

# Māori Affairs Policy

## INTRODUCTION

The Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of New Zealand. It created a nation based on the acceptance of diversity and united in mutual aspirations of wealth and prosperity for all New Zealanders.

Māori view the Treaty as under-pinning their development, laying the blueprint for economic independence and a relationship with the Crown based on mutual respect and a common purpose. The Treaty envisages all New Zealanders moving forward together, with a shared commitment to the future.

National shares that vision.

Over the past 20 years, Māori have become a strong, vibrant force in New Zealand society, buoyed by the renaissance of Māori culture and language. The transfer of assets following Treaty settlements has provided a strong platform for further development and growth along with:

- The better use of those and other existing assets.
- Improved education.
- Greater participation in the workforce.
- Increased numbers entering the professions and the ranks of the self employed.
- The emergence of successful Māori enterprises.

Despite recent achievements, there remain a number of Māori whose ability to participate in the economy and New Zealand society has not enabled them to realise their aspirations. A lack of access to relevant quality education, learning and skills, to good health, and to quality housing that is permanent and affordable, means too many Māori families are being left behind.

National is committed to ensuring all Māori, and all New Zealanders, can enjoy a brighter, more, prosperous future.

**“He aha te mea nui o te ao?**

**He Tangata.  
He Tangata.  
He Tangata.”**

**What is the most important  
thing in the world?**

**It is people.  
It is people.  
It is people.**

## INVESTING IN PEOPLE

### Shared Values

The National Party believes it shares many values with Māori:

- The recognition of property rights and personal responsibility.
- Economic independence and choice rather than dependency on the state.
- Less state involvement in Māori lives and a preference for community provision of government services.
- The nurturing of strong families, whānau, and communities.
- Engagement in wealth creation, business, and enterprise.

These values underpin National's approach to Māori policy.

We believe a major effort must be made to lift the ability of those not participating fully in New Zealand's economy and society. Too many Māori children are missing out on pre-school education, too many young Māori are leaving school with no qualifications, and too many Māori families are trapped in low-income work or welfare dependency.

The development and growth of initiatives such as kohanga reo, kura kaupapa Māori and wānanga in education, and Māori health and social service providers – all of which occurred under previous National Governments – illustrates the value of restoring to Māori a level of decision-making and control that enables families, whānau, and hapu to improve their own outcomes.

National will strengthen and expand successful Māori-led and other programmes to advance education, health, and housing outcomes for Māori.

### Investing in Education

Like former great leaders, Sir Apirana Ngata and Sir Peter Buck, National believes that economic development – with the primary emphasis on education, skills, and enterprise – is the best investment a Government can make in a nation's people and its children. Quality education can ensure long-term employment, improved incomes, greater life choices, and the ability to maximise opportunities and improve the quality of life for Māori families through meaningful participation in the economy.

National will:

- Promote family, whānau, and community programmes that encourage greater participation in early childhood education.
- Include Kohanga Reo in the 20 hours early childhood education subsidy funding regime.
- Evaluate Kohanga Reo to ensure they are capable of fully realising the aspirations of Māori children.
- Evaluate Kura Kaupapa, focusing on improved resourcing, and quality educational outcomes for Māori families.
- Expand the Te Kotahitanga professional development program. Further details will be announced in our Education policy.
- Engage with Wananga to enhance the Māori skill base.

See our [Education policy](#) for more information about:

- **National Standards:** Setting national standards in reading, writing, and maths in all primary schools to ensure that children who need assistance can be identified as soon as possible and given the help they need.
- **Trades in Schools:** Putting trades and industry training back into our schools. Introducing school-based apprenticeships, promoting trades training for schools, and developing specialist Trade Academy Schools.
- **Youth Guarantee:** Providing a universal education entitlement for all 16- and 17-year-olds to allow them to access, free of charge, a programme of educational study towards school-level qualifications.

## Investing in Health

Improving health and wellbeing is essential to ensure Māori can fully participate in modern society. National will focus on delivering better, faster, and more convenient community healthcare services. We will ensure everyone has access to readily available and affordable health care.

In many communities, Māori health providers are the sole or primary providers of community health services. National will work with Māori and other community health care providers to ensure that the needs of their communities are met and health outcomes are lifted.

National will:

- Strengthen and support effective Māori health providers.
- Provide delegated funding to enable Māori health providers to deliver a wider range of services closer to home.

See our [Health policy](#) for more information about:

- Maintaining GP subsidies, to ensure everyone has affordable access to their local GP.
- Encouraging integrated family health care centres which bring community healthcare services together in one place to improve family and community health.

## Investing in Housing

Pivotal to nurturing strong families and communities is the expansion of home ownership opportunities for Māori families, improving the existing state housing stock, working with Māori collectives to expand papakāinga housing and to develop other whānau-based housing initiatives.

National will:

- Promote long term home ownership and wealth creation among Māori families and communities by addressing core policy and legislative issues to improve housing supply and housing affordability.
- Expand Papakainga housing. This will involve working with Māori collectives and councils to remove planning restrictions on the development of housing on communal land and multiply-owned Māori land. We will support this housing through the Housing Innovation Fund and explore ways to give banks more confidence to back such housing projects.
- Work with Māori collectives to explore ways of increasing Māori home ownership through whānau-based initiatives.

