

MĀORI PARTY CONSTITUTION

*Kia rangatira te tū a Te Pāti Māori
hei rōpū whakatinana i ngā rau wawata
o te iwi Māori, o te motu hoki*

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Part 1: Kaupapa and Tikanga

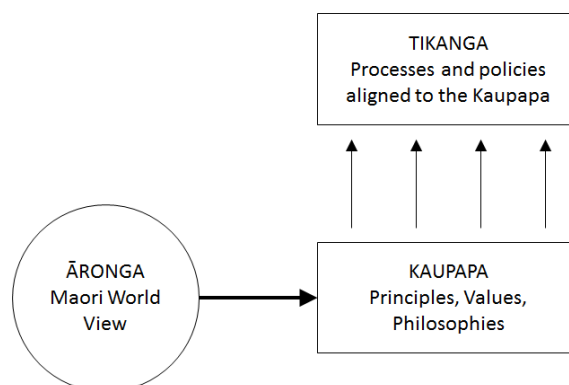
He Kupu Whakataki

The Māori Party is born of the dreams and aspirations of tangata whenua to achieve self-determination for whānau, hapū and iwi within their own land; to speak with a strong, independent and united voice; and to live according to kaupapa handed down by our ancestors.

The vision for the Māori Party will be based on these aspirations, for they speak to us of whānau whose wairua is strong and vibrant; who have fully developed their spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical well-being; and who are confident, secure and proactive in all aspects of the environmental, social, cultural, economic and political life of this great country of ours.

The Māori Party is for all citizens of Aotearoa New Zealand.

- Its founding was an initiative of Māori, te kākano i ruia mai i Rangiātea, for the benefit of all citizens of this land.
- Its policies and practices derive from kaupapa tuku iho that are values that provide for the well-being of all and are in a constant state of enrichment and refinement as insights are gathered from new experiences and discoveries.
- Its vision is of a nation of cultural diversity and richness where its unity is underpinned by the expression of tangata whenuatanga by Māori, te kākano i ruia mai i Rangiātea.
- Its commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding document of this nation and to its whakapapa is steadfast.



Te Waihanga i te Kaupapa

The Māori view of the world is described through pūrākau, karakia, mōteatea, whakataukī, whakapapa and many other puna kōrero. Kaupapa Māori is the foundation of Māori culture and is derived from this Māori world view. Growing from within the kaupapa are our tikanga, like the trees that spring from Papatūānuku. The tikanga are the policies, practices and organisational structures of the Party that are aligned to and consistent with

the foundation kaupapa, and will benefit not only Māori but all those people who lay claim to this country as their homeland.

To achieve its vision, the Māori Party's existence will be based on kaupapa Māori, the foundation principles of the Māori world, and the bedrock from which we frame the objectives of the organisation. The Māori Party will demonstrate tikanga consistent with kaupapa Māori.

Ngā Kaupapa o te Pāti Māori

The following kaupapa and tikanga, while not exhaustive, are consistent with the Māori world view and help us define and maintain the Party's focus and structure. These kaupapa can be framed as the objectives of the organisation, with various tikanga covering policies, operations, and organisational structures emanating from these kaupapa.

1. **Manaakitanga**

Manaakitanga is behaviour that acknowledges the mana of others as having equal or greater importance than one's own, through the expression of aroha, hospitality, generosity and mutual respect. By such behaviour, all parties are elevated and our status is enhanced, building unity through humility and the act of giving. The Party must endeavour to express manaakitanga towards others – be they political allies or opponents, Māori or non-Māori organisations – taking care not to trample mana, while clearly defining our own.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Manaakitanga

- i. To be recognised by Māori as a political organisation that does manaaki the aspirations of Māori.
- ii. To ensure that relationships between the Party and whānau, hapū, iwi, and other Māori organisations are elevating and enhancing.
- iii. To promote a fair and just society, to work for the elimination of poverty and injustice, and to create an environment where the care and welfare of one's neighbour is important.
- iv. To ensure that members agree to work together, treat each other with respect, and act with integrity in their party work.
- v. To involve all peoples in the process of rebuilding our nation based on mutual respect and harmonious relationships.

2. **Rangatiratanga**

Rangatiratanga is the expression of the attributes of a rangatira (weaving the people together) including humility, leadership by example, generosity, altruism, diplomacy, and knowledge of benefit to the people. As an organisation, the importance of *walking the talk*, following through on commitments made, integrity and honesty is demonstrated. As a people, rangatiratanga is reflected in the promotion of self-

determination for Māori, and an expression of the rights defined by Mana Atua, Mana Tupuna and Mana Whenua.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Rangatiratanga

- i. To recognise and acknowledge the authority of whānau, hapū and iwi in their respective electorates.
- ii. To enhance the relationship between Tino Rangatiratanga and Kāwanatanga as provided for in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- iii. To promote the retention of separate seats for Māori in the Parliament of New Zealand, and to select suitable persons to represent the Māori Party in Māori constituencies, in agreed General constituencies, and as List Candidates for the Party.
- iv. To assert and confirm the role of Māori as tangata whenua.
- v. To promote Māori self-determination through the establishment of a forum to provide a Māori viewpoint and guide and advise the parliamentary team.
- vi. To acknowledge, nurture, support and reflect rangatiratanga within the Party and other Māori organisations.
- vii. To ensure that the conduct and activities of the parliamentary team, leaders, and the organisation as a whole are reflective of the attributes of rangatira.

3. Whanaungatanga

Whanaungatanga underpins the social organisation of whānau, hapū and iwi and includes rights and reciprocal obligations consistent with being part of a collective. It is the principle that binds individuals to the wider group and affirms the value of the collective. Whanaungatanga is inter-dependence with each other and recognition that the people are our wealth.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Whanaungatanga

- i. To promote and contribute to the survival of Māori as a people.
- ii. To promote respect for all cultures and ensure all people have an understanding of, and respect for the status of tangata whenua.
- iii. To encourage relationships between whānau, hapū, iwi, other Māori organisations and the Party that reflect interdependence.
- iv. To promote whanaungatanga as the model for good collective arrangements between different parties.

