



Vote Different

## Volunteer and Membership FAQ

### *What is it to be a volunteer?*

TOP is proud to be run by volunteers from all over the country. Some people volunteer in official management roles for our central operations (our Core Team), some people volunteer at a regional level coordinating activities in their area, others volunteer online. And our policy is built by professionals and subject matter experts who volunteer their experience and knowledge. As our election campaign gets closer to election time, there will be local campaign activities such as helping at market stalls, door knocking and flyering that volunteers can help with in their neighbourhood and city.

Our webpage [www.top.org.nz](http://www.top.org.nz) has an area where you can sign up for being a volunteer. We won't always have the roles and opportunities right away for everyone that signs up to volunteer, but we always reach out to our database when we have new volunteer opportunities open up.

### *What are the best, easy, first steps to help support TOP?*

If you're looking for simple things to get started with in volunteering your time for TOP, you can:

- Talk about TOP and its policies with your friends, colleagues, and neighbours
- Share TOP policy and posts online across our platforms - Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter
- Buy TOP merchandise at our TOP Shop, and make sure people get to see you wearing it - online or in the 'real world'.
- Print out TOP posters (from your local Regional Coordinator) and post them around your neighbourhood, community and workplace
- Ask your friends or family to donate to TOP
- Gather friends around to discuss TOP, and talk about why you are a supporter and urge them to consider voting TOP too.

### *What does it mean to be an active volunteer?*

As well as doing the small steps listed above, TOP Staff get to engage with active volunteers by seeing their contribution online or in our regions. Being an active volunteer is the next step past signing up as a volunteer. It involves coming to local or national meetings, getting to know your Regional Coordinator, and being active online or with activities like the stickering or flyer campaigns? If there aren't regular meetings in your area, or no REgional Coordinator, active volunteers help solve this problem by stepping up for these tasks. These things do require a little initiative, so it's a really great chance for New Zealanders to get involved with real New Zealand democracy and step off the sidelines - which is exciting! Active Volunteers may also be invited to the Members Lounge on a case-by-case basis.

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Authorised by Ray McKeown, 90 Crawford Street, Dunedin





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### *What is it to be a Member?*

Being a Member of a political party is an important part of democracy under New Zealand Law. Any New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident over the age of 18 year old can be a member of a political party, irrespective of whether they are enrolled to vote. To be a registered political party in New Zealand we must have at least 500 members with their membership fees paid and their eligibility (as above) confirmed. More details about the specific nature of being a Member of The Opportunities Party can be found in our Party Constitution.

As a paid Party Member there are specific party decisions you are invited to vote upon (as described in the Party Constitution), and you have special rights and responsibilities when it comes to the party Annual General Meeting (AGM). Your Party Membership will continue until it expires or until you notify the Party Secretary in writing that you'd like to cancel it - this is independent if you unsubscribe from our party communications. Our Party and details of our Party Secretary is registered on the Electoral Commissions website and there is a lot of information about what it means to be a political party in New Zealand.

### *What is the Member's Lounge?*

Here's the description of our Members Lounge, as you'll see it online:

*"Kia ora, nau mai ki te tūtakitanga mō Te Pito Mata!*

*Hi! Welcome to the new meeting place for The Opportunities Party members!*

*Please use this as an avenue to discuss all things that are related to policy, any event organisation, TOP-related news, or anything you think can add value for the membership of TOP.*

*This group is a place for members, volunteers and donors. Please note that we have a wide community with diverse backgrounds, so ensure that you're respectful and considerate of other members' perspectives and cultures. If you have any issues, please let one of the admins or moderators know.*

*Let's look forward to challenging the 2020 election, and bringing great evidence-based policy to Aotearoa"*

The Members Lounge is great for meeting other TOP Members, but the most important thing TOP needs is people talking to New Zealanders who AREN'T YET Members - so getting out and talking to people outside the Lounge is the best way to get us to 5% and see our policies make a real difference to New Zealand.

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