

# 10 WAYS NATIONAL IS HELPING FAMILIES GET AHEAD



## 1 BETTER HEALTH CARE

National has introduced free GP visits and prescriptions for all children under 13, as well as free after-hours services. This is benefitting around 780,000 children and their families. We're also providing a free health and development check for all four-year-olds before they start school and ensuring thousands more young babies are protected from potentially life-threatening illnesses through our free immunisation programme. We are making good progress on tackling rheumatic fever, with a 37 per cent drop in rheumatic fever cases since 2012.

## 2 HOMESTART GRANTS FOR FIRST-HOME BUYERS

National values home ownership – it brings security to families and enhances communities. That's why we have a wide programme of work to improve housing supply and affordability. This includes our \$435 million HomeStart programme to help around 90,000 people into their first home over five years. First-home buyers can now withdraw their KiwiSaver savings, and couples can also apply for a government grant of up to \$20,000 to put towards buying their first home. Some conditions apply.

## 3 BETTER EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN

Ensuring every child gets a great education is one of the most important things we can do. We've more than doubled early childhood education investment because regular participation dramatically increases a child's chance of succeeding. We've focused on lifting achievement and ensuring more children get the education they need. We're also investing \$359 million to keep the best teachers in classrooms and share leadership and expertise across schools.

## 4 KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER

National is investing \$503 million in Police and the wider justice sector to prevent and reduce crime and keep our communities safe. This will see Police staff numbers boosted by 1125, including 880 sworn officers – that's a 10 per cent increase in Police staff. All 12 Police Districts across New Zealand will receive more Police and this means 95 per cent of New Zealanders will now be within 25km of a 24/7 Police presence.

We're also launching a nationwide phone number for non-emergencies, and ensuring at least 98 per cent of all home burglaries are attended by Police within 48 hours. We're unashamedly targeting offenders to ensure they are off our streets – by providing additional resources to resolve more crime and target criminal gangs and organised crime.





## 5 MORE PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

National has increased paid parental leave from 14 to 18 weeks and made it available to more people. We've also increased the parental tax credit from \$150 a week to up to \$220 a week, and extended it from eight to 10 weeks. Increasing the length of paid parental leave makes it easier for parents to take more time off work to spend with their new baby.

## 6 BREAKFASTS AND FRUIT IN SCHOOLS

We've partnered with Sanitarium and Fonterra to offer free breakfasts during the school week in all primary and secondary schools that want it. This is an important part of our plan to improve the health and wellbeing of children. More than 7 million breakfasts have been served since the Government became involved. Our Fruit in Schools programme has also benefitted children, with high quality fruit delivered to a record 547 schools last year.

## 7 MORE JOBS AND HIGHER WAGES

We're on track for average economic growth of 3 per cent over the next few years, making us one of the fastest growing countries in the developed world. Around 130,000 new jobs have been created over the past year. Average wages have increased by \$12,000 since we came into office – double the rate of inflation. We were one of the first developed countries to get back into surplus after the Global Financial Crisis. With surpluses predicted to keep rising in the coming years, we have the best opportunity in decades to create jobs, increase wages, and help New Zealand families get ahead.

## 8 HELPING CHILDREN LIVING IN HARDSHIP

We have an unrelenting focus on helping people into work. That focus is producing results – there are now around 50,000 fewer children living in benefit-dependent households than five years ago. We've increased incomes for low-income families by up to \$25 a week, and have raised the minimum wage every year we've been in Government. We're also overhauling the child care and protection system to ensure the most at-risk children get the protection and opportunities they deserve.

## 9 WARMER, DRIER, HEALTHIER AND SAFER HOMES

Well over 300,000 homes have been insulated under our Warm Up New Zealand insulation and clean heating programme and our commitment to insulate Housing NZ properties. This has reduced power bills and led to warmer, drier and healthier living conditions for families. We're providing more funding to insulate rental houses for low-income tenants with high health needs, and to prevent illnesses in young children. We're also requiring all rental properties to have smoke alarms and insulation installed.

## 10 PUTTING MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET

As well as low cost of living increases, we've put \$2 billion a year back into New Zealanders' back pockets through lower ACC levies since 2012. The average motor vehicle levy is now around \$130 a year, a \$200 a year saving for vehicle owners since 2014. Households, businesses, employers, and the self-employed are paying lower levies, which means New Zealand families are better off.

## TELL BILL ENGLISH WHAT MATTERS TO YOUR FAMILY

New Zealand is one of the best places in the world to raise a family, but we want to make it even better. Complete our survey at the link below and tell Bill English what you think are the most important issues for your family and for New Zealand.

Complete our survey  
[www.national.org.nz/survey](http://www.national.org.nz/survey)

