

Section One: Protecting Our Rights

Protecting Our Rights	Truncated for Scorecard	Act	Green	Labour	National	Te Pāti Māori	Opportunity	NZ First
Caring for, empowering, including and protecting the people of Aotearoa New Zealand. As a state party signatory, New Zealand has a proud history of upholding a range of important national and international human rights instruments. In particular; Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Disabled Peoples, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. Human rights are critical to ensure that people are treated fairly, have what they need in life to thrive, and to live without fear and/or discrimination. Te Tiriti o Waitangi is especially important to us as New Zealanders; as our founding document it is critical to our national identity. Currently, we are concerned that human rights are being marginalised, or even under direct attack, the world over. We call for political commitment to ensure the rights of all people in New Zealand are protected, respected and upheld.								
Q1. Does your party commit to upholding the Human Rights Treaties, including Te Tiriti o Waitangi, that New Zealand has signed?	Upholding Human Rights Treaties and Te Tiriti o Waitangi?	Other	Yes	Yes	Other	Yes	Yes	Other
Comment	Comment	ACT is committed to upholding our obligations to protect children from harm. Children have a right not to be harmed, and that is what ACT will always put first. This is why ACT Minister Karen Chhour has been working hard to turn around Oranga Tamariki.			The National Party recognises the Treaty of Waitangi as a founding document of New Zealand.			NZ First supports upholding New Zealand’s international human rights commitments and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, consistent with our principle of equal citizenship and ensuring rights are applied fairly to all New Zealanders.
Q2. Laws and policies directly affect the rights and wellbeing of children and young people. Does your party commit to implementing	Implementing mandatory Child Impact Assessments	Other	Yes	Other	No	Yes	Other	Need more evidence.

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mandatory Child Impact Assessments for all new or amended legislation, policy and government budget decisions to ensure that the rights of all children are considered and upheld in all decision making?	to ensure that the rights of all children are upheld?							
Comment	Comment	Many of these assessments end up being nothing more than a tick box exercise that do not improve the quality of law making. Our focus is on delivering policies that will actually improve the future of children and young people.		This is something we are willing to consider in government.			While we support the intent of considering the impact of government decisionmaking on children, Opportunity doesn't have a specific position on mandatory Child Impact Assessments.	Need more evidence. NZ First supports improving child wellbeing analysis in policymaking, but mandatory assessments for all legislation and budgets may create unnecessary bureaucracy. We support targeted assessments where impacts on children are significant.
Q3. Article 12: The Right to Participate Aotearoa is a party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Under Article 12 of the Convention, children up to the age of 18 years have the right to share their views on issues that are important to them, and for decision makers to take their voices into account. Does your party commit to enabling children and young people's ability to share their voices on issues that impact them including changes to policy or legislation, and government budgeting decisions?	Enabling children and young people's ability to share their voices on issues that impact them?	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Comment	Comment	Children already have the ability to submit on legislation and share their views.		The Labour Party is committed to ensuring the voices of young people are heard.				NZ First supports practical mechanisms for children and young people to express views on issues affecting them, provided participation processes are age appropriate, safe, and not politicised.
Q4. Equitable Access to State Funded Services Evidence clearly shows that Māori, Pacific peoples, disabled whānau, and women continue	Ensuring equitable access to all State funded services for	Other	Yes	Yes.	Need more evidence	Yes	Yes	Other

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to experience discrimination in the delivery of State funded services. Does your party commit to ensuring equitable access to all State funded services for marginalised communities?	marginalised communities?							
Comment	Comment	ACT believes services should be delivered based on need, no matter the ethnicity, sex, or other status of the individual.		The Labour Party is committed to improving outcomes for all marginalised communities and to closing existing gaps rather than widen them.				The party commits to equal access to education, health, and the law for all New Zealanders. However, they emphasize that public services must be prioritized on the basis of need, not race
Q5. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is a near-universally recognised framework of minimum standards for children’s rights. To strengthen baseline protections and systems-wide accountability for children across all law and policy, will your party support steps toward incorporating the Convention into New Zealand domestic law?	Support incorporating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into New Zealand domestic law?	other	Yes	Other	Need more evidence	Yes	Other	Need more evidence
Comment	Comment	We already have strong protections in New Zealand law for the rights of children, and ACT has strengthened these. If it can be proven that further incorporating the Convention into New Zealand law would improve the health, safety, and wellbeing of children, that is something we would be open to, but we do not think it is necessary.	Our position is that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child should be fully incorporated into domestic legislation, beyond the current references which merely require actors to be “guided by” the Convention.	This is something we are happy to consider in government.		We are committed to incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into the domestic law of Aotearoa. One clear step we will implement to support this convention is the Youth Homelessness Prevention Bill which will put a positive duty on state agencies to ensure that all young people are supported into stable housing.	Opportunity doesn't currently propose writing the Convention fully into New Zealand law as a standalone mechanism. It is currently given effect across multiple pieces of legislation, We're open to working through any need to strengthen those baseline protections, built on evidence and broad agreement.	NZ First supports strengthening protections for children but is cautious about wholesale incorporation of international conventions without ensuring alignment with New Zealand’s constitutional settings and democratic processes.

Section Two: Care and Protection

Care and Protection	Truncated forScorecard	Act	Green	Labour	National	Te Pāti Māori	Opportunity	NZ First
All children and young people have the right to grow up safe from harm, supported by whānau, and connected to their culture and community. Currently, too many tamariki in Aotearoa experience family violence, abuse, neglect, and system failure, with Māori children disproportionately affected. The Government has a crucial leadership role to prevent harm, respond early when children are at risk, and ensure the care and protection system upholds the rights and wellbeing of every child.								
Q1. Te Aorerekura Aotearoa continues to face unacceptably high rates of family and sexual violence (including child abuse and neglect). Does your party commit to a whole-of-government approach to preventing harm to children, including prioritising and resourcing Te Aorerekura and establishing a national strategy to prevent child maltreatment, supported by consistent public reporting on harm?	A whole-of-government approach to preventing harm to children, & a national strategy to prevent child maltreatment?	Yes	Yes	Yes.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Comment	Comment			Te Aorerekura was launched under the previous Labour government because we believe the government has a key role to play in preventing family and sexual violence, including any harm to children.				NZ First supports community-based prevention and early intervention programs specifically to address family and sexual violence.
Q2. The Dame Karen Poutasi Review Urgent implementation of the Dame Karen Poutasi Review recommendations is essential to prevent harm and ensure mokopuna are consistently seen, heard, and supported. Does your party commit to implementing the accepted recommendations of the Dame Karen Poutasi Review and strengthening safeguarding and child-protection capability across all parts of the care and protection workforce?	Implementing the recommendations of the Dame Karen Poutasi Review, & strengthening child-protection?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Comment	Comment							The party generally supports strengthening safeguarding and

								child protection capability across the system.
Q3. Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in State and Faith-based Care Full implementation of the Royal Commission recommendations, including necessary legislative change, is essential to restore dignity, power, and justice to survivors, and to ensure redress processes minimise further trauma and support healing. Does your party commit to fully implementing all recommendations of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in State and Faith-based Care?	Implementing all recommendations of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in State and Faith-based Care?	Other	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes
Comment	Comment	ACT is committed to ensuring that survivors receive justice and that New Zealand learns from the failures identified by the Royal Commission.		The Labour Party, if elected, is committed to honoring the findings of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in State and Faith-based Care and acting on the recommendations.	The Royal Commission challenged New Zealand to do better. While more work remains to do, we are committed to lasting improvements that address the wrongs of the past and help ensure people are safe, supported and treated with dignity in care. Of the 233 recommendations from the Royal Commission, 207 relate to the Crown. Of the 207: 36 completed, 88 are underway/ongoing, 64 have not been started, and 19 have been declined.			NZ First supports full implementation of accepted recommendations to ensure justice, redress, and system change.
Q4. Devolving Care & Protection Decision-Making to Māori and Communities Decades of reviews, inquiries, and research have shown that the child protection system continues to fail Māori tamariki and rangatahi. Will your party support and resource Māori-led and community-led care and protection approaches, including devolving care decision-making to whānau, hapū, iwi, and communities, to reduce the over-representation of Māori children in state care?	Support and resource Māori and community led care & protection approaches to reduce the number of Māori children in state care?	Other	Yes	Yes	Other	Yes	Yes	Other

