

# THE YOUTH DECLARATION 2019



**AOTEAROA  
YOUTH DECLARATION**  
**WHAKAPUTANGA  
RANGATAHI 2019**



**UN+**  
**YOUTH**  
INSPIRING GLOBAL CITIZENS





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# FOREWORD

Rangatahi across Aotearoa are facing unprecedented challenges, yet too often we are excluded from the decision-making processes directly affecting our lives.

The Youth Declaration is not only a youth created document outlining a youth vision for Aotearoa, but a platform for the voices of young people to be uplifted, recognised, and valued by our communities, and decision-makers. It is a call to action to listen, meaningfully involve, and respect the experiences and realities of rangatahi, their contributions to their communities, and their ideas to tackle the issues our society faces.

Aotearoa Youth Declaration 2019 was the largest and most diverse yet. Our regional events in Rotorua and Hawkes Bay allowed us to engage on a community level to capture stronger insights to the experiences of young people in those areas.

This document is designed for public and decision-makers to use, to inform them of the issues and challenges that are of concern and significance to young people, and most importantly the solutions they want to see.

As an annual event, we continue to strive to include more rangatahi to ensure The Youth Declaration truly is a representative document. Organised by youth volunteers at UN Youth New Zealand, we seek to grow relationships, collaborate, and financial partnerships so we can continue to provide this life-changing conference and document.

The kaupapa of the conference will not stay at the conference, but be carried on through the work of participants in sharing The Youth Declaration and advocating for youth involvement in decision-making, and through decision-makers and communities taking on board the insights in this document.

It was a pleasure to organise this conference and see it grow over the past three years. I look forward to seeing the young leaders make a difference in their communities and champion this kaupapa.

Victoria Rhodes-Carlin.  
Aotearoa Youth Declaration 2019 Coordinator.

Hayley Dick, Te Mahara Swanson Hall, Julia Caulfield, Jessica Zhou, Kasey Nihill, Isabella Francis, Gemma Singh.  
Aotearoa Youth Declaration 2019 Organising Committee.





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aotearoa Youth Declaration 2019 was the biggest and most diverse yet. Nearly 350 rangatahi, volunteers and participants, from across Aotearoa gathered in Auckland this April to identify the biggest challenges facing our country and develop tangible solutions to them.



This document, The Youth Declaration 2019, is the culmination of four days of critical discussions, research, and developing innovative ideas. It is a collective youth vision for Aotearoa, created for decision-makers to refer to as a means of engaging with youth perspectives from all across our nation.



A brief glance across the Youth Declaration reveals that young New Zealanders are deeply concerned about inaction in the face of climate change, the lack of mental health services for our communities, the prevalence of racism and discrimination in Aotearoa and many more issues requiring urgent answers. Above all, it is clear that rangatahi want to see fundamental changes across all aspects of our society.



This document is a call to action for our decision-makers to listen, involve, value and respect the ideas, concerns, and hopes of rangatahi. Young people across the country are already creating transformative change in their communities, but need extra support from our community leaders.



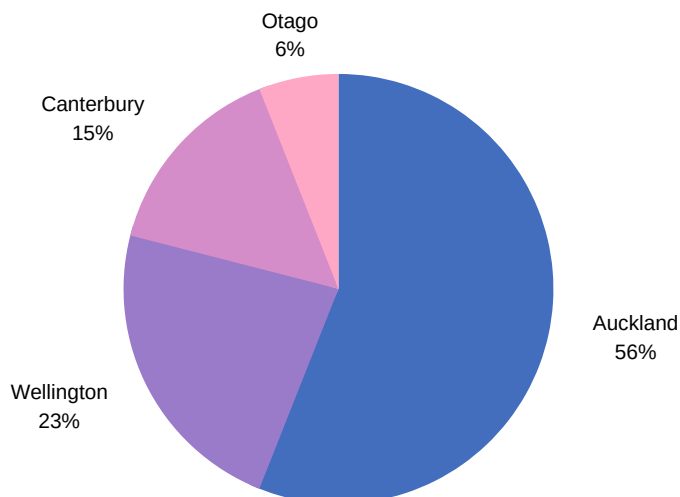
Use this document to inform your decisions, but also take steps towards meaningfully including young people at your decision-making table. There is no substitute for the actual presence of meaningful youth voice in the future directions of Aotearoa.

Rangatahi want decision-makers to know that they are knowledgeable on issues, that they should have a greater say in decision-making as they will be dealing with the decisions made today.

*"Just because we are young, doesn't mean our opinions are less valuable than adults. We're the ones who are impacted by the decisions made today and because of this, we need to be part of the discussion."*  
Participant, age 14.



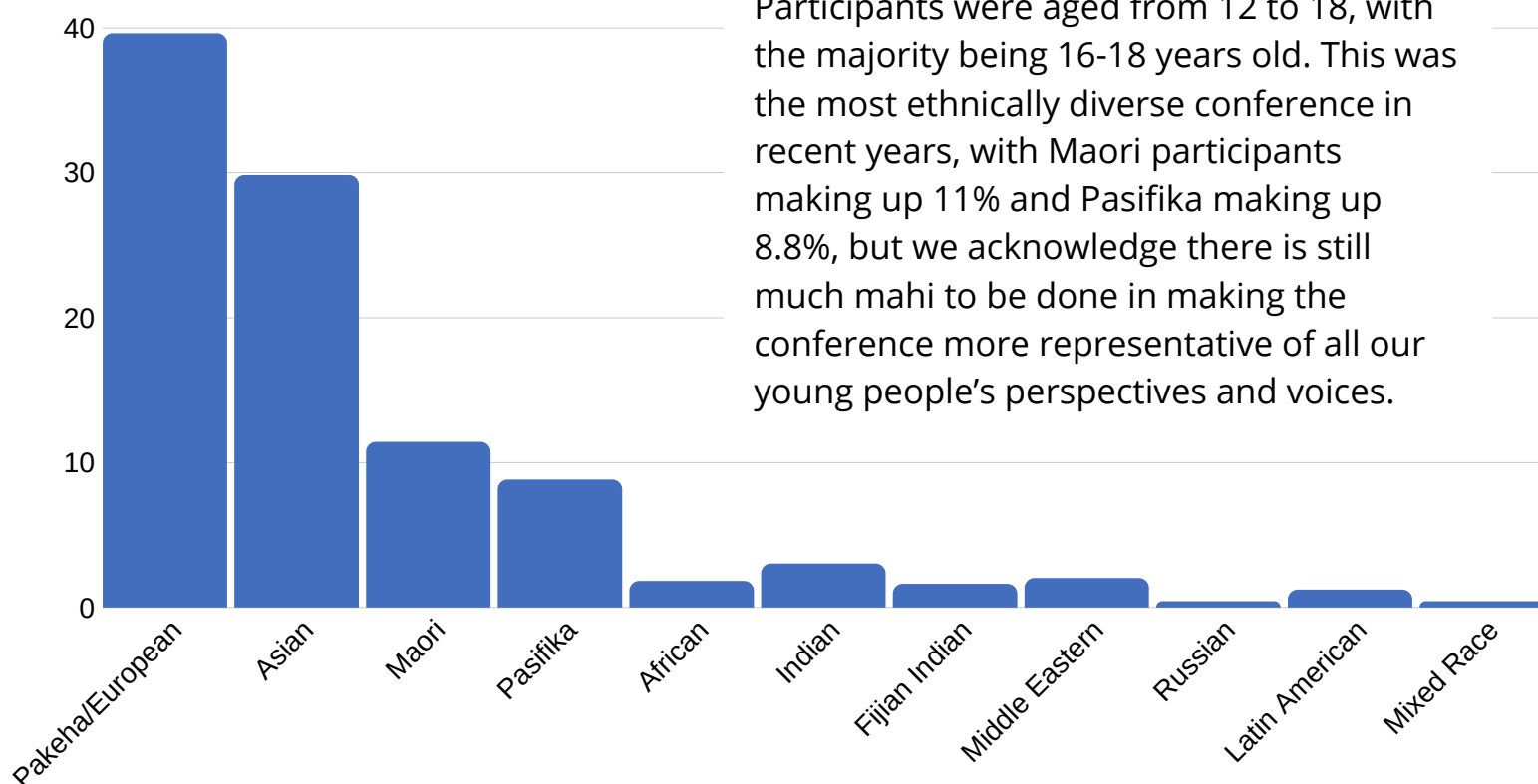
# SUMMARY CONTINUED



Over 250 participants and 100 volunteers took part in Aotearoa Youth Declaration 2019 between the 13th and 17th April 2019 at the University of Auckland. We contacted every high school in Aotearoa, engaged with a huge number of youth organisations and charities, and partnered with awesome leaders from all walks of life to support rangatahi in attending the conference.



