



SOCIAL ISSUES

Our 2010
Priorities

National is determined to improve the quality of our public services, and better equip New Zealanders to face the economic challenges they face.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Lifting achievement in our schools and building opportunities for young New Zealanders.

National Standards

- Roll out National Standards in Year 1-8 state schools giving parents clear information on their child's progress in reading, writing, and maths.
- Help schools where children are not reaching the standards, and refocus funding and teacher training to support this.
- Develop a policy for using information gathered through National Standards.

Early Childhood Education

- Work to increase the number of children from poor communities in early childhood education.

Trades and Skills

- Introduce changes that give secondary schools flexibility to run trades training programmes.
- Progress our Youth Guarantee so 16- and 17-year-olds can get vocational training outside school.

Tertiary Education

- Drive policy that ensures tertiary providers deliver quality courses relevant to the job market.
- Work with universities to support excellence.
- Review student support settings.

LAW AND ORDER

Addressing the drivers of crime and making neighbourhoods safer for Kiwi families.

Justice and Youth Crime

- Pass the Sentencing & Parole Reform Bill with a 'three-strikes' policy for the worst violent criminals.
- Reform the criminal justice system, improving legal aid, court processes, and victim treatment.
- Reform liquor licensing laws.
- Pass the Fresh Start bill – new Youth Court orders and youth programmes, including military-style activity camps.
- Progress our Action Plan on tackling P.

Police

- Continue recruiting an extra 600 frontline police officers.

Prisons

- Work to open up two prisons to private management.
- Boost capacity with container cells and double-bunking.

HEALTH

Providing better, sooner, more convenient healthcare for all New Zealanders.

- Reduce waste in District Health Boards.
- Continue investment in the "Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart" scheme.
- Drive better results in elective surgery, critical cancer care, and emergency care.
- Push for better primary care – including co-located teams of health professionals.
- Build a new elective surgery supercentre in Greenlane.
- Ensure ACC remains affordable, sustainable, and fair.

BETTER SOCIAL SERVICES

Making the most of our investment in benefits, income support, and housing.

Whanau Ora

- Roll out a new approach to funding and coordination of social services for at-risk families.

Benefits

- Reform the benefit system, with a focus on helping people get back to work.
- Adjust the benefit abatement regime to encourage beneficiaries to take up work.
- Appoint a working group of experts to look at reducing long-term welfare dependency.

Housing

- Appoint an advisory group on state housing.
- Amend the Residential Tenancy Act to better balance the rights of tenants and landlords.

OTHER PRIORITIES

Treaty and Constitutional Issues

- Work to resolve outstanding Treaty claims by 2014 and replace the Foreshore & Seabed Act
- Hold a referendum on MMP in 2011.
- Progress legislation to reform electoral law.
- Establish a group on constitutional issues.