4. Kotahitanga

Kotahitanga is the principle of unity of purpose and direction. It is demonstrated through the achievement of harmony and moving as one. All are encouraged to make

a contribution, to have their say and then, together, to reach a consensus. The Party will promote harmonious relationships between all people.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Kotahitanga

- i. To consistently work for unity among Māori people.
- ii. To avoid taking decisions and approaches that lead to division and disharmony within the organisation.
- iii. To establish a parliamentary team that can work together and are committed to speaking with a single voice on behalf of Māori.
- iv. To promote harmonious and cooperative relationships amongst all people.
- v. To promote nationhood based upon knowledge of a shared heritage and an understanding and celebration of cultural distinctiveness.

5. Wairuatanga

This is reflected in the belief that there is a spiritual existence alongside the physical. It is expressed through the intimate connection of the people to our maunga, awa, moana and marae, and to tūpuna and atua. These connections are affirmed through knowledge and understanding of atua Māori and must be maintained and nourished with the aim of achieving wellness. It is central to the everyday lives of Māori people and is integral to the way Māori view the world.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Wairuatanga

- i. To encourage, maintain, and promote spiritual identity and connection with the land.
- ii. To break down secular and non-secular divisions and promote a unified and holistic approach to life.
- iii. To develop within the organisation an environment that nourishes and nurtures wairua.
- iv. To promote the importance of oranga wairua for Māori well-being.

6. Mana Whenua

Mana whenua is the principle that defines Māori by the land occupied by right of ancestral claim. It defines tūrangawaewae and ūkaipō, the places where you belong, where you count, where you are important and where you can contribute. Mana whenua is essential for Māori well-being. The places Māori find ourselves, our strength, our energy are where Māori have mana whenua. Once grounded to the land and home, Māori are able to participate in society in a positive, productive manner.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Mana Whenua

- i. To ensure that the Party is of the Māori people.

- ii. To assist Māori to establish and maintain their connections to their own land.
- iii. To develop arrangements that foster the values of ūkaipō, of importance, belonging, and contribution within the organisation.
- iv. To develop a parliamentary team that will take advice and guidance from Māori in the first instance.
- v. To promote mana whenua as the basis for land management policies.

7. Kaitiakitanga

Kaitiakitanga embraces the spiritual and cultural guardianship of Te Ao Mārama, a responsibility derived from whakapapa. Kaitiakitanga entails an active exercise of responsibility in a manner beneficial to resources and the welfare of the people. It promotes the growth and development of the Māori people in all spheres of livelihood so that Māori can anticipate a future of living in good health and in reasonable prosperity. Preserving and maintaining the Party so it can continue to fulfil its functions and duties is implicit within this kaupapa.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Kaitiakitanga

- i. To promote the achievement of wellness and well-being for Māori.
- ii. To foster and promote sustainable management and growth of the economy so as to provide a stable and secure environment for future generations.
- iii. To create a clean, safe, and healthy environment by promoting the protection, restoration, and enhancement of mauri within our natural environments.

8. Mana Tupuna/Whakapapa

Mana Tupuna is that which defines who Māori are as people. It is the bridge that links us to our ancestors, that defines our heritage and gives us the stories which define our place in the world. Mana Tupuna helps us know who we are, from whom we descend, and what our obligations are to those who come after us. This is achieved through the recital of whakapapa, tracing the descent from Te Kore to Te Pō and, eventually, through to Te Ao Mārama. Whakapapa is also a tool utilised in analysing and synthesising information and knowledge.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Whakapapa

- i. To encourage the view that all Māori are related, leading towards co-operation and unity.
- ii. To support endeavours by Māori to establish and maintain our whanau, hapū, and iwi connections and continue our positive contribution to wider society.

- iii. To promote whakapapa as a tool for analysis and synthesis within the research activity of the Party.

9. Te Reo Rangatira

*Ki te kore tātou e kōrero Māori, ka ngaro te reo,
Ka ngaro te reo, ka ngaro ngā tikanga.
Ka ngaro ngā tikanga, ka ngaro tātou ki te Ao.
Ko te reo te kaipupuri i te Māoritanga.*

Te Reo Māori is the cornerstone of all that is Māori. Accelerating the revival of te reo Māori is a central focus of the Māori Party. Te reo Māori is the medium through which Māori explain the world. The survival of the people as Māori, and the uniqueness of Māori as a race, will be enhanced through the maintenance of te reo Māori.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Te Reo Rangatira

- i. To ensure the revitalisation of te reo Māori.
- ii. To promote wider recognition of te reo Māori as the first and official language of the country.
- iii. To promote the development and growth of te reo Māori both as the indigenous language of this country and also as the appropriate language to carry Māori knowledge and contemporary Māori customs.
- iv. To promote mātauranga Māori pathways that are of benefit to the people and lead to our advancement.
- v. To provide for research and development that leads to the advancement of mātauranga Māori and ensures the survival of the people as Māori.
- vi. To provide opportunities to encourage bi-literacy in our society.

Part 2: Rules

1. Name and Registered Office

- 1.1. The name of the party shall be the 'Māori Party' (the Party).
- 1.2. The Party shall be a political party and shall maintain registration in terms of S.63 of The Electoral Act 1993 and its subsequent amendments.
- 1.3. The registered office of the Māori Party shall be determined by the National Council.

2. Objectives

- 2.1. To acknowledge and fulfil the kaupapa and tikanga set out in this constitution.
- 2.2. To develop and implement the party policy manifesto consistent with the kaupapa.
- 2.3. To honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- 2.4. To maintain registration under the Electoral Act 1993 in the name of the Māori Party, whose Constitution shall be this document.

3. Membership

- 3.1. The Māori Party is an all-inclusive and broad-based political movement and accepts membership from any persons of 13 years of age and older who:
 - a. work to support the Māori Party kaupapa and tikanga;
 - b. act within the Māori Party constitution;
 - c. abide by lawful decisions made in accordance with the Māori Party constitution;
 - d. complete the official membership form and pay the appropriate membership fee as fixed by the National Council;
 - e. are not members of a competing political party, or any other group or organisation which the National Council determines is incompatible with membership of the Party.
- 3.2. Members aged 13–17 years are non-voting Junior Members.
- 3.3. The membership is established by the National Council and reviewed on a triennial basis.
- 3.4. Membership of the Party will be for a period of 3 years and shall take effect from the date stated on the official Māori Party receipt.

