The Treaty of Waitangi was entered into with our tupuna who were recognised as indigenous people with sovereign rights. This is the reason the Treaty has both the capacity and the mana to act as a constitutional document for all people who live in this country.

The Maori Party, in recognition of that history and current reality, proposes 5 key areas for attention in relation to Treaty policy:

1. Constitutional Change
2. Maori Electorates as a Treaty Right
3. Changing Treaty Settlement Process
4. Entrenching Treaty in Legislation
5. State Sector Reform from a Treaty Perspective
6. Treaty Education

1. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE
The Maori Party stands for the Treaty of Waitangi providing the base for constitutional change in our nation so that shared governance becomes a reality.

The present constitutional system does not, and cannot meet or satisfy the needs of Maori from the perspective of our rights as indigenous people.

Constitutional change would focus on giving effect to Articles 1 and 2 of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in a manner that reconciles Maori rights to exercise tino rangatiratanga with the need for kawanatanga. This would mean that the exercise of governance would be shared between the 2 Treaty partners, Tangata Whenua and the Crown.

Constitutional reform is not enough as it means accepting the present system and making cultural changes that merely accommodate Maori. Constitutional reform does not give effect to the Treaty.

New forms of governance and how we share political power need to be debated by the Treaty partners. We propose setting up a Treaty Commission to facilitate this process. Its members would be Maori and non-Maori (50/50). They would use a process that reflects a perspective drawn from Maori and non-Maori worldviews together. The Commission would facilitate constitutional forums.
which would bring together both parties to the Tiriti/Treaty in all their cultural diversity.

The Maori Party believes it is important to negotiate constitutional change over a 5 year timeframe. Setting such a timeframe is preferable to the current ongoing debate that has had no resolution to date under the present Labour government or previous National governments. Setting a timeframe also shows a practical commitment to Maori self-determination.

2. MAORI ELECTORATES AS A TREATY RIGHT
The Maori Party believes that the Maori electorates are our greatest political asset and they are a Tiriti/Treaty right. Notwithstanding their history, they currently represent the only “Tiriti partner” mechanism in the central political system today. We intend to liberate the Maori electorates from the political domination of the current government. The Maori Party will operate them as a truly independent Maori voice.

We will entrench the Maori seats in legislation as soon as possible and take steps to enable the Maori electorates to grow, thereby strengthening them as a force for unity in this country under a Tiriti/Treaty Relationships Framework.

3. CHANGING TE TIRITI/TREATY SETTLEMENT PROCESS
We will support the enhancement of the role of the Waitangi Tribunal so they can deal with claims more speedily.

The Tribunal needs to be resourced to the level of $6m per annum so it can work fulltime. It needs new members added to it (50% Maori/50% Pakeha).

The functions of the Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS) need to be reviewed so that it is transformed into an independent organisation that operates from a Tiriti/Treaty two-worldview perspective through a Maori arm and the Crown arm.

The Commission would ensure that the process of dealing with Maori claimants would be dealt with in a fair and transparent way and would ensure that the negotiation framework would be agreed to by all parties up-front. This would be different from the way the OTS operates. The OTS currently controls both the outcome and the process on Crown terms. Improving the settlement process from a Maori perspective will ensure that the claims will be settled earlier and that there is a broad consensus for the process and therefore greater commitment to settlement resolution. Claimant funding needs to be reviewed and increased so that all parties to the settlement process are on a level playing field.

Via a reformed OTS, the quantum of compensation for Maori claimants would be reviewed by the Crown and Maori together and a more equitable approach agreed. This could involve increasing the value of Tiriti/Treaty Settlements.
4. ENTRENCHING TE TIRITI/TREATY IN LEGISLATION
The Maori Party proposes to entrench Te Tiriti/Treaty in all legislation so that decision making on matters that concern Maori, and Maori and the Crown together, is shared with us. For example the Resource Management Act and the Local Government Act needs to be re-drafted to ensure that Articles 1 and 2 will guarantee Maori our mana and rangatiratanga and the ability to exercise power sharing on all issues that effect us as tangata whenua.

The Maori Party proposes to establish a Tiriti/Treaty legislation working group to outline the parameters and issues that will need to be canvassed to ensure the Tiriti/Treaty is given effect within the law.

