



## THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW ZEALAND YOUNG LABOUR

*TE KAUPAPA TURE O NGA RANGATAHI O TE ROOPU REIPA O AOTEAROA*

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1. NAME/INGOA.

The name of the organisation shall be the New Zealand Young Labour; hereafter referred to as “Young Labour.”

2. ISSUES OF MAORITANGA/NGA AHUATANGA E PA ANA KI TE TIRITI O WAITANGI, ARA KI TE TANGATA WHENUA.

Young Labour is committed, in attaining its objectives, to respect the dual heritage of the partners of Te Tiriti O Waitangi.

3. OBJECTIVES/NGA WHAENGA.

The objectives of Young Labour shall be:

- 3.1 The promotion of the values and principles of the New Zealand Labour Party to the youth of Aotearoa/New Zealand.
- 3.2 The promotion of issues within, and external, to the New Zealand Labour Party from a youth perspective.
- 3.3 Increasing and sustaining Youth membership within the New Zealand Labour Party.
- 3.4 Encouraging and sustaining Youth representation on all bodies within the New Zealand Labour Party.
- 3.5 Utilisation of the resources of New Zealand Young Labour for the betterment of all youth within the New Zealand Labour Party.
- 3.6 To work tirelessly for the formation of a New Zealand Labour Government.

4. MEMBERSHIP/TANGATA WHAI WAAHI.

Any current financial member of the New Zealand Labour Party or affiliated Trade Union who is under the age of twenty-six (26) years shall for the purposes of this constitution be deemed a member of Young Labour. In addition, any person who is a member of the Executive Committee under section 8.5 shall be deemed to be a member of Young Labour.

5. GENERAL MEETINGS/HUI WHANUI.

- 5.1 The quorum for a General Meeting shall be fifteen (15) members present in person.

- 5.2 At least twenty-one (21) days notification of each General Meeting will be given to members. Notification of a General Meeting must specify the time, date, and place of the meeting.
- 5.3 To be eligible to cast votes during General Meetings, people must be members of Young Labour. The list of eligible members for General Meeting participation in Young Labour elections shall be obtained from Head Office not more than ten days before the date of the General Meeting. Members arriving at the meeting will be issued with delegate credentials if they are on the membership list; a Credentials Committee consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Youth Vice President and Maori Vice President will rule on the voting rights of people who do not appear on the list. Decisions of the Credentials Committee can be appealed to the General Meeting, whose ruling will be final.
- 5.4 The General Meeting shall be chaired by the current President of Young Labour, or in his or her absence the Vice President. In the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the meeting shall elect a person to chair the meeting from among the members present.
- 5.5 A member may be represented at a General Meeting by a nominee appointed by notice in writing to the Secretary and received by the Secretary five (5) days before the notified time of the meeting. A member shall have the right at any time to change, withdraw or revoke the appointment of the member's nominee by notice in writing to the Secretary. Any member may be the nominated representative of a maximum of two (2) members at any time. The nominated representative of another member may cast such a vote on all matters except for procedural motions moved from the floor.
- 5.6 All questions will if possible be decided by consensus. However where a consensus decision can not be reached on a matter, the decision shall be made by a majority vote.
- 5.7 Voting shall be by a show of hands. If any member requests a secret ballot on any vote or election, a secret ballot shall be held.
- 5.8 If voting is tied, the matter shall be resolved in the negative.
- 5.9 In this constitution "General Meeting" refers to both Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting.

## 6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/HUI A TAU.

- 6.1 The Annual General Meeting of Young Labour shall be held annually between 1 March and 31 May.

6.2 The Annual General meeting shall carry out the following business:

- 6.2.1 Receive the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and of any other General Meeting held since the last Annual General Meeting.
- 6.2.2 Receive written reports from all Executive Committee members outlining their activities and projects over the last year and their proposed priorities and directions for the position for the current year.
- 6.2.3 Receive the balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure for the past year and the estimate of income and expenditure for the current year.
- 6.2.4 Elect the Officers and Regional Organisers of the Executive Committee of Young Labour (see section 8.1).
- 6.2.5 Elect the Young Labour Policy Committee (see section 9.1)
- 6.2.6 Consider candidates for the position of Youth Vice-President of the Labour Party if an election for that position will take place that year (see part 10).
- 6.2.7 Conduct any other business that may be properly brought before the meeting.

