

Youth Policy

Vision

We envisage Aotearoa New Zealand to be a place where young people¹ feel valued, connected, loved, and empowered. Wherever we are, when we look around us, we have a sense of belonging, of hope. We are a part of this world.

Values and Principles

"Mana is the authority we inherit at birth and we accrue over our lifetime. It determines the right of a young person to have agency in their lives and the decisions that affect them."²

The Youth Policy is based on the Mana Taiohi values framework. The framework comes in two parts: the mana that young people have (mauri, whakapapa, hononga, te ao) and the ways youth development can enhance mana (whanaungatanga, manaakitanga, whai wāhitanga, mātauranga). Decisions about policy that primarily affect young people should be led by young people with the support of their whānau and people who work with young people. This policy has been developed by the Young Greens network.

Strategic Priorities

The Green Party's strategic priorities include:

"All people will be empowered to shape the systems that affect them through community engagement enabled by good evidence, co-design, and adequate resourcing."

"Our democracy will be accessible and enable inclusive, participatory decisions, where people can influence the collective choices that affect them."

This includes ensuring:

- Affordable, safe and healthy homes;
- Appropriate and accessible mental health and social services;
- Free access to education, including tertiary education;
- Liveable allowance for all young people;
- The voting age is 16.

¹ In this policy "we" refers to young people, defined here as anyone who is between the ages of 12-24. This is in line with the Ministry of Youth Development and Ara Taiohi. <https://www.myd.govt.nz/about-myd/>

² <https://arataiohi.org.nz/mana-taiohi/>.

Connected Policies

Young people are connected to and affected by all other Green Party policies, especially [Health](#) (access to health), [Education](#) (schools and studying), [Income Support](#) (income and basic services), [Workforce](#) (fair pay), [Justice](#) (youth justice), and [Governance](#) (voting age). This policy is distinct from the [Children's](#) Policy.

Policy Positions

The mana that we have

1. Mauri

Our mauri is our life force, our values and beliefs. This should be nurtured and nourished. In order for our mauri to grow freely, we have a right to:

- 1.1. Free access to education, including tertiary education;
- 1.2. Appropriate and accessible mental health and social services; and
- 1.3. Different options to explore after leaving secondary school.

2. Whakapapa

Whakapapa is our ancestry, our history, and where we come from. Our connection with our whakapapa keeps us grounded, and gives us the confidence to be who we are. In order for us to stay connected with our whakapapa, we have a right to:

- 2.1. Decolonisation education in all educational institutes;
- 2.2. Respect for our names and our identity; and
- 2.3. Tikanga Māori and kaupapa Māori in all schools.

3. Hononga

Our connection with the natural and social world shapes who we are. This connection must be strengthened. In order to stay connected, we have a right to:

- 3.1. Safe and supportive digital media spaces free of discrimination;
- 3.2. Family planning and sexual health services;
- 3.3. Access to a healthy and thriving natural environment; and
- 3.4. Time with people and the planet.

4. Te Ao

Te Ao is not just about the world around us, it is also about systemic influences, such as climate change and colonisation. We suffer more under these influences. In order to address this, we have a right to:

- 4.1. Immediate outcomes for climate justice and the biodiversity crisis;
- 4.2. Honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
- 4.3. Liveable incomes;
- 4.4. Affordable, healthy, and safe homes; and
- 4.5. Full participation in our civil and political systems.

How our mana can be enhanced

5. Whanaungatanga

We build different relationships throughout our lives. For us, we need the tools to ensure we build these relationships in a reciprocal, genuine, respectful, and mana enhancing way. In order to achieve this, we need:

- 5.1. Solutions for whānau to ensure that we are protected from harm and our mana is upheld;
- 5.2. Accessible and inclusive resources related to empathy and communication skills, both online and in face-to-face spaces.
- 5.3. Youth education workers who embody these principles; and
- 5.4. Safe and welcoming education facilities for all young people.

6. Manaakitanga

Manaakitanga is an important part of our growth. The care that we receive must be safe and empowering. This refers to both our social and natural environment. In order for this to be upheld, we need:

- 6.1. Urgent care of our natural world for future generations;
- 6.2. Liveable allowance for all young people;
- 6.3. Equitable access to free health and dental care, especially for rural areas;
- 6.4. A range of affordable and accessible healthy and nutritious food;
- 6.5. Free public transport for young people;
- 6.6. A wellbeing culture surrounding the prevention and treatment of harmful substance use; and
- 6.7. A restorative youth justice system.

7. Whai Wāhitanga

We are valued contributors to society because we are the experts of ourselves. In order for us to participate fully, we need:

- 7.1. Youth people to be invited and paid when participating in legislative and policy-making decisions that affect us;
- 7.2. Te Tiriti o Waitangi-based constitutional transformation;
- 7.3. Support to stand for local and central government; and
- 7.4. The voting age to be at 16.

8. Mātauranga

We are empowered by knowledge, wisdom and understanding. In order to make informed decisions, we need:

- 8.1. Education that includes te reo Māori, tikanga Māori, and our rights;
- 8.2. A diverse set of inclusive and accessible pathways for gaining important life skills; and
- 8.3. Youth-led research on economic, environmental and social issues.