Māori Manifesto 2023

Labour is in it for you, and we are working hard every day to deliver better housing, health care and education for Māori throughout Aotearoa.

We are proud of what we have achieved in our six years in Government. We delivered record levels of investment for Māori across our six Budgets, more than any previous Government in history.

We made apprenticeships free, helped get rangatahi and pakeke into well-paid jobs, and helped whānau to install solar panels on their whare to keep power bills down.

Unlike National during the Global Financial Crisis, we worked hard to make sure Māori stayed in work through the economic impact of the pandemic. We succeeded, protected jobs, and Māori unemployment is now significantly lower than when National were in office.

We are proud of our Māori business owners and entrepreneurs, and under our Government the Māori economy has grown to record levels. We will continue to have their back.

We believe that providing strong and responsible leadership means listening, working together, and committing to build an enduring relationship with Māori that delivers on partnership, protection, and participation.

Labour is working for Māori, every day, but there’s more to do.

More to rebuild our health system which was blind to Māori needs.

More to support rangatahi to flourish and succeed, especially with education that works for them.

More to get our mokopuna fluent in their language, and to lead the revitalisation of Te Reo Māori.

More to keep food prices down so whanau can afford to put healthy kai on the table.

More to keep rangatahi on a path that will let them live up to their boundless potential.

Our work is not finished - join us on the next stage of our journey together.
A re-elected Labour Government will:

- Make healthy kai cheaper, through our policy to remove GST from fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables.
- Ensure Te Aka Whai Ora is protected and is able to deliver equitable health outcomes for Māori.
- Continue to roll-out the largest ever investment in Māori housing through Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga.
- Continue the expansion of Te Ahu o Te Reo to ensure all tamariki have the option to learn Te Reo Māori.
- Continue to fund Te Matatini, recognising it for the taonga it is.
- Continue to fund Matariki events and celebrations so that all people enjoy this special national holiday.
- Develop a biodiversity credit system to incentivise and reward landowners for protecting New Zealand’s indigenous flora and fauna.
Our commitment to te Tiriti o Waitangi

We have continued to work closely with Māori and have walked a path underpinned by partnership and based on the articles and the principles of the Treaty and the promise of equality. This simple concept is not new. In fact there is no principle more fundamental in our nation’s history than working in collaboration with Māori.

Our belief in that concept was put into action, through the establishment of Te Arawhiti - the Office for Māori Crown Relations, to act as a bridge between whānau, iwi and hapū, and the Crown.

The past has shown that working in partnership with Māori has not only opened up doors of opportunity for those involved, Māori and Pākehā alike, but it has been part of what has brought this nation forward as a whole.

However, we must always be prepared to confront the realities of our past in order to be able to move forward together. Injustices in the relationship between the Crown and Māori are not just an historic artefact. They have a contemporary relevance.

Honouring the partnership

We are proud of our record in Māori Crown relations, and will defend it in the face of cynical political attacks from the right. We will continue to support the role of Māori Crown relations – Te Arawhiti in growing the capability and capacity of government departments. Labour has prioritised the settlement of outstanding Treaty claims and continues to invest in Te Haeata to monitor treaty settlement commitments and support Crown agencies that have made commitments to iwi and hapū to uphold them.

Labour in government will continue to work with iwi and hapū to see their stories on their whenua and in towns and cities by investigating a fast-track process for recognition of traditional landmarks and street names and continue our work with Māori to create a simple process for community-led rāhui to protect local waterways, ngāhere, birds, and marine life.

Labour will take a partnership approach by investing in gathering, using and governing statistical data about whānau Māori and we will continue our work on Māori data governance, engaging across government agencies to work to improve data systems that work for Māori data, and data that works for Māori. We will investigate a new fund for iwi and hapū to protect and display Tāonga Tūturu uncovered and returned following settlement.

A Labour government will continue to support local government to enable iwi and hapū to effectively participate in planning for our cities and towns, through the reformed Resource Management system. We will continue to encourage Councils and Boards to enable inclusive representation through the creation of Māori wards or other options to increase Māori participation in local decision-making.
Supporting Whānau
Cost of living

Labour’s number one priority is to support New Zealand families. We know that there is immense pressure on household budgets, and at the supermarket checkout, and that’s why our plan is to deal with the pressures families are facing right now.

Labour’s 10-point Cost of Living Plan will have significant benefits for whānau, including through removing GST from fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables. As well as reducing costs at the checkout, this policy will help our whānau make healthy choices for their tamariki, and sits alongside increases to Working for Families, and our commitment to free prescriptions, cheaper childcare, and free public transport for under 13s and half price public transport for under 25s.

Whare

Labour supports Māori Housing programmes and our track record shows that we are serious about making sure that whānau can get access to safe, dry and affordable homes. We will continue to roll-out the largest ever investment in Māori housing through Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga, which has more than 1000 new home builds and nearly 500 repairs of existing homes completed or underway, and has enabled more than 1600 sites for infrastructure, as at the end of June 2023.

Labour’s reforms of the outdated Resource Management Act will provide a stronger local Māori voice in the housing planning process, and will make papakainga and Māori housing aspirations cheaper and faster to realise.