5. STATE SECTOR REFORM FROM A TIRITI/TREATY PERSPECTIVE
The Maori Party believes that a shared Tiriti/Treaty Relationships approach needs to replace a Crown Treaty Principles approach when working with Tangata Whenua. In order to manage the level of change required in the machinery of government, the Maori Party also proposes setting up Maori Strategic Governance Group that comprises Iwi and Hapu strategic leaders and key leaders in Maori community organisations whose job would be to

- guide and facilitate discussions with the Crown together with Public and State Sector CEOs and senior management concerning relationship development with Maori,
- articulate options for Maori and the Crown to develop strategies together for change in political and public/state sector leadership practice in the direction of creating treaty based relationships and working together more appropriately and effectively.
- This would include developing the key elements of a programme for Treaty reform and change in public and State Sector management practice in order to achieve improved relationship development and specific benefits that would occur through appropriate collaboration on jointly planned work programmes.

6. TREATY EDUCATION

Education on Te Tiriti/Treaty will be a major focus of the Maori Party to ensure that all New Zealanders have the information relating about the true history of Te Tiriti/Treaty and Treaty settlement histories as this relates to our future as a unified nation.

We estimate that $20m needs to be provided to existing community Tiriti/Treaty based facilitators to carry out this task. In parallel Tiriti/Treaty education for public and state sector employees needs to be carried out so that a Tiriti/Treaty two-world view perspective can be included in the policies, management and operations of the public and state sector and the consequent changes made.
MAORI PARTY EDUCATION POLICY

“If it is true that education is the transfer of knowledge from one generation to the next, then who are we to charge our children for something that we got for free?”

The Maori Party will:

- Ensure all children can read, write, count, speak and think with confidence; and are bilingual;
- Support free, high quality education for all in Aotearoa, from pre-school to tertiary;
- Initiate cultural audits as part of the Education Review Office work programme;
- Develop the curriculum to include matauranga and te reo Maori, and the history and evolution of Aotearoa as a nation;
- Increase support for Maori-medium education at all levels;
- Increase te reo Maori teaching resources;
- Investigate development of iwi education authorities;
- Improve quality of teacher training and support, including teachers of te reo Maori;
- Review operational grant funding for teaching support staff;
- Support free tertiary education for all New Zealanders;
- Introduce a liveable allowance for all students;
- Initiate a five year grace period for debt repayment once graduated;
- Existing loans to be repaid at 10% when earning above 1.5 times the average income;
- Commence a Review of the Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF).
WHAKATAU WHANAU

Background
Nelson Mandela said: ‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world’. We believe education is an investment in our future, and that we must take comprehensive action to raise the well-being of all of our children in order to contribute to the genuine progress of the Nation. If we are to continue to contribute to the advancement of innovation and enterprise in Aotearoa, we need to deal with the enduring issues of concern to whanau, communities and the nation.

The Maori Party believes that regardless of the ability to pay, there must be opportunities for everyone to be successful to the highest levels of their potential. Over 100,000 New Zealand households experience low food security (where food runs out, sometimes or often). 185,000 children are living in households with incomes below the poverty line. We cannot be a successful nation if 185,000 of our children are left out of the equation. Evidence has shown that school breakfast and lunch programmes can do much to address the physical and psychological harm caused by low food security, including addressing the particular issue of obesity. Children are more likely to attend school regularly and reach higher achievement levels.

There are many studies to show that the education, health, life-expectancy, and employment prospects of the children of families with low incomes are much worse than they are for children born to better-off parents. We need to take urgent action now to ensure the prospects of our future leaders.

Whakatau Whanau: Co-ordinators

- The Whakatau Whanau Co-ordinators will provide support, advocacy, and practical assistance in working with families, community and schools to address the impact of poverty upon families and children;
- The initiative will encourage partnership between business, community and government, to deal with the issue of poverty in tangible ways, such as providing breakfast in schools;
- The Whakatau Whanau co-ordinators will facilitate whanau support - with the purpose of working alongside whanau, supporting their ability to be self-determining and solution focused;
- The Whakatau Whanau co-ordinators will inform the work of the Whanau Development Commission;
- Whakatau Whanau co-ordinators will be located in ten communities;
- The project will receive $5m in start-up funding;
- The programme will target decile 1 and 2 schools – and pre-schools in neighbouring locations.1;

1 A total of 528 Decile one and two schools: decile one (275) and decile two (253). Available from http://www.minedu.govt.nz/web/downloadable/dl6434_v1/web-directory-schools.csv
Strategies that may be considered as part of the programme are:
- organising breakfasts in preschool and schools resourced by government, business and community;
- developing clothing banks at the preschools and schools based on donations from the community;
- identifying what resources are necessary to ensure that children from low-income households are able to participate fully in school projects, camps, extra-curricula activities such as sport, music.