Membership of the Party shall be considered confirmed when the registration details and the membership fee have been processed by the National Treasurer. Electorate Treasurers shall make every effort to process all memberships within a reasonable timeframe.

Financial members shall be entitled to attend and participate in all Māori Party activities.

- 3.5. Any person who is a member of the Māori Party on the date at the opening of nominations for the selection of a Parliamentary candidate shall be entitled to participate in decision-making for the local electorate candidate and local list recommendations.
- 3.6. The National Council may cancel any membership that the Council believes does not meet the criteria outlined in clause 3.1. The member shall be advised in writing of the decision. The member may appeal that decision at the next national hui of the Party, where the decision shall be final.
- 3.7. A person shall cease to be a member of the Māori Party:
 - a. when their resignation is received by the National Council;
 - b. when they cease to accept or abide by this Constitution;
 - c. when they die;
 - d. when they have not paid their membership fee for a period of more than 12 months beyond the due date for payment of the fee; or
 - e. if and when they join a competing political party.

4. Party Structure

- 4.1. The structure of the Party shall reflect the aspirations of its membership as expressed through the Party's kaupapa (refer to Part 1 of this Constitution).
- 4.2. Branches and electorates shall provide the opportunity for members to have input into the direction and growth of the Party, including campaign strategies, policies, fundraising, and the selection and election of candidates.
- 4.3. The Māori Party's Members of Parliament shall promote the aspirations of its membership.
- 4.4. The National Council shall have representation from each electorate and the Members of Parliament.
- 4.5. The President is responsible for the leadership of the Party and shall uphold the Party's constitution in the exercise of that leadership.

Electories¹

- 4.6. An electorate shall be defined by the electorate boundaries as set out in the Electoral Act 1993.
- 4.7. The activities and business of each electorate shall be organised as each electorate decides and shall, at all times, be consistent with the Party's kaupapa.
- 4.8. It shall be incumbent on all electories:
 - a. to keep all branches informed of all Party matters;
 - b. to keep the Party informed on all electorate matters through the National Council and/or the National Executive in accordance with Schedule 2;
 - c. to manage the selection and election of a candidate to contest each General Election;
 - d. to, on election, support the Member of Parliament.

¹ The structures and responsibilities of electories and branches are detailed in Schedule 1 of this constitution.

Branches²

- 4.9. In each electorate district there shall be one or more branches authorised by the electorate. Each branch must have a minimum membership of ten (10) financial members of the Party who shall be responsible for the internal organisation of the branch consistent with the Party's kaupapa. In entering into any contract, or otherwise taking any other action, the branches shall not hold themselves out or represent themselves as acting with the authority of the Party without appropriate authorisation of the National Council and/or the National Executive.
- 4.10. Any person wishing to set up a new branch must get the electorate's permission. No branch shall be refused establishment without just cause.
- 4.11. Any persons living overseas wishing to establish a branch must affiliate to an electorate of their choice.

National Council³

- 4.12. The National Council provides leadership according to the Party's kaupapa (refer to Part 1 of this constitution), and deals with the fundamental running of the Party.
- 4.13. The National Council is the governing body of the Party outside of an Annual General Meeting, and to this effect the National Council shall meet at least every second month.
- 4.14. The National Council must establish an annual national plan and approve an annual budget that enables the national plan to be achieved. The National Council will delegate authority to the National Executive to expend within the approved annual budget in order to carry out the national plan. Appointment of any staff will require the presentation of a business case to the National Council for approval prior to any appointments being made. The process of appointment must be consistent with the kaupapa of the Māori Party.

National Executive

- 4.15. The management of the Māori Party is determined by the National Council and delegated to the National Executive. The delegated authority shall be determined between the National Council and the National Executive. All decisions of the National Executive must be ratified by the National Council at their next hui.
- 4.16. The National Executive consists of the Party's president, the two co-vice presidents (one tāne and one wahine), and the two co-leaders.
- 4.17. Further to 4.14, the National Executive shall be authorised to appoint from time to time, on the recommendation of the President, suitable members of the Party to be:
- a. General Manager. The General Manager will have the role of chief administrative officer of the Party, on terms and conditions approved by the

² The structures and responsibilities of electorates and branches are detailed in Schedule 1 of this constitution.

³ The National Council's structure and responsibilities are detailed in Schedule 2 of this constitution.

National Executive, and will be accountable directly to the President for administrative and financial control of the Party.

- b. National Secretary, to record the proceedings of the National Council and the National Executive, and to be responsible to the General Manager for such other administrative duties as the General Manager may prescribe; and
- c. National Treasurer, to be responsible to the General Manager for the maintenance of the financial records of the Party to standards required by the Incorporated Societies Act 1908, to establish and maintain such bank accounts as the National Executive may from time to time approve, to receipt and bank all monies paid to the Party, to be a co-signatory of cheques or other payment instruments paid from the Party's bank accounts together with such other member or members of the Party as the National Executive may appoint for co-signing, and to be responsible for the preparation of annual accounts for audit by registered auditors appointed by the National Council.

The General Manager, National Secretary and National Treasurer shall be ex officio members of the National Executive, and without voting rights.

5. Decision-making

- 5.1. All decisions of the Māori Party shall be made by consensus, consistent with the customary practice of whakawhitiwhiti kōrero, and having regard to constitutional and kaupapa obligations of the Māori Party. If the hui cannot reach consensus after full discussion of the issue, then the chairperson of the hui will ask the meeting to accept the view of the majority in the best interests of the Party.
- 5.2. Those who do not agree with the majority decision may have their objections included in any minutes recorded for the hui.