A higher proportion of homes should be built for larger, multi-generational whānau and Labour will continue to work with Māori on a pathway to homeownership, including through the Progressive Home Ownership Fund and Te Au Taketake, and explore the role low interest loan finance, loan guarantees and grants could have in enabling quality affordable housing projects for whānau.

Labour will support Māori to better access the Renewable Energy Fund to install solar panels on mārae and papakainga housing and investigate the establishment of a sustainable infrastructure fund to improve the provision of solar panels, connectivity, water tanks and filters for marae and papakainga.

Labour has made significant progress in reducing the costs faced by whānau and we will continue to ensure papakainga targets are met within the current construction climate, and develop a papakainga planning standard to improve planning and consents for whānau-centred housing solutions on whenua Māori and in urban settings.

Labour will continue to support the IRD to clarify the tax rules so iwi and hapū structures can invest in housing and retirement savings for whānau Māori.

Health

This Labour government made a record, multi-year investment in resetting our health system, including establishing Te Aka Whai Ora as an equal partner at the heart of the new system, but we need to continue to do more to support equity. It is a core pillar of the Treaty, a core responsibility of the government, and a core value for which we stand as a government.

Labour will continue to underpin our approach to health with a commitment to te Tiriti o Waitangi and to equitable outcomes for Māori. Funding for Māori providers must be equitable and Labour is committed to continuing and expanding Whānau Ora.

Māori are over-represented in negative health statistics and die younger than other ethnicities. As a nation we need to turn this around. Labour in government will ensure that Te Aka Whai Ora is protected and is able to make decisions about, and contribute to the design of, programmes to improve outcomes for Māori health and achieve equitable outcomes for Māori.
Labour believes in providing support through Te Aka Whai Ora for the prioritisation of equity models to reverse the harmful effects of diabetes and the promotion of early screening of heart disease will help New Zealand achieve better health for all.

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The New Zealand health system is staffed by hardworking, highly trained and committed professionals who deliver excellent care. We need a workforce that reflects New Zealand with more Māori being able to see themselves when they access our health system. We will further develop career pathways for Māori students and professional development of the Māori oral health workforce and for Māori midwives.

Labour will continue to treat addiction as a health issue, which requires culturally appropriate models that are shown to work, particularly for Māori.

Accessibility to reliable public transport is important to the health and lives of every New Zealander. Labour will support whānau Māori to access affordable public transport and safe walking and cycling.

**Education**

We seek to preserve and strengthen Te Reo Māori, promote understanding of Māori culture from an early age, and encourage uptake of the language in primary and secondary school and at home.

Labour will develop a comprehensive strategy to promote and support the teaching and learning of Te Reo Māori in early childhood education, through professional development and training, teaching resources, and support for Māori language immersion programmes.

In education, we have built off the successes of Māori medium education with the aim of revitalising our indigenous language.

We have strengthened our national identity through our commitment to ensure that Aotearoa New Zealand history is taught in all of our schools to all of our young people.

Labour will continue the expansion of Te Ahu o Te Reo to ensure all tamariki have the option to learn Te Reo Māori, and to inspire learners of all ages. We will revamp the Māori medium and Kaupapa Māori pathways programme so that more Māori tamariki are reconnected with their language and culture through our target of reaching 30% Māori learners engaging in Kaupapa Māori or Māori medium education by 2040.

We will 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. Labour will reinforce the importance of Māori boarding schools to train a new generation of Māori leaders, building on the Budget 2020 fund.

We know it can be a big step to transition from education to work. Labour will ensure that career services are available to Māori students at secondary schools to ensure they are getting the best advice for life after education.

Labour in government will continue to work with iwi and hapū to ensure that their local tikanga and pūrakau are reflected within the school curriculum in their rohe.

**Māori broadcasting**

Our stories and history are unique, and it is only right that we celebrate them. We believe that there should be quality Māori broadcasting content and Labour believes that the Māori voice should be reflected in mainstream broadcasting.

Labour is committed to seeing Māori broadcasting content in Te Reo Māori and also Māori broadcasting content in English, and we are committed to public media broadcasting that does not just reflect the indigenous voice but also other minorities and our disabled communities.
**Te reo me ōna tikanga**

Māori culture, identity, and language is what makes New Zealand unique in the world. Labour is committed to securing the future of Te Reo Māori, we will continue to support Māori media to deliver a fuller range of innovative content that reflects Māori language, culture, stories and perspectives in te reo māori and in English.

A Labour government will encourage central and local government agencies and organisations to develop Te Reo Māori language development plans to increase their capability in Te Reo Māori and consider future support for Māori language community initiatives, such as Aotearoa Reorua, to support the delivery of the aspirations of the Maihi Karauna and Maihi Māori.

Labour in government will look to increase funding for Maihi Karauna and Maihi Māori cross-agency collaboration and delivery of shared priorities while we continue to deliver the aspirations in Maihi Karauna.

**Building our Māori economy**

Labour’s number one priority is to support New Zealand whānau and businesses through difficult economic conditions. We want to back our whānau in business and help build their financial, governance and leadership skills.