See our [Housing policy](#) for more information about:

- [Home Affordability](#): Freeing up the supply of suitable land, Developing new Gateway Housing for first-home buyers, boosting the Housing Innovation Fund, allowing Housing NZ tenants to purchase the homes they live in.
- [Housing New Zealand and Rental Accommodation](#): Keeping income-related rents for state house tenants, better managing the state housing stock, upgrading state houses, establishing an Options and Advice Service, and lifting the Accommodation Supplement in line with inflation.

## INVESTING IN ASSETS AND ENTERPRISES

The spectacular growth of successful Māori enterprises and the growing confidence of Māori in managing their expanding asset base has been a feature of the fast-growing Māori economy over the past two decades. National aspires to see much greater expansion and growth.

The settlement of Treaty of Waitangi claims has underpinned much of this growth, particularly for those groups which have had comprehensive settlements. Timely settlement of outstanding claims is needed to avoid inequity and unfairness between claimants, and to reduce further loss of opportunities for those yet to settle.

The return of significant assets to Māori and iwi has highlighted the need for quality institutions and governance entities that cater for:

- Multi-dimensional roles and responsibilities.
- Modern commercial realities.
- The cultural and social aspirations of Māori.
- The needs of future generations.

Sound leadership and governance skills are necessary to enable Māori to make the most of their assets and enterprises.

A particular issue is whether the administration of title by the Māori Land Court meets contemporary requirements. Use of Māori land is hampered by:

- Insecurity of title.
- The capacity of management structures.
- Barriers to accessing finance.
- The role of the Māori Land Court as a third party intervening in commercial activities.

National will work with iwi enterprises and their leaders to help them overcome these and other barriers to more effective development of their assets. We want to progress Māori economic development particularly in key areas such as forestry, fisheries, agriculture, tourism and the creative sector, and increase the contribution that iwi enterprises make to the economy.

National will:

- Continue to negotiate and settle Treaty of Waitangi claims with renewed energy and enthusiasm, recognising their pivotal role in enhancing Māori development. See our [Treaty Negotiations](#) policy for more details.
- Work with Māori to establish post-settlement governance entities that best meet their multi-dimensional roles and responsibilities, including the guardianship of assets for future generations.
- Review the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 to ensure it meets contemporary needs, including a review of the administration of title by the Māori Land Court.
- Protect the integrity of Māori fisheries settlements under the quota management system.
- Ensure Māori receive their aquaculture settlement entitlement, and reform the Resource Management Act to facilitate growth and development in the aquaculture industry.
- Promote and support effective business, management, and governance skills to help Māori reach their aspirations through better use of assets, and the success of Māori enterprises.
- Work with the Māori Trustee in the best interests of the beneficiaries, and ensure beneficiary money is used only for their benefit.

## INVESTING IN CULTURE

The cultural renaissance of the past 25 years has underpinned growing Māori self-confidence and development. The same period has witnessed growing use of the Māori language and widespread recognition of Māori culture as an integral part of Māori identity and our national identity.

At the same time, we have seen the growing presence of Māori in the creative industries and in tourism, highlighting the potentially significant economic benefits that can be realised from the development of Māori arts and culture.

National will support Māori arts and culture both at home and abroad. We recognise its importance in underpinning our unique culture, and as a differentiator for New Zealand's international cultural "brand".

National will:

- Commit to the active protection and promotion of the Māori language and culture for the benefit of all New Zealand. We will continue support for the Māori Language Commission, which will become the lead agency in Māori language promotion.
- Review the Māori Language Strategy to ensure its ongoing consistency with the dual objectives of protection and promotion.
- Support Māori broadcasting, including Māori TV, and the Māori radio network, and Te Mangai Paho.
- Work across relevant Ministries to develop a strategy for developing Māori arts and culture within New Zealand and internationally.

## TE PUNI KOKIRI

Under the Ministry of Māori Development Act 1991, the role of Te Puni Kokiri is to provide policy advice that promotes Māori economic development, and to liaise with and monitor the performance of government departments and agencies to ensure the adequacy of services provided to Māori.

National believes these roles are critical in increasing Māori participation in the economy. We will ensure that the resources of TPK are focused on fulfilling these roles, particularly with respect to those Māori most in need of Government support.

TPK has a wide knowledge and understanding of Māori communities, and a regional presence which places it in a strong position to influence and monitor policy. We believe that, in the key areas of health, education, and housing, TPK can help achieve National's objectives for a growing economy, and Māori aspirations for economic independence and self reliance.

National will:

- Strengthen and expand successful, proven Māori-led programmes to advance the education, health, and housing needs of Māori families and whānau.
- Ensure more effective targeting of Government resources and review the effectiveness of service delivery
- Promote more active participation by Māori in policy design and delivery of Government services.
- Promote a strategy for greater choice and increased options to improve the status of Māori as self-reliant individuals, families, and communities.