Participants came from Kaitiaki to Invercargill and everywhere in between! Our regional breakdown data is unfortunately not specific, but is grouped between Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago. We had groups of rangatahi come from Kaitiaki, Rotorua, Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, and Invercargill, making it the most regionally diverse conference we have had to date!



Participants were aged from 12 to 18, with the majority being 16-18 years old. This was the most ethnically diverse conference in recent years, with Maori participants making up 11% and Pasifika making up 8.8%, but we acknowledge there is still much mahi to be done in making the conference more representative of all our young people's perspectives and voices.



# AOTEAROA YOUTH DECLARATION 2019

Over 250 rangatahi from across Aotearoa were spread across 22 rōpū, each lead by two tertiary students facilitators and with each representing a particular area of global society.

In their rōpū, participants researched a range of significant issues and challenges within their respective topic. This research process was supplemented by every rōpū having its own expert speakers visit to run interactive workshops on their focus points. Many rōpū went out into Auckland city in our Outreach Programme, visiting organisations with direct relevance to their particular field in order to gain on the ground insights. Our rōpū then vigorously discussed the issues facing their respective areas and narrowed down these down to their top three biggest concerns - no easy task by any means.



Our rōpū then explored and discussed different solutions, gradually and carefully developing their solution statements. The Aotearoa Youth Declaration stands as a testimony to those solutions. Each of the following rōpū groups have summarized their statements on a single page of the Declaration. On the final day of conference, our rōpū merged together and reviewed each other's statements, giving every single participant a chance to have their say in all sections of the final Youth Declaration.

Alongside the development of the statements, our holistic educational workshop programme inspired, developed and empowered rangatahi. Our Civics Workshop provided an overview of governance, te Tiriti o Waitangi, and citizenship in Aotearoa. Participants then explored ways to create a civics education programme for the New Zealand curriculum.



# AOTEAROA YOUTH DECLARATION 2019

Our Intersectionality and Identity Workshop welcomed Kera May, Jason Broberg, Bilal Nasier, Kate Ascroft, Litia Tuiburelevu, facilitated by Victoria Rhodes-Carlin to speak on intersectionality in Aotearoa. The workshop broke down the fundamental concept of intersectionality and explored the social impacts of the multiple and compounding oppressions and privileges that some people face. This was an eye opening experience for many rangatahi, providing an important lens for their statement and solution creation.



The Tuakana Teina workshop was an exciting and interactive korero from Ngāti Pikiao Trust trust, teaching participants about role models and relationships, before breaking off into the subsequent Tikanga Workshop. Participants explored the importance of te ao Maori and tikanga, learning how to actively and meaningfully incorporate it into their decision-making.



The Active Citizenship workshop allowed participants to choose from a range of awesome guests, each running their own particular workshops focusing on specific personal development. Across the workshops, participants gained the skills, knowledge and confidence to be active citizens in their communities. We would like to give a big thank you to Chloe Swarbrick for running the political engagement and change workshop, Action Education for facilitating an incredible spoken word workshop, Activate Film for sharing their knowledge and skills on storytelling for change, and Curative for exploring social movements and giving a platform for rangatahi to design youth engagement programmes.



# A YOUTH VISION FOR AOTEAROA

These are the ten core concerns and hopes of rangatahi for Aotearoa.

## MENTAL HEALTH

Better and more accessible mental health services for rangatahi and whanau. They want better education around what services and help is available, how to identify early signs, how to support others, and for mental health to be taken as a serious and legitimate health concern.

## SEX EDUCATION

Rangatahi want to see holistic detailed sex education be compulsory throughout New Zealand. Education should include consent, sexual health, healthy relationships, gender and sexual minorities.

## STRESS & EXAMS

Exams and school workload is the biggest stress in young people's lives. They want to see fundamental shifts in the curriculum that focus on teaching life skills, balance the busy and complicated lives of 21st century rangatahi.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Young people are seriously concerned about Climate Change, being the second most important issue after mental health. They want to see ambitious, widespread action and commitments from government and the agricultural industry to reducing greenhouse gases.

## YOUTH HUBS

Rangatahi want more youth focused services, community hubs and events that support happiness and wellbeing. Young people want to connect, feel valued and contribute to the community.



# A YOUTH VISION FOR AOTEAROA

## BODY IMAGE

Body image and societal expectations cause much stress and pressure for rangatahi. Young people want to feel comfortable in themselves, feel valued for who they are, and not feel pressured into looking or being a certain way.

## REPRESENTATION OF MINORITIES

Young people are concerned about discrimination, racism, sexism, homophobia, and ableism in our schools, community and media. They call for greater positive representation of minority groups in the media, government and business leadership.

## VOTING AGE AT 16

Rangatahi want to see the voting age lowered to 16 so they may fully participate in our democracy and contribute to the direction of their local communities.

## INCLUSION OF RANGATAHI

Rangatahi are actively involved in their communities, but are not valued or involved in the decision-making processes that affect them. They want a seat at the table, to be respected and given autonomy to create and innovate. Importantly, they need to appropriately compensated for the work they do and recognised for their contributions.

## ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Rangatahi call for greater and more accessible health services for children, youth and whanau. Dental care, GPs, specialist doctors, mental health, and sexual health services are in great demand and need to be financially and culturally accessible.





# HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

Each rōpū has developed three solution statements. It is no easy task narrowing down tens of ideas to just the three most important and consequently, we ask you to bear in mind that other issues of great significance to our rangatahi may exist beyond the statements alone. Each statement identifies a problem and offers a tangible course of action.

The percentage number next to each statement gives its the agreeability ranking. This new system has allowed every single participant across all rōpū groups to individually rate how much they agree or disagree with each statement on a scale of 1 to 5, with higher values equating to higher proportions of rangatahi standing behind each particular statement. The percentage given is based of the number of those that agreed (ranked 4 and 5). Above 50% is a strong agreeability, 40-49% shows a reasonable agreeability, and under 40% is not well agreed with. Reasons for low agreeability rankings may be a lack of understanding of the topic or general disagreement. There is a table at the back of the document with neutral and disagreement percentages.

Each statement identifies an important concern voiced by our young people for you to acknowledge, consider, and reflect on how you can work towards achieving it in your home, community or business. If we want Aotearoa to continue on its path towards a truly inclusive society, the needs and views of our youth must be given significant weight.

## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

Aotearoa Youth Declaration is entirely run off the commitment and dedication of voluntary young people over a 10 month period. It is no easy task coordinating so many facets of the conference and the Youth Declaration.

Each year, our core focus is to ensure the conference is accessible and representative of young people. We have to charge participants and volunteers conference fees to cover conference costs. We rely on funding from grants, but often fall short in having enough financial security to achieve our goals.

You can support us financially by sponsoring the conference in a number of ways. You can offer scholarships for youth participation, cover individual registration fees, or regional delegation fees (accommodation) and travel costs. You can also support us in developing our educational materials, as printing is one of our main costs.

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We collaborate with a range of awesome leaders and organisations, and rely on their generosity to provide our life-changing educational programme to as many young people as possible. Our expert speaker programme and outreach programme is always looking for new partnerships to facilitate an interactive and quality educational session for each of our rōpū.

You can contact [president@unyouth.org.nz](mailto:president@unyouth.org.nz) to express your interest in supporting our kaupapa in anyway!

# THANK YOU



## AOTEAROA YOUTH DECLARATION 2019 ORGANISING COMMITTEE

From left: Julia Caulfield (Registrations), Isabella Francis (Equity & Promotions), Jessica Zhou (Logistics), Te Mahara Swanson Hall (Education & Equity), Victoria Rhodes-Carlin (Coordinator), Gemma Singh (Design & Social Media), Kasey Nihill (Relations), Hayley Dick (Education), Jayden van Leeuwen (UN Youth President 2019).

