



Immigration Policy

We support immigration policy that fosters greater cohesiveness within and between the many cultures that have come to call Aotearoa home. Our desire is for every new immigrant and refugee to be welcomed to Aotearoa with a pōwhiri and over time, to have a basic understanding of te reo and Māori and culture. We also support immigration policy that respects Māori as tangata whenua of Aotearoa, the rights guaranteed to them under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and acknowledges the mana and mātauranga that people immigrating to Aotearoa bring with them.

Over the generations, our ancestors travelled through South East Asia and across the Pacific before discovering Aotearoa more than one thousand years ago. We built intimate connections with this land and lived according to the law (lore) of tikanga Māori. Our connection to this land was established through our tūpuna, bound through generations of whakapapa.

Our ancestors welcomed the first wave of immigrants to this country. As tangata whenua we embrace our obligations to actively participate in decision making and to share our history and culture with whānau from any continent choosing to settle here in Aotearoa.

We maintain that manaakitanga must be extended to all peoples coming to Aotearoa, and we will balance this against kaitiakitanga which informs whether we are in a position to meet our obligations.

The Māori Party recognises that facilitating the movement of people between countries is part and parcel of the reality of our world today. Our values system

means we can be responsive in how we as a country approach immigration. We should not be reducing people to numbers or exclusion on the basis of populist opinion. We encourage foreign students to study in Aotearoa as this is an export industry that does not put pressure on our natural resources.

The Māori Party will:

Tiriti and immigration

- ✓ **Amend** the Immigration Act to include tikanga Māori in its application and incorporate a pledge to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the Oath of Citizenship.
- ✓ **Appoint** two jointly responsible Immigration Ombudsmen (a tangata whenua representative and a tau iwi representative) and grant them powers to hear and investigate complaints and to resolve immigration issues on referral from Licensed Immigration Advisors following review of an unfavourable decision by Immigration Officers.

Incentivise investment

- ✓ **Introduce** new visa categories so we can be responsive to humanitarian needs and incentivise greater investment in our domestic infrastructure and regional economies
- ✓ **Introduce** a Social Returns Visa under the Investment Category to incentivise investment in social housing & infrastructure
- ✓ **Reintroduce** the parent category and the family reunion category to ensure whānau are not disconnected by borders
- ✓ **Prioritise** the introduction of a climate change refugee category
- ✓ **Establish** a partial amnesty for persons whose stay in Aotearoa New Zealand has become unlawful

Cultural exchange

- ✓ **Protect** the reputation of Aotearoa New Zealand as a premium International Education provider
- ✓ **Reinvest** in international education to ensure the needs of our international students are met, and our reputation as a premium education provider is protected
- ✓ **Introduce** a compulsory Te Tiriti o Waitangi educational programme for all international students studying in Aotearoa to grow their cultural understanding of tangata whenua and enrich their study abroad experience
- ✓ **Expand** working holiday schemes to support greater rangatahi participation in overseas work holiday exchanges, and broaden appeal to international youth wanting to experience Māori culture
- ✓ **Support and invest** in reciprocal cultural and knowledge exchange initiatives with our international communities to raise awareness of Māori as tangata whenua and opportunities for all New Zealander's to learn about the values and knowledge international whānau bring to Aotearoa

Regional growth and skills recognition

- ✓ **Establish** an Expert Advisory Group to Government to evaluate "Economic Hotspots" and identify opportunities that will stimulate provincial economies. This will provide alternatives for people wanting to move to Aotearoa, but who are attracted with the incentives that are offered to settle/invest in the smaller economic centres.
- ✓ **Support paid** regional community internships programme for skilled migrants, refugees, and international students graduating from a New Zealand tertiary institution to support the regions to grow
- ✓ **Promote** and incentivise settlement in the regions to support regional growth and reduce pressure on infrastructure in Auckland
- ✓ **Provide** incentivised pathways to temporary visas, residence visas and citizenship all aimed at supporting regional growth and the kaitiaki and

- manaaki role of Māori in Aotearoa
- ✓ **Introduce** a Regional Cadetships programme to enable new immigrants or refugees to work in a job relevant to their existing qualifications while undertaking accredited training or study to have those skills, qualifications and experience recognised here in Aotearoa

Support and settlement

- ✓ **Implement** greater support for refugees and new immigrants experiencing hardship
- ✓ **Increase** the refugee quota and prioritise refugee whānau for the Regional Cadetships programme
- ✓ **Implement** an ethnically diverse Whānau Ora navigator unit to help new whānau to access the services they need to begin their new lives in a new country to enhance their whānau wellbeing
- ✓ **Introduce** a hardship pension that exempts eligible Pasifika Peoples aged 65+ who gain citizenship from the standard 5-year waiting period

Legislative measures

- ✓ **Amend** legislation to ensure our framework supports the settlement and integration of newly arrived immigrants and refugees
- ✓ **Amend** the Immigration Act 2009 to recognise the status of tangata whenua and our tikanga
- ✓ **Amend** the Citizenship Act 1977 to incorporate upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the Oath of Citizenship
- ✓ **Eliminate** immigration policies that discriminate on the grounds of race, religion or culture
- ✓ **Introduce** a Te Tiriti o Waitangi programme as a prerequisite to gaining citizenship, meeting language and settlement requirements