MAORI MEDIUM-EDUCATION TEACHER TAUTOKO: RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGY

Government currently provides two specific initiatives for recruitment of Maori medium educators:

*Teach NZ scholarships for Maori-medium pre-school / primary teachers:* Currently there is no limit placed on the number of scholarships allocated.

*Pouwhakataki roles* - twenty face-to-face contact people who act as 'recruitment brokers' for the Ministry of Education, through attending hui, career expos, liaison with local whanau, hapu and iwi etc.

The critical factor is not so much recruitment - but more about retention and completion rates through to employment as Maori immersion teachers.

1. **The Maori Party will establish a new initiative to foster two hundred students per year**, through to graduation as Maori-medium teachers at kohanga reo, kura, wharekura and wananga. The programme will introduce a range of initiatives to create a supportive learning environment which will in turn, underlay a successful teaching experience, eg
   - mentoring programmes,
   - tracking them through as a whanau group/cohort with support,
   - a national hui
   - whanau support.

2. **Review Teach NZ scholarships** with a view to improving accessibility and establishing entry criteria and conditions which are fair and reasonable.

3. **Recruitment mechanisms widened** - all interested applicants to benefit from a tailored package put together for them, with components such as scholarships, academic support, childcare, finances, programme of study
(content, location, duration) each being offered in way that can be custom-built for each student/group of students. Co-ordinators will be employed to open the possibility for more people to make the transition to study.

4. **Resources to enhance retention** - academic and pastoral mentoring initiatives, environmental changes to institutions; people to assist students to negotiate study and whanau responsibilities.
MAORI PARTY EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING POLICY INITIATIVES

The Maori Party have adopted kaupapa. Those kaupapa are accessible to us when we are facing issues which may be either problems or opportunities. The kaupapa are values that cause us to think differently from the usual day-to-day mental activity. From each kaupapa, many different tikanga (policies) can be drawn.

This is the condition out of which innovation grows - innovations that are value-based (innovation grows out of being able to identify the issues and having many alternative solutions to assess). We can predict how to be innovative and we know that we are protected by the values. This is the Maori contribution to the nation’s economy, coupled with education, training, governance, management and entrepreneurship.

The need for meaningful employment and access to global opportunities has also influenced the two proposals for apprenticeship and cadetships.

The Maori Party believes employment and training policy must:
- value staff;
- recognise and respond to cultural diversity;
- recognise the unique contribution employees can make once they are able to maintain the essence of who they are in the work setting;
- invest in skill development and better use of technology; and
- recognise that quality employment and productivity emerge from a decent work environment and decent wages.

1) **THE MAORI PARTY WILL SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE TO $15.00 PER HOUR**

Rangatiratanga and kotahitanga prescribe a rise in the minimum wage to help to reduce the gap between low income taxpayers and the average income for the Nation. The incomes of Maori people are on average $141 less per week than Pakeha [$526 compared to $667]. We propose that the minimum wage rate be increased to $15 per hour which would mean a figure in the vicinity of $30,000 for those working between 37.5 and 40 hours per week.

2) **THE MAORI PARTY WILL ATTACK POVERTY THROUGH A NO TAX POLICY TARGETTED FOR LOW INCOME PEOPLE:**
Manaakitanga and rangatiratanga leads us to address the low income taxpayers:
- 1.9 million taxpayers are on an income of $25,000 or less;
- these people are paying $3.5 billion in tax while the government is accumulating surpluses of $4 billion to $7 billion per year;
- we will use budget surpluses to give tax waivers on the first $25,000 of income.

The Maori Party will also encourage and support individual and whanau savings schemes towards home ownership, towards education savings plans, and towards personal goals.

3) **APPRENTICESHIPS**

We believe that in a buoyant economy we should expect more people to benefit from employment opportunities. In the 1980s the ruthless economic restructuring driven through by Labour increased Maori unemployment to record levels. The damage caused in the 1980s has left a lasting impact, with the unemployment rate of 8.6% for Maori still three times that of Pakeha (3.0%) and more than twice the national rate (3.6%). That equates to 31,600 Maori available for and seeking work.

A responsible government must target the workforce response to meet demand. Particular priority for the Maori Party will be in creating apprenticeships for information technology systems developers and analysts. The number of vacancies in the IT sector has reached a new high. We would consider that specific areas of innovation would include creative ventures in the arts, design and technology and multimedia.

