



## Political Parties Policies 2023

8 September 2023

The policies on the following pages are drawn from political parties' websites over the late August to 7 September 2023 period (the links are at the bottom of the table). Parties are still releasing their policies, with major policies on education likely still to come from Labour and National. To help fill out the picture, we have also reviewed election party policy summaries from the [Science Media Centre](#) (marked *SMC*) and the [Deloitte BusinessNZ Election Survey](#) (marked *BusinessNZ*).

We focused on parties with the best chance of being in Parliament<sup>1</sup>. We have not reviewed more generic policies that will impact on TEOs, such as employment law. NZ First has a shorter and simpler set of policies than in 2020, with a single list of 2023 Commitments on its website (36 items on 7 Sep 2023). They do plan to “restore education” in a sentence that focused mainly on “removing gender ideology from the curriculum” (point 20), but none of the commitments directly related to tertiary education. They also plan to review the CRI model, with an aim to support farm extension work (point 36).

Policy	Labour	Green	National	ACT	Māori
<b>Vocational Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support ROVE implementation.</li> <li>Make Apprenticeship Boost permanent.</li> <li>Work with RSLGs to identify and support workforce needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Increase support for apprenticeships and trade training, including through Trades Academies”. <i>BusinessNZ</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End funding for WDCs and RSLGs, “which have been expensive failures”.</li> <li>Continue to support apprenticeships (within building and construction policy).</li> <li>“Undo the disastrous polytechnic mega-merger and return control to institutions and local communities”. <i>SMC</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue Stop Work Notices to MBIE for various activities, including Regional Skills Leadership Groups and Workforce Development Councils. (Editor: WDCs are under Vote Tertiary Education, which are overseen by TEC.) RSLGs were said to have an unclear purpose, while WDCs were criticised over their co-governance approach.</li> <li>“Disestablish the failed Te Pūkenga experiment and return to regional polytechs and industry-governed industry training organisations.” <i>SMC</i></li> <li>Support “the full or partial privatisation of polytechnics to allow them to make independent decisions in response to market requirements”. <i>BusinessNZ</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Double the existing Māori and Pacific trade training and cadetship placements per annum.</li> </ul>
<b>International Education</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply higher visa fees for 1 Jul 2024 to ensure cost recovery (with a ceiling of 90% of equivalent Australian fees) and ensure efficient processing of applications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tackle INZ’s slow visa processing times, including through a review by the Auditor-General.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure immigration to New Zealand is curbed until the supply side of housing meets the demand side. (this is part of a house construction policy, and exceptions were planned for refugees and bringing in skills).</li> </ul>
<b>Fees</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand fees-free apprenticeships and work towards fees-free education for all courses.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide children with a Student Education Account for spending on education across their life. There would be \$30,000 for tertiary education at age 18 (up to \$50,000 for top academic achievers). That \$30k grant would also be available to NZ citizens or permanent residents who return to NZ after the age of 18.</li> <li>Tertiary education providers must be registered with the Government to receive funding from a Student Education Account.</li> <li>Apprentices can pay for course costs from their Student Education Account.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permanently remove fees from apprenticeships.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The Opportunities Party (TOP) is probably the one with the next best chance of entering Parliament, but it is [running well behind in the Ham electorate](#), and is well below the 5% threshold (1.8% on the polling average at the link).