Other	Comment	ACT supports community-led providers when they deliver good outcomes for vulnerable children. Minister Karen Chhour has already worked with groups, such as iwi-led providers, to devolve services and provide better care. Decisions about protection should ultimately put the safety of the child first.		We have the record to prove it. For example, it was the previous Labour government that established Te aka Whai Ora (The Māori Health Authority) and established partnerships with iwi to deliver social housing.	National will continue to support and resource effective Māori-led and community-led care and protection approaches. We support decisions being made as close as possible to tamariki, whānau, hapū, Iwi and communities, where appropriate, while retaining clear statutory accountability and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the child remains paramount.			NZ First supports devolving responsibilities to Iwi, Māori organizations, and NGOs to support families earlier, but we strictly oppose co-governance models in public service delivery.
Q5. Supporting Kinship and Whānau Care Between 16,000 and 22,000 children in Aotearoa are in formal kinship care, with many more in informal whānau arrangements that receive little or no support. Will your party ensure that all children in out-of-home care and the carers who support them (including informal kinship and whānau placements) receive equitable access to emotional, therapeutic, health, educational, and cultural supports?	Ensure that all children in care, and the carers who support them have equitable access to the support they need?	Yes	Yes	Other	Need more evidence	Yes	Other	Yes
Other	Comment			The Labour Party recognises the issues that children in out-of-home care and their carers face and is committed to working towards solutions to better support them in future.			Opportunity doesn't have a specific kinship and whānau care policy, but the support would flow from what we do stand for. Our Citizen's Income and child support payments would put stable income directly in the hands of caregivers — including informal kin — without the usual means-testing. Alongside our Thriving Families approach, we'd back community and iwi providers	We advocate for Parent as First Teacher (PAFT) and Family Start programs to assist families and children at risk.

							to wrap health, education and cultural support around every child in care.	
Q6. Prioritising Children in State Care Across Government Evidence consistently shows that care-experienced children face significantly poorer outcomes than their peers not in care and require prioritisation across Government to ensure their rights are upheld. Does your party commit to making tamariki in state care a priority population across government as part of your commitment to realising the 6 Promises (VOYCE) for all children in care?`	Making tamariki in state care a priority population as part of your commitment to children in care?	Other	Yes	Other	Need more evidence	Yes	Other	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT is committed to improving outcomes for children in state care. We must ensure that measurable outcomes can be achieved.		Labour is committed to ensuring that tamariki in state care receive the services that they need to thrive.			Opportunity does not yet have a policy on VOYCE.	NZ First supports prioritising care-experienced children and ensuring agencies meet the VOYCE 6 Promises.

Section Three: Climate Action

Climate Action	Truncated for Scorecard	Act	Green	Labour	National	Te Pāti Māori	Opportunity	NZ First
Our children have a right to a healthy and safe environment. But inaction on climate change is threatening their ability to grow and thrive here in Aotearoa and around the globe. Increasingly severe weather events are affecting us all, but the consequences fall most heavily on children, particularly those already facing discrimination and hardship. Our children need to see strong commitment to transformative action, including action that transitions us away from fossil fuels and toward a cleaner, fairer economy. Political decision-makers need to act now to prevent further harm, help communities adapt, and ensure our children, families and whānau have a fair chance at a thriving future.								
Q1. Participation and Child Voice Under Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children have a right to have their views heard and to participate meaningfully in decisions affecting them. Will your party commit to listening to children and young people and including their views and needs in your climate mitigation and adaptation policies, including climate emergency prevention and response?	Listening to young people and including their views in climate policies?	Other	Yes	Yes	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	Comment	Any New Zealander can have their say. ACT believes it is generally better to listen to scientists and experts on climate change, rather than children.		The Labour Party is committed to ensuring the voices of young people are heard.	Our focus is on practical, evidence-based action that reduces emissions, strengthens resilience to natural hazards, and helps communities prepare for climate risks. We support engagement with a wide range of New Zealanders. The government regularly consults on climate change policy, including for every emissions reduction plan, and the yearly ETS settings.			NZ First supports practical, non ideological engagement with young people on climate resilience and emergency response.

Q2. Te Tiriti and Tamariki Māori Tamariki Māori face disproportionate impacts from climate change, due to existing socio-economic inequalities and where they live. Marae are playing an increasingly vital role in supporting local communities during emergencies, but many are at risk from flooding and sea level rise. Will your party commit to allocating discretionary funds to iwi and hapū to prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change on tamariki Māori and their whānau?	Allocating funds to iwi and hapū to mitigate the effects of climate change on tamariki Māori and their whānau?	No	Yes	Yes	Other	Yes	Other	Need more evidence
Other	Comment			Labour has always been committed to supporting iwi and hapu – for example, in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, the previous Labour government provided \$50m to provide immediate relief in coordination with local iwi, among others.	National has supported Māori-led climate resilience through the Māori Climate Platform, which funds practical projects identified and led by Māori communities. Marae play a vital role as community hubs and places of refuge, and this kind of practical investment helps to maintain the essential services required to continue supporting their communities during severe weather events, power disruptions, and other emergencies. The programme remains active, with projects underway across the country and the remaining funding continuing to be delivered to marae and communities.		Opportunity's climate policy embeds Te Tiriti obligations across adaptation law and specifically commits to resourcing iwi-led climate strategies. We'd establish a National Resilience and Adaptation Fund that iwi, hapū and communities can draw on to protect marae, whenua and whānau — including tamariki — from flooding, sea-level rise and other climate impacts, with Māori leading the risk monitoring in their rohe.	NZ First supports resilience funding where justified by risk assessments, but prefers needs based, region specific investment rather than ethnicity based allocations.
Q3. Reducing Emissions and Ensuring a Climate Safe Future for Children Reducing climate pollution is the most important step we can take to protect our children from increasing harm from climate change and ensure they can grow up in a safe climate future. Will your party commit to a robust emissions	A robust emissions reduction plan that upholds our duties under the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°C?	No	Yes	Yes	Other	Yes	Yes	No