Other areas of priority will be in the sixteen trade areas listed as suffering from acute skill shortages: automotive electrician, baker, boat builder, bricklayer, butcher, cabinet maker, carpenter, diesel mechanic, electrician, fitter and turner, fitter and welder, hairdresser, motor mechanic, panel beater, plumber, sheetmetal worker.

- **The Maori Party will introduce 1000 new apprenticeships**

4) **CADETSHIPS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR**

Given the profile of educational and employment opportunities currently experienced by Maori, the Maori Party will take on young long-term unemployed as ‘cadets’ and provide them with one year on-the-job training. The cadetships will be supported with assistance to cope with transition into the workforce. The cadetships will provide a valuable opportunity to co-collaborate between the private and public sector.

- **The Maori Party will introduce 1000 new cadetships each year with a growth of 1000 per year up to 5000.**
Other priorities in the area of employment and training include:

- improved training environments for improved success and completion;
- promote further amendment to Employment Relations Act for it to become worker-friendly;
- improve access to paid parental leave;
- support for pay and employment equity legislation;
- support the development of a user friendly minimum code of employment conditions;
- initiatives and incentives to facilitate enterprise and full and meaningful employment.
MAORI PARTY ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY PRIORITIES

Ki te pai te manaaki, ka manaakitia.
If we care, nurture and respect, we too will be cared for, nurtured and respected

The Maori Party will:

- **Develop a strategic approach to ensure the well-being and future health of the environment**
  - develop, in consultation with whanau, hapu and their communities, a ‘Taking responsibility for Aotearoa’ environment and conservation strategy;
  - develop an ‘Energy Strategy for Aotearoa’ to ensure the best use of available resources;
  - develop a Transport Strategy now to cope with present and future trends.

The Maori Party is committed to keeping our natural resources and environment healthy, safe and intact for everyone. The Māori Party believes in the efficient use of water, the conservation of energy, and the need for active environmental management.

- **Engage in Active advocacy for Environmental change**
  - Support the repealing of the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004;
  - Oppose seabed mining licences;
  - Encourage local government to implement section 33 of the Resource Management Act 1991;

The Maori Party is also committed to assisting whanau, hapu and iwi, as tangata tiaki to take whatever measures are necessary to ensure the wellbeing and future good health of the environment.

- **Initiate an urgent Cross-Party Parliamentary Commission to develop an over-arching response to the oil crisis**

A society in which financial measures are but one indicator of genuine progress will ensure New Zealand’s future in a low-energy sustainable world. This can be achieved by reducing government, personal and business dependence on oil. An urgent Commission indicates that we are taking the oil crisis seriously, and
we will work together as a nation in a collaborative approach to set up a timeline for action.

- **Healthy Kai Production**
- Support the Hohou te Rongo Declaration and work to prohibit the dumping of toxic waste that poisons, air, water and land
- Make a strong stand against the privatisation of the water.

All peoples have a fundamental right to clean air, land, water and food. This means being protected from the production, release and disposal of toxic and hazardous waste, freedom from ecological destruction and collective responsibility to ensure that we use the resources of the earth in ways that preserve the planet for current and future generations.

**Background to Environmental Management**

The foundation statement of the Maori Party embraces three key facets: Caring for ourselves, Caring for each other and Caring for our world. These key kaupapa cannot be separated – they are intrinsically holistic mirroring the way we approach and live our lives within our communities.

**Caring for ourselves**: Well educated and healthy whānau are fundamental to the stability and progress of Aotearoa;

**Caring for each other**: by promoting inclusive dialogue between Treaty partners, inspiring initiative, sparking collaboration and engendering respect;

**Caring for our world**: utilising the fruits of dialogue and initiative to find innovative solutions to enduring environmental issues.

Since time immemorial, whanau, and hapu have been the custodians over the lands, mountains, waterways, and air space within each tribal area. As custodians they have looked after the environment to the best of their ability so all can benefit. Unfortunately over the last fifty years the environment has become degraded to the extent it is likely to need urgent attention if the current generations are to survive into the next century.

The Maori Party is committed to assisting whanau hapu and iwi, as tangata tiaki to take the necessary measures required to ensure the well-being and future
health of the environment. Tangata whenua are charged with the responsibility of protecting Te Taiao, which includes the flora and fauna.