Over 10 months, this committee worked tirelessly to bring Aotearoa Youth Declaration to life and curated The Youth Declaration. Their passion and dedication to this kaupapa is what made this the biggest and most diverse conference yet.



## OUR SPONSORS



**MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO TAIOHI

*Administered by the Ministry of Social Development*



**New Zealand National  
Commission for UNESCO**  
Te Kōmihana Matua o Aotearoa mō UNESCO





# THE YOUTH DECLARATION 2019

EDUCATION

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# ACCESSIBILITY

## AWARENESS AND REPRESENTATION

64%

We recognise there is a lack of representation and awareness for people with disabilities in institutions such as the workforce, media and government, consequently they are not given equal opportunities to make decisions in the public and private sector. This both contributes to, and reinforces, the stigmatisation, marginalisation, and alienation of people with disabilities. We propose introducing a “disability” tick for businesses modeled on the rainbow tick and increasing funding available for the fair and equal representation of people with disabilities in the film industry. We also support the proposals of the Election Access Fund Bill.



58%

## EDUCATION

We are concerned by the inadequate support for, and segregation of, rangatahi with disabilities in the education system. The lack of an individualised and adaptable approach to education can decrease the quality of their education. This impacts negatively on the ability of rangatahi with disabilities to live as independent and autonomous individuals both at school and after they leave the education system. We suggest ensuring students with disabilities are actively involved in decision-making, particularly in designing their Individual Education Plan (IEP) and choosing whether to attend an Learning Support Centre (LSC) or mainstream school. We also believe that training for teachers on how to best support and include rangatahi with disabilities should be a priority.

## LEGISLATION

54%

We recognise a lack of legislation in Aotearoa protecting the rights of people with disabilities. In particular, we are alarmed that people with disabilities may legally be paid below the minimum wage. Consequently, people with disabilities are not afforded opportunities to be active members of society. We propose introducing legislation that requires people with disabilities to be paid on an equal basis to the rest of the population. In addition, we support establishing legislation similar to the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). This includes the prohibition of privately owned public accommodation from discriminating against people with disabilities, and allowing equal employment opportunities and benefits. Lastly, we recommend that Ministry of Health funding for disability-related costs is increased to match that of ACC.



# CLIMATE ACTION

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTION

55%

We see a problem with inner-city focus on driving over other transport methods and a lack of zero/carbon neutral methods of transport due to systematic reliance on private transport. This leads to congestion, pollution (light, noise and environmental), and high greenhouse gas emissions. Our rangatahi identified a need for a culture shift to embrace sustainable methods of transport and the infrastructure to support it. At the current stage, we see that emissions of many harmful gases (such as nitrous oxides) can be mitigated through alternative forms of transport like walking, public transport and biking. Our proposed solution is moving to carbon free cities as stated in the Paris Agreement, through the increased addition of bike racks throughout cities, increasing parking costs to incentivise using alternative transport, and adding necessary infrastructure to provide alternative transport.

## INDIGENOUS INCLUSION

55%

We identified a lack of indigenous representation in Aotearoa in regard to climate action, including the recognition of climate refugees. This is important because of the principle of kaitiakitanga (care/guardianship of the land) which we see as fundamental. We acknowledge Māori within Aotearoa as being most susceptible to the catastrophic effects of climate change, especially the whenua, moana and awa (land, sea, and rivers). Firstly, we propose more general education within school curricula around climate change and the significance of land and its resources. Secondly, we would also like to see the support and encouragement of a PPP (public-private partnership) between governments and local iwi. Lastly, we believe we need to actively recognise climate refugees within New Zealand, and the importance of their voices in addition to local iwi in legislation consultation.



## AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE

52%

The agriculture sector contributes to our GDP, markets and cultural identity. This has given it a substantial amount of economic leverage which can hinder positive climate action policies from being realized. We particularly see the widespread and detrimental practice of over-fertilization, paired with unsustainable dairy farming, causing eutrophication and extensive greenhouse gas emissions. Solutions we see include: investing in research and development of more sustainable practices, which reinforces our environmental conscience and position as an environmentally friendly nation; introducing a fertilizer quota based on proximity to waterways, land area and fertility; and implementing subsidies to diversify livestock, to move away from dairy farming and the substantial amount of methane produced by it.

# CULTURE & DIVERSITY

## RAISING AWARENESS OF MULTICULTURALISM AND DIFFERENT CULTURAL IDENTITIES 51%

Multiculturalism is the diversity of cultures, religions, and people. We have over 213 ethnic groups in Aotearoa. There are 160 languages spoken throughout the country and 59% of New Zealanders affiliate themselves to a religion. Individuals in Aotearoa lack awareness of the diversity of New Zealanders and the impact of their reactions towards cultures with which they are not familiar. The impacts of discrimination and prejudice include isolation, alienation, and under-representation for minority groups. We believe these impacts stem from misallocated resources, institutionalised racism and the lack of understanding and acknowledgement of diversity. Specifically, culture is portrayed from a colonial viewpoint, in such a way that denies the authentic voice of those unheard. We propose involvement of people within all cultures to find common ground. We urge local and central government to work in conjunction with the representatives of religious, cultural, and language awareness groups to educate, celebrate, and incorporate cultural diversity into everyday Aotearoa New Zealand.

50%

## RACISM AND PREJUDICE IN SOCIETY

Casual and subtle racism exists in New Zealand. For too long we have ignored, tolerated, and perpetuated institutional racism and prejudice. New Zealanders are locked in a cycle of discrimination, including stereotypes, assumptions and bigotry. This informs decision-making processes in workplaces, schools, local government, and national government. We propose New Zealanders break stereotypes in all of these places. Through calling out and confronting racism, prejudice, and unfair treatment, intentional or not, we unite in giving nothing to racism, encouraging the celebration and acceptance of difference.

## TE AO MĀORI IN EVERYDAY LIFE

51%

Aotearoa has a fundamental lack of Te Reo Māori, tikanga and Māori hītori for a bicultural country. Currently, the number of teachers and quality resources adequate to teach these is insufficient. We propose integration of everyday Te Reo Māori, tikanga Māori, and hītori Māori into all spheres of life, with a targeted approach within all school practices and curricula.







# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## EXTENDING THE BRIGHTLINE TAX

**33%**

Some people in New Zealand receive income through the sale of capital. The current system means that these individuals pay less tax. This increases income inequality in New Zealand as individuals who rely solely on their labour income pay proportionately more tax than people who have a capital gains income. Our recommendation would be to extend the current Bright-Line Test for Residential Property, where we introduce a tax on the capital gains of an individual's second and subsequent property at:

- A tax levied in accordance to the current income tax rates on property that they have owned for less than 8 years, for those living in the country.
- A tax rate of ~10% on property that they have owned for more than 8 years, again for those living in the country.
- A tax rate of ~33%/~50% on property owned by taxpayers living outside of New Zealand.
- We recommend that this should be implemented under the following guidelines:
  - People are able to apply to deduct expenses on their investment.
  - People will be taxed at the point of sale, separate from income tax.

## TRADE

**47%**

New Zealand's standard of living could be higher if we export more products. Through increased free trade agreements with the European Union and other trading blocs, we could maximise the export receipts for NZ companies. We should promote ethical, environmentally friendly, luxury products that build on NZ's clean, green, smart, and friendly reputation. This is because we have already maximised their value, so other countries cannot profit from them. For example; Manuka honey, wine, lamb, merino, seafood, paua, pounamu, kiwifruit and feijoas.

## CONCERN FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

**39%**

We are concerned about unemployment in New Zealand because we want people to have access to desirable jobs. However, we do not want an overly high minimum wage to contribute to this unemployment. Therefore we recommend reducing the recent \$1.20 increase in the minimum wage, but in the future increasing the minimum wage in line with inflation. We further recognise that many people are dependent on the temporal work "gig economy" for income, and want to ensure that these people have access to decent living standards through reliable wages. Therefore, when temporal work dependent contractors earn less than the minimum wage, their company should make up the difference.

# EDUCATION



## EQUITABLE RESOURCE ALLOCATION

52%

We wish to see equitable resource distribution and learning opportunities for all schools and teachers. We wish to emphasise the importance of eliminating differences in learning opportunities arising from differences in socio-economic backgrounds, the societal value of teachers, and eliminating social stigma towards vocational and academic pathways.