6. Annual General Meeting (Hui ā Tau)

- 6.1. The Party shall annually hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM), Hui ā Tau. Such hui shall be held no later than the 1st of November at a place and time approved by the National Council and notified to the membership of the Party not less than two calendar months prior to the Hui ā Tau being held. The business of this meeting shall be:
 - a. receiving National Council, Electorate, and any other reports;
 - b. receiving the audited financial accounts of the Party for the previous financial year;
 - c. amending, cancelling or adding any Party rule;
 - d. considering and accepting policies prepared by the National Council or an electorate;
 - e. receiving, considering and acting upon any other remits not inconsistent with this constitution from the National Council or an electorate;

- f. appointing the auditor;
 - g. such other matters necessary for the carrying out of Party activities.
- 6.2. The election of the president and co-vice presidents shall occur on a rotational, triennial basis.
- 6.3. All remits must first be passed by the electorate committees, who shall forward them to the National Council at least six weeks before the AGM (Hui ā Tau).
- 6.4. All decisions made at the AGM (Hui ā Tau) will be made consistent with Section 5 of this constitution: Decision-making.
- 6.5. The quorum for the AGM (Hui ā Tau) comprises of the following:
- a. the Party President or one of the co-vice presidents;
 - b. one of the co-leaders
 - c. the delegated representatives of four of the Māori electorates.

7. Special General Meeting

- 7.1. Special General Meetings can be called by the National Council for:
- d. the election of the Party's co-leaders;
 - e. extraordinary matters that require consideration.

7.2. The procedures for Special General Meetings are detailed in Schedule 5 of this constitution.

7.3. The election of the Party's co-leaders:

There shall be a Special General Meeting within six weeks of a General Election to select the Party's co-leaders. The co-leaders will be selected from the sitting MPS and one will be tāne and one will be wahine. In the event that the co-leadership criteria cannot be met, the National Council may appoint a co-leader who sits outside of Parliament.

Those selected shall be in office for three years. The leadership may change at any time through:

- a. resignation;
 - b. death;
 - c. bringing the Party into disrepute in accordance with the Resolution of Differences and Disputes clause;
 - d. resolution at a Special General Meeting.
- 7.4. The quorum for the Special General Meeting comprises of the following:
- a. the Party President or one of the co-vice presidents;
 - b. one of the co-leaders;
 - c. the delegated representatives of four of the Māori electorates.

8. Candidate Selection

- 8.1. Electorates organise their own processes to find their own candidates that meet the criteria set out in Schedule 4.
- 8.2. The National Council will appoint a National Candidate Selection Panel to examine the process of each electorate, discuss any issues as required, and recommend endorsement or otherwise to the National Council.
- 8.3. The membership of the National Candidate Selection Panel shall consist of;
Consistent Members
 - A Member of the office of the President – the National Executive
 - Co-Leaders and or one of the Members of Parliament (two members in total)
 - A National Council nominee. This member shall not be of the same electorate that is selecting a candidate**Electorate representation**
 - Three members of the electorate that is selecting the candidate
- 8.4. These processes shall be submitted to the National Council or its delegated subcommittee at least six (6) weeks before nominations open and they must be confirmed by that committee at least four weeks before nominations open.
- 8.5. Every process must ensure that:
 - a. sufficient checks and safeguards are carried out to ensure all prospective candidates fulfil the candidate criteria, and any risks are mitigated;
 - b. input that provides a national overview of the prospective candidates, assists the electorate with their decision-making, and provides external points to consider is received from the National Council or its delegated subcommittee;
 - c. the process upholds and safeguards the kaupapa of the Māori Party and enables all electorate members to have input into the final decision;
 - d. the declaration of any conflicts of interest between a candidate and those within the Party ensures that improper influence in the selection process is likewise avoided.
- 8.6. Any disputes will be taken to the National Council.
- 8.7. When the electorate has reached a decision as to who should be the candidate, this person's name shall be submitted forthwith to the National Council.
- 8.8. The National Candidate Selection Panel shall provide a written report to National Council on the process confirming or otherwise that the process has met all selection criteria according to the constitution and Kaupapa of the Maori Party.
- 8.9. The National Council shall immediately either confirm the nomination, or provide a written explanation as to why the National Council believes the nomination may not be in the best interests of the Party and requires further consideration by the Electorate. The National Council shall meet with the electorate and resolve a way forward.

9. Resolution of Differences and Disputes

- 9.1. There shall be three types of disputes:
 - a. Serious Disputes shall be those disputes that deal with:
 - i. misuse of Party funds for personal gain;
 - ii. bringing the Party into disrepute, by any abuse, slugging, or misuse of any media or verbal statements that can or would be injurious to the general welfare and well-being of the Party or its members as a whole.
 - b. Non-serious Disputes shall be those disputes that deal with other matters that do not involve Party funds and that can generally be settled at local electorate level by the parties involved.
 - c. Judicial Disputes shall be those disputes dealing with matters such as the candidate selection process. These will become judicial in nature, and will be settled in court.
- 9.2. Disciplinary action may be brought against a member who:
 - a. refuses to comply with this constitution;
 - b. improperly deals with any Party funds;
 - c. in any other way willfully brings the Party or its members into public disrepute.
- 9.3. All members agree to work together to support the Constitution of the Party and act according to the kaupapa at all times (refer to Part 1 of this constitution). Differences that may arise from time to time shall be resolved at the earliest opportunity by those involved.
- 9.4. Differences that cannot be resolved by the individuals involved shall be heard by the relevant Electorate Council.
- 9.5. A serious complaint against a member for any of the above reasons shall first be communicated in writing to the relevant Electorate Council. If it cannot be resolved at this level, it shall be referred to the Disciplinary and Disputes Committee of the National Council who shall act swiftly and with discretion to seek resolution of the matter and to see that the dispute is resolved on the basis of the kaupapa of the Party.
- 9.6. Should the Electorate Council not be able to deal with any dispute then that council shall refer the dispute to the National Council.
- 9.7. No member shall be permitted to refer a complaint directly to the National Council unless that complaint is directly against the Electorate Council, in which case the complaint will be directed immediately to the Party President.
- 9.8. Should a complaint be directed immediately to the Party President then, on receipt of such a complaint, the President shall first of all satisfy him- or herself that the complaint is:
 - a. a legitimate complaint;
 - b. not a serious complaint.
- 9.9. The President may, at his or her discretion, settle the complaint, or he or she may forward the complaint to the National Council for resolution. Such complaints shall not be referred to the Disputes and Disciplinary Committee.