## 7. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS/HUINGA MOTUHAKE.

- 7.1 The Executive may call a Special General Meeting.
- 7.2 The Executive must call a Special General Meeting if ten (10) percent of the membership of Young Labour write to the Secretary requesting a Special General Meeting. The Special General Meeting must be held within sixty (60) days of the Secretary receiving the request.
- 7.3 A Special General Meeting will take place immediately before each Annual General Meeting if constitutional amendments have been submitted in accordance with section 13.

## 8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/TE KOMITI WHAKAHAERE.

- 8.1 Young Labour's Executive Committee shall be composed of the following:
  - 8.1.1 The Officers – The President, Vice President, Maori Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, International Secretary, Communications Officer, and Policy Council Representative.
  - 8.1.2 Sector Organisers – Two Maori Organisers (who must identify as Maori and one of whom must be a woman), Women's Organiser, Pacific Island Organiser (who must identify as Pacifica), Rainbow Organiser and Affiliates Organiser.

- 8.1.3 Regional Organiser – Two (2) from Auckland/Northland (at least one of whom shall be a woman) and one (1) each from the Waikato, Central North Island, Wellington, Northern South Island and Southern South Island regions.
- 8.1.4 Ex Officio Members – The Labour Party Youth Vice President and the President of Young Labour prior to the most recent AGM if this is a different person to the current President.
- 8.1.5 Co-opted Members – The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to two (2) others from the membership of Young Labour to compensate for lack of ethnic, gender or geographic representation.
  - 8.1.5.1 Following co-option, the Young Labour President has a duty to fully outline the duties and responsibility belonging to a Members co-opted on to the national executive as well as Branch Chairs within 21 days of the individual’s appointment.

## 8.2 Executive Elections

- 8.2.1 Officers – the Officers shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting of Young Labour by a first past the post election if there are two candidates, or by preferential ballot if more than two candidates, in the order they are listed in section 8.1.1. Results of the ballots shall be published to the meeting.
- 8.2.2 Sector Representatives – the Sector Representatives, except the Women’s Representative, shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting of Young Labour by a first past the post election if there are two candidates, or by preferential ballot if more than two candidates, in the order they are listed in section 8.1.2. Results of the ballot shall be published to the meeting.
- 8.2.3 Women’s Representative – the Women’s Representative shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by members who identify as women. The election will be by a first past the post election if there are two candidates, or by preferential ballot if more than two candidates. Results of the ballot shall be published to the meeting.
- 8.2.4 Regional Organisers – the Regional Organiser/s shall be elected at a meeting of Young Labour members who live within the region’s boundaries according to the following rules:
  - 8.2.4.1 Such a meeting will be held at least two weeks (but no more than six weeks) prior to the Annual General Meeting of Young Labour;
  - 8.2.4.2 The meeting will be organised by the Regional Organiser and be chaired by a Senior Young Labour member;

