



Paid Placements & Apprenticeships

For our future workforce

At a time when Aotearoa New Zealand desperately needs more nurses, teachers, social workers, and other skilled professionals, students should be able to cover the basics while they complete their training.

Thousands of students across Aotearoa New Zealand are required to complete practical placements to qualify for some of our most important professions.

Many students are required to spend up to 30 hours a week in their placement, meaning they cannot support their studies with a part-time job. Unpaid placements create and entrench deep inequities.

This is not just unfair. It is a major barrier to entering the very professions Aotearoa New Zealand urgently needs more people to join.

Meanwhile, our communities are paying the price for critical workforce shortages with clogged emergency departments and long waitlists for appointments. We cannot solve these shortages while making it harder for people to complete the training those professions require.

The Green Party will end the expectation that students should work for free as part of getting a qualification. Supporting students to train for the jobs we need is an investment in our future workforce and a more resilient Aotearoa New Zealand.

This will apply to:

Clinical psychology. Psychotherapy. Counselling. Addiction practitioners. Medicine. Nursing. Midwifery. Paramedicine. Occupational therapy. Anaesthetic technicians. Audiology. Dietitians. Medical imaging techs. Medical lab scientists. Oral health & dental tech. Dentistry. Pharmacy. Physiotherapy. Radiation therapy. Speech-language therapists. Teaching. Social work. Veterinary.

Apprenticeships

There is important work to be done in Aotearoa, and it's time to support the apprentices who do it.

If we want to build more homes, scale up renewable energy, fix our pipes and get our infrastructure going, we need skilled builders, electricians, plumbers and mechanics to make it happen.

Right now, too many apprentices are being pushed out of the training they need to complete. Low pay, insecure work, and a lack of support means the drop out rates for apprenticeships are high, and getting through qualifications comes with added pressure.



Instead of focusing on gaining skills and learning their trade, apprentices are worried about paying the rent, filling up the car, growing student debt, and trying to get through training without going into hardship.

If we want people to enter trades and complete apprenticeships, it's time to create a better pathway.

The Green Party will invest in the apprentices we need by making sure they're paid properly, can get the right tools and materials, access pastoral care, and ensure apprentices can finish their qualifications and have confidence entering the workforce.

Costings

All costings are indicative only, based on the best publicly available information.

Paid placements			
2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
\$74.67m	\$77.51m	\$78.78m	\$80.43m

Apprenticeships			
2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
\$117.35m	\$117.35m	\$117.35m	\$117.35m



The Green Party will:

Paid placements

- Make sure students can afford to pay for the essentials while on placements, with a universal weekly stipend of \$380.
- Support students who need to move from the place they live to complete a placement, with a relocation payment of \$1500.
- Prioritise sectors where unpaid placements are pushing students out and making workforce shortages worse, including in health and education.

Apprenticeships

- Abolish the training wage, so apprentices and trainees can get paid properly and support themselves while they train.
- Introduce an apprentice equipment grant of \$2000 to cover tools, uniforms, and materials.
- Increase support for Māori and Pasifika apprentices, pastoral care, and job-matching with a \$30m funding boost.
- Back employers to take on apprentices and support them to complete their training, with completion bonuses of \$2000.
- Restore the centres of vocational excellence and enable them to develop future fit apprenticeships.



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