Ensuring that Māori businesses are well represented across the motu is important, Labour will continue to support Māori business owners to successfully engage in the government procurement process and ensure the Māori workforce is responsive to risks and opportunities arising from the changing nature of work. We will also ensure that ACC cover is fair for Māori workers and volunteers.

New Zealand is a nation of small businesses. We will ensure that Te Puni Kōkiri can coordinate a cross-government response to ensure Māori entrepreneurs and businesses have the support and advice they need to succeed. Labour will invest towards the growth of the Māori food and fibre export sector.

We’re supporting New Zealanders to learn and upskill and we will support the employment supports for rangatahi Māori within He Poutama Rangatahi and the Youth Employment Action Plan. Labour will focus on apprenticeships and continue to build upon the Māori trade training, including in digital and tech sectors.

Tourism is a key part of our national identity and New Zealand provides a world-leading tourism experience to thousands of overseas visitors each year. Tourism plays a fundamental role in our country and Labour will support indigenous tourism opportunities by strengthening the role of NZ Māori Tourism in the industry.

**Restorative and transformative justice**

We are committed to an evidence based approach to criminal justice, that breaks the cycle of offending and upholds the dignity of those who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

We will continue to provide young Māori with a path out of criminal offending, into work, education or training, including through intensive circuit-breaker programmes.

We will continue to intervene in anti-social behaviour early with Marae-based processes that are restorative and give people choices. We will continue to support the Te Pae Oranga Iwi Community panels run by Police, and the partnerships established with iwi and hapū across Aotearoa.

A Labour government will continue to partner with iwi, hapū, and Māori organisations to ensure that we can support tamariki in need.

We will preserve the mana, dignity and safety of people in prison, including the safety and
wellbeing of prison staff, including through more opportunities for whānau visits using new technology, and continuing to invest in Māori Pathways.

Labour will continue to support the roll out of the Te Ao Marama vision and model throughout the District Court.

Our Heritage and identity

Introducing Matariki as a public holiday was a huge moment in celebrating what makes us unique as a country, and what holds us together as a nation. The three principles of Matariki unite us all:

- Matariki whanaunga kore - remember those who have passed
- Matariki hunga nui - celebrate the present
- Kia whakatakatūria mō te wāheke - plan for the future.

Matariki is now a recognised part of our national identity, and Labour in government will continue to fund events and celebrations which help all New Zealanders to enjoy Matariki.

Te Matatini is more than just an event that takes place every two years, it allows Māori to connect to their culture and supports their wellbeing. Labour will continue to fund Te Matatini, recognising it for the taonga it is. This will include embedding a rohe-based Kapa Haka network and assisting across the motu to plan for the future, and contributing towards Te Matatini’s vision of Mana motuhake ki te kāinga, Matatū, Mataora, Matatini ki te ao.

We will explore ways to continue the Mātauranga Māori Te Awe Kōtuku programme, which supports iwi, hapū, whānau and Māori communities to maintain and share their precious and vulnerable mātauranga and taonga.

International relationships

Labour acknowledges that Te Tiriti o Waitangi is our founding document and sits at the heart of our constitutional arrangements. This acknowledgement strengthens the way we conduct ourselves in international trade relations with other countries as we strengthen our national identity in all its diversity.

Labour in government will protect mātauranga Māori and indigenous intellectual property rights in trade agreements and update the negotiating mandate for progressive trade agreements to facilitate the recognition of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi considerations where domestic legislation clarifies Māori rights and interests.

Labour will give status to Māori expertise in indigenous development to improve access to International Development Cooperation projects that support capability and resilience of indigenous peoples across the Pacific.

Te taiao - our natural world

We are the guardians of this land for our mokopuna. We must protect the natural environment, its indigenous biodiversity, and our marine ecosystem.

Labour knows that when nature thrives so do our whānau and communities. Labour will continue to build on our track record of action to protect and restore our natural world, protecting today what we need to survive tomorrow.

We will continue to support existing Jobs for Nature projects, which are at the forefront of protecting te taiao, and are a powerful job creation and skills development tool for rangatahi Māori.
Oceans and coasts are central to our wellbeing and prosperity, and have provided kaimoana and enjoyment for as long as people have lived here. Labour will strengthen our work with Māori to ensure Māori commercial and customary fishing rights and interests are protected and sustainably managed.

A Labour government will support iwi and hapū-led solutions to protect or move sites affected by sea level rises, particularly Marae and urupā, and iwi and hapū-led strategies to prepare their communities for weather related events.

Consumers around the world are more climate conscious and Labour will ensure that Māori entities will be supported to develop kaupapa Māori-based approaches to change farm practices.

Climate Change represents huge opportunities for innovation. Labour will consider a dedicated fund to grow and retain Māori researchers and scientists within the climate change discipline designed and delivered by New Zealand’s Māori Centre of Research Excellence, Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga.

Labour will develop a biodiversity credit system to incentivise and reward landowners for protecting New Zealand’s indigenous flora and fauna. For Māori landowners, this will acknowledge the huge amount of environmental protection they have already been doing for generations as kaitiaki of their whenua.

More policies will be announced in these areas throughout the campaign and in our 2023 Manifesto.