COMMITMENTS
The Maori Party will:

- protect the natural environment and ecological system;
- support Aotearoa remaining Nuclear Free;
- work towards achieving a GE-Free NZ;
- encourage organic food production and oppose ‘terminator technology’ which prevents food crops from producing seed for the following year;
- reject patents on life forms and opposes bio-piracy of traditional and indigenous knowledge and resources including genes.
- promote a more inclusive participatory approach to managing conserved areas with direct input of communities.
- assist whanau, hapu, and communities to regenerate and revitalise freshwater marine life, protect flora and fauna near extinction; utilise better wetlands through planting of harakeke, kiekie, pingao, and in the case of lakes and lagoons, restore raupo, nourish beaches and sand dunes.
- Work towards ensuring that all people have access to clean air, land, water and food.

"Seasons change naturally, they come and go but our environment must endure.
It is the only one we have."

Angeline Greensill, Candidate for Tainui
Background to Energy Efficiency

The Maori Party is acutely aware about the urgency of peak oil. The International Energy Agency has brought forward its earliest date to 2013 while the Association for the Study of Peak Oil has anticipated major global oil shortages from 2008 on. World experts agree that, globally, we are in the peak oil period – however, the official position of the New Zealand Government is that peak oil will occur 2030. It is critical that we promote an awareness to ‘prepare now’ for the pending energy crisis.

By working on expert advice that Peak Oil is upon us, we have to learn how to make do with what Taranaki can produce; an estimated 84% reduction in our current consumption. Oil is currently at around $US130 a barrel and while we can expect continued spiking of prices, ultimately the price will continue to rise and not reduce back to $US30.

The Maori Party is extremely concerned that the current economic measures of GDP and national budgets are based on outdated oil costs. Conventional economics cannot fix this problem. Industrial capitalism as promoted by the major parties, including policies based on building more roads will not lead New Zealand into a low energy future.

How we utilise our natural resources in a sustainable, environmentally considerate manner, is also critical in ensuring that all New Zealanders have access to affordable energy resources in a world where shortages will mean escalating prices.

We will investigate the case for
- reducing speed limits to 90kms to maximise efficiency;
- prepare a rationing system as required by the International Energy Agency;
- explore bulk purchasing of efficient vehicles to lease/sell to low income buyers at costs they can afford.

We will promote:
- further development of cheap/free regular, reliable and frequent public transport, telecommuting, fully connected off-road tracks and walk ways;
- Support for the rail infrastructure to deliver a better service and thereby reduce the number of cars on the road;
- Petrol and roading taxes to be spent on transport rather than going into the consolidated fund;
- Reducing our dependence upon over 500,000 everyday oil-based items by developing strategies to reuse, recycle, repair, respect, replace, and trade local through information and education.
The Energy Strategy for Aotearoa must also include efficient management of electricity. Strategies that the Maori Party will promote are the:

- investigation of net metering, compulsory solar water heating in all new homes and buildings,
- investigation of passive solar design as mandatory in all new dwellings,
- retrofitting all government buildings with solar water heating and renewable energy power supplies,
- tax breaks for approved passive solar new and retro-fitted design buildings and tax breaks for insulating, solar heating, energy efficient dwellings, businesses and vehicles.

The Maori Party supports improved vehicle fuel efficiency and reduction of vehicle emissions. Balancing of new versus second-hand vehicles needs to be carefully considered as the embedded energy of a brand new fuel-efficient vehicle may not be recovered in its lifetime.

To this end we will explore:
- possibilities for the restriction upon dumping of non-complying (fuel inefficient) vehicles onto the New Zealand market,
- creation of an energy labeling system on all new and used imported vehicles for sale in New Zealand;
- consideration of penalties for the importation for sale or otherwise of vehicles which don’t comply to energy use or emissions.

The Maori Party supports the Kyoto Protocol through energy efficiency and renewable energy actions, such as

- supporting development of small community-based localised renewable energy schemes such as micro-hydro, PV and home-unit wind generators;
- installing locally-made wind generators combined with solar panels, with government subsidies for middle and low income homes.

The establishment of the cross-party Parliamentary Commission on Peak Oil would signal that the Parliament was prepared to take a collaborative, united approach towards the most critical issue facing our future sustainability. The Commission would have the facility to co-opt independent advisors such as the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, or representation from specialist groups such as the Sustainable Energy Forum.