Lower decile public schools should retain experienced and quality staff through targeted incentives, financial or otherwise (not including performance pay).



## CURRICULUM

56%

We encourage the development of a 21st century curriculum that strives to be adaptable, innovative and flexible through:

- Implementing a mandatory and comprehensive sexual education curriculum that includes but is not limited to consent, sexual health, healthy relationships and Gender and Sexual Minorities (GSM).
- Creating a fair and balanced ethical and religious education programme with the goal of promoting diversity, acceptance and global citizenship, alongside any pre-existing religious instruction.
- Incorporating student inquiry of project-based learning alongside the development of practical life skills, with minimum requirements as outlined by the Ministry of Education.

## EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT 58%

We endorse the creation of a positive education environment especially through the implementation of:

- Measures to make sure teachers have the necessary resources, pay and professional development to provide powerful, unbiased education. This will ensure consistently high standards of education across Aotearoa.
- Cultivation of school culture which values freedom of expression, diversity, and freedom from discrimination while empowering holistic perspectives of success beyond traditional measures.



## WASTE MANAGEMENT

55%

Aotearoa's municipal waste has increased from 730.6 kg per capita in 2016 to 739.7 kg per capita in 2017. Our waste production proportional to our population is increasing, leading to an inability to cope with the amount of excess rubbish. We propose shifting Aotearoa's economy from a linear economy to a more circular economy, achieved through increased funding and specific education. We advise:

- Investment in aluminium and plastic recycling plants in order to gradually stop the amount of recyclable waste shipped overseas;
- The incorporation of a zero waste curriculum based around the circular economy to be into the school curriculum, using the model implemented at Western Springs College, Auckland;
- Encouraging businesses to adopt environmentally friendly packaging in order to tackle our waste problem.

## SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

53%

With Aotearoa set to achieve 90% renewable energy by 2025 we believe that it is possible to achieve 100% renewable energy. Aotearoa is too reliant on non-renewable energy sources. This issue is important because we believe that we should focus on sustainable development in our country. We propose that:

- The Government should invest and develop existing infrastructure to adapt to modern standards of sustainability (green roofs, urban wetlands, living cities);
- Institutions and industry professionals should invest and develop methods of sourcing and distributing renewable energy (geothermal, solar, wind);
- Financial support for environmental innovation and scientific research should be offered in all sectors aligning with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda.

## BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

54%

As kaitiaki (guardians/caretakers) of this land, we recognize that we have a responsibility to protect our natural taonga (treasure). Protecting our biodiversity and enhancing conservation efforts is crucial to maintaining a healthy ecosystem. We implore the government to allocate resources towards habitat conservation. This approach should include:

- Preservation of wetlands, restoring native forests and utilizing an ecosystem-based adaptation when addressing issues such as Kauri Dieback, Myrtle Rust etc.;
- Improved education focusing on the conservation of habitats as a whole, rather than specific species;
- Improved and accurate media representation of Aotearoa's biodiversity;
- A strong focus on Aotearoa's use of our Exclusive Economic Zone, with an attempt to maximise protection in this space;
- A gradual increase from 0.4% to 30% (international standard) in the amount of marine and coastal areas protected under Marine Protected Areas.

# EQUITY

## EDUCATION IN PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS

53%

The education system in Aotearoa is not inclusive for LGBTQIA+ youth. This is a significant problem because LGBTQIA+ youth in Aotearoa are not provided with a safe environment to fully participate in the education system. Parliamentary information shows that select “LGB” youth are 6.2 times more likely to attempt suicide. It is important to establish the normality of LGBTQIA+ youth and create a positive and safe environment for both students and staff. We call for increased funding for increased LGBTQIA+ inclusive materials in primary schools from the Ministry of Education. This helps to normalise sexual and gender diverse people at a time when youth are beginning to understand complex relationships.



## 49% IMPROVED MEDICAL PRACTICES



Medical practices for transgender and gender diverse individuals are resourced insufficiently (lack of access to blockers, binders, HRT (hormone replacement therapy) and specialised medical professionals) with little subsidies. Practices including unnecessary surgery on intersex people is a wasteful expenditure which infringes on bodily autonomy and poses health risks among non-critical patients. We strongly encourage that forced/unnecessary surgery after birth and in early childhood is made illegal for the child cannot consent to those procedures. Blockers should be readily available for transgender and gender diverse youth entering puberty; HRT and blockers should be available to youth after informed medical consent and medical/parental consultation.

## ALTERNATIVE SECURITY MEASURES AT PRIDE

47%

Pride Parades in Aotearoa have come under contention regarding law enforcement presence as both march participants AND security. This is due to a history of discrimination and brutality. Pride is an important symbol of acceptance, celebration, and normalisation for the LGBTQIA+ community. These events must run regardless of administration issues as they are an integral part of the community. A practical solution would be encouraging alternative security measures at Pride Parades e.g. encouraging NZP to act as march participants and/or having alternative presentation of uniform (such as casual wear) to reduce intimidation issues.



# GENDER EQUALITY



## REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS 52%

It is imperative that negative social attitudes towards abortion are eradicated immediately in order to uphold the rights of women. We should initially remove abortion from the Crimes Act, which we reaffirm is a stance supported by the UN. We believe that the most effective policy model is either Model A or Model C of the draft abortion policies proposed by the NZ Law Commission, as they empower women (and pregnant people) to have full control over their bodies. Lack of accessibility prevents people from receiving the reproductive care that they need. There is a severe lack of medical facilities for people to undergo abortion in rural areas of New Zealand. This issue is critical for the hauora of people in Aotearoa as reproduction concerns all genders. It is important to increase the accessibility of medical clinics that provide abortion services in rural communities, by mobilising the medical treatment available.

## PAY GAP

50%

Inequity pushes certain women further down the workforce and can halt major societal change. Our current economic employment system does not offer adequate opportunities for women to enter, re-enter, or progress in the workplace. There needs to be a higher visibility of diverse women in positions of leadership in all sectors. Gender equality starts and ends with social and financial equality for women of all races, ages, abilities and orientations. Thus, we challenge GDP as a measurement of social progress and suggest investigating the Human Development Index as an alternative. We also encourage genderless application processes. We suggest the implementation of educational initiatives aimed at women and misrepresented minorities in order to encourage a more diverse population in powerful positions.

## SAFETY

54%

We are appalled by the existence of gender-based objectification, harassment, and violence in our society. While we acknowledge that steps have been taken to attempt to support survivors, further actions must be implemented to tackle the root of the problem; social stigma. Survivors often do not come forward for fear of scrutiny. It is vital to view gender-based violence through an intersectional lens. Aotearoa must be held accountable in accordance with the United Nations CEDAW principles and take immediate action. Ways to combat the issue include:

- Raising awareness for the causes of gender-based violence;
- Allocating more funding to organisations such as refuges and the Ministry for Women so that they can support survivors.



# GOVERNANCE

## PRISONER VOTING RIGHTS

50%

Currently, the Electoral (Disqualification of Sentenced Prisoners) Amendment Act 2010 does not allow any prisoners to vote in Aotearoa. Prisoners are still given other fundamental rights as citizens of our democratic country. This policy breaches the principles of universal suffrage and the right to vote as affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Additionally, prisoners are disenfranchised and disengaged. We propose that all prisoners should be given the right to vote in Aotearoa. This will encourage prisoners to engage with the policies that affect them, noting that prisons should intend to reintegrate prisoners into society. This will also encourage decision-makers to consider the interests of prisoners, noting that there are systemic issues which cause the incarceration of disproportionate numbers of Māori and Pasifika citizens.

## VOTING AGE

44%

Currently, the Electoral Act 1993 allows people of or over the age of 18 to vote in Aotearoa. Rangatahi under the age of 18 are given other rights and responsibilities such as working full time, paying tax on income, and getting married. Rangatahi are increasingly aware of and deserve to have a say in the decisions that will affect them now and into the future. We propose lowering the age of enrollment to the electoral roll to 16 and reviewing this every few years. This will encourage rangatahi to engage in civics as they are continually taking on new responsibilities within their communities. This will also encourage decision-makers to consider the interests of rangatahi.