reduction plan that upholds our legal duties under the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5C? If yes, what policy changes will your party make to ensure our national mitigation plan is credible?								
Comment	Comment		The Green Party believe urgent transformation is needed across society and the economy to avert the worst impacts of climate change and minimise social harms. We will ensure our emissions reduction plan is transparent, credible, and legally binding, end fossil fuel use and production , reduce emissions across all major sectors, restore native ecosystems to sequester carbon, and support a just transition for workers, communities, and Māori.	Our full policy programme and manifesto will be released in due course, but the Labour party is committed to meeting our obligations under the Paris Agreement and enacting policies that get us there.		Te Pāti Māori will establish a \$1bn Pūngao Auaha Fund to support community energy projects, including solar panels and insulation for marae, kura, papakāinga, and whānau homes. We will also establish a \$300m Mātai Ahuwhenua Innovation Fund to support Māori farmers in transitioning to regenerative and value-add practices, and end onshore and offshore oil and gas exploration.		
Q4. Pacific Small Island States and Funding to Respond to Loss and Damage In our Pacific region, small island developing states have contributed least to global warming but are suffering most from its consequences, especially children. Under the Paris Agreement, Aotearoa has committed to contributing 'Loss and Damage' funding to support Small Island Developing States to address climate change harm. Will your party commit to additional loss and damage funding for Small Island Developing States to address the significant and disproportionate consequences of climate change on Pacific children and young people?	Additional funding for Small Island States to address the consequences of climate change on Pacific young people?	Other	Yes	Yes	Other	Yes	Other	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT believes that climate funding is better directed towards conservation outcomes in New Zealand.		The previous Labour government invested \$1.3b into the climate aid fund with specific initiatives going	According to New Zealand's 2024 Biennial Transparency Report and MFAT climate finance information, New		Opportunity doesn't have a specific policy on additional loss and damage funding for Pacific states. Our first focus is	NZ First supports targeted climate resilience support for Pacific nations, consistent with New Zealand's regional

				towards aiding our Pacific neighbours with their climate resilience, and we are happy to consider other steps once in government.	Zealand has made a NZ\$1.3 billion grant-based international climate finance commitment for the period 2022–2025. This support is provided to help developing countries reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. [mfat.govt.nz], [environment.govt.nz] More than half of the funding is directed to Pacific Island countries, reflecting New Zealand's view that the Pacific is particularly vulnerable to climate change and related disasters. [mfat.govt.nz] More than half of the funding supports adaptation, helping countries prepare for and respond to climate impacts.		credible emissions cuts at home, because the most useful thing New Zealand can do for Pacific children is stop contributing to the warming that threatens them. We'd also use our regional relationships to push for fair, well-supported climate action across the Pacific.	responsibilities.
Q5. Climate Change Education Education is a right under Articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Education on climate change is vital to ensure children understand, are prepared for, and able to participate in decisions about climate change that affect them. Will your party commit to including climate change education as part of the compulsory New Zealand Curriculum for primary and secondary school, supported by initial teacher education and professional development for teachers in related subject areas?	Including climate change education as part of the compulsory curriculum for schools?	Other	Yes	Other	Need more evidence	Yes	Yes	Need more evidence
Other	Comment	Students should learn what best prepares them for life. Forcing them to learn a specific view on policy matters is		The previous Labour government was actively looking at how to incorporate climate-change education into				NZ First supports climate literacy but is cautious about curriculum expansion without ensuring balance, and avoidance of

		unhelpful.		many different subjects and facets of our system and we are happy to consider this issue again in government.				ideological content.
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Section Four: Education

Education	Truncated for Scorecard	Act	Green	Labour	National	Te Pāti Māori	Opportunity	NZ First
Section Four: Education Education is the right of all children and a public good. Full engagement by children and young people in education is integral to all aspects of social wellbeing, and poverty and inequality reduction. Education should be available, affordable, accessible, and adaptable. Across the education sector, the quality of education is critical to children’s wellbeing and learning. Participation and quality must always be equally prioritised. This means fully qualified teachers, teacher:child ratios consistent with research, group sizes small enough to enable responsive relationships, professional development and resources to support inclusive learning environments, and pay parity across the education sector. The quality of early childhood education is particularly critical, given the importance of and long-term impact on the development and learning of infants and young children.								
Q1. Education system values and Te Tiriti Will your party commit, in the next term of government, to an education system that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi, upholds tamariki and rangatahi rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and treats education as a public good?	An education system that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi, upholds UNCROC and treats education as a public good?	No	Yes	Yes	Other	Yes	Yes	Other
Other	Comment	ACT is committed to an education system that focuses on delivering high-quality education to children and treats each child with dignity, rather than trying to divide them based on race. School should prepare students for adult life.		For example, the Labour Party has already committed to restoring Te Tiriti o Waitangi to the heart of our schools. Labour’s fundamental belief is that education is a public good.	Education is the great leveller and every child in New Zealand has the right to access high quality education and this Government commits to that.			NZ First treats education as an investment and a public good but prioritizes academic achievement and equal citizenship over what they characterize as race-based ideology.
Q2. Education Quality and Employment Conditions The conditions for high quality education across all sectors include degree qualified teachers who are fairly paid; recommended teacher:child ratios, group and class sizes; and learning	Legislating and funding high-quality, public education across all sectors and settings?	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

environments that support strong, responsive relationships between teachers, students and their whānau. Will your party commit to legislating and funding high-quality, public education across all sectors and settings for tamariki and rangatahi?								
Other	Comment	ACT supports high-quality education and well-supported teachers.						NZ First supports qualified teachers, fair pay, manageable class sizes, and strong public education standards.
3. Kaupapa Māori education provision Will your party commit to establishing and funding sufficient Kura Kaupapa Māori and Wharekura so that all tamariki and rangatahi who begin in Kōhanga Reo or Puna Reo can access kaupapa Māori education without barriers such as lack of places or unreasonable travel?	Establishing and funding Kura Kaupapa Māori and Wharekura so that all tamariki can access kaupapa Māori education?	Other	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Other	Other
Other	Comment	ACT supports parental choice in education. This is why ACT reinstated charter schools, which have had massive uptake, especially from iwi providers.		Labour is committed to growing Kaupapa Māori education provision.	This Government has invested significantly in Kura such as upgrading buildings and classrooms.		Opportunity doesn't have a specific policy setting out funding pipelines or new places for Kura Kaupapa Māori and Wharekura. But we strongly support kaupapa Māori education and self-determination in learning. We'd grow the pipeline of qualified te reo teachers and back Māori-led providers, so that tamariki who start in Kōhanga Reo can carry on in kaupapa Māori education without hitting a wall.	We support Māori language and culture in schools where there is interest but emphasize a single system based on need.
4. Early childhood education quality and access Will your party commit to a funding model that delivers high quality, affordable and accessible early childhood education for all tamariki and whānau, regardless of income, location, or social circumstances?	Funding high quality and accessible early childhood education for all tamariki and whānau?	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT supports early childhood education that is focused on		The current government has done excessive damage to the ECE				We support policies to increase participation and quality in ECE and

		ensuring the best outcomes for young children. David Seymour, as Associate Minister of Education, has already significantly cut back the red tape that has made early childhood care expensive for families.		sector and we will have to work hard to rectify what they've done for the welfare of our children as well as their parents and the professionals who work in the sector.				review staffing ratios for infants as a safety matter.
5. Continuity of support across education Will your party commit to timely, culturally appropriate learning and wellbeing support for tamariki and rangatahi, with needs-based funding that follows them across early learning, schooling and post-school education?	Culturally appropriate learning and wellbeing support for tamariki and rangatahi, with needs-based funding?	Other	Yes	Other	Need more evidence	Yes	Other	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT believes that education funding should follow the child to ensure that parents have choice in their child's education.		The Labour Party recognises the need for culturally appropriate learning and wellbeing support and will consider how to best support tamariki and rangatahi when in government.			Opportunity doesn't have a specific single portable funding stream that follows each child, but we recognise the importance of continuity.	We support the Learning Support Delivery Model and registers to ensure support follows the student
6. Curriculum protection and development Will your party commit to protecting the status, intent and content of Te Whāriki ensuring that any curriculum or assessment changes (including in schools) are properly developed, consulted on, and resourced before implementation?	Protecting Te Whāriki ensuring that any curriculum changes are properly developed, consulted on, & resourced?	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT supports parents being properly consulted on the curriculum that affects their child.		For all curriculum development, we have committed to engaging and developing content in partnership with the sector, instead of dictating to them.				We support nationwide professional development for the Te Whāriki curriculum.