				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No capping of tertiary education fees.</li> <li>Cancel Fees Free (saving of \$159m).</li> </ul>	
<b>Student Loans, Allowances &amp; Scholarships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided a 50% public transport discount to those aged under 25 on 1 Jul 2023.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Universal \$385/week payment to students, including postgrad ones (part of a wider universal payment to all those out of work).</li> <li>Increase the student loan repayment threshold, and reduce the repayment rate, while working towards a student debt write-off.</li> <li>Lengthen the repayment holiday for overseas student loan borrowers, and abolish border arrests for those who don't repay.</li> <li>Provide free public transport fares to students and apprentices.</li> <li>Ensure work placements pay students at least the living wage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ending the Community Connect policy, which came into effect on 1 Jul 2023, that gives half-price public transport fares to those aged 24 and under.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student allowances will be ended – students can draw down from their Student Education Account for living costs.</li> </ul>	
<b>Student Voice/ Welfare/ Achievement</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen student voice in tertiary governance.</li> <li>Return to default student union membership.</li> <li>Reform student accommodation to ensure high standards of housing and pastoral care.</li> </ul>			
<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added \$128m to funding subsidies over two years in Jun 2023. <i>SMC</i></li> <li>Will start a higher education funding review by the end of 2023. <i>SMC</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overhaul funding to support rigorous research, a wide range of courses, quality teaching, comprehensive student services, and decent staff pay and conditions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus is to reduce inflation, and accelerate the return of international students. <i>SMC</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-student funding for tertiary education providers will continue as currently (see Fees section for student-related funding).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require a minimum of 25% of the education budget be directed to Māori models of delivery and pastoral care.</li> </ul>
<b>Māori</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build upon the employment supports for rangatahi Māori within He Poutama Rangatahi and the Youth Employment Action Plan. Labour will focus on apprenticeships and continue to fund Māori trade training, including in digital and tech sectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all institutes uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and deliver equitable outcomes for tauira Māori.</li> <li>Resource marae and Māori organisations to run te reo Māori initiatives for whānau.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislating that the principles of the Treaty are based on the actual Treaty.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a \$10m research fund to show how Toi Māori contributes to oranga Māori.</li> <li>Allocate \$10m to Community, Hapū and Iwi development of Kapahaka and its accompanying art forms.</li> <li>Increase funding of te reo Māori delivery and Māori history in ECE and schools (tertiary education was not mentioned).</li> <li>Establish an independent Māori Standards Authority to oversee Māori language funding and audit providers to ensure they meet cultural and reo</li> </ul>



					<p>Māori competency standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all Māori medium education is funded equal to its mainstream equivalents through equity-based funding models.</li> <li>• Fund hapū and iwi-led initiatives that support youth employment, particularly in conservation and clean energy.</li> </ul>
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require institutes to provide disabled students with equitable opportunities.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a Māori-led taskforce with the mandate to transform how Māori students with disabilities and learning differences are taught and supported.</li> </ul>
<b>Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways.</li> <li>• Pilot digital apprenticeships and fund new science fellowships (Budget 2023).</li> <li>• Inject \$100m into the Venture Capital Fund for agritech businesses.</li> <li>• “Take measured steps to update the regulatory settings” on genetically modified organisations. <i>SMC</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadly support Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways. <i>SMC</i></li> <li>• “The Green Party supports the limited and ethical use of GE biotechnology in containment and supports maintaining a zero tolerance approach to the import or release of viable GE-derived organisms/products.” <i>SMC</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End the effective ban on GE and GM in NZ. Create a dedicated regulator and streamline approval for trials and use of GE and GM.</li> <li>• Does not support Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways. <i>SMC</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT would issue a Stop Work Notice to MBIE over Te Ara Paerangi, because it “picks winners in the research and since sector”, as well as to Callaghan Innovation over R&amp;D Growth Grants (co-funding of business R&amp;D).</li> <li>• “We would seek to pass a new biotech law to replace HSNO and enable gene editing technologies.” <i>SMC</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Specific Industries/sectors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further develop career pathways for Māori students and PD of the Māori oral health workforce and for Māori midwives.</li> <li>• Increase the dental student cap from 60 to 90 students (15 extra in 2025, and another 15 in 2026). There will also be a targeted immigration campaign.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that there is a range of creative education and training opportunities to support and expand the local creative sector.</li> <li>• Support workers to retrain when made redundant due to industry changes.</li> <li>• Train more people for clean energy careers under a plan developed with industry, training providers, and unions.</li> <li>• Ensure job creation and apprenticeship programmes provide free training and workforce re-entry programmes for parents of school-aged children, and promote inclusion and diversity.</li> <li>• Fund an additional 20 places pa for dentistry from 2024, and thereafter review training pipelines and placement numbers to meet demand. There will be scholarships for Māori and Pasifika dentistry students to increase their workforce participation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require primary/intermediate teaching graduates to pass an exit exam in reading, writing, maths and science teaching to gain registration.</li> <li>• Reprioritise teacher PD funding towards reading, writing maths and science teaching/assessment.</li> <li>• Pay up to \$4,500 pa off nurses’ and midwives’ student loans for their first five years of employment in their profession in NZ. There would be a bonding scheme requiring the full five years of work (with health/parental leave pauses if necessary), or the loan balance would be restored. It would be available to people partway through their five years of employment, for the remaining years.</li> <li>• Establish a third medical school at Waikato Uni (focused on rural/provincial roles), starting with 120</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow Ministers to override a health regulatory authority if they believe the authority’s processes, practices or registration/accreditation criteria go beyond what is necessary to protect the health and safety of the public. UP Education’s stalled enrolled nurse programme is given as an example (the Nursing Council requires such providers to also offer a Bachelor of Nursing, which UP Education doesn’t do). Another example was the challenges involved in introducing physician assistants.</li> <li>• ACT aimed to reduce requirements for migrants to go through supervised hospital internships, which are often already full with new domestic graduates. They plan for more recognition of overseas registration, as occurs in the Trans-Tasman environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase and promote scholarships available for young Māori to train as teachers of Te Aho Matua and for reo Māori speakers to train as teachers.</li> <li>• Develop advanced apprenticeship schemes in the renewable energy, agriculture, digital, construction, and engineering sectors.</li> </ul>



