

ELECTION MESSAGES TABLES

Message 1 Policies that contribute to protecting our children as taonga

Labour	National	Greens	Maori	United Future	Progressive	NZ First	ACT
<p>Abolish parental income test on student allowance</p> <p>Continue to raise minimum wage</p> <p>Recent announcement of adjusting benefit earnings abatement thresholds from \$80 to \$100 on 1 April 09, another \$20 adjustment in 2010 and again in 2011</p> <p>Continue Pathway to Partnership funding so essential services for children and families fully funded by 2012</p> <p>Roll out CYF Differential Response nationally by June 30 2009</p> <p>Complete changes to the CYP&F Act e.g. lifting the age to 18 years, 2 new youth court orders etc</p> <p>Implement Best of Care? review recommendations regarding children and young people with disabilities</p> <p>1 to 15 teacher ratio for new entrants</p> <p>School Plus – free education and training for under 18 years</p> <p>School Ready checks for all four year olds</p>	<p>No child and/or family policy on website</p> <p>Commitment card commits to the maintaining existing policies such as Working for Families (WFF)</p> <p>Keep 20 Free Hours ECE but remove 'free' as actually a subsidy, make more inclusive (playcentres & kohanga reo) and more flexible (remove 6 hour day limit)</p> <p>10% rebate on early repayment of student loans</p> <p>Establishment of national standards for literacy & numeracy</p> <p>Legislate for inflation indexing of benefits</p> <p>Youth Guarantee – no course fees for 16 and 17 year olds not in school</p> <p>Putting trades training back into schools</p>	<p>Introduce Universal Child Benefit – Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjusted</p> <p>Raise benefit levels</p> <p>Extend paid parental leave</p> <p>Increase minimum wage to \$15 per hour</p> <p>Universalise the in-work tax credit under WFF</p> <p>Monitor every child's development at key stages</p> <p>Move to introduce a universal student allowance</p>	<p>Explore reintroducing a universal child allowance</p> <p>Raise benefit levels to an official poverty line of 60% median household income</p> <p>Increase minimum wage to \$15 per hour</p> <p>Universalise the in-work tax credit under WFF</p> <p>Eliminate child poverty by 2020</p> <p>Reintroduce a universal student allowance</p> <p>Abolish & replace Unemployment Benefit with full wage job creation scheme</p>	<p>Establish a cross-party parliamentary group for children</p> <p>Introduce one-stop shop family service centres</p> <p>Retain the Families Commission and Children's Commissioner</p> <p>Introduce a Caregivers Allowance for those currently providing unpaid support for disabled children</p> <p>Extend paid parental leave to 12 months</p> <p>Give fathers an entitlement to paid parental leave</p>	<p>Advocates for early intervention</p> <p>Free GP visits for school children</p> <p>Free prescriptions for under eighteens and pregnant women</p> <p>Ensure income adequacy by monitoring WFF and increasing budgeting services</p> <p>Keep working to lift drinking age back to 20 years</p> <p>Extension of the 20 Free hours (ECE) scheme to twenty five hours</p> <p>Extending the range of recreational and sporting activities available to all children</p> <p>More liberal criteria for student allowances to extend their availability</p>	<p>Concerned about the level of families' dependence on the state – wants to resurrect community wage</p> <p>Promotes the expansion of early intervention programmes for under sixes e.g. PAFT, HIPPY</p> <p>Tough on youth offending approach</p> <p>Introduce universal student living allowance as education the key</p> <p>Welfare policy focus on reducing fraud – no reference to benefit level adequacy</p> <p>Combine all parent-caregiver programmes under the umbrella of one agency.</p>	<p>Mentor assigned to families identified as at risk by CYF to teach parenting and life skills</p> <p>Extensive reform of tax and welfare systems needed - solo parents expected to work, advocates for abolition of all allowances and benefits for under 18s – specifies DPB although under 18 year olds currently already ineligible.</p>

Message 2 : Policies that contribute to increasing the well-being of older people.