Section Five: Health and Wellbeing

Health and Wellbeing	Truncated for Scorecard	Act	Green	Labour	National	Te Pāti Māori	Opportunity	NZ First
All children and young people deserve to enjoy optimal health that encompasses physical, mental, and social wellbeing, not just the absence of illness. Protecting and supporting the health of children and young people as they grow delivers lifelong benefits for individuals, whānau, future generations, and society across multiple wellbeing and social outcomes. Additionally, it reduces the long-term social and economic costs of adverse outcomes such as preventable health conditions and hospitalisations, poor mental health, and lower educational attainment and employment levels. However, not all children and young people in Aotearoa New Zealand are provided with the basic foundations for health and wellbeing (such as nutrition, shelter, safety, and timely health care), leading to lifelong poorer health and wellbeing outcomes, especially for tamariki Māori, Pacific children, disabled children and those living in areas with high socioeconomic deprivation. The Government has a vital role in ensuring children and young people have equitable access to the foundations of wellbeing and effective health care.								
Investing in Primary Health Care Poor or delayed access to primary health care is an enduring problem in New Zealand that is affecting long-term health outcomes and productivity, and overloading emergency departments and specialist services. A variety of primary health services tailored to the needs of young people are needed.								
Q1. Will your party strengthen existing primary care access by expanding fully funded youth one-stop-shop and school-based health services toward national coverage for 12-24 year-olds?	Strengthen existing primary health care access by expanding services toward national coverage for 12-24 year-olds?	Need more evidence	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Other	Need more evidence
Other	Comment	ACT supports improving timely access to primary and mental healthcare for young people. Any expansion of one-stop shops should be based on whether they		Labour is firmly committed to ensuring everyone who needs primary care can access it without the cost being a barrier. Introducing a Medicard is Labour's plan to	National recognises the important role that primary care plays in reducing wait times and delivering better health outcomes for all New Zealanders. That is why National has		Opportunity doesn't have a specific policy expanding youth one-stop-shops or school-based health services. But we'd strengthen primary care for everyone, including	NZ First supports expanding youth health hubs and school based services where evidence shows improved outcomes.

		provide value for money.		make healthcare more affordable. It will give every New Zealander three free doctor's visits a year and free prescriptions.	been so focused on strengthening primary care and has delivered the largest ever funding boost for GP clinics across the country. National will have more to say on its election policy on health in due course.		young people: a minimum 30% increase in primary-care funding over three years and a move to needs-based capitation so money follows the greatest need. That lifts access for rangatahi facing the steepest cost and health barriers.	
Q2. Will your party commit to increasing funding and support for iwi and Pacific primary health services, to address health inequities for tamariki Māori and Pacific children?	Increasing funding and support for iwi and Pacific primary health services, to address health inequities?	Other	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Yes	Other
Other	Comment	ACT supports funding providers that deliver effective healthcare to children and families. Funding should never be given solely based on race.		Labour is committed to addressing health inequities for tamariki Māori and Pacific children. The evidence is clear that cost has kept Māori and Pacific away from the doctor at historically higher rates than other New Zealanders. As part of delivering three free doctor's visits, Labour is proposing a new model known as independent pricing. An Independent Pricing Authority would be up and running by July 2028 and will set an evidence-based national rate for GP funding that reflects real costs and patient need. This will remove the politics from GP funding. When the rate goes up,	National recognises the important role that primary care plays in reducing wait times and delivering better health outcomes for all New Zealanders. That is why National has been so focused on strengthening primary care and has delivered the largest ever funding boost for GP clinics across the country. National will have more to say on its election policy on health in due course.			NZ First supports funding based on clinical needs, not race and ethnicity.

				Health NZ will be required to fund the increase the following year - ending the cycle where practices either absorb rising costs or pass them on to patients. Because the rate would be set on evidence of patient need, it would direct more funding to the practices serving communities with the greatest health inequities.				
Mental Health Support and Suicide Prevention Young people (aged 15-24) experience higher rates of mental distress than all other age groups in New Zealand, and youth mental distress has risen significantly over the past decade. Our rates of child and adolescent suicide are 2-3 times higher than the average for high-income countries. In 2025, UNICEF ranked New Zealand last place out of 36 high-income countries for child and youth mental health.								
Q3. Will your party commit additional funding to fully implement the 2025 Suicide Prevention Action Plan, including community initiatives to respond to youth suicide?	Additional funding to fully implement the 2025 Suicide Prevention Action Plan?	Other	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Other	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT supports fixing our mental healthcare system so that users can access services that better meet their needs. This means funding that follows the user.		Labour supports better access to mental health services and early prevention.	There was already \$16 million per year of additional funding on top of existing suicide prevention funding of \$20 million year to implement the plan. We are always looking at ways we can improve access to support, including through the launch of the upcoming Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy, that is focused on getting support to people earlier.		Opportunity doesn't have a specific policy on the 2025 Suicide Prevention Action Plan. But we'd protect mental health investment from the political cycle through our statutory 10-Year Health Plan, and expand access to frontline and community-based mental health and addiction support. Young people in distress need help that's close, consistent and	We support resourcing for Youth Suicide Prevention Services and community interventions.

							properly funded — not services that rise and fall with each Budget.	
Q4. Will your party commit to funding access to mental health and addiction services in all schools, alternative education, teen parent units, and tertiary education providers?	Funding access to mental health & addiction services in all schools, & education providers?	Other	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Need more evidence	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT supports fixing our mental healthcare system so that users can access services that better meet their needs. This means funding that follows the user.		Labour supports better access to mental health services and early prevention.	Mana Ake delivers mental health support to primary and intermediate school children. Types of support can include whole-of-school and whole-of-classroom wellbeing sessions, smaller group therapeutic sessions, and one-to-one counselling. Under National, this programme has received sustainable funding, after only having time-limited funding arrangements, now providers have certainty this programme will continue from within baseline funding. The roadmap we are committed to working on with Youthline will include looking at different areas of need, including how we can better support our young people to have better mental health in schools. We have also funded Gumboot Friday to support up to 15,000 young people a year to			We support expanding access to counselling for all school-aged children and progressing counsellor/student ratios.

