth health service to all public high schools: 240 nurse hrs/100 students & GP support.
- ✓ Boost & extend Working for Families.
- ✓ Best Start payment to help with costs in child's early years.
- ✓ Accommodation supplement increase.
- ✓ Long-term plan to eliminate violence against women/children.
- ✓ Committed to kaupapa Māori health services.
- ✓ More staff and equipment (+\$20m cancer care).
- ✓ Investment in modern technology.
- ✓ Implement standard treatment pathways.
- ✓ Research, data collection to inform best practice.
- ✓ Consistent nationwide access to quality hospital services.
- ✓ Redistribute wealth: progressive tax to reduce inequality.
- ✓ Increase minimum wage to \$16.50.
- ✓ Living Wage for core public service workers, extending to contractors over time.
- ✓ Replace 'fire at will' law with fair trial periods.
- ✓ Introduce Fair Pay Agreements to set standard employment conditions across an industry.
 - Equivocal on TPPA.
- ✓ Coordinated action on determinants of health.
- ✓ Full employment; jobs building 100,000 affordable homes.
- ✓ Standards for warm, dry healthy homes, including rentals.
- ✓ \$20 million over four years to assist Māori home ownership.
- ✓ Address climate/environmental risk – water, reduce carbon emissions, light rail, public transport.
- ✓ Health impact assessment for all core government policies.

MANA

mana.org.nz

- ✓ Work towards free public health service.
- ✓ Increase mental health funding.
- ✓ Promote whānau ora in health delivery.
- ✓ Expand Māori health programme, include rongoa Māori.
- ✓ Extend public health to include primary care for eyes, ears & teeth.
- ✓ Prevention & health promotion – focus on sports, health & nutrition education.
- ✓ Free family planning advice, contraception, sanitary products
- ✓ Healthy relations programmes: anti-bullying, anti-violence, suicide prevention
- ✓ Tobacco, alcohol & fast-food restrictions.
- ✓ Eradicate disease of poverty through action on determinants of health.
- ✓ Extend free after-hours medical care for children under-16 and senior citizens.
- ✓ Paramedic and emergency response training in areas where health services are scarce.
- ✓ Pay parity for aged care workers, and compulsory minimum safe staffing.
- ✓ Promote industry-wide pay scales and right to strike.
- ✓ Strengthen regulation around 40hr/5 day week, penal rates for >40hrs.
- ✓ 25% pay loading on casual employment.
- ✓ Remove GST & bring in financial transaction tax.
- ✓ Eliminate institutional racism in health system – rigorous monitoring of access for Māori and Pasifika.
- ✓ 10 days sick leave.
- ✓ Incorporate UN Rights of Indigenous People into NZ law.
- 'Grab bag' of targeted environment policies.

NZ First

nzfirst.org.nz

- ✓ Universal living allowance for all full-time students.
- ✓ Redress the balance between health administration & health practitioners in DHBs.
- ✓ Ensure adequate recruitment & retention of health professionals, including NPs, in rural areas.
- ✓ Explore 'bonding' system option of abatements for students staying in NZ.
- ✓ Develop robust peer support programme for rural practitioners.
- ✓ Public health compact – guaranteed minimum services & equitable access.
- ✓ Remove profit focus from health sector.
 - Develop centres of excellence.
- ✓ Additional funding for elective surgery.
 - Reduce number of DHBs.
- ✓ Review Pharmac & increase funding.
- ✓ Restore emphasis on preventative measures & health education.
- ✓ Access to affordable healthy food.
- ✓ Early intervention for family health, addiction.
- ✓ Improve acute care residential services for mental health, disability, substance abuse.
- ✓ Review funding & improve coordination of PHOs and community health organisations.
- ✓ Review funding of aged care services
- ✓ More funding for child and youth mental health.
- ✓ Lift living standards for vulnerable families.
- ✓ More funding for culturally safe maternity services.
- ✓ Introduce teen health check bill (yr 9).
- ✗ Greater parental responsibility from beneficiaries.
- ✗ Referendum on anti-smacking legislation.
- ✓ National standards for aged home care.
- ✓ Improved safety in maternity care.
 - 'Centres of excellence' for specialist services.
- ✓ Review implementation of electronic health records.
- ✓ Adequately resource WorkSafe NZ inspections.
 - Independent evaluation of health & safety products.
- ✓ Pay parity between aged care & DHB nurses.
- ✓ Review all industrial relations legislation: fairness, flexibility, and neutrality.
- ✓ Regulate against precarious employment.
- ✓ Prioritise training and hiring NZers in critical areas.
- ✓ Raise minimum wage to \$17.
 - Abolish youth wage but subsidise employers of youths.
- ✓ Opposes TPPA and unfair trade practice.
- ✓ Preserve and enhance environment.
 - Balance between economic progress & environment goals.
 - Reduce migration.
- ✓ Support te reo and Pacific language education.
- ✓ Housing policy focused on affordability.
- ✓ Benefits (& abatement levels) inflation adjusted.
- ✓ Transparent salary bands for high-income public servants.

Green

www.greens.org.nz

- ✓ Engage health professionals in workforce planning.
- ✓ Ensure stable, resilient, skilled collaborative workforce.
- ✓ Nurses in deciles 1-4 schools.
- ✓ Lower tertiary fees, phase out student debt, extend eligibility for student allowances.
- ✓ Accelerate training & development of Māori health workers.
- ✓ Bridging courses for skilled immigrants (IQNs).