## MIXED MEMBER PROPORTIONAL THRESHOLD

42%

Under current MMP rules, a political party that wins at least one electorate seat or 5% of the party vote gets a share of the seats in Parliament that is about the same as its share of the party vote. The MMP voting system helps Parliament achieve diversity of representation and the party vote threshold prevents a proliferation of minor parties in Parliament. We propose that the Electoral Commission conduct an MMP Review investigating the threshold of the allocation of list seats among other issues similar to the 2012 MMP Review. This MMP Review should be presented to the Minister of Justice as a report. We encourage the Minister of Justice to implement the recommendations put forward by the report as it will be representative of public opinion.



## MENTAL WELL-BEING 58%

In New Zealand, we have a negative stigma attached to mental health issues. Factors contributing to the stigma include: a lack of acceptance and little conversation around mental health. This is a vital issue to address as New Zealand has the highest youth suicide rate in the world. We urge decision makers to intervene through educational programmes on how to recognise symptoms and support those with mental health issues. These programmes should be implemented through education seminars in schools and local communities.



## PHYSICAL WELL-BEING 39%

Many citizens of New Zealand feel disconnected to their identities due to a lack of education and awareness of all cultures. Due to the lack of understanding of whanaungatanga (a sense of wellbeing from meaningful familial/social relationships) and the resulting dissociation from their whakapapa, people find it difficult to meaningfully engage with their communities. We call upon health professionals to provide educational material in their clinics and incorporate significant models. These models include Te Whare Tapa Wha model, Te Pae Mahutonga model and Fonofale model which provide a holistic framework for check-ups.

## SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING 48%

New Zealand has a widespread drinking culture, making drinking an inherent part of our social lives. Young adults between 14-25 are heavily involved in this culture, which can lead to binge drinking or alcoholism. This harms our physical and mental well-being as it damages our relationships with others and can impact how oxygen and nutrients are delivered to vital organs. We strongly encourage the legislature to reform statutes by banning the sale of alcohol in supermarkets and closing liquor stores by 9 p.m. In addition, we encourage educational material to be offered in health clinics about the negative effects of alcohol consumption.

# HEALTHCARE

## HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMME

61%

The lack of accessible early health education contributes to preventable health outcomes for vulnerable children, especially in low socio-economic communities. We think that this problem contributes to the rise of preventable childhood diseases. Intergenerational poverty also limits accessibility, understanding and usage of healthcare. Improving access to education will address distrust of the healthcare system. We propose implementing an interactive healthcare course within primary schools. This would be followed up with an opportunity for information evenings and online resources available for parents. Key objectives addressed would be vaccines, hygiene, making the health system approachable, and key symptoms for childhood diseases prevalent in the particular area.

## HEALTHY HEALTH CAREERS 56%

The current working environment of many healthcare staff is inadequate meaning that they cannot provide a high quality of care. This includes poor infrastructure, workloads that are unequal to their wages, and non-prioritisation of staff retention. We reiterate the mutual principles held by both Ministry of Health and unions in terms of outcomes for doctors and patients. We support improved regulation of the number of hours and length of shifts worked per week by healthcare workers, with pay proportional to hours worked. We believe this will reduce the frequency of strikes, improve work quality, productivity, and the wellbeing of workers. Overall this will improve quality of care for patients, increase staff retention, and make healthcare careers more attractive.



## COMMUNITY FUNDING 57%

Community healthcare initiatives and NGOs currently lack flexible funds with which to provide services for the community. These organisations are able to help prevent the development of healthcare problems early in life. We propose an increase in funding and available resources for specific healthcare sectors in high demand to benefit communities. This would enable low socioeconomic status communities to receive resources such as water fountains, increased health specialists and increased numbers of counsellors in schools.





# HERITAGE

## TE REO MĀORI IN SCHOOLS

51%

The loss of our indigenous language due to colonisation, has led to the decline of our unique cultural background and the connections to our tūpuna (ancestors). The resulting disconnect from the Māori culture leads to the disinterest in Māori values and perspectives. We therefore strongly endorse the compulsory learning of Te Reo Māori in primary and intermediate schools. The implementation of this would include:

- The curriculum being applied progressively and consistently over each academic year to foster a level of fluency;
- Including and encouraging the use of tikanga (Māori customs) and matauranga Māori (Māori knowledge and worldview);
- Allowing for flexibility to incorporate regional cultural and linguistic differences, to promote the relevancy of Te Reo Māori, in partnership with local iwi;
- A Te Reo Māori subject option in high schools, building on previous knowledge;
- Tertiary institutions providing compulsory Te Ao Māori and Te Reo Māori papers as a requirement for a Bachelor of Teaching.

## DECOLONISATION OF EDUCATION

51%

We see the effects of colonialism on our education system, such as the absence of mandatory New Zealand History lessons and tokenistic mentions of matauranga Māori in the classroom. This alienates students by placing a Pākehā worldview as the default perspective and promoting continued disinterest in and misunderstanding of Te Ao Māori. We recognise that our current education system is a product of past injustice. Aiming to foster recognition of Māori values, we call for comprehensive New Zealand History lessons, particularly in Years 5-10. Topics discussed should include discussions on Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi), the New Zealand Land Wars and the ongoing impacts of colonialism and how to mitigate them. Additionally, we promote the integration of matauranga Māori across the curriculum.

## TREATY OBLIGATIONS

51%

We believe that as signatories of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, we need to do more to enforce the rights of Māori peoples. In the spirit of Te Tiriti, we should focus on addressing both past and current Treaty breaches. Key issues to be addressed are a lack of resources and public engagement, in addition to the government's lack of accountability to the Waitangi Tribunal recommendations. Therefore, we propose:

- The promotion of thorough investigation through an increase in funding and staffing for the Waitangi Tribunal, in addition to the removal of unrealistic deadlines such as the 2020 historical grievances deadline;
- A timeframe for the government to respond to each tribunal recommendation;
- Incentivising more media attention on the tribunal publications.

# HOUSING



## GENERAL QUALITY OF HOUSES 55%

We recognise that homeowners should ensure houses are adequate, safe, and healthy in the interest of the wellbeing of all individuals in Aotearoa. We define quality houses as warm and dry environments, outlined by HUD's 'Healthy Homes Standards'. This is important because healthy and habitable housing means that people enjoy additional benefits such as fewer health problems. A lack of quality housing puts the health and wellbeing of individuals at risk. We believe that quality housing is a human right and should be included in the Bill of Rights Act 1990. We strongly recommend legal enforcement of the 'Healthy Home Standards' to all homes and government financial assistance for households that otherwise would not be able to afford compliance.

## 55% SHORTAGE OF HOUSING SUPPLY

There is currently an excess demand in the housing market, resulting in higher prices which make housing unaffordable for many New Zealanders. With a significant population increase expected over the next 20 years, the 'Kiwi Dream' of having a 4-bedroom house with a backyard is becoming unattainable. The impact of these rising prices will be mass overcrowding, unavoidable homelessness, and lifetime rentals. This will manifest in increased intergenerational net wealth inequality. The solution to this problem requires us to reimagine the future of homes in New Zealand. We believe in prioritising apartments, following the ethos of "up not out". In addition to changes in regional zoning codes for private property development, we also recommend the government use this tactic for state housing via state apartments. This will reduce urban sprawl and create cheaper, more sustainable, easier to maintain properties, allowing more opportunities and breaking the poverty cycle.

## BARRIERS TO HOME OWNERSHIP

52%

There are many barriers to home ownership for first home buyers, such as: the price of homes, accessibility to assets, ability to secure deposits, low familial wealth, and stability of income. These and other factors make it increasingly difficult to own homes, leading to many people renting for their whole lives. Some groups are disproportionately less likely to own their own home, such as Māori, Pasifika, and youth. Home ownership is important because owning a home improves individual security and guarantees stability. This creates healthier, better educated, and more skilled members of society, which will increase general productivity at school and in the workforce. We encourage the government to contribute towards implementing the 'Progressive Home Ownership' model.



# INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORT



## VISION ZERO FOR OUR ROADS

59%

New Zealand has a road safety crisis. From January to April 2019 there were 114 deaths on our roads. To address this issue we believe that it is important to work in accordance with the strategies of the Vision Zero programme, which works towards the goal of zero deaths on New Zealand roads. We propose education programmes which will change our current culture of road safety and develop a new perspective on the responsibility of crashes (reckless driving and system failure). We also strongly encourage the use of transport modes that reduce congestion such as public transport and cycling as these are statistically safer and thus will reduce accidents. We strongly urge a proactive response to road safety such as lowering speed limits, better road signage, and stricter car safety laws. Government funding should be allocated to improving safety features on roads.