					get free counselling.			
Marketing of Nicotine, Alcohol and Other Drugs, and Harmful Products Children and young people are increasingly targeted and influenced through online and other media marketing of products that are known to be harmful. Industry self-regulation has been ineffective, and therefore government regulation is required to reduce harm for children and young people. Māori and Pacific youth are exposed to alcohol marketing 3-5 times more often than Pākehā youth, and children are exposed to aggressive marketing of unhealthy products when online.								
Q5. Will your party regulate to restrict the marketing of harmful products (which may include alcohol, gambling, vapes and other nicotine products, prescription medicines, and unhealthy foods) to children and young people, online and in all other media?	Regulation to restrict the marketing of harmful products to children and young people in all media?	Other	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT supports fixing our mental healthcare system so that users can access services that better meet their needs. This means funding that follows the user.		Labour is committed to protecting young people from harmful substances, and open to considering further measures to protect children. We worked cross-party in the Education and Workforce Committee's Inquiry into the harm young New Zealanders encounter online and voted in support of the Committee's recommendations in its final report. These included recommending that the Government regulate to prevent online advertising of restricted goods such as alcohol, tobacco and gambling, to young people under the	National recognises the important role that primary care plays in reducing wait times and delivering better health outcomes for all New Zealanders. That is why National has been so focused on strengthening primary care and has delivered the largest ever funding boost for GP clinics across the country. National will have more to say on its election policy on health in due course.			NZ First supports stronger regulation of harmful product marketing to youth, including vaping, alcohol, gambling, and unhealthy foods.

				age of 18, in a way that aligns with the relevant offline advertising restrictions.				
Disability Disabled children and young people are often invisible in policy design and implementation, despite clear evidence that they experience significantly worse outcomes across multiple areas of life. Without systematic analysis and monitoring, government policy risks overlooking these children and young people and perpetuating disadvantage.								
Q6. Will your party require government agencies to analyse, monitor, and report on the impacts of policy decisions on disabled children and young people, and include their perspectives in policy design and implementation?	Require government agencies to include the perspectives and report on the impacts of policy decisions of disabled children and young people?	Other	Yes	Other	Need more evidence	Yes	Other	Yes
Other	Comment	Government agencies should consider how policies affect all New Zealanders.		The Labour Party is conscious of how policy decisions can impact disabled children and young people and will examine how to incorporate their points of view into policy decisions when in government.			Opportunity doesn't have a specific cross-government policy requiring agencies to report on disabled children. But our 10-Year Health Plan sets measurable, publicly reported goals to close outcome gaps for disabled communities, and we'd co-design disability policy with disabled people. Transparent targets and lived-experience input are how we'd stop disabled children being overlooked.	NZ First supports requiring agencies to analyse and report impacts on disabled children.
Q7. Will your party commit to reducing poverty and material hardship for families raising disabled children by increasing financial supports such as benefits, disability-related payments, and targeted assistance measures during the next term of government?	Reducing poverty and material hardship for families raising disabled children by increasing financial support?	other	Yes	Other	Need more evidence	Yes	Yes	Yes

Other	Comment	ACT supports better assistance for families raising disabled children.		The Labour Party is committed to improving the lives of disabled people, which is why it was the previous Labour government that brought in the minimum wage top-up and improved the Total Mobility Scheme.				NZ First supports improving disability-related financial supports and reducing hardship.
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Section Six: Housing

Housing	Truncated for Scorecard	Act	Green	Labour	National	Te Pāti Māori	Opportunity	NZ First
All children and youth need an affordable, safe and healthy home to thrive, lead healthy lives and reach their potential. Currently, housing insecurity and homelessness is growing, impacting children and whānau across New Zealand. The Government has a crucial leadership role to ensure that every person in Aotearoa has a safe, healthy, and affordable home to live in.								
Q1. Does your party have a long-term housing strategy with affordable, culturally appropriate solutions for families on low incomes, Māori and Pacific whānau, migrant families, people with disabilities, and/or with needs for assisted living, whether renting or buying a home?	Have a long-term housing strategy with affordable, culturally appropriate solutions for families on low incomes, Māori and Pacific whānau, migrant families, people with disabilities?	Other	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Yes	Other
Other	Comment	ACT supports ensuring that housing can actually be built in New Zealand. This is why ACT has been leading the charge to replace the Resource Management Act with a regime based on property rights.		The Labour Party is committed to affordable and culturally appropriate housing solutions, as demonstrated when last in Government.	We have a long-term housing strategy focused on building the right homes, in the right places, for the right people. We are reforming the housing system to use a needs-based approach that better targets support to those who need it most, including low-income families, people with disabilities, and others facing housing need. Through planning reform, infrastructure investment, and a stronger focus on housing supply, we are also tackling the root causes of housing unaffordability and			The party has a comprehensive "New Zealand Housing Plan" but emphasizes that eligibility should be restricted to New Zealand citizens and based on need, rather than specific identity groups.

					making it easier for more New Zealanders to find a place to call home.			
Q2. Will you continue to implement and enforce the Healthy Homes Standards to ensure public housing, social housing, and private rental homes are healthy places to live?	Implement and enforce the Healthy Homes Standards to ensure all homes are healthy places to live?	No	Yes	Yes	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT believes that the Healthy Homes Standards have caused many issues within the rental market, often hurting renting families more than helping them.	We will strengthen the Healthy Homes Standards to include minimum and maximum temperature requirements for bedrooms, and enforce the standards with a mandatory Rental Warrant of Fitness.		Across public, social, and private rentals.	We will enforce the Healthy Homes Standards and implement a Rental Warrant of Fitness to ensure that all tamariki have healthy places to live.		We support improved building quality, including mandatory insulation and earthquake resistance.
Other				The Labour Party has always been, and will remain, committed to improving and increasing the public house stock.	.			
Q3. Will your party commit to developing, implementing, and resourcing a specific regional and national strategy to address homelessness, including youth homelessness?	Developing, implementing, and resourcing strategies to address homelessness?	Other	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Other	Need more evidence
Other	Comment	ACT believes that the best way to ensure the housing needs of people on low incomes are met is by increasing the supply of housing. That is why ACT has focused on making it much cheaper to build new housing. We support the work of the Government to put a higher level of focus on community housing providers where the government is the		We will be announcing our housing package soon, which will have a specific focus on addressing the unprecedented level of homelessness that has occurred under this government.	We are committed to reducing homelessness and the Government already funds a range of programmes, including Housing First, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, emergency housing, and support services. Our focus is on strengthening effective services, supporting local responses, and addressing the underlying causes		Opportunity doesn't have a separate national homelessness strategy, but we'd tackle it through supply and proven support. We back the Housing First model — which pairs stable housing with wraparound mental health and addiction support — and lifting overall supply so it's far cheaper to house people. Our Kāinga Ora build programme and	

		funder rather than the provider.			of housing need through broader housing reform		community providers would help clear the waitlists driving homelessness.	
Q4. Will your party commit to allocating adequate funding to rangatahi and community providers in the homelessness sector to fund frontline staff training and improve wrap-around support that effectively reduces homelessness?	Allocating adequate funding to rangatahi and community providers to improve wrap-around support to reduce homelessness?	Other	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Yes	Need more evidence
Other	Comment	ACT supports funding effective frontline providers that can demonstrate they are helping people into stable housing and addressing the causes of homelessness.		The Labour Party will continue to work alongside with frontline providers on the most effective way to address homelessness, particularly for youth.	We recognise the role of community providers in supporting people experiencing homelessness and will continue investing in frontline homelessness services and wrap-around support. Our focus is on funding effective programmes, including Housing First, transitional housing, outreach services, and locally led responses that help people move into stable housing and improve long-term outcomes.			