- 8.2.4.3 The meeting will have a quorum of 5 members, or 10% of the current financial membership, whichever is the larger;
- 8.2.4.4 The meeting will comply with Sections 5.2, 5.3 and 8.8 of the Constitution, and be conducted by a first past the post secret ballot if there are two candidates, and by preferential ballot if there are more than two candidates, the results of which will be published to the meeting.
- 8.2.4.5 If the meeting is not held or fails to comply with this section, the Regional Organiser/s for that region will be elected at the Young Labour AGM.
- 8.2.5 Women's Representation – Young Labour's Executive must comprise of no less than 50% of people who identify as women, agender, bigender, pangender or genderqueer, or any other identity which is outside of the gender binary. In order to achieve this, the following process shall be adopted:
  - 8.2.5.1 Before the Executive elections commence, the percentage of people who identify as women, agender, bigender, pangender or genderqueer, or any other identity which is outside of the gender binary elected to the Executive prior to the AGM must be noted.
  - 8.2.5.2 As each position is filled the gender balance shall be displayed. If the percentage of people who identify as women, agender, bigender, pangender or genderqueer, or any other identity which is outside of the gender binary elected falls below 50%, then the President or a senior Officer present at the meeting must halt the election, remind delegates of the importance of representation for people who identify as women, agender, bigender, pangender or genderqueer, or any other identity which is outside of the gender binary, and point out the opportunity remaining to rectify the problem.
  - 8.2.5.3 At the conclusion of the elections, including any members co-opted under clause 8.1.5, if Young Labour's Executive does not comprise of at least 50% people who identify as women, agender, bigender, pangender or genderqueer, or any other identity which is outside of the gender binary members, the meeting must immediately co-opt sufficient female members until it is.
- 8.3 The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill any places vacant following the Annual General Meeting or any vacancy in the Executive Committee or among its named officers until the next Annual General Meeting.
- 8.4 Elected members of the Executive Committee shall retire at each Annual General Meeting, but will be eligible for re-election at the same or subsequent meetings should they satisfy the membership criteria of Young Labour (see section 4). Newly

elected Executive Committee members shall take office immediately upon their election.

- 8.5 If a member of the Executive Committee turns 26 during their term, they retain their membership of the Executive Committee until the end of their term (which expires at the start of the following AGM).
- 8.6 Oral nominations for all the elected positions on the Executive Committee shall be taken at the Annual General Meeting, provided that no member shall be elected who has not consented to be nominated. Postal nominations will also be accepted, as long as they are signed by a current member and endorsed with the consent of the nominee and given to the Secretary at least five (5) days prior to the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting.
- 8.7 The procedure for Executive Committee Meetings shall be as follows:
  - 8.7.1 A quorum shall be at least seven (7) members.
  - 8.7.2 If a member of the Executive Committee, including an Officer, does not attend three (3) consecutive meetings without leave of absence that member may, at the discretion and on decision of the Executive Committee, be removed from the Executive Committee.
  - 8.7.3 All questions will if possible be decided by consensus. In the event that a consensus cannot be reached then a decision shall be made by a majority vote by show of hands unless circumstances dictate an alternative mechanism is required. If the voting is tied, the matter shall be resolved in the negative.
  - 8.7.4 Each meeting shall be chaired by the President of Young Labour or, in her/his absence, the Vice President. In the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the Executive Committee shall elect a person to chair the meeting from among its members.
- 8.8 In the case of a Executive Committee needing to make a prompt decision between meetings, a decision may take place via email, txt, or another form of electronic communication so long as: (i) all exec members are given notice of the motion; (ii) after notice of the is given, members are given at least thirty-six (36) hours to respond; and (iii) quorum is met.
- 8.9 The Executive Committee shall meet at least nine (9) times per term. All members of the Committee shall be given at least five (5) days notice of a meeting.
- 8.10 Attendance by way of a teleconference shall for the purposes of this constitution be regarded as attendance in person.

- 8.11 All members of Young Labour shall have the right to attend and speak at an Executive Meeting, however only elected members of the Executive Committee shall have the right to vote.
- 8.12 At any time during an Executive meeting the Executive may resolve itself into a committee of the whole. Except for the motions which carried the proceedings in and out of the committee of the whole, motions and discussion shall not be reported or recorded.
- 8.13 The Secretary shall ensure that a minute book is maintained which is available to any member of Young Labour and which, for each meeting of the Executive Committee, records:
- 8.11.1 the names of those present;
  - 8.11.2 all decisions which are required by these rules or by law to be made by the Executive Committee; and
  - 8.11.3 any other matters discussed at the meeting.
- 8.14 The Executive Committee shall at all times be bound by the decisions of the members at General Meetings.