- 9.10. Should an electorate receive a serious complaint it shall immediately attempt to bring the complaint to a resolution. Failing a satisfactory resolution, the Electorate Council shall forward the complaint to the National President, stating that the matter is of a serious nature and that the Electorate Council requests the intervention of the National Council.
- 9.11. The Electorate Council, having already tried for resolution and failed, may send the complaint directly to the Disciplinary and Disputes Committee.
- 9.12. On receipt of the complaint the following steps shall be taken:
- a. The National President shall immediately notify both the electorates and the parties concerned in the dispute.
 - b. Notification shall be by phone call or by Tracked Post.
 - c. Nothing further will be done until the President has received advice that all parties have received their notification.
 - d. After receiving the information that all parties have been notified, the President shall inform the National Council;
- 9.13. On receipt of a serious complaint, the National Council shall either send the complaint back to the Electorate Council or send the complaint on to the Disciplinary and Disputes Committee.
- 9.14. The Disciplinary and Disputes Committee's structure and responsibilities are outlined in Schedule 3.
- 9.15. Confidential non-disclosure: All members of the Māori Party must undertake not to disclose to any person, or make use of any information, document or material of a personal nature that may embarrass the Party or has the potential to bring it into dispute. This includes the media or any other political party.
- 9.16. Protected Disclosures
Any Māori Party member who wishes to make a protected disclosure should do so as follows:
- The Māori Party member or persons should submit the disclosure in writing to either the electorate or the National Council, depending on the seriousness of the disclosure. The disclosure should contain detailed information including the following:
- the nature of the disclosure;
 - the name/s of the person/s involved;
 - surrounding facts, including details relating to the time and or place of the incident if known or relevant.

10. Remedy

- 10.1. Any member who is found to have been in breach of section 3, 3.1, bullet points a-e, or is found guilty of a serious complaint other than the misuse of Party funds for personal gain, shall have their membership revoked under section 3.7.
- 10.2. Any member who is found guilty of misusing Party funds shall be immediately expelled from the Party.

11. Interpretation and Alteration of Constitution

- 11.1. The Constitution is made up of Part 1: Kaupapa and Tikanga, Part 2: Rules, and Part 3: Schedules. All parts of the constitution are equally binding on the membership.
- 11.2. The Constitution may be amended, added to, or rescinded by resolution of the AGM (Hui ā Tau) of the Party or a Special General Meeting convened for such purpose.
- 11.3. The National Council shall give notice to all groups of the proposed alteration/addition or rescission not less than 30 days prior to the AGM or Special General Meeting of the Party at which it is proposed to be moved.
- 11.4. No alteration to the object clauses (section 2), or the dissolution clause (section 12) shall be made without the prior written approval of the Inland Revenue Department.

12. Dissolution Clause

- 12.1. At a duly constituted AGM (Hui ā Tau) or a Special General Meeting, the Māori Party may resolve by majority resolution that the Party be dissolved as from the date named in the resolution. The Party may also, by such resolution, direct the method of disposing of the assets and property of the Māori Party after its dissolution.
- 12.2. Upon the resolution being confirmed at a subsequent meeting called for the purpose, and held not earlier than 30 days after the date on which the first resolution was passed, the Party shall be dissolved.
- 12.3. A notice of the resolution and its confirmation shall be sent to the Electoral Commission, the Registrar of Incorporated Societies, and the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. The property of the Māori Party shall, upon dissolution, be transferred to such political or other organisations within New Zealand having objectives similar to those of the Māori Party, as the meeting of dissolution shall determine or, in default, as may be determined by the High Court of New Zealand on the application of the National Council.

Part 3: Schedules

Schedule 1: Electorates and Branches

Electorates

1. Each electorate shall determine its own quorum and that for its branches.
2. In keeping all branches informed of all Party matters, each electorate shall call an electorate meeting at least quarterly. At such meetings voting and speaking rights shall be restricted to financial members.
3. Each electorate shall hold an annual hui of financial members. The Annual General Meeting will elect officers, deal with any remits sent by branches, and receive the annual report from the chairperson/s and the treasurer/s.
4. Each electorate shall have an Electorate Council that shall be responsible for all party activities in the Electorate.
5. The officers of each electorate (that is the chairpersons, secretaries and treasurers) plus up to three elected members from each branch shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the electorate.
6. At each annual hui three National Council members and their substitutes shall be selected as defined in clause 4.4. The Electorate Committee shall determine the criteria required for members to represent the electorate on the National Council.
7. All decisions of the Electorate Council shall be made in accordance with clause 5.1.
8. When hosting a National Council hui, each electorate shall be responsible for the setting up and payment of all accounts for each meeting. Each electorate will ensure that the fees for their elected representatives are paid for by their electorate. It shall be the responsibility of the host electorate to collect fees from attendees other than electorate representatives. Any person failing to pay their just dues may not take an active part in that hui.
9. The selection and election of an electorate candidate shall be done in a manner prescribed by the Electorate Council in accordance with the Candidate Selection policy. It shall also be incumbent upon the electorate to raise the necessary funds for their candidate's election campaign, and it must be carried out in accordance with the Electoral Act, accepting that each candidate may select his or her own campaign managers. It shall be incumbent on these managers to, at all times, work with and for the Electorate Council.

Branches

1. Each branch shall be represented on its Electorate Council by up to three (3) financial members – one tāne, one wahine, one rangatahi. Any changes should immediately be brought to the notice of the Electorate Secretary, accompanied by the branch minutes showing such changes.
2. Each branch shall have an executive comprising Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and a minimum of seven other members.
3. Each branch shall ensure proper financial systems and controls.
4. Each branch shall record and keep accurate minutes of its branch hui.
5. Branches may be established subject to electorate approval.
6. Every such branch authorized by the Electorate Council shall enrol members into the Party.
7. They shall also fundraise and pay all such dues and levies that may from time to time be imposed by the Electorate Council or by the National Council.
8. Each branch shall have a cheque account for which there must be a minimum of two signatures but no two signatures from the same household.
9. Branches must send a copy of their Income over Expenditure plus a copy of the bank statement to the Electorate Council monthly meeting.
10. A probationary period should be set between the existing branch and the new branch.