## RE-NATIONALISATION OF NEW ZEALAND'S ELECTRICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS 38%

The marketisation of New Zealand's Utilities and Transport networks over the past 30 years led to inefficiencies and higher costs for many New Zealanders. Adjusted for inflation, electricity for residential consumers is 79% more expensive than in 1990. Broadband costs were more than 50% above the OECD average in 2017. We believe access to electricity and internet is a human right and it should be as affordable as possible for residential usage. We propose that the government re-nationalise Chorus and all components of electricity production, distribution, and retailing. Chorus will be allowed to retail broadband; like the electricity sector it will operate as a crown entity with no profit incentive. This will allow residential electricity and broadband prices to decrease. The government may subsidise residential internet and power via other sources of revenue. Regional councils will be allowed to operate transport services themselves, rather than contracting to private companies.

## INTENSIFIED URBAN DEVELOPMENT

45%

We encourage regional urban plans and subsidisation to promote higher density residential housing in urban areas, to help combat the effects of urban sprawl and its negative impact on efficiency, affordability and the cost of public transport. This will apply to all urban areas of New Zealand, including provincial cities such as Hamilton and Nelson as well as smaller towns. This action could occur alongside building more reliable and accessible public transport which would be more efficient to run in denser areas as one of the biggest barriers to public transport is the inefficiency of running it in a low-density area.



# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## REFUGEE QUALIFICATIONS

57%

We are concerned that a significant pool of talent from refugees, and migrants more broadly, remains unrecognised in New Zealand, including, but not limited to, foreign medical and legal qualifications. Consequently, many refugees and migrants are overqualified for their current work but have the potential to mitigate significant immediate and long-term skill shortages in New Zealand. Furthermore, migrants face several employment stereotypes and prejudices that limit their opportunities. As such, we strongly advocate creating and improving the accessibility of qualification conversion programmes which allow qualifications gained overseas to be adapted to fit Commonwealth standards. This will fill skill shortages in New Zealand and allow refugees and migrants to use their skills and find secure employment without needing to undergo full retraining.

## CHINA-NEW ZEALAND RELATIONS

44%

We stress that New Zealand currently has, and aims to continue having, robust relationships with countries around the world. We therefore stress the importance of exercising care and caution in international relations - including, but not limited to, New Zealand's relationship with China. We believe that New Zealand should inform its key trading partners when their actions and values conflict with ours and openly advocate for our principles, but not in a way that would compromise our relationship with key trading partners.

## COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

54%

We recognise New Zealand's membership in the Commonwealth has the potential to bring great benefits to our nation but is not currently exercised to its full potential. As such, we would like to see more free trade agreements with Commonwealth member states and also increased collaboration between member states, including, but not limited to, summits and forums on pressing issues. In light of hostility within the current geopolitical climate, we believe it is more important than ever to create and maintain positive international relations.



## JUDICIAL REPRESENTATION OF ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS 50%

This topic covers the lack of representation of ethnic minorities in the judiciary. This is a problem because a lack of diverse views in our judicial branch of government means judges lack a deep personal or cultural understanding of the people on trial before them. Due to the nature of the role of judges, we find that they will be unable to develop an adequate cultural understanding. Therefore, we recommend that at least 40% of the Attorney-General's Judicial Appointments Unit shortlist, is made up of ethnic minority groups. This is to ensure that the judiciary is representative of the people that government is broadly supposed to embody.

## 3 STRIKES LAW 51%

This topic addresses the unjust nature of the three strikes law. This stems from the fact that people can be unfairly punished with the maximum sentence for a third crime that they commit, that is often out of proportion to the crime they commit. This is seen in the first three strike sentencing of Raven Casey Campbell who was meant to be given an additional seven years in prison for groping a guard. Therefore, we believe the current three strikes law should be altered to be fairer for all.



## INCARCERATION OF ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS 43%

Members of ethnic minority groups, especially Māori, are disproportionately apprehended and incarcerated in the New Zealand justice system. This has wider social ramifications. Therefore, we recommend that there is a greater emphasis on partnership between Iwi and Crown. We support the work of the Te Pae Oranga and Rangatahi Courts (which are accessible by all) and recommend their further use. We note the necessity of greater resources being committed to both them and an Iwi-Crown partnership. We support genuine consultation of Iwi through involving them in the decision-making process and encouraging them to develop formal statements on the justice system for consideration by the Crown. We reaffirm the importance of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. We recommend the adoption of cultural advisors for judges, courts, legal aid lawyers, defence lawyers, and the Crown. The advisors will be for Māori and Pasifika groups, religious groups, ethnic minorities, and LGBTQI+ groups. This is to reduce the disproportionate rates of apprehension and incarceration of these groups.

# MEDIA & REPRESENTATION

## BIAS IN SOCIAL MEDIA

54%

Media does not always translate to reality - in particular, social media creates bubbles that are reinforced by algorithms. This creates one-sided perspectives which can have political bias. We propose all New Zealand media outlets implement a system promoting transparency on their sources. This could be through:

- A dual rating system (one crowdsourced, one standardised political spectrum) where news articles are rated according to how biased they are;
- A disclaimer on each news outlet/source which states whether it is owned by a private company, a grassroots company, or is government-funded.



## 59% MENTAL HEALTH IN THE MEDIA

Mental health issues in the media are often romanticised, particularly through film and television. This deters people from asking for help; instead we should normalise asking for help. We propose that it should be an industry requirement to include content warnings before graphic scenes - both before the media starts, and about a minute before the scene itself. Creative media must have at least one field expert in consultation in its production, to ensure an accurate and realistic portrayal of mental health. On social media, content warnings must warn about the possibility of sensitive or graphic content and also contain links to helplines and resources.

## PORNOGRAPHY AND SEX IN THE MEDIA

53%

In today's society, people are seeing pornographic or explicit material at a younger age - one in four people have been exposed to it by the age of 12 in New Zealand. Such materials are unrealistic, and can be dangerous as it can normalise violence towards women, unsafe sex, and the devaluation of bodies. Viewers can also become desensitised to such material. We propose pornography sites should be legally obligated to put a disclaimer before people can access their sites, which includes their guidelines and regulations, as well as warnings to those under 18. These disclaimers should be implemented before each individual video, not just by the production company, but also by the site itself. There should also be standards implemented to ensure that pornography promoting abuse is removed. The regulations already present in relation to hate (abusive and threatening) speech should be applied so that 'hate pornography' is prohibited in New Zealand.





## MEDIA REPRESENTATION OF STEM 59%

Science and research is often misrepresented in media, threatening scientific legitimacy and public accessibility to accurate information. Media shapes society and the spread of false information can endanger youth wellbeing via a warped understanding of important scientific issues, increased scientific illiteracy and a lack of engagement in STEM fields. Alongside the existing Prime Minister's Science Prizes, we propose a monetary award for scientific journalism to incentivise accurate and accessible publications. We recognise the role of the National Research Information System in increasing public accessibility of scientific discoveries in New Zealand. We implore the government to accelerate its development. To increase scientific literacy, we also propose a specialised committee to certify the legitimacy of scientific articles in Aotearoa with a mark of authenticity. We encourage this committee to take legal actions against sources spreading dangerous scientific misinformation.

## ACCESSIBILITY OF SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION 59%

A lack of engagement, resources, and poor teaching discourages youth from pursuing STEM. This hinders exposure to scientific opportunities in which youth should be able to participate equally. STEM education should be compulsory in primary schools. Funding should be directed to: training primary school science teachers, resources for financially disadvantaged and rural schools, and extra-curricular opportunities that allow for further engagement with STEM. We encourage the implementation of a compulsory course on scientific literacy and critical analysis for secondary students. We recommend that Parliament encourages local governments and tertiary institutions to advertise scientific mentorship programmes. We hope to expose youth to diverse scientists, such as women, minority groups, and people with disabilities.