		They will also lift the placement cap on oral health therapists. They will support offshore recruitment for the dental workforce.	places and a graduate entry model. The capital cost will be \$380m, with \$280m from the Government. Also add 50 places pa at Auckland Uni and Otago Uni.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve health workforce planning and forecasting (they discussed old and current models, but didn't explicitly explain their plans, other than wanting a better match between plans and reality).</li> <li>Improve rural primary healthcare, including by working with the Medical Council, College of GPs, and medical schools to attract migrants via qualification evaluation and upskilling pathways.</li> <li>ACT would issue a Stop Work Notice to MBIE over Industry Transformation Plans (which usually have skills and research elements) as "bureaucrats don't have the information or incentives to pick winners".</li> </ul>	
<b>Youth, School Transitions and Career Advice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that career services are available to Māori students at secondary schools.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create Young Offender Military Academies for 15-17 year olds ordered to participate by a Youth Court judge (60 places pa).</li> <li>More support for young unemployed people to get int work, including Job Coaches, individualised assessments of barriers to work, and follow-up plans.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a \$276m fund to ramp up the work of STEM and STEAM academies, such as the Pūhoro STEM Academy.</li> <li>Create more pre-degree pathways for Māori and Pacific students who have not achieved entrance requirements to undertake tertiary education.</li> </ul>
<b>Wānanga</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate support for Wānanga to provide the pastoral and cultural care to assist Tauira to achieve success at pre-degree level, and consider, with providers, the establishment of a framework that protects their unique status.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully resource TWOA to increase opportunities and pathways for Kaupapa Māori education.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a \$200m fund to drive whānau, hapū and iwi education and training initiatives including the establishment of new hapū-based wānanga.</li> </ul>
<b>Government Agencies</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set output/outcome targets for government departments, with education and immigration being priorities. The aim is for targets that last across governments. Targets might include: student retention, attendance and participation; vocational education employer/student satisfaction, and participation barriers; per student spending; and visa processing times.</li> <li>The number of MOE employees will be halved. The MOE will focus on facilitating Student Education Accounts, registering and auditing schools, and reporting to the public on school performance.</li> </ul>	
<b>Sources Used in Table</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Māori Manifesto 2023</a></li> <li><a href="#">Cost of Living Plan</a></li> <li><a href="#">Extending free basic dental care</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Green Party 2023 Election Manifesto</a></li> <li><a href="#">Free Dental for all</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">National's Back Pocket Boost</a></li> <li><a href="#">Combatting youth offending</a></li> <li><a href="#">Teaching the basics brilliantly</a></li> <li><a href="#">Delivering more nurses and midwives</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Guaranteeing the Freedom to Learn</a></li> <li><a href="#">A More Democratic NZ</a></li> <li><a href="#">Effective and efficient public services</a></li> <li><a href="#">Easing the health workforce crisis</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Toi Māori Policy</a></li> <li><a href="#">Whanau Build Policy</a></li> <li><a href="#">Te Reo Maori Policy</a></li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Economic Plan</a></li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Training more doctors</a></li><li><a href="#">Harnessing BioTech</a></li><li><a href="#">Better building and construction</a></li><li><a href="#">Welfare that works</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Real solutions for health</a></li><li><a href="#">Immigration</a></li><li><a href="#">‘Stop Work Notices’ will cut \$1 billion of waste on day one</a></li><li><a href="#">Fees-Free unfair, unprincipled, unaffordable</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Education and Training Policy</a></li></ul>
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