Schedule 2: National Council

1. The National Council comprises the following:
 - a. the Party president and two co-vice presidents (one tāne and one wahine);
 - b. two co-leaders (one tāne and one wahine);
 - c. all Members of Parliament;
 - d. up to four council members selected by each electorate (including rangatahi and both wahine and tāne), or their substitute as determined by each electorate.
2. Nominations for president and vice-president are to be lodged with the National Secretary six weeks before an Annual General Meeting and distributed to the electorates at least four weeks before that AGM. No person shall be eligible for the office of president or vice-president unless he or she has been a member of the Māori Party for at least three years.
3. There shall be a Special General Meeting immediately following the General Election to select the Party co-leaders. Those selected shall be in office for three years.
4. If there is a vacancy during the three-year term in any of the above offices, then the National Council may appoint a person to hold office for the balance of the term.
5. There is a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities for the president and two co-vice presidents, and these roles and responsibilities will be ratified by the National Council.
6. Each Māori electorate shall be represented on the National Council. Further electorates may, from time to time, be accepted by the National Council. An Electorate Council member can be removed from the National Council by consensus of the Electorate Council.
7. The National Council shall hear all appeals from any electorate.
8. The National Council shall ratify or otherwise any decision made by the National Executive since the previous meeting.
9. All National Council policy remits must be ratified by an AGM or a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.
10. All decisions of the National Council shall be made by consensus as a customary practice, having regard to constitutional obligations and the kaupapa of the Māori Party. If the hui cannot reach consensus after full discussion of the issue, then the chairperson will ask the meeting to accept the view of the majority in the best interests of the party.
11. The National Council shall meet every two months (on the third^{3rd} Saturday of every second ^{2nd} month), and its meetings shall rotate within the Māori seat electorates.
12. The quorum for the Special General Meeting comprises of the following:
 - a. the Party President or one of the co-vice presidents;

- b. one of the co-leaders;
- c. the delegated representatives of four of the Māori electorates.

Schedule 3: Disciplinary and Disputes Committee

1. The National Council will select a committee of five members including the Chair of the committee.
2. The Committee shall be self-determining and to that end shall only take instructions from the whole National Council.
3. The committee shall be selected strictly from Council Members only. No other person shall hold any position within the committee, whether advisory or otherwise.
4. The committee shall take office for a period of three years but may be elected for a further term.
5. Any vacancy that occurs in the committee shall be filled by the National Council.
6. The quorum for any meeting shall be three members including the Chair. Sufficient notice must be given to enable members to attend.
7. The committee shall be chaired by one of the vice-presidents. The other vice-president will act as stand-in for the Chair.
8. In the event that a complaint is levelled at the Chair, the other vice-president will act as stand-in for the Chair.
9. Only one vice-president shall be permitted to sit on the committee at any time.
10. Any member must declare any conflict of interest. Conflicts of interest are to be declared at the start of any meetings.
11. Should the Chair declare a conflict of interest, the other vice-president will act as stand-in for the Chair.
12. The committee shall be charged to reach a resolution of the complaint and, unless there is some legal impediment, the resolution shall be final and binding.
13. The committee shall act swiftly but without undue haste to reach a resolution.
14. The resolution of the complaint shall be reported to the National Council.
15. On receipt of the resolution the National Council shall endorse the findings of the Disciplinary and Disputes Committee and notify the parties to the dispute of such a resolution.
16. The National Council may change the resolution of the complaint on points of law only.
17. All complainants shall be notified of the outcomes.

18. The committee may, at any time during its hearing, place a total media ban on anything to do with the case being heard. This will apply to all members of the party.
19. Any person breaking the media ban can be charged with “bringing the Party into disrepute”.
20. On any matter that is before the committee, no person shall engage legal counsel on behalf of the Party without the full agreement of the Disciplinary and Disputes Committee.

Schedule 4: Candidate Selection Guidelines

The purpose of the candidate selection and party list process is to seek representative candidates who are credible, respected and reflective of the Maori Party values. The application of these procedures are guided by the kaupapa of the Māori Party, which comprise Part 1 of the Maori Party Constitution and will be applied in a fair, efficient and transparent manner.

The candidate selection and party list process is managed by the Maori Party National Executive (Māori Party Constitution; Part Two; Rule 8).

Any person who is a fully paid up member of the Māori Party is eligible to be nominated as a candidate in accordance with the regulations set out in the Electoral Act (Māori Party Constitution; Rule 3.5).

The principles guiding the candidate selection process are:

- consistency of process
- transparency of selection
- strategic approach to selection
- fairness, participation, reasonable notice and inclusiveness.

The goal is to ensure that the electorate and list candidates representing the Maori Party:

- Work for the benefit of all citizens of Aotearoa
- Work within the kaupapa of the Maori Party
- Have a vision of a nation of cultural diversity and richness, where its unity is underpinned by the expression of tangata whenuatanga by Maori; and
- Acknowledge Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding document of this nation.

1. National Council and Electorate Roles

- a) The selection of Maori constituency candidates in each of the seven Maori seats, for general election or by-election shall be managed by the National Council in consultation with the electorate chairs and the respective Maori electorate.
- b) The National Council will form a National Council Selection Panel consisting of:
 - Consistent Members**
 - A Member of the office of the President – the National Executive
 - Co-Leaders and or one of the Members of Parliament (two members in total)
 - A National Council nominee. This member shall not be of the same electorate that is selecting a candidate
 - Electorate representation**
 - Three members of the electorate that is selecting the candidate
- c) The electorate will advertise for expressions of interest to stand as a Māori Party candidate and subsequently undertake a nomination process for that electorate.
- d) The electorate will provide names and a list of ideal candidates for the constituency and party list to the National Council Selection Panel

2. Appointment to the National Council Selection Panel

- a) The party President is responsible for the appointment of 'consistent members' of the National Council Selection Panel
- b) The National Council will be responsible for electorate appointments to the selection panel
- c) All electorates are to provide the THREE names for their electorate selection panel. All names are presented to the National Secretary.
- d) Where names are not provided, the party executive (through the National Council Selection Panel) reserves the right to make a selection to the panels
- e) The chair shall be the nominee from the office of the President
- f) Where there is the possibility of four (4) panelists from the one electorate being on the same selection panel, the chairperson in discussion with the panel may organise for an alternative representative from another electorate. This will be at the discretion of the chair.