## RESEARCH INVESTMENT 50%

In relation to OECD states, Aotearoa is not investing enough into scientific research. We have a responsibility to contribute to global scientific efforts in order to represent the interests of the Pacific. We want to further encourage global collaboration. We recommend that by 2025, New Zealand increases funding to Research and Development to 2.4% GDP, and reallocate more funding to global sustainability and scientific social enterprises. When taking these actions we should uphold our tikanga values i.e. kaitiakitanga (care/guardianship of the land). As seen in the Rethinking Plastics project under the PMSCA (Prime Minister's Science Advisor), we believe in the importance of transparency and encourage similar actions be taken for the National Science Challenges. We believe that transparency could encourage further public input resulting in greater accountability for diversity in research groups.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## SAFE CONSUMPTION OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

57%

The Social Development rōpū accepts the reality of drug use in our society. However we do not endorse this usage. We believe that drug use seriously affects our nation's youth and has negative societal implications on health, employability, wellbeing, crime etc. With this in mind, we believe that the government should seek to mitigate drug related issues by:

- Decriminalising marijuana, instead of legalising it;
- Encouraging safe drug checking facilities at popular drug “hot spots” (e.g. festivals) to ensure that drugs, if they are consumed, are safe;
- Making drug and alcohol education compulsory for students Year 6 - 13, focusing on the negative effects of consuming these substances, with specifically catered content.



## 54% ELDERLY WELFARE

New Zealand has an ageing population. By 2036, it is projected that around 1 in 4.5 New Zealanders will be aged 65+. We recognise the issues that our elderly face, like isolation, loss of dignity, neglect, and abuse.

To address this issue, we strongly advocate to:

- Develop community-focused elderly support networks which protect their rights and dignity, such as homeshare initiatives;
- Improve rest home auditing regulation so that aged care corporates cannot choose and pay who audits them, as this creates a direct conflict of interest;
- Encourage banks to provide opt-in account review services for the elderly should suspicious transactions arise, in order to prevent financial scamming.

## NZ REFUGEE INTEGRATION

53%

We recognise that a significant number of Kiwis with refugee backgrounds struggle when integrating in New Zealand, especially because navigating cultural barriers can be extremely stressful. As such, we believe that there is a need for:

- Encouraging and promoting accessible, free counselling services with highly-trained professionals, specialising in areas of trauma that refugees may face;
- Promoting community initiatives that encourage successful integration between members of the public and people from refugee backgrounds, such as community based buddy systems.



# TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION



## AUTOMATION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE 53%

The increasing prevalence of AI and automation is inevitable, risking both low- and high-skilled jobs. Despite this risk, we recognise the potential benefits of such technologies in that they offer increased efficiency, productivity and other nationwide benefits.

We propose:

- Government funded upskilling programmes in cooperation with private enterprise.
- A strong focus on STEM and creative outcomes in our educational system. These solutions will prepare both old and young for the future workforce.
- A government media campaign to create transparency surrounding long-term plans for the development of AI and automation to avoid intimidating the public.

## SECURITY AND PRIVACY 53%

Revolutionary technologies raise concerns regarding security and privacy. Many companies collect, store and sell private data without individuals' direct consent, which violates individuals' privacy. In addition, there is a serious risk of this data being stolen from company servers.

We propose that websites be required to provide an upfront, simplified explanation of how a user's data will be collected, stored, and used. This upfront explanation should be a reasonable length and accessible to an average user's level of comprehension. We also recommend stricter regulations and penalties be implemented to secure this data and better protect our citizens.

## AVOIDING 'BRAIN DRAIN' 55%

To keep up with the rest of the world, New Zealand must retain our talented innovators and encourage further research and development. When our country fails to provide an environment that supports innovation, we also fail to cater to innovative small-medium enterprise (SME) projects. This limits New Zealand's ability to stay competitive in a rapidly advancing global technology market.

We propose that the government provides additional funding for innovation and SMEs within New Zealand, particularly within our primary industries. We also believe that government support and investment into facilities and equipment is necessary to enable individuals and companies to thrive economically and retain capital and intellectual property within New Zealand.

# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## YOUTH CONNECTIVITY

56%

In Aotearoa, youth often experience loneliness and detachment from peers. A lack of involvement can come from a lack of self-confidence, and youth may need empowerment to facilitate youth's productive engagement. Positive human connection leads to more creative populations who are more effective at solving problems. We propose supporting and funding a network of youth hubs across the country that prioritise bringing young people together to learn and develop. These hubs could focus on life skills, recreation, and fostering the passions of youth - with a specific emphasis on skills relevant for the future. It is important that these hubs remain accessible to all youth, regardless of location or socio-economic status.

57%

## CHILD POVERTY

250,000 children are currently living in poverty in Aotearoa. The 'ambulance at the bottom of the cliff' model contributes to the poverty cycle, rather than giving people the tools to lift themselves out of poverty. New Zealand is bound by the UNCROC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child), so it is unacceptable for any child in New Zealand to be living in material hardship. We propose a multifaceted solution that puts a specific focus on:

- Support around access to education (e.g. free public transport);
- Youth mentoring and community work with a focus on accessibility, equal partnership, and finding families who need and want support;
- Increased funding for clothing, food, and resources.

55%

## CIVICS EDUCATION

Politically neutral Civics Education is not consistently taught in New Zealand schools and young people often enter the adult world without the knowledge needed to engage with and participate in decision making. Young people need to be given the skills to participate in society through their formal education. We propose a nationwide travelling civics programme, similar to the Harold the Giraffe health programme. We also propose compulsory integrated curriculum until Year 11, as well as optional NCEA Civics papers.







# YOUTH WELLBEING

## ACCESSIBILITY

57%

It is clear there is a lack of access to services, resources and general support for youth. We believe that provision of key resources will break down financial, social, and geographical barriers that impact youth wellbeing across all demographics. We wish to see;

- An increase in supply and quality of mental health services with a particular focus in areas of low socio-economic classes and marginalised groups of society;
- Support for spaces in which spiritual wellbeing is prioritised for youth, for example: places of worship in schools and places for spiritual expression such as the 312 Hub in Auckland;
- Better and more accessible physical health services in lower socio-economic areas;
- Government programmes and campaigns to break down the stigmas and lack of acceptance that can impact familial relationships.

## PARENTAL INCARCERATION AND YOUTH

54%

Broken familial relationships between parents and children due to parental incarceration has negative impacts on youth wellbeing. Resolving this commonly overlooked issue is an integral step in reducing social inequalities and incarceration rates. In progression, we wish to see the following changes:

- Increased research into this subject with particular emphasis on parental incarceration, ensuring acknowledgement and inclusion of ethnic, gender, and socio-economic demographics;
- The introduction of youth groups, mental health services, and a centralised charity such as Pillars to support these youth, whether they are living with a guardian or within the foster care system. This would facilitate mentoring and fostering of tuakana-teina relationships which will ensure the wellbeing of youth, and assist in breaking the cycle of incarceration.

## YOUTH & HEALTHY LIVING (NUTRITION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE) 53%

The current relationship of youth to substance abuse is unacceptable, particularly in lower socio-economic areas. Young people also have difficulties with nutrition. We propose to incorporate effective methods of education regarding good nutrition and balanced diets in the school curriculum. We encourage supermarkets to abide by set product placement standards for strategic marketing of healthy foods. Furthermore, there should be a consideration of whether to reduce GST on whole foods and produce items such as fruits and vegetables.