The terms of reference would include

- Investigate the full range of renewable energy sources;
- Initiate proactive research strategies to achieve vehicle fuel efficiency and reduce vehicle emissions;
- Implement the changes required such as developing options to support cheap/free regular, reliable and frequent public transport, and
- Develop immediate timelines for action.
MAORI PARTY HEALTH PRIORITIES

1. DIABETES - HEALTH PROMOTION, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
   - Diabetes causes approximately 1200 deaths per year. Current spending on diabetes is approximately $290m per year. Pricewaterhousecoopers project that the increase in numbers of peoples developing complications such as blindness, limb amputation, dialysis requiring hospitalisation will result in diabetes services accounting for approximately 12% of total health spending by the year 2021. That is, over a billion dollars each year;
   - Maori are 212 times more likely than non-Maori to suffer from diabetes, and are 312 times more likely to suffer diabetic renal failure;
   - The Maori Party is announcing a long-term vision, taking bold and proactive action now, to prevent the further onset of the crippling disease.
     - We will inject an additional $100m per year into diabetes services;
     - All families with a history of diabetes should receive free screening.

2. WELL-BEING PROGRAMMES
   - Money will be held centrally by the Ministry of Health;
   - There will be a focus on wellness programmes, determined by whanau, within their own communities; eg rangatahi waka ama; walking clubs, raranga;
   - Money will be allocated directly to those communities.
     - We will invest $20m per year, into ten regions

3. TREATMENT SERVICES
   - Alcohol and drug services: We must take immediate action to minimise the damage caused to communities and individuals by alcohol, illicit and other drug use. [Government collects more than $1b in alcohol and tobacco taxes and excise];
   - Response to P: Increased use of methamphetamine (P) commonly results in compounding paranoia, psychosis and extreme mood swings. This in turn can lead to violence and offending. The Maori Party initiatives include funding to prevent the production and distribution of methamphetamine to increase whanau health and well-being;
   - Problem gambling: The Maori Party will take bold action to provide information to positively change lives, communities and environments to eliminate the harm caused by gambling [current funding: $19m].
     - Invest an additional $26m on alcohol and drug treatment services;
     - Invest $30M to fund public health education, treatment and intervention services on problem gambling (0.32 of the vote);
     - Invest $5m in investing co-ordinators in ten communities to run education programmes, and provide assistance and support to individuals and families in responding appropriately. We will invest an additional $5m in supporting policing efforts to take action on P.
E kore au e ngaro, he kākano i ruia mai i Rangiātea
I will never be lost, I am a seed broadcast from Rangiātea

“Health is a right not a privilege”

Our vision is a nation in which all people achieve their health potential. We must look to sustainable long-term solutions - to addressing the determinants of health and well-being such as poverty, housing, income, discrimination and the environment – as well as ensuring there are affordable and culturally safe services and treatments for all, regardless of the ability to pay.

The fulfilment of the promises in Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the need for hapū and iwi to be able to achieve self-determination across the board, from whānau involvement in health care plans to hapū and iwi at the governance level, is paramount to addressing Māori health and well-being issues.

To bring this vision into reality, the Māori Party has prioritised the following:

- Free health care for under 6s, over 60s and those who have high-user health cards
- Increase primary and public health funding to keep people well;
- Gold-star access and referral to primary, secondary and tertiary health services for all people, regardless of the ability to pay;
- Addressing hospital waiting-lists;
- A commitment to focus on the determinants of health and well-being, including poverty, housing, income, discrimination and the environment;
- Services to be culturally safe and responsive.
Hutia te rito o te harakeke
Kei hea te komako e ko
Nau e ui mai, he aha te mea nui o tenei ao?
Maku e kii atu
He tangata, he tangata, he tangata!

Ka pu te ruha, ka hau te rangatahi

Rangatahi are an invaluable element of the nation, and are treasured gifts to the world. Rangatahi must today challenge convention and celebrate innovation by engaging in critical thinking, by encouraging positivity and by learning and listening to the wealth of knowledge held by our Kaumatua and Kuia.

One of the kaupapa of the Maori Party is mana tupuna/whakapapa which is about the layering of generations. Each succeeding generation is imbued with the matauranga continuum and has the responsibility of refining, enriching and expanding this continuum.