## 9. POLICY COMMITTEE/ TE KOMITI KAUPAPA.

- 9.3.1 Young Labour's Policy Committee shall be comprised of the following:
- 9.1.1 The Young Labour Policy Council Representative.
  - 9.1.2 Two representatives from each Young Labour Region.
- 9.3.2 Policy Committee Representatives shall be elected at a meeting of Young Labour members who live within the region's boundaries according to the following rules:
- 9.2.1 Such a meeting will be held at least two weeks (but no more than six weeks) prior to the Annual General Meeting of Young Labour;
  - 9.2.2 The meeting will be organised by the Regional Organiser and be chaired by a Senior Young Labour member;
  - 9.2.3 The meeting will have a quorum of 5 members, or 10% of the current financial membership, whichever is the larger;
  - 9.2.4 The meeting will comply with Sections 5.2, 5.3 and 5.8 of the Constitution, and be conducted by a first past the post secret ballot if there are two candidates,



and by preferential ballot if there are more than two candidates, the results of which will be published to the meeting.

9.2.5 If the meeting is not held or fails to comply with this section, the policy representatives for that region will be elected at the Young Labour AGM.

9.3.3 The Policy Committee shall be chaired by the Policy Council Representative who shall be responsible for:

9.3.1 Organising regular Policy Committee discussions and meetings; and

9.3.2 Reporting to the Young Labour Executive on behalf of the Policy Committee where necessary and when requested."

## 10. ENDORSEMENT OF A YOUTH VICE-PRESIDENT CANDIDATE

10.1 The procedure for endorsing a candidate for Youth Vice-President at a General Meeting will be as follows:

10.1.1 The Chairperson will call for nominations from the floor. Any member of Young Labour may be nominated.

10.1.2 If there is only one candidate nominated, the General Meeting will decide between endorsing the candidate or declaring "No Endorsement" by a first past the post ballot. Results of the ballot will be published to the meeting.

10.1.3 If there is one or more two candidates for the position, the General Meeting will decide between the candidates and "No Endorsement" by a preferential ballot. Results of the ballot will be published to the meeting.

## 11. POWER TO DELEGATE/TUKU MANA.

11.1 The Executive Committee may from time to time appoint any committee and may delegate any of its powers and duties to any such committee or to any person. The committee or person may without confirmation by the Executive Committee exercise or perform the delegated powers or duties in the same way and with the same effect as the Executive Committee could itself have done.

11.2 Any committee or person to whom the Executive Committee has delegated powers or duties shall be bound by any terms or conditions of the delegation set by the Executive Committee.

11.3 The Executive Committee shall be able to revoke such delegation at will, and no such delegation shall prevent the exercise of any power or the performance of any duty by the Executive Committee.

11.4 It will not be necessary for any person who is appointed to be a member of any such committee, or to whom such delegation is made, to be a member of the Executive Committee.

## 12. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS/AHUATANGA PUTEA.

12.1 The financial year of Young Labour shall commence from the 1st of January in each year and terminate on the last day of December in that same year.

12.2 All spending shall be approved by the full executive except where certain amounts have been specifically delegated to the bank signatories, a committee, or a particular person for final approval.

12.3 The bank signatories shall be the President, Treasurer, Vice President, and Secretary.

## 13. ALTERATION OF THESE RULES/WHAKAREKETANGA TURE.

13.1 These rules may only be amended in any way by a two-thirds majority of members present at a Special General Meeting, provided that no alteration is made to the disposition of surplus assets clause (Section 14) without the prior consent of the New Zealand Council of the New Zealand Labour Party.

13.2 A member wishing to propose an amendment to this constitution must email the proposed amendment to the Secretary no less than fourteen (14) days before a Special General Meeting.

13.3 All proposed amendments to this constitution must be communicated to members by the Secretary no less than ten (10) days before a Special General Meeting.

13.4 Minor amendments to proposed amendments to the constitution may be made by a Special General Meeting.

13.5 Whether an amendment to a proposed amendment is minor will be determined by the Chair.

## 14. INTERPRETATION CLAUSE/KORERO WHAKEMAORI.

Any matters not specifically provided for in this constitution are to be determined in accordance with the New Zealand Labour Party Constitution.