- ✓ Well-funded, quality public health system.
- ✓ Match funding with health need & maintain capacity.
- ✓ Endorses te whare tapa whā health-care model.
- ✓ Prioritise preventative care, children's health, people with high health needs.
- ✓ Public and clinical input into health decisions.
- ✓ Ensure Māori representation and consultation at all levels.
- ✓ Nationwide inquiry into mental health.

- ✓ Prioritise health promotion & early treatment.
- ✓ Comprehensive programmes on tobacco, alcohol, obesity.
- ✓ Adjust primary care funding to improve access & affordability.
- ✓ Properly fund home care, palliative care, maternity care.
- ✓ Integrate evidence-based complementary therapies.
- ✓ Disability 'plan of action'.
- ✓ Prohibit direct-to-public marketing of drugs.
- ✓ Specific Māori health services.

- ✓ Safe, healthy non-violent environment for all children.
- ✓ Free nurse/doctor/dentist/prescriptions for under-18s.
- ✓ Increase funding for Well Child providers.
- ✓ Nurse in every decile 1-4 school.
- ✓ Specific policy for healthy teens.
- ✓ Extend PPL to 13 months & \$220pw for non-working parents.
- ✓ Introduce CPI-adjusted universal child benefit.
- ✓ Improve access to birth facilities and lead maternity carers.
- ✓ Improve funding for postnatal care.

- ✓ Mandatory safe staffing for aged care.
- ✓ Accountable, continuous quality improvement cycles.
- ✓ Long-term contracts to avoid fragmentation.
- ✓ Build/refurbish hospitals for high-quality health environment.
- ✓ Collective health & safety laws – hazardous substances, harassment, occupational cancer, pregnancy, lone working, stress.

- ✓ Progressive tax framework, reduce tax on low-waged, 40% tax on >\$140,000.
- ✓ Phase in living wage.
- ✓ Strengthen collective bargaining, worker representation.
- ✓ Improve worker accident compensation, pay equity, & breastfeeding breaks.
- ✓ High-level commission into future of work.
- ✓ Full employment, shorter working week, flexible hours.
- ✓ Extend tax credits and sick leave for families.

- ✓ Sustainable development indicators.
- ✓ Affordable healthy homes, liveable income, decent education, employment.
- ✓ "Mending the safety net" – reduce poverty and structural barriers to equity.
- ✓ Remove excessive sanctions for beneficiaries & increase benefits 20%.
- ✓ Comprehensive environmental/trade policy addressing climate change, unfair trade & migration.

TOP

The Opportunities Party
www.top.org.nz

Health policy had not been released at time of writing but TOP gave the following response to our manifesto priorities:

- ✓ All NZNO priorities supported.

- ✓ All priorities supported, except ...
- ✗ ... cannot guarantee restoring funding shortfall.
- ✓ More funding for preventative and primary health.

- ✓ All NZNO priorities supported.

- ✓ All NZNO priorities supported, except ...
- ✗ ... cannot guarantee universal access to free health care for under-18s: "Undecided as to whether targeted or across the board funding for 13-18 year olds."

- ✓ All NZNO priorities supported.

- ✓ All NZNO priorities supported, except ...
- ✗ ... do not support increasing minimum wage to living wage.
- Support increased wages at bottom end; cutting low-skilled immigration.
- Do not support PPL. Universal Basic Income (UBI) "more generous and progressive".

- ✓ All NZNO priorities supported.
- unclear re transparency/democratic oversight in free trade agreements, but agrees in principle to protect ability to legislate in public interest.

Māori

maoriparty.org

- ✓ Focus on sectors with the biggest skills shortages: health care.
- ✓ Invest in Māori workforce and its development.

- ✓ Holistic public health model of care, universal services.
- ✓ Address Māori & Pacific health disparities.
- ✓ Address diseases of poverty, eg rheumatic fever & meningitis.
- ✓ Resurrect Drinking Water Supply Fund, to ensure access to safe drinking water for isolated rural Māori.
- ✓ Establish Māori/Pacific social investment fund.

- ✓ Increase kaupapa Māori services in drug and alcohol treatment, mental health, hospice care.
- ✓ More funding for sexual violence and abuse treatment, Women's Refuge.
- Ban synthetic cannabis & other psychoactives.
- ✓ Moratorium on new liquor outlets/gaming machines.
- ✓ GST off fresh fruit, vegetables and milk.
- ✓ Reduce the supply & import of tobacco products.

- ✓ Free GP visits, after hours, dental care for under-18s.
- ✓ Expand Oranga Rangatahi suicide prevention strategy.
- ✓ Establish whānau-friendly cities, encouraging young people to have a voice in design & planning, starting with green spaces in urban centres.
- ✓ Expand investment in Whānau Ora commissioning agencies.

- ✓ Cultural competency will be an employment standard in justice, health, education & social services.

- ✓ Living wage.
- ✓ Cost-of-living adjustment to all work-related benefits.
- ✓ Invest in Māori and Pacific workforce.
- ✓ Opposed to TPPA and FTAs that may limit sovereignty.

- ✓ Subsidise prescriptions, glasses, dental, power, etc.
- ✓ National housing strategy.
- ✓ Free annual medical and dental visits for over-55s.
- ✓ More mobile health clinics in rural communities.
- ✓ Subsidise power bills by 50% for households with rheumatic fever.
- ✓ Protect and enhance environment & reduce greenhouse emissions.
- ✓ Investment in solar power.