3. Responsibilities of the National Council Selection Panel

For the purposes of selecting candidates, the National Council Selection Panel shall organise with the appropriate electorates to have selection hui where the recommended short listed candidates shall be interviewed.

- a) There shall be no more than TWO selection hui where interviews will take place. The hui shall be held within the electorate at places elected and organised by the electorate itself. All financial members of the Maori Party may attend this hui.
- b) The panel shall organise appropriate tikanga and kawa for this meeting.
- c) The process shall include:
 - ii. An opportunity for the candidates to present a statement on their suitability to be a candidate as set out in the candidate profile
 - iii. An opportunity for the panel to ask questions
 - iv. An opportunity to the hui to ask questions within a structure facilitated by the chair
 - v. An opportunity for kaituara of the candidate to make a statement of support
- d) The final deliberation by the National Council Selection Panel shall take place in private and all discussions shall be confidential.
- e) A report should be provided to the National Council Selection Panel of the process applied, and decisions made. The National Council Selection Panel shall communicate the outcome of the deliberations about candidates to the National Council as soon as is practical whether they have a candidate or not.
- f) Where no shortlist has been provided or no candidate has been selected from the electorate, the National Council Selection Panel shall work with the respective electorate to consider a strategy to confirm a candidate.
- g) It is the responsibility of the National Council Selection Panel to declare a candidate for confirmation by the National Council.
- h) The National Council Selection Panel shall set the timetable for selection of all candidates.

4. Duty of Electorate Committees

- a) The National Council Selection Panel requires electorate committees in a non-election year to scout for 'potential' candidates for future candidacy selection with the approval of the National Council.
- b) It is the responsibility of the electorate to eventually compile a short list of candidates who have the necessary skills, attributes, knowledge and experience to make a positive contribution to the Maori Party campaign.
- c) Electorate secretaries shall be responsible for providing clear notice of the nomination criteria and selection process to be followed including the opening and closing dates of the selection of candidates. This must be provided to the National Council Selection Panel and endorsed by them. The notice must be circulated and made available to eligible financial members at least two weeks prior to the nominations opening
- d) All electorate secretaries shall receive all nominations
- e) The electorate shall ensure that all of the documentation requirements are adhered to and then provided to the National Council Selection Panel through the National Secretary

5. Electorates Registering Potential Candidates

- a) Members of Maori Party electorates will be invited to register their expression of interest with an electorate committee once 'candidacy' is deemed open by the National Council Selection Panel.
- b) Potential candidates who register with the electorate committee will be sent the 'candidate profile', and a questionnaire to help them carefully consider their nomination for a Maori electorate seat.
- c) All members wishing to stand as candidates in the coming general election must be current members and reside in the electorate or returning home to the electorate.
- d) The candidate must be nominated by at least 25 Maori Party members who are prepared to act as referees.

6. Nomination Process

- a) Electorate committees shall be responsible for providing clear notice of the nomination criteria and selection process to be followed including the opening and closing dates of the selection of candidates to the National Council Selection Panel. This must be circulated and made available to eligible financial members at least two weeks prior to the nominations opening
- b) All electorate committees shall receive all nominations
- c) There shall be hui of each electorate committee to select a short-list of candidates at which all financial members who live within the boundaries of that electorate, shall be entitled to attend and to participate in the selection of the nomination provided they are members on the date that candidate nominations open.
- d) Only financial members of the Māori Party as at the opening date of nominations can participate in the selection process

- e) In the case of Māori electorate seats, financial members of Māori descent or on the Māori roll who live within the boundaries of that electorate are eligible to participate.
- f) Where the electorate has reached a consensus as to who the nominations shall be, the name/s shall be submitted forthwith to the National secretary who will pass this list to the National Council Selection Panel for consideration.
- g) The National Council Selection Panel shall consider those nominations, make a decision on the best candidate. They will provide a recommendation to National Council and National Executive for confirmation.
- h) Where no nominations are provided to the National Council Selection Panel for a Maori seat or general seat, NCSP are authorised to act in the best interests of the party to seek a candidate for that 'electorate'.
- i) One nomination does not mean that that nomination has the candidacy as of right for that electorate. The final decision is for the National Council and the electorate committee.

7. Documentation required for Nomination

All nominations must be accompanied with:

- a) The official nomination form
- b) A declaration for internal party purposes
- c) Resume and personal profile available for circulation
- d) Police Check indicating that the candidate does not have any convictions
- e) Credit check indicating that the candidate is financially solvent
- f) A detailed list of 25 financial members of the Maori Party who have declared their support of the nomination.
- g) Confirmation that the nominee is a financial member of the Maori Party

All documentation shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the particular electorate in the first instance.

8. Candidate Profile

Those wishing to be considered as candidates to contest an election should have the following attributes:

- ✓ High profile, renowned for advocacy for Māori e.g, social justice, economic development, Whanau Ora, te reo Maori
- ✓ Background in one or more specialist areas that are of importance to the Māori Party (who defines this, a bit vague?)
- ✓ Established or existing strong public profile / brand recognition
- ✓ Experience in public office e.g, board of trustees, local government
- ✓ Experience in campaigning for a cause
- ✓ Demonstrated commitment to the kaupapa of the Maori Party
- ✓ The support of 25 signed-up members

- ✓ Has a strong team of supporters willing to provide emotional and moral support that will also be the candidate's team to support, among other activities, campaigning
- ✓ Demonstrated team-player
- ✓ Political nous
- ✓ Articulate and capable, including public speaking
- ✓ Strong personality
- ✓ A paid up financial member of the Māori Party
- ✓ Clean record
- ✓ Financial viability
- ✓ Media savvy

9. Candidate Interviews

- a) The National Council Selection Panel shall carry out interviews with candidates to determine their suitability for the role. The candidates will be interviewed to assess their support for the kaupapa of the Maori Party and to examine the candidate's commitment to the party. It is expected that electorate committees should have made checks of a candidate's background and of the referees and provide results to National Council Selection Panel before interviews progress.
- b) The National Council Selection Panel committee's decisions shall be determined by consensus. (as described in Section 5.1 of the Maori Party Constitution)
- c) Each electorate will be able to conduct an indicative poll of participants in selection hui. This decision shall be facilitated by an Electorate Chair or another designated representative.
- d) Should this happen, the voting shall be conducted by the electorate secretary or nominated representative
- e) Results of the poll shall be confidential to the National Council Selection Panel and can only be used by them on their request and can only be declared to the panel at the end of their determination of the candidate.