Rangatahi are tomorrow’s parents, workers, leaders, helpers, spokespeople and mentors. To ensure rangatahi have the ability, confidence and support required to fulfil these roles to the very best of their abilities, a greater rangatahi focus needs to be given to government policy and funding priorities. These priorities are:

- Rangatahi health and well-being programmes, with a focus on prevention;
- Rangatahi tertiary education policy, including student debt write-off and rangatahi/tauira involvement in institutional decision-making;
- Rangatahi whanau leadership development programme, linking to the Whakatau Whanau Co-ordinator initiative;
- Creation of Regional Rangatahi Councils that interface with local and regional authorities;
- Further development of international and Pacific based rangatahi leadership development exchange programmes;
- Ensure that all public policy and legislation contributes to rangatahi well-being and enhancement.
Priorities for the next 3 years

The nation’s political infrastructure of local, regional and central government has difficulty in appealing to, connecting with and appearing relevant to rangatahi. As a consequence rangatahi are disenfranchised from decision-making, with many also feeling disconnected and isolated from a sense of community, inclusion and identity. At the same time there is pressure placed upon rangatahi to take on positions of responsibility within whanau, hapu, iwi, communities, and workplaces.

Alongside this, the employment security that previous generations enjoyed has mostly disappeared, with many training and education options being too costly to pursue to a level where employment and income security is more assured.

In addition, there are significant issues on the horizon that today’s rangatahi will be required to address and negotiate, such as peak oil and New Zealand’s international relations.

Rangatahi need to be well equipped to navigate the challenges ahead, and to build and lead strong communities for a strong, positive nation. In response to this, the Rangatahi Caucus of the Maori Party has prioritised the following areas for the next 3 year term:

1) **Rangatahi Positive Life Enhancement Policies and Programmes**

   Rangatahi positive life enhancement policies and programmes must start with the creation of life-skills courses for secondary school students – these should cover identity support, whanau development, life protection (which includes suicide prevention, smoke-free and drug-free initiatives); health, sport and fitness academies and environmental promotion. The Maori Party will seek and advocate for the provision of funding that can be accessed to support marae-based wananga that will encourage marae-based learning and can nurture environments of cultural affirmation. Rangatahi leadership will also be encouraged and supported with Pacific and international educational exchanges.

2) **Rangatahi Tertiary Education Policy**

   (i) **Total Student Debt Write-off**: The $10 billion student debt is a barrier to learning for the next generation, and needs to be written off by the end of the 2009 financial year in order to allow rangatahi to make a successful transition to parenthood, home-ownership, financial security, and community-mindedness. In particular, Maori student debt is escalating at

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2 This is additional to the Maori Party’s current student loans, fees and allowances policy package.
a greater rate than non-Maori student debt. This makes for more Maori with debt, and with a lot more debt per student – resulting in a much greater level of indebtedness for Maori generally. Current government accounting protocols which list student loan debt as an asset on the state contradicts their duty to protect and enhance the next generation.

(ii) Rangatahi involvement in institutional decision-making: It is critical that a tauira voice is heard and responded to by institutions and government in relation to governance, funding priorities and curriculum development. The Maori Party opposes the removal of student representation from tertiary institution councils, and advocates for at least one of the 3 seats reserved for students under the Education Act 1989 to be reserved for a Maori students’ representative. It is also critical that institutions fulfil their obligations to consult with students on Plans and SSG funding, through a Tauira Consultation Statement.

3) Creation of Regional Rangatahi Councils

Rangatahi require a vehicle through which to contribute to decision-making at the local and regional government level, and a vehicle through which to be mentored in community leadership and development roles. The Maori Party advocates for the creation of Regional Rangatahi Councils that would interface with local and regional authorities.

The rangatahi councils would be established, co-ordinated and operated in and through a Te Tiriti o Waitangi framework, with members interfacing with local whanau, hapu and marae, upon their agreement. The intention is for the Regional Rangatahi Councils to provide a clear means through which rangatahi can be integrally included and involved in the nation’s political infrastructure. They would also serve to build governance experience and expertise in rangatahi, while boosting the membership and activity of regional areas.

The Maori Party will seek and advocate for the provision of funding for the establishment of Rangatahi Regional Councils in the 2009 budget.
MAORI PARTY WHANAU FIRST POLICY

Frequently Asked Questions - WHANAU FIRST

1. **What is the difference between whanau and families?**
   Whanau is a uniquely Maori model of economic, social and cultural organisation. It values collective effort as much as (and sometimes even more than) individual effort. It has parallels (such as families, aiga) in other cultures but whanau is specific to Maori culture.

2. **Why do we need to focus on whanau specifically?**
   Whanau is home-grown. It is not indigenous to any other part of the world and it is specific to Maori. Whanau is an unheralded model for achieving economic security, creating social cohesion and stability and strengthening cultural identity. Whanau is subsumed in the concept of families and for Maori this is not always helpful.