Labour	National	Greens	Maori	United Future	Progressive	NZ First	ACT
<p>Labour will continue to adjust NZ Superannuation to ensure that the rate for a married couple is equivalent to at least 66% of the average wage.</p> <p>Introduced Kiwi Saver to make it easier to save for retirement</p> <p>Progressive removal of asset testing for older people in long-stay residential care.</p> <p>Maintain significant increases to home-based support funding, so older New Zealanders can be the ones to choose to stay in their own homes</p> <p>Continue to invest in funding of elective surgery</p>	<p>Keep eligibility age for Super at 65 and increase level of Super paid through tax cuts</p> <p>Commits to keeping Superannuation at 66% of average net wage</p> <p>Promote public private partnerships and multiyear funding in the aged care sector</p> <p>Establish aged care sector Industry Training Organisation (ITO) to oversee independent training providers</p> <p>Propose that DHBs contract for the provision of dedicated respite residential-care beds.</p>	<p>Maintain superannuation CPI indexed</p> <p>Promote team-managed, home-based primary care for at-risk older people and people with impairments.</p> <p>Significantly increase funding for the aged and disability care sector.</p> <p>Ensure that District Health Boards reimburse homecare workers' travel costs.</p> <p>Abolish asset testing for residential care.</p> <p>Work with community based agencies to detect and prevent elder abuse and abuse of people with impairments.</p>	<p>Adjust superannuation entitlements for those groups who currently experience lower life expectancy</p> <p>Review services for kuia & kaumatua with moderate health needs to ensure they are supported to stay in own home for as long as possible</p>	<p>Change the formulation of NZ Super, by calculating it based upon the forecasted changes to the CPI. Any unforeseen changes to inflation or wages will be adjusted at each April, in favour of superannuitants.</p> <p>Encourage people eligible for national Superannuation to continue working at reduced hours as they still have value to add to the workforce.</p> <p>Use wage-subsidies to help the older unemployed into work.</p> <p>Introduce a free annual health check-up to all over 65s.</p> <p>Ensure that there are sufficient community nurses and other welfare agencies so that people can be treated at home where possible.</p> <p>Ensure that funding for the aged care sector covers staffing costs in both residential services and in-home care</p>	<p>Advocates for a \$200 winter electricity rebate</p> <p>Advocates for interest free loans against assets for housing repairs and maintenance</p> <p>Review anomalies in pension entitlements (overseas pensions)</p> <p>Continue to work to Re-establish a fully funded free comprehensive public health system through an incremental step by step approach</p>	<p>Continue to raise superannuation to 68% average wage, cement the age of entitlement at 65 and ensure purchasing power remains constant</p> <p>Raise rebate threshold for non qualified spouse and index to CPI</p> <p>Broaden benefits of SuperGold Card</p> <p>Ensure future funding for eldercare sector is CPI adjusted annually</p> <p>Develop ITO for eldercare sector</p> <p>Review funding for resthome care contracts</p> <p>Ensure staff ratios and training in residential aged care homes is adequate</p> <p>Ensure adequate funding for alzheimer's, dementia and osteoporosis</p>	<p>Proposes new retirement scheme which will take 40 years at which point people will have sufficient savings to support themselves. In the meantime retirement savings contributions will come from personal savings, employer contributions and government top ups.</p>

Message 3: Policies that contribute to the **elimination of poverty**.