10. Candidates who are Officers of the Party

- a) Any member of the Maori Party who holds an elected office in an electorate or is a paid officer in any position, and is approved as a candidate, is automatically suspended from the position, until final selection is approved in the electorate by the National Council Selection Panel.
- b) The following provision shall be added to his or her nomination paper: "I agree to abstain from taking part as an officer in the Maori Party in my electorate committee for the period from the opening of the nominations until final selection is made".
- c) This rule shall not operate to preclude a candidate for selection, nor preclude he/she from being appointed as a delegate to the Maori Party National Annual Conference, nor from speaking and voting at such conference.

11. Selection of General Seat candidates

- a) The selection criteria for Maori seats shall apply to the selection of the general seat candidates
- b) Individuals, whanau or Maori electorates wishing to stand candidates in the general electorates must formalise their desire to stand in writing to the National Secretary
- c) The **National Council Selection Panel** shall consider nominations

For the purposes of this selection, the panel shall consist of

Consistent Members

- A Member of the office of the President – the National Executive
- Co-Leaders and or one of the Members of Parliament (two members in total)
- A National Council nominee. This member shall not be of the same electorate that is selecting a candidate

Electorate representation

- Three members of the electorate that is selecting the candidate

12. Sitting members

- a) Sitting Maori Party Members of Parliament are required to formally indicate in writing their wish to stand and this must be provided to the electorate committee at their request or before the AGM one year in advance of an election year. Where only one nomination has been made for selection, that nominee must be approved by the National Council Selection Panel (and therefore the National Council), even if the nomination is an existing member of parliament.
- b) The National Council Selection Panel may use its discretion to modify the level of scrutiny applied before forming a judgment as to the candidate's continuing suitability. Should it be deemed that a member is unsuitable to continue, this matter shall be referred to the National Council.

13. Candidates for List Seats

- a) All nominations for the party list shall be party members
- b) The National Council Selection Panel will submit its prioritised list to the National Council. The National Council will finalise the list based on the recommendation of the National Council Selection Panel.
- c) All electorates are able to nominate candidates for the list.
- d) All nominations must be submitted to National Council Selection Panel in a timeline that shall be circulated to electorates. The final ordered list shall be considered after the selection of all Maori seat candidates
- e) Each nomination must include the same documentation as is required for the nominations for general seats except that a list of 15 financial members who support a nomination to the list must be provided.

The National Council identifies a set of criteria to be applied in determining priorities including:

- i. skills and expertise;
- ii. gender/age;
- iii. inclusiveness; (i.e. ethnicity, sexuality, religious belief);
- iv. sector networks and credibility;
- v. mana whenua
- vi. All criteria set out for all Māori Party candidates

14. Conduct and Confidentiality of Proceedings

- a) The National Council must observe and document a process which safeguards the integrity of the overall selection process
- b) The proceedings of selection shall be confidential to the participants and each nominee is expected to extend manaakitanga towards other people by acting in ways that are mana-enhancing.
- c) Every nominee, or member of the candidate's whanau will declare any conflict of Interest, and must withdraw from any party role that may unduly influence their selection or privilege their position in the party.
- d) Every person participating including every candidate for a Maori seat or general seat shall sign an undertaking to keep the proceedings confidential. The chair of the National Council Selection Panel is authorized to report to the Electorate committees and National Council on how the interview process was conducted.
- e) National Council will ensure strict conflict of interest policies are established and complied with for the candidate selection processes to ensure neither selection processes nor do prospective candidates improperly influence the selection process.

15. Early election candidate selection process

Where an early election is called, and where there is less than three months to polling day the National Council Selection Panel may decide to use the following process as an alternative to the process set out in the first schedule:

- a) Where an early election is called, all current sitting members of Parliament will be automatically selected to stand in their electorates for that election.
- b) All other electorate candidate selections shall be completed on a date determined by the National Council Selection Panel
- c) Conditions set out in this schedule shall apply in this circumstance
- d) Where electorates are unable to complete their selection of candidates on the date determined by the National Council Selection Panel, the National Council shall have the authority to select candidates according to an agreed process.

Schedule 5: Procedures for Special General Meetings

1. A Special General Meeting may be called by the National Council at any time, or at the written request of three electorates, or by written request of at least 200 financial members, and will be held within six weeks of the lodging of the request for a Special General Meeting to the President.
2. The request shall state clearly the purpose of the meeting, in no more than 150 words, and also the desired outcome.
3. On receipt of a request for a Special General Meeting, the President shall call the meeting within 30 days from the date of receipt.
4. If the meeting is not called within the 30-day limit, the electorate/s requesting the meeting shall call such a meeting themselves, and any motion passed at such a meeting shall be binding on the Party.
5. Failure by the electorates to call the meeting within the 30-day period shall render the original request invalid.
6. The Special General Meeting will be a meeting of the National Council and membership at large.
7. Membership status will be checked by a Party Official.
8. The costs for the Special General Meeting venue shall be met by the National Council.
9. All arrangements for the Special General Meeting shall be coordinated by the National Secretary.
10. The venue for any such Special General Meeting shall be the sole responsibility of the National Executive.

11. Only matters notified in the agenda for the Special General Meeting shall be considered at the meeting.

12. Special General Meetings shall be open to all current financial members of the Party.