3. **What exactly will the Maori Party do to fulfil its Whanau First goals?**
   The Maori Party will establish a Whanau Development Commission to advise future governments on how to empower whanau to reach their potential, promote innovation and leadership within whanau and develop an economic and social policy programme that responds specifically to the needs of whanau.
   
The Party will also develop a Whanau Enterprise Programme to help drive economic advancement amongst whanau and increase the number of successful whanau business enterprises operating around the country.

4. **What is the difference between the Whanau Development Commission and the Families Commission?**
   The role and function of the Whanau Development Commission will be determined according to kaupapa Maori (Maori values and principles).

5. **What are the first couple of things you would want the Whanau Development Commission to do?**
   Review economic, social and cultural development policies and programmes to:
   - Determine where current expenditure on families is being targeted
   - What effect that spend is having or has had on whanau
   - Identify areas for improvement
   - Based on its analysis, provide advice on whether, where and how government might re-orient its existing and future economic, social and cultural development investment in whanau

6. **What is the Whanau Enterprise Programme about?**
   The programme will:
(a) Provide incentives for the development and growth of whanau-based business enterprises
(b) Help whanau to gain confidence in their ability to develop, grow, manage and make the decisions about their own assets
(c) Tap into their own ingenuity, adaptability and entrepreneurship
(d) Help to build and support whanau-focused business practice.
PROTECTION OF THE MAORI SEATS: MAORI PARTY

‘Like the Treaty of Waitangi, the Maori Parliamentary seats stand as an enduring symbol of their constitutional status - and historic statements of principle, like symbols, are essential tools in re-building our national identity’

Chief Judge Durie


Policy Principles

- The particular status of the Maori Parliamentary seats will be protected until such time as there is a broader and more meaningful process of constitutional change; or Maori freely choose through a tangata whenua referendum; to abolish the seats.

- We promote the entrenchment of section 45 of the Electoral Act. [Section 35, which defines the General seats, is currently entrenched but section 45, which defines the Maori seats, does not currently provide for entrenchment].

- We promote the entrenchment of the legislation requiring the implementation of a
  - binding tangata whenua referendum (75% majority) and
  - the vote of at least 75% of the House to ensure amendment.

Rationale

The grounds upon which this policy is based are three fold -

(a) The Treaty argument ensuring that as parties to the Treaty Maori should at least be guaranteed representation in the organs of kawanatanga.

(b) The Treaty and human rights self determination argument that Maori must make the decisions about Maori representation.

(c) The international rights argument, especially under Article 19 of the UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which states

- “Indigenous Peoples have the right to participate fully, if they so choose, at all levels of decision-making in matters which may affect their rights, lives and destinies through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures...”
Maori Desire to Retain the Maori Electoral Seats

In spite of their inauspicious and indeed undemocratic beginnings Maori now regard those seats as the only guarantee of at least a minimal degree of representation. The Electoral Act 1993, and its predecessor, the Maori Representation Act, 1867, have provided for a separate Maori polity in the form of a separate Maori electoral roll.

A major disparity between the Māori and general electoral systems remains.

The exclusion of the system of Māori representation from the entrenched provisions of the 1956 Electoral Act, is described by Professor Ranginui Walker as:

“perhaps the most discriminatory measure of all in the application of the law to Māori representation.”

The 1986 electoral system Royal Commission recommended the Maori seats be abolished, but Maori successfully opposed the move through the Waitangi Tribunal. Maori already on a roll can opt to change only once every five years when the Maori electoral option is run. The next option runs in 2011.

Although the provisions of the 1956 Act were mostly superseded by those of the 1993 Electoral Act, the provisions regulating the general electorate seats are entrenched in the 1993 Act, while those concerning Māori representation are not. What this means in practical effect is that all the sections containing provisions related to Maori representation can be repealed by a simple majority in the House.

These provisions are: the definition of Māori, the Māori electoral districts, the Māori electoral population, the Māori electoral option and Māori electoral rolls (Sections 3(1), 45, 76-79 and 84); and the supply of electoral information to "designated bodies" (Sections 111C-112). By contrast, any change to the provisions relating to the general electorate seats requires either a 75% majority in the House of Representatives, or a referendum.

The level of protection for the Maori electoral seats is therefore highly discriminatory. The policy position announced today is to address the matter of discrimination, and ensure that Maori enjoy equality under the law.