Section Seven: Inclusion

Inclusion	Truncated for Scorecard	Act	Green	Labour	National	Te Pāti Māori	Opportunity	NZ First
In order to thrive, every child needs to be connected to communities, valued for who they are, and included in decisions which impact them. Some children (and groups of children) face barriers to participation and consistently miss out on opportunities. More needs to be done to make Aotearoa New Zealand more inclusive for these children and foster their participation. The Government has a leadership role to play in increasing participation of children in our communities, including in public, policy, and budgeting decision making.								
Q1. Participating in Society Some children and groups of children experience more barriers to participating in society than others. Does your party have a dedicated policy and budget for promoting greater inclusion and participation of groups of children who experience the greatest barriers, including children who are Māori, Pasifika, whaikaha, LGBTQI+, and migrant or refugee children?	Dedicated policy and budget for promoting greater inclusion and participation of groups of children who experience the greatest barriers?	No	Yes	Yes	Need more evidence	Yes	Other	Other
Other	Comment	ACT does not have a plan to budget money for “inclusion”. We support removing barriers that hold people back.		The Labour Party is committed to – and has a strong track record of - implementing policies that promote greater inclusion of marginalised groups into society. For example, the previous Labour government implemented the Active Me – Kia Tu programme, to get more marginalised rangatahi into sports, improved the Total Mobility Scheme, brought in LGBTQI+ inclusive Relationship and Sexuality Education into schools, and launched Whai Kāinga Whai			Opportunity doesn't have a single dedicated policy around budget for these groups, but inclusion runs through our whole approach. We fund services based on need — in health, education and incomes — so support reaches the children facing the biggest barriers, whoever they are. Our Citizen's Income gives every family a stable foundation, and we back community-led services that help all children belong and take part.	We have a range of policies for inclusion of people who face barriers in society. However, New Zealand First maintains that all policy-making should be based on need, not race, creed, or colour.

				Oranga, which promoted and invested into Māori-led housing solutions.				
Q2. Government Investment Matters How the Government spends money and what it chooses to prioritise has an impact on the wellbeing of children. Does your party support strengthening a child rights-based approach in the preparation of the State Budget by establishing genuinely participatory budgeting processes that are accessible to children (especially those who experience barriers to community participation)?	Strengthening a child rights-based approach in the preparation of the State Budget by establishing processes that are accessible to children ?	No	Other	Other	No	Yes	Need more evidence	Need more evidence
Other	Comment	Elected governments are accountable to voters and taxpayers. People can have their say through consultation, but ACT does not believe that children should be deciding New Zealand's Budget.	We do not currently have a participatory budgeting policy, but this would be consistent with our wider policy of lowering the voting age and developing tools for ensuring children's voice in decision making.	Labour has always been committed to forming a government that is dedicated to the wellbeing of children. That is why the previous Labour government brought in measures in which each government Budget must also report on the government of the day's progress towards reducing child poverty.				Need more evidence, NZ First supports improving transparency and child wellbeing analysis but is cautious about formal participatory budgeting models.
Q3. Legislation Impacts Wellbeing Legislation and policy priorities directly impact the wellbeing of children by shaping the supports, protections, and opportunities available to them. Does your party support strengthening a child rights-based approach in the creation of legislation by establishing genuinely participatory processes that are accessible to children, which require children's voices to be considered in the drafting or amending, and scrutiny of a bill during the legislative process?	Strengthening a child rights-based approach in the creation of legislation by processes that are accessible to children during the legislative process?	No	Yes	Other	Need more evidence	Yes	Yes	Need more evidence
Other	Comment			We are open to considering this issue in government.				NZ First supports child consultation where appropriate but seeks safeguards to ensure processes are practical and not tokenistic.

Q4. Digital Technology Social media and other digital technologies play a significant role in enabling children and young people to connect, engage, socialise, and participate in their communities. Does your party support stronger regulation of tech companies and their platforms so that the products and services they create and implement are safe, inclusive, and foster the participation of children?	Stronger regulation of tech companies and their platforms so that the products and services they create and implement are safe & inclusive?	Needs more evidence	Yes	Yes	Need more evidence	Yes	Yes	Need more evidence
Other	Comment	ACT knows online harm is a problem and was the party the initiated the select committee inquiry into online harm. We are open to workable solutions, but the international evidence suggests that blanket regulations do not work and can push children into worse areas of the internet where the harm is greater.		Yes. That is why Labour MP Reuben Davidson has a Member's Bill designed to address this issue.				NZ First supports child consultation where appropriate but seeks safeguards to ensure processes are practical and not tokenistic.
Q5. Inclusive Communities Being involved in our communities is an important way for children and young people to develop a sense of belonging and connection, which is vital to wellbeing, social cohesion and unity. Will your party provide increased funding that community groups can access for events and initiatives that bring children and families together, such as through arts, culture, sports, leisure activities, volunteering or community action?	Increased funding that community groups can access for events and initiatives that bring children and families together?	Other	Yes	Other	No	Yes	Other	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT recognises the value of community groups, and we support cutting back the red tape that holds them back.		The Labour Party is open to considering this when in government.			Opportunity doesn't have a specific funding approach for community events and activities. But we're committed to rebuilding community connection: we'd back community-owned and iwi-led organisations to deliver local services, and our	NZ First supports funding for community groups and "untagged" community funding programs to support local projects and social cohesion.

							Citizen's Income would give families the financial breathing room and time to take part in local life — sport, arts, culture and volunteering that bring children and whānau together.	
Q6. Public Transport For All Safe, affordable, and reliable public transport is an essential resource that enables children, young people, and adults to attend places of learning, work, and social participation in their communities. Will your party support a transport policy that makes public transport free for people who need it most, including children up to 18 years, young people under 25, caregivers who are studying, and those that hold a community services card?	Support a transport policy that makes public transport free for people who need it most?	Other	Yes	Yes	Other	Yes	Other	Need more evidence
Other	Comment	ACT does not support making public transport free. We know from international evidence that untargeted subsidies cost a lot, deliver little value, and can ultimately make public transport less economical.		The Labour Party is committed to affordable public transport – which is why, if elected, we will cap the cost of public transport at \$20 a week in Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland and \$10 a week everywhere else.	The evidence suggests that free public transport isn't an effective way to encourage uptake. There are already extensive concessionary fares available.		Opportunity would go further than targeted fares: we support permanent, universal free public transport for everyone — which of course includes children, students, young people and community services card holders. Making it free for all avoids the complexity and stigma of targeted schemes, removes cost as a barrier to school, work and connection, and cuts congestion and emissions.	NZ First supports targeted transport subsidies but requires cost modelling before committing to universal free fares for multiple groups.

