



Education Policy

The Māori Party wants mainstream classrooms to speak the language of our tupuna, to include Māori ways of knowing in the curriculum and to hold our tupuna up as role models of academic excellence.

The Māori Party wants all tamariki to stand tall in the knowledge that they have a rich and distinct heritage of scholarly endeavors. Distinct tribal knowledge and role models matter as they serve as a solid foundation for the transformational learning, innovation and intellectual and social development of our tamariki. Not only are these ingredients a remedy to the continuing failures of the western education system but they act as a positive approach to dealing with low academic efficacy, low self-esteem and poor school engagement.

To effect educational transformation and reform, the Māori Party will support schools, kura, kohanga reo and tertiary education providers in conjunction with hapū and iwi, to make conscious, courageous and unapologetic decisions to carve out time and space to affirm tribal knowledge and history – legitimising its dignity, identity and integrity.

Early childhood

The Māori Party will:

- ✓ **Provide** all children with free early childhood education.

- ✓ **Work** with kōhanga reo to increase the numbers of tamariki attending kōhanga.
- ✓ **Increase** funding for kōhanga reo and puna reo.
- ✓ **Create** parity of funding between kōhanga reo and ECE providers.
- ✓ **Fund** more digital learning programmes in te reo Māori.

Primary, intermediate and secondary schooling

The Māori Party will:

- ✓ **Reduce** class sizes in primary schools.
- ✓ **Provide** all children with free afterschool care and holiday programmes.
- ✓ **Introduce** financial literacy classes and savings programmes.
- ✓ **Introduce** mental health counsellors in all high schools.
- ✓ **Provide** free public transport.
- ✓ **Improve** the rates of literacy and numeracy among Māori and Pacific children so they are comparable with non-Māori.
- ✓ **Continue** to support kura hourua (charter schools).
- ✓ **Fund** more digital learning programmes in te reo Māori.

- ✓ **Make** te reo Māori, Māori history and culture core curriculum subjects in all schools up to year 10.
- ✓ **Increase** overall funding for Māori medium education.
- ✓ **Promote** Māori medium as a viable pathway for student success and achievement.
- ✓ **Increase** the number of Teach NZ scholarships for Māori medium teachers who are teaching STEM subjects, te reo Māori, Māori history and culture.
- ✓ **Establish** a \$1 million annual fund to support Ngā Manu Kōrero, a primary school reo rua spelling bee annual competition, an annual secondary national quiz competition as well as a Māori toastmasters' competition.

Tertiary education

In tertiary education settings, students are discriminated against in that they are the only group in society who must borrow in order to cover their living costs while they study.

Many students are withdrawing from their studies due to the rising cost of living and other costs associated with full time study. This means they are taking out loans for tertiary education they are unable to complete and adding to their debt profile as a result of inadequate support to fulfil their potential.

Student allowances should be universal to recognise the upskilling and contribution that all students will make to the workforce on completion of their studies. This will also reduce the debt a student will have when they enter the work force and make repaying the loan a more achievable goal and potentially make the borrower take the loan more seriously and repay it sooner.

The Māori Party will:

- ✓ **Address** student loans and allowances schemes to minimise the burden of debt and ensure students are financially able to complete their studies at all levels from undergraduate to doctorate.
- ✓ **Introduce** a range of amendments and regulations to better support student achievement, student representation and cultivate an environment that supports lifelong learning.
- ✓ **Amend** the Education Act 1989 to reflect a definition of education that promotes and is consistent with the principle of lifelong learning.
- ✓ **Establish** a biennial tertiary summit for students and relevant ministers (education, Māori affairs, science and innovation) to collaborate on student aspirations and achievements.
- ✓ **Increase** investment in student-led equity initiatives to grow representation of minority and marginalised tertiary students at local, regional, national and international levels.
- ✓ **Repeal** the Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Act 2011 which undermines the student voice and find a more workable solution.
- ✓ **Remove** the cap on the number of allowable Wānanga and support them with stand-alone legislation which requires mana whenua and Māori stakeholders to be part of the review and monitoring processes.
- ✓ **Require** all tertiary institutions to develop key performance indicators to ensure that training provided aligns with industry demand.

- ✓ **Introduce** measures that improve access to tertiary education and provide the support needed to boost Māori and Pasifika participation and qualification attainment.
- ✓ **Develop** a four year zero fee scholarship to target the 'First in Whānau' to engage in a Bachelor level qualification programme.
- ✓ **Lift the cap** on the number of students able to take level one to four programmes (foundational and trade training level programmes) in Institutes of Technology, Polytechnics (ITPs), Private Training Establishments and Wānanga.
- ✓ **Invest** more in culturally responsive pastoral care initiatives that support students to achieve their tertiary education aspirations and to help them navigate the services they need, including, financial literacy, health and academic preparatory skills.
- ✓ **Double** the numbers of Māori and Pacific students successfully completing a Bachelor degree in three years.
- ✓ **Increase** overall funding for Māori medium education.
- ✓ **Reduce** the attrition rates of Māori and Pacific students in Bachelor degrees by half by 2025.
- ✓ **Double** the existing Māori and Pacific trade training and cadetships placements per annum for the next five years.
- ✓ **Create** more pre-degree pathways for Māori and Pacific students who have not achieved entry requirements to undertake tertiary education.

- ✓ **Improve** pastoral care initiatives to provide culturally responsive wrap around support to students for financial literacy, health and mental health support, basic study skills, academic writing and self-directed learning skills.
- ✓ **Partner** with iwi and employers to provide more scholarship and internship opportunities for whānau and to provide better connections for students to their tribal identity, culture and language.
- ✓ **Establish** tuakana/teina mentoring and coaching initiatives that encourage a seamless transition from secondary to tertiary education.
- ✓ **Retain** interest-free loans.
- ✓ **Introduce** a universal student allowance with cost of living adjustment to guarantee a livable income during study, for all tertiary students, including post-graduate students.
- ✓ **Write off** the living cost component of all student loans and explore the viability of writing off the total student loan for those who work in a job equivalent to their qualification in Aotearoa for a period of five years.
- ✓ **Reduce** the repayment levels on a student loan starting at 4% (\$40,000), 6% (\$50,000) and 8% (for \$60,000 and over).
- ✓ **Remove** the 8-year student loan cap for medical students.
- ✓ **Increase** the accommodation supplement by half for all tertiary students.
- ✓ **Create** an equitable funding regime for research conducted in Wānanga.
- ✓ **Ensure** mātauranga Māori is one of the National Science Challenge priorities.