Labour	National	Greens	Maori	United Future	Progressive	NZ First	ACT
<p>Philosophy that the best route out of poverty is paid work. Work should provide an adequate income and that our social assistance system should support people into work.</p> <p>Social development policies include: Working for Families, Free Early Childhood Education, reducing the cost of GP visits and increases to the minimum wage.</p> <p>Reintroduced income related state house rentals and improved the rates rebates scheme.</p> <p>Recent announcement that benefit abatement levels to be lifted by \$20 next year and by the same amount in the following two years.</p>	<p>Philosophy: paid work is the route to independence and well-being for most people, and is the best way to reduce child poverty.</p> <p>Benefits policy is about helping people to help themselves into work.</p> <p>Extend part-time work obligations of 15 hours per week to DPB recipients and those receiving sickness or invalids benefits who are assessed as able to work.</p> <p>Require all people who have been receiving an unemployment benefit for 12 months or more to reapply for their benefit and undergo a comprehensive work assessment.</p> <p>Introduce more frequent reassessment during the first few months a person is on a sickness benefit.</p> <p>Anyone on a sickness benefit continuously for 12 months will automatically be sent to a 'designated doctor' for a second opinion on their work prospects.</p> <p>Enshrine CPI adjustments to benefit payments in legislation so they increase each year in line with inflation.</p> <p>Allow beneficiaries to earn up to \$100 a week before their benefit is abated,</p> <p>Introduce graduated benefit reductions for beneficiaries who don't meet their work obligations</p> <p>Require the most frequent applicants for benefit advances to attend a budget advisory service at the Government's expense. Those not attending will not be eligible for further benefit advances.</p>	<p>Philosophy that everyone should have a standard of living that enables them to participate in their community</p> <p>Set benefit amounts at a level sufficient for all basic needs of the individual/family.</p> <p>Protect all benefit levels by linking rates to a fixed percentage of the average wage (like superannuation).</p> <p>Reintroduce a Universal Child Benefit</p> <p>Abolish stand-down periods for beneficiaries and no work for the dole schemes</p> <p>Lift benefit abatements levels, address poverty traps created by high marginal tax when moving to employment</p> <p>Introduce a tax-free zone at the bottom end of the income scale (1st \$10k)</p> <p>Remove discrimination from tax credit regimes such as the In Work Tax Credit component of Working for Families.</p>	<p>Whanau Ora philosophy puts family at the centre of policy</p> <p>The government is better placed than individuals and their families to weather an economic downturn, and it should borrow to prevent beneficiaries and low-paid workers and their children falling into poverty.</p> <p>Official poverty level should be set at 60% of the median household disposable income, and benefit levels should match this.</p> <p>No tax on incomes up to \$25,000, and food should be exempt from GST. The minimum wage should rise to \$15 per hour.</p> <p>Through addressing poverty, particularly our appalling rate of child poverty, the Maori party will improve the nation's health.</p>	<p>No specific policy on poverty alleviation.</p> <p>Philosophy of family focussed policy some of which would assist in poverty alleviation.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <p>Introduce a Caregivers Allowance for those currently providing unpaid support;</p> <p>Extend paid parental leave to 12 months</p> <p>Focus on increasing affordable housing for families with children</p>	<p>No specific policy on poverty alleviation</p> <p>Strong advocate for worker protection e.g. support flexible working hours, abolition of youth rates, extension of annual leave to four weeks, lifting minimum wage, childcare subsidies for working parents</p>	<p>No explicit reference to poverty alleviation in polices.</p> <p>Welfare net viewed as a problem – dependency and poverty trap.</p> <p>Promotes community wage concept – beneficiaries must contribute to society</p>	<p>No policies related to poverty alleviation.</p> <p>Promotes radical reform of the welfare system – 'people must be given the opportunity and means to look after themselves'</p>

4 **Message 4** : Policies which improve access to good **affordable housing** for everyone.

Labour	National	Greens	Maori	United Future	Progressive	NZ First	ACT
<p>Recently announced 1500 sites of crown land being made available free for affordable housing for 1st home buyers – single earners on \$45k or couples with incomes between \$55k and \$85k.</p> <p>Continue existing policies e.g. Welcome Home Loans, shared equity scheme</p> <p>Retain 25% of income cap for low income tenants in state houses</p> <p>Update legislation to better protect tenants and landlords in the private rental market</p> <p>Continue the Housing Innovation Fund (HIF) in support of community housing providers</p>	<p>Similar scheme to Labour but with option to buy after 10 years (New Gateway Housing)</p> <p>Keep income-related rents for state house tenants.</p> <p>Offer state house tenants the opportunity to buy their house.</p> <p>Maintain the Accommodation Supplement</p> <p>Ensure that responsibility for repairing damage to rental properties lies with the person who did the damage.</p> <p>Retain existing tax rules and deduction provisions for rental property owners</p> <p>Boost Housing Innovation Fund to \$20 million a year</p> <p>Continue with the Shared Equity pilot.</p>	<p>Increase acquisition and building of state housing units by at least 3000 units a year for the next 3 years.</p> <p>Maintain an income related rental policy of 25% of income for Housing New Zealand Corporation tenants</p> <p>Provide funding to third sector housing organisations for a minimum of 1000 units a year for the next 3 years</p> <p>Create a legally binding duty on the public sector to ensure housing needs are met – no one should be homeless</p> <p>Ensure appropriate housing and support for those living with, and recovering from, mental illness and addictions.</p> <p>Support older people and people with physical or intellectual impairments so that they can remain in their own homes, or move into suitable housing</p> <p>Provide matched funding for local authorities that take active measures to support social housing or low income retrofitting programmes</p> <p>Introducing a capital gains tax on all but the family home.</p>	<p>Expand the retrofitting of houses to make houses warmer</p> <p>Rental cap on state housing and review of accommodation supplement</p> <p>Explore capitalisation of family benefit payments to help low income families into home ownership</p> <p>Resource iwi and maori organisations to develop social housing initiatives</p>	<p>Encourage home ownership by allowing working families to capitalise their Working For Families entitlements</p> <p>Extend the provision of community housing</p> <p>Promote co-housing as an option for older people to join together to create and manage their own accommodation</p> <p>Strengthen legislation to allow Housing NZ to evict problematic tenants more easily.</p> <p>Extend the existing scheme in which Work and Income NZ deducts Housing NZ rentals directly from benefits to include private sector rentals.</p>	<p>No specific housing policy on website. One reference made under senior citizens:</p> <p>Press for the availability of interest free loans against assets to enable repairs and maintenance to homes</p>	<p>Increase the supply of low income houses to meet NZ current rental crisis</p> <p>Provide local authorities with the powers to provide more affordable housing options & make more land available for housing</p> <p>Introduce peppercorn rentals for community housing</p> <p>Provide finance facilities for self build organisations to use as a revolving fund to assist low income earners into affordable homes</p> <p>Require HNZC to meet the housing needs of NZders first when allocating state housing</p> <p>Encourage local government to retain existing housing stock for pensioners</p>	<p>Free up more land for housing.</p> <p>Reduce compliance costs.</p> <p>Reform Local Government Act and Resource Management Act.</p>