Section Eight: Incomes

Incomes	Truncated for Scorecard	Act	Green	Labour	National	Te Pāti Māori	Opportunity	NZ First
Income levels play a key role in determining whether people can maintain a decent standard of living, meet their basic needs, participate in their community with dignity, and build financial resilience to manage unexpected costs. Adequate family incomes are essential to child wellbeing, protecting children from experiencing material hardship, and enabling them to participate in their community. Progress on reducing child poverty has stalled, coupled with benefit rates and supports such as Working for Families failing to keep pace with rising living costs. The Government has a responsibility to ensure policy settings provide for the wellbeing of children in low- and middle-income households and are not overly punitive towards whānau who cannot work, or act as a disincentive for those seeking to enter the workforce.								
Q1. Child Poverty Child poverty remains high in Aotearoa with Treasury projections indicating that the 10-year poverty reduction targets are unlikely to be met in 2028. Does your party commit to increasing investment in reducing child poverty to ensure the aspirations of the Child Poverty Reduction Act are realised in relation to setting and meeting poverty reduction targets?	Increasing investment in reducing child poverty to ensure the aspirations of the Child Poverty Reduction Act are realised?	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT is committed to building an economy that allows New Zealanders to unlock their potential and be free to become the best version of themselves. We need real improvements. We cannot simply rely on “aspirations”, as we saw under the last Labour Government, which did not achieve good outcomes.		For example, this is why we will restore the School Lunches programme to one that does the job properly.				NZ First supports practical measures to reduce child poverty, including improving incomes and reducing living costs.

Q2. Living Wage The lowest incomes such as minimum wage and core benefits are too low and cannot adequately meet basic living costs. Will your party continue the work toward ensuring a living wage for all?	Continue the work toward ensuring a living wage for all?	No	Yes	Other	No	Yes	Other	Other
Other	Comment			The Labour Party is proud of its track record improving the lives of working people – for example, we ensured that all core public service employees were paid the living wage in 2018.			Opportunity takes a different route to the same goal. Rather than relying on minimum-wage rises alone, our Tax Reset combines a Citizen's Income of \$19,400 with the removal of high effective tax rates, so that near-full-time work on the minimum wage lifts most families above the living-wage standard. We'd also keep minimum-wage protections so the gains aren't captured by employers.	The party supports moderate annual increases to the minimum wage and has advocated for abolishing the "starting out wage" for youth.
Q3. Adequate Benefit Levels The cost-of-living crisis and prolonged economic downturn are pushing families on the lowest incomes into deeper hardship. Benefits are set too low to afford basic living costs. Will your party commit to adequate increases to core benefits, indexing payments and abatement rates to the higher of wage growth or CPI, and removing benefit sanctions?	Adequate increases to core benefits, indexing payments, and removing benefit sanctions?	Other	Yes	Other	No	Yes	Other	Other
Other	Comment	ACT believes that welfare should be a safety net, not a lifestyle. ACT is committed to ensuring that benefits are accessible only to those who genuinely need them.		The previous Labour government indexed payments to wage growth before this government reversed this change.			Opportunity would replace much of the punitive benefit system rather than tweak it. Our Citizen's Income of \$19,400 goes to every adult automatically, with no sanctions and no invasive testing, topped up by targeted child, sole-parent and disability support. By removing	NZ First supports indexing benefits to inflation but also advocates for strengthening sanctions for non-compliance with work obligations.

							abatement traps that punish people for working, we'd give whānau on the lowest incomes genuine security and a way forward.	
Q4. Relationship status The model of basing benefit eligibility on relationship status is outdated and found to cause serious financial and other harms due to perceived relationships and joint income levels. Will your party commit to individualising benefits so that the welfare system does not harm and discriminate against people in relationships, particularly those reliant on Supported Living Payment, Sole Parent Support, or due to sickness?	Individualising benefits so that the welfare system does not harm and discriminate against people in relationships?	Other	Yes	Other	No	Yes	Yes	Need more evidence
Other	Comment	ACT does believe that the state should be ambivalent as to whether someone is in a relationship, although this may be relevant when considering whether someone is in need of taxpayer support. We would want to see more about how this affects beneficiaries before committing to any changes.		This is something we may consider in government.			Yes	NZ First supports reducing unfair penalties but requires detailed modelling before committing to full individualisation.
Q6. Youth Employment Youth are bearing the brunt of extremely difficult employment conditions, with the youth unemployment rate rising 2% in the year to September 2025. Will your party support continued funding for more diverse skills training to ensure young people, and those struggling with employment, can gain meaningful employment and fulfilling career pathways to aspire to?	Continued funding for diverse skills training to ensure young people, and those struggling with employment, can gain meaningful employment?	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT supports practical skills training. We believe that more children should be encouraged into meaningful employment, which means putting vocational		This is why we will expand Apprenticeship Boost to 2 years, expand the list of eligible qualifications, and provide every new apprentice with a \$1,000 toolbox to				NZ First strongly supports subsidized trade training and skills programs for young, unemployed people.

		education on a level playing field with university.		help them get started.				
Q7. Pay Equity The Pay Equity Amendment Bill 2025 undermined decades of progress for working women, who remain penalised by the gender pay gap and underpaid compared to men in New Zealand. Wāhine Māori, Pacific and Asian women, and disabled women in particular experience high wage gaps. Will your party commit to advancing pay equity in Aotearoa, including legislative change to strengthen equal pay, committing to including funding for pay equity within government contracts, and reopening pay equity claims focused on professions that support young people?	Advancing pay equity in Aotearoa, including legislative change & reopening pay equity claims focused on professions that support young people?	Other	Yes	Yes	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT opposes gender-based discrimination. The new and improved pay equity system provides greater confidence that genuine pay equity issues will be correctly identified and addressed.		We've promised to change the pay equity regime to one that rewards women's work, not one that cuts their pay.	National remains committed to pay equity and to ensuring women and men are paid fairly for work of equal value. There is still a pathway to raise and resolve pay equity claims. However, National does not support returning to the previous system, which was not operating as intended. The changes were made to create a clearer, more durable process that focuses on genuine cases of gender-based undervaluation and delivers sustainable outcomes for workers and taxpayers alike.			NZ First supports fair pay for women and pay equity processes that are evidence based and fiscally responsible.
Q8. Working For Families Working For Families (WFF) should be a payment that supports all families on low incomes to care for their children, however, too many low income families are ineligible to receive WFF and it has failed to keep pace with living costs. Will your party commit to improving Working For Families, including for example through increasing entitlements, adjusting abatement	Improving Working For Families, including for example through increasing entitlements, and indexing entitlements to CPI?	Other	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Other	Other

thresholds and rates, and indexing entitlements to the higher of wage growth or CPI?								
Other	Comment	ACT believes that Working for Families could be improved, especially when it comes to its administration.		Labour is the party that introduced Working for Families, that is now one of the key schemes that makes work pay and supports low income working New Zealanders.	This term, the National led Government has: increased the in-work tax credit, increased the minimum family tax credit, increased the Working for Families abatement threshold, continued to adjust the family tax credit for inflation, and simplified the definition of income for Working for Families. National Party policy on Working for Families will be announced ahead of the election.		Opportunity would replace Working for Families rather than amending it. Our Tax Reset introduces a tax-free Child Support payment for every child — not tied to whether parents are in work, training or study — alongside the \$19,400 Citizen's Income. That's a simpler, fairer foundation for low-income whānau than the complex WFF system it replaces.	We have proposed a "Children and Families Package" to support families into their first home and childcare. Also, please refer to our recently announced \$5000 per child per year for the first three years for families, to support through the first few years of the child.
Q9. Disability Families and individuals living with disability are severely more disadvantaged than non-disabled whānau, with children in disabled households more than twice as likely to experience material hardship than children in non-disabled households. Will your party commit to substantively lift benefit-reliant incomes of disabled individuals and whānau above the poverty line?	Substantively lift benefit-reliant incomes of disabled individuals and whānau above the poverty line?	Other	Yes	Other	Need more evidence	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT strongly supports targeted assistance that recognises genuine disability. These are some of the most vulnerable people in society and they need support. Any changes need to reach those with the greatest need.		The Labour Party is committed to improving the lives of disabled people, which is exactly why the previous Labour government brought in the Minimum Wage top-up, which this government got rid of.				NZ First supports lifting disabled households out of poverty through targeted supports.