## 15. DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS ASSETS/TUKU RAWA.

If at any time Young Labour is wound up or dissolved any surplus assets of Young Labour shall automatically revert to the New Zealand Council of the New Zealand Labour Party.



## NEW ZEALAND YOUNG LABOUR CONSTITUTION - UPDATE HISTORY:

### FROM THE 2016 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (16 APRIL 2016):

- ⇒ Added clause 8.1.5.1 about the President providing guidance to Branch Chairs and General Exec members
- ⇒ Tidied numbering up

### FROM THE 2014 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (26 APRIL 2014):

- ⇒ Amended Women's Representation (8.2.5) to cover both those that identify outside of the gender binary as well as those that identify as women

### FROM THE 2013 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (13 APRIL 2013):

- ⇒ Renamed Regional and Sector Representatives to Regional and Sector Organisers
- ⇒ Notice of meetings decreased and minimum number of meetings per term increased
- ⇒ Clauses dealing with the notification of General Meetings and calling of SGMs amended and section 12 added for a more explicit constitutional amendment process
- ⇒ A new Section 10 inserted to create a regular Youth Vice President endorsement process
- ⇒ Executive Election process amended so only members that identify as women can vote on the Women's Organiser
- ⇒ Gender quota amended to a female representation quota and raised to 50%

### FROM THE 2012 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (14 APRIL 2012):

- ⇒ Amended clause 5.2 to allow for more modern ways of giving AGM notification
- ⇒ Removed appointing an auditor from the business of an AGM under 6.2
- ⇒ Added a clause 8.8 regarding email voting
- ⇒ Added a clause 8.12 regarding going into committee
- ⇒ Amended article 11 to remove unnecessary clauses, codify the bank signatures, and ensure all spending is approved by the full Executive unless specifically delegated
- ⇒ Amended the Policy Committee to be a committee of two representatives from each region (who are not of the same gender)

### FROM THE 2010 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (10 APRIL 2010):

- ⇒ Amended Section 5.6 to clarify the rules regarding the casting of proxy votes at AGMs and SGMs

- ⇒ Maori Representation restructured, changing from Rangatahi Recruitment Officer and Maori Liaison Representative to two Maori Representatives. Also inserted requirement that both Maori Representatives identify as Maori. Section 8.1.2
- ⇒ Amended Section 8.1.2 to introduce requirement that the Pacific Representative must identify as Pacifica.
- ⇒ Introduced a new Section 9 to introduce structure and procedures for Young Labour Policy Committee and renumbered sections 9-13 (now 10-14) accordingly.

FROM THE 2004 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (4 APRIL 2004):

- ⇒ Addition of the Officer's position of "Communications Officer." § 8.1

FROM THE 2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (12 APRIL 2003):

- ⇒ New s 5.4 added on credentials at General Meetings.
- ⇒ Maori Representation restructured, changing from Iwi and Urban reps to Rangatahi Recruitment Officer and Maori Liaison Representative.
- ⇒ Restructured Section 8.1 (composition of the Executive Committee) to make it clearer, and clarify the status of the Immediate Past President.
- ⇒ Added a new Section 8.2.1 and 8.2.2 providing for the method of election for Officers and Sector Representatives.
- ⇒ Added a new Section 8.2.3 providing for the election of Regional Representatives at meetings constituted for that purpose in the Regions, rather than at Annual Conference.
- ⇒ Added a new Section 8.2.4 implementing a gender quota for Young Labour Executive elections.
- ⇒ Amended then Section 8.4 (now 8.5) to clarify the upper age limit on the Executive Committee.

FROM THE 2002 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (17 MAY 2002):

- ⇒ Amended all sections to effect name change from "Youth Council" to "Young Labour." § 1 and others.
- ⇒ Addition of the Officer's position of "Affiliates Representative." § 8.1
- ⇒ Addition of the words "(at least one of whom shall be a woman)" after "two of which shall be from Auckland." § 8.1
- ⇒ Addition of Maori (Iwi) representative and Maori (Urban) representative. § 8.1
- ⇒ Addition of the position of International Secretary as an officer. § 8.1