Message 5 : Policies to support community based organisations to grow the spirit of aroha tetahi ki tetahi – *Let us look after each other.*

Labour	National	Greens	Maori	United Future	Progressive	NZ First	ACT
<p>Significant investment in family support services through Pathway to Partnership (P2P) - \$446m over four years</p> <p>P2P also seeks to reduce compliance costs (smaller contracts become grants) and multi-year funding for larger contracts.</p>	<p>Community and Voluntary Sector policies:</p> <p>Abolishing the cap on charitable donations, Changing the tax rules on reimbursements and honoraria</p> <p>(National claims Labour stole these policies after they announced them last year)</p> <p>Where a National Government asks a community group to provide a service on its behalf, they will expect to pay the full cost of delivering that service, including relevant overhead costs.</p> <p>Like P2P National also has policies to reduce compliance costs on NGOs and support multiyear contracts</p> <p>National will investigate whether a venture capital fund for the community and voluntary sector, like those that have been set up in the United Kingdom and Australia, has merit.</p>	<p>Fund a sector-led review with Government of all funding and contracting relationships with the sector, with a view to developing a Code of Practice endorsed by the sector and Government.</p> <p>Increase Community Organisations Grants Scheme (COGS) funding to \$34m per annum</p> <p>Have a limit on tax-deductible donations to registered charities, initially to be set at \$20,000</p> <p>Support quality education and training programmes which increase sector capacity</p> <p>Remove pokies from communities and establish a special fund of \$150 million to mitigate the impact of ending pub pokie grants</p>	<p>No specific policy on community and social services.</p> <p>Philosophy of empowering communities, Whanau, hapu to develop responses to issues impacting on them by trusting them and resourcing them. For example, resourcing Iwi and Maori organisations to develop sustainable housing initiatives.</p> <p>Call for funding for Iwi service providers</p>	<p>Philosophy: community and social services have a vital role to play in society</p> <p>Ensure that government departments keep voluntary agencies up to date with policies that affect their work</p> <p>Establish Family Support Service Co-ordinators that help families to access government and non-profit agencies providing services</p> <p>Establish an annual Volunteer of the Year Award</p> <p>Review the compliance costs imposed on voluntary agencies by legislation</p>	<p>No specific policy on community or social services.</p> <p>High priority given to early intervention services.</p> <p>Strong advocate for alcohol and drug services for adolescents and for investment in sports.</p>	<p>No specific policy on community or social services</p> <p>Employment first priority in social policy followed by investment in under sixes.</p> <p>No comprehensive policy regarding funding for the community sector. Has called for adequate funding for Well-Child Health providers and increased funding for Women's Refuges.</p>	<p>No specific policy on the role of social services.</p> <p>Philosophy of self reliance and personal responsibility pervades all policies.</p>