Section Nine: Youth Justice

Protecting Our Rights	Truncated for Scorecard	Act	Green	Labour	National	Te Pāti Māori	Opportunity	NZ First
All children and rangatahi deserve support, guidance, and fair opportunities to change direction so they can thrive within their whānau and communities. Children and young people are still developing, and risk-taking behaviour can be a normal part of growing up. When harm occurs, responses should focus on accountability, learning, and restoration, while addressing the underlying drivers of offending such as trauma, neurodiversity, poverty, and disconnection from whānau and culture. The youth justice system must prioritise early intervention, community-based solutions, and culturally grounded approaches. Persistent over-representation of mokopuna Māori reflects long-standing system failures and unmet obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Detention and criminalisation at a young age can deepen disadvantage and increase the likelihood of reoffending if not used only as a last resort.								
Q1. Early Support and Prevention Will your party commit to prioritising early, community-based support for children and young people and their families to prevent entry into, and escalation within, the youth justice system?	Prioritising early, community-based support for children and young people and their families to prevent entry into the youth justice system?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	Comment			Labour will commit to continuing Circuit Breaker, which works to break the cycle of offending, alongside other community programmes that support children, young people and their families.	Where appropriate, yes. Addressing youth crime is a complex issue and requires different approaches depending on the circumstances.			Yes, Emphasize early intervention and community prevention programs to lower the number of children in state care.
Q2. Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility Will your party commit to raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years of age for all offences, in line with international human rights standards?	Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years of age for all offences, in line with international human rights standards?	No	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Yes	No

Other	Comment			Labour is concerned about inconsistencies in the law in relation to criminal responsibility and will examine this issue when in Government.	National doesn't consider this a priority at this point in time. In the case of serious offending, it doesn't matter what age the offender is, it still causes the same amount of harm to victims and our communities.			The party supports "boot camps" for serious young offenders and advocates that repeat offenders as young as 12 should be dealt with by adult criminal courts.
Q3. Reducing the Over-Representation of Mokopuna Māori in the Youth Justice System Will your party commit to working in partnership with hapū, iwi, and kaupapa Māori organisations, and strengthening the use of tikanga Māori, to reduce the over-representation of mokopuna Māori in the youth justice system and improve rehabilitation outcomes?	Working in partnership with hapū, iwi, and kaupapa Māori organisations, to reduce the over-representation of Māori in the youth justice system?	Other	Yes	Yes	Other	Yes	Yes	Other
Other	Comment	ACT believes that the Government should work with any community provider to reduce youth crime, regardless of race.		Labour believes in working in partnership with hapū, iwi, and kaupapa Māori organisations, and strengthening the use of tikanga Māori, to reduce the over-representation of mokopuna Māori in the youth justice system and improve rehabilitation outcomes.	National will continue working in partnership with hapū, Iwi and kaupapa Māori organisations to reduce the over-representation of mokopuna Māori in the youth justice system. We support culturally grounded approaches, including tikanga Māori, alongside accountability, rehabilitation, education, employment and strong whānau involvement to reduce reoffending and improve long-term outcomes.			NZ First supports devolving resourcing to Māori organizations for support but emphasize a single law for all and oppose co-governance in justice.
Q4. Trauma-Informed and Neurodiversity-Responsive Responses Will your party commit to youth justice policies that recognise the impact of trauma, adverse childhood experiences, and neurodiverse profiles, and provide tailored, age-appropriate support for children and young people at every stage of the system?	Youth justice policies that recognise the impact of trauma, adverse childhood experiences, and neurodiverse profiles, and provide better support for children	Other	Yes	Yes	Need more evidence	Yes	Yes	Yes

	and young people?							
Other	Comment	ACT believes that we need to look at all possible avenues to stop offending and reoffending.		We recognise the impact of trauma, adverse childhood experiences, and neurodiverse profiles, and the importance of tailored, age-appropriate support for children and young people at every stage of the system.				NZ First supports the roll-out of Universal Screening Tools for early identification of neurodiverse students.
Q5. Restorative and Community-Based Approaches Will your party commit to strengthening restorative justice and community-based responses to youth offending that support victims, repair harm, and reintegrate young people into their communities?	Strengthening restorative justice and community-based responses to youth offending that support victims, repair harm, and reintegrate young people?	Other	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT will support policies that demonstrably reduce youth offending and give young offenders the best opportunity to turn their lives around.		Labour believes it is important to have restorative justice and wrap-around community-based responses to youth offending that support victims, repair harm, and reintegrate young people into their communities.	The National-led Coalition Government has already expanded rehabilitation programs to help reduce reoffending and will continue to fund community-based responses.			NZ First supports restorative justice where appropriate and victim-focused.
Q6. Safe Transitions from Residential Care Will your party commit to providing consistent, well-resourced, wrap-around support for children and young people transitioning from youth justice residences, bail homes, or youth forensic units back into the community?	Providing consistent, well-resourced, wrap-around support for children and young people transitioning from youth justice residences back into the community?	Other	Yes	Other	Need more evidence	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT supports ensuring that rehabilitation helps with reintegration into the community.		This is an important goal that Labour will work towards. We believe it is important that young people leaving the youth justice system have the support they need to get back on track.				NZ First supports wrap-around transition support.

Q7. Ending Use of Police Custody for Minors Will your party commit to ending the practice of placing children and young people in Police cells alongside adults, and to developing safe, suitable, community alternatives?	Ending the practice of placing children and young people in Police cells & to developing safe alternatives?	Other	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	Comment	ACT believes that prison cells should not be used unnecessarily or for longer than required. However, the ability to provide safe and appropriate custody should remain.		Labour believes that children and young people do not belong in cells. That means preventing crime, supporting victims, and giving young people better pathways to participate in society.	Police do not put children in cells alongside adults. At all times, children in custody are segregated from young people (14-17), who are segregated from adults.			NZ First supports ending the practice and developing safe alternatives.
Q8. Avoiding Harmful Labels Will your party commit to not progressing policies that apply stigmatising labels, such as “Young Serious Offender”, that risk harming young people’s identity, wellbeing, and long-term outcomes?	Not progressing policies that apply stigmatising labels, such as “Young Serious Offender”, that risk harming young people’s wellbeing?	No	Yes	Other	Other	Yes	Yes	No
Other	Comment	Youth Serious Offenders are, in fact, youths who commits serious offences, and dancing around that does not help these young people move on.		Labour is opposed to the Military-Style Academy approach and has continuously held the Government to account over its failed Military-Style Academies.	A Young Serious Offender is just that, a serious offender who is young. National has no intention to reword this.	We recognise that the current youth justice approach sets tamariki on a pipeline that causes lifelong harm to themselves, and to their communities. We are committed to reconfiguring the youth justice system to focus on healing, not punishment.		The party explicitly identifies "Young Serious Offenders" as a target group for specific interventions like boot camps and demerit point systems