# WHAT DO YOU WANT DECISION-MAKERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?



*I believe that the current decision makers are to step aside and allow more youth opinion and voice in our democracy and to have a bigger representation in Parliament.*



*That we don't want you to be tokenistic when consulting with young people.*

*We are the next generation. Listen to us because what you're doing benefits you, not us.*



*I believe that the voices of the youth must be heard because in the end we are the ones who have to live with the decisions of Aotearoa. So our voices should be respected, listened and taken into consideration.*



*That we will be living with the Government's decisions, and there should be a separate electoral roll for minors, where we can sign a petition and if we reach a sufficient amount, we hold a referendum on the issues where minors can veto the decision and it be binding.*



*People tell us we're young and inexperienced. Though adults are able to accumulate experiences through their life, it's a completely different set of experiences for youth. We need to be listened to.*



*I believe that the youth need more involvement in our political system and that more youth should be encouraged to take up roles in Parliament and act on behalf of youth.*



# WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CHANGED IN NEW ZEALAND TO SUPPORT YOUR HAPPINESS AND WELLBEING?



*Youth Hubs that are easily accessible (e.g. maybe near schools). More awareness about the hidden history of Aotearoa and more cultural awareness in general.*



*I want more youth hubs and safe places where I can connect with other youth.*

*Efforts to deal with climate change, racism and equity would make me more happy.*



*The ability to vote.  
No amount of consultation in the end can make any changes for young people.*



*I would like to see more places for youth to connect and meet new people. More programs that allow youths voice and opinions to be heard.*



*For lots of Asian kids, we have names that people can not pronounce and we just adapt a different version of our names and that's our name to the world. We encourage both kids and teachers to pronounce names correctly which isn't a hard thing to do.*



*I think its important for lots of brown kids like myself to be connected with their culture and whakapapa.*



# WHAT DOES A GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE LOOK, SOUND, AND FEEL LIKE TO YOU?



*Spending time and caring for our environment, being active in our communities, and the feeling of safety at all times.*



*That the youth suicide level drops and youth live.*

*Warm home, good education, easy access to the surrounding city, happiness to spite financial situation due to the abundance of amenities for all.*



*It looks like everybody being able to talk about their feelings without fear of being shushed or ignored.*



*When everyone is involved in your community, or when people are socialising and creating happy, healthy relationships. When people are given the equal opportunity to do what makes them happy and when theres equity for people to live their best life.*



*My mum doesn't have to worry about financial problems and she doesn't have to work 2 jobs and do so much hard work for the minimum wage. My mum doesn't have to be looked down at because of her skin colour and the fact that she is a single mother. My siblings and I will have good paying jobs so that we can give back to our mum.*



*A good quality of life to me would be able to have three meals a day, have the basic necessities such as shoes, clean drinking water and a safe home environment to come back to.*



# CIVICS EDUCATION IN AOTEAROA

In our Civics Workshop, participants learned about our democracy, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and governance. They brainstormed and identified ways their learning could be improved and what civics education could look like in Aotearoa

Civics education is important to youth as it helps create a society where everyone understands each others' perspectives and produces individuals that are adequately informed of the decision making processes in Aotearoa.

Youth have expressed that civics education goes beyond obtaining a basic overview of the operations of government and extends to understanding others' world views and developing a sense of empathy and collective consciousness.

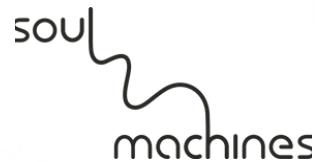
Youth believe that civics education should be a compulsory subject taught in high school from year 9 onwards and should operate as part of the standardised curriculum.

The addition of civics to the curriculum will incentivise students to gain additional NCEA credits all the while providing necessary knowledge. It is imperative that those who deliver civics education do so in a way that is relatable to youth in order to ensure engagement and an appropriate level of understanding.

- Youth would like to gain an understanding of the different ways in which their voice can be promoted and heard e.g. petitions, protesting, advisory boards
- Youth would prefer that civics education be presented through various workshops focusing on what politics means in Aotearoa and how civic action can impact Aotearoa
- Civics education should include a full comprehensive New Zealand history, including Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Land wars. History should be delivered through a culturally appropriate lens emphasising the negative impacts of colonisation and the ongoing struggles of tangata whenua
- Youth voices should be actioned by implementing compulsory youth councils into local body government

# OUTREACH ORGANISATIONS

Auckland Transport  
Auckland Museum  
Closing the Gap  
21C Skills Lab  
Rainbow Youth  
Do Good Feel Good  
Mangere Clinic  
312 Hub  
Just Speak  
Attitude Pictures  
Soul Machines  
Halberg Foundation  
The Aunties  
Voyce  
Department of Conservation  
Splice  
Asia NZ Foundation  
National Council for Women  
Auckland Art Gallery



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



AUCKLAND ART GALLERY  
TOI O TĀMAKI





# INDUSTRY SPEAKERS

Priyanca Radhakrishnan

Tony Caughey

Linda Hope

Kate Aschoff

Health Promotion Forum of New Zealand

Grace Haeyns

Kasey Nhill and Shabana Sharifi

Youth Law

Lillian Hanly

Bernie O'Connell

Dr Michelle Dickinson

Jason Boberg

Red Nicholson

Dr Niki Harre

Victoria Rhodes-Carlin

Mike Joy

Office of the Clerk of the

House of Representatives

Women in Infrastructure

Professor Virginia Braun

Habitat for Humanity



## WORKSHOPS

Thank you to these fantastic people who spoke, delivered and curated our amazing workshops!

Intersectionality & Identity panel discussion:

Kera May, Jason Broberg, Bilal

Nasier, Kate Ascroft, Litia

Tuiburelevu - facilitated by Victoria Rhodes-Carlin

Tuakana Teina Workshop

Ngāti Pikiao Trust

Mamaeroa Merito

Takiri Te Ata

Neihana Mackey-Harrison

Active Citizenship Workshops

Spoken Word - Action Education

Political change - Chloe Swarbrick

Storytelling for change - Activate film

Social movements & policy change - Curative



ACTION EDUCATION

**curative.**





# VOLUNTEER THANK YOU



## 2019 ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Organisational committee volunteering over 10 months to bring Aotearoa Youth Declaration to life.



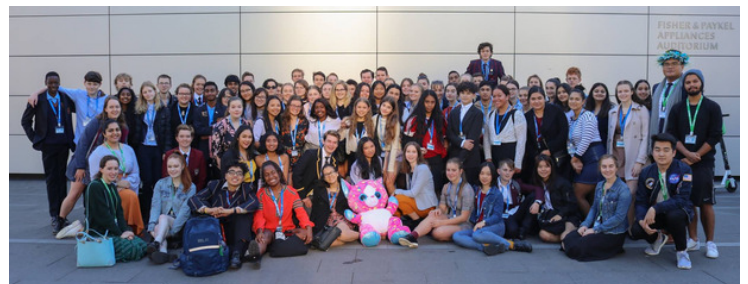
## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

National Executive of UN Youth New Zealand.



## WELFARE TEAM

Welfare, first aid, and mental health first aid for participants and volunteers.



## REGIONAL DELEGATION

Volunteer caregiver team looking after participants at staying on the Regional Delegation.

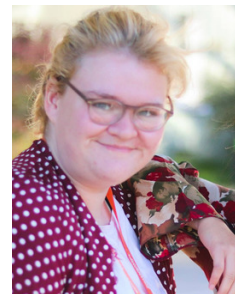


## MEDIA TEAM + JASON

Photography and videography team.



MĀORI & PASIFIKA LIAISONS  
Maori, Pasifika and LGBTQIA+ liaisons  
offering support to rangatahi.



LGBTQIA+  
LIAISON



## FACILITATORS!

The 44 conference volunteers that facilitate the ropu. Two facilitators per group.



## LOGISTICS

Catering, room organisation, and logistical support.



# AGREEABILITY SURVEY TOTAL STATISTICS

Rōpū	Statement no.	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Accessibility	1	64%	9%	26%
	2	58%	5%	37%
	3	54%	7%	39%
Climate Action	1	55%	18%	27%
	2	55%	15%	30%
	3	52%	13%	35%
Culture & Diversity	1	51%	18%	32%
	2	50%	20%	30%
	3	51%	17%	32%
Economic Development	1	33%	35%	32%
	2	47%	29%	24%
	3	39%	22%	39%
Education	1	52%	18%	30%
	2	56%	9%	36%
	3	58%	9%	33%
Environment	1	55%	7%	38%
	2	53%	9%	38%
	3	54%	10%	36%
Equity	1	53%	10%	37%
	2	49%	19%	32%
	3	47%	21%	32%
Gender Equality	1	52%	10%	37%
	2	50%	9%	41%
	3	54%	9%	38%
Governance	1	50%	13%	37%
	2	44%	14%	42%
	3	42%	34%	24%
Hauora	1	58%	5%	37%
	2	39%	24%	37%
	3	48%	27%	25%
Healthcare	1	61%	8%	30%
	2	56%	8%	36%
	3	57%	14%	29%

# AGREEABILITY SURVEY TOTAL STATISTICS

	2	51%	11%	38%
	3	51%	20%	29%
Housing	1	55%	10%	34%
	2	55%	13%	32%
	3	52%	21%	27%
Infrastructure and Transport	1	59%	17%	25%
	2	38%	31%	31%
	3	45%	29%	25%
International Relations	1	57%	6%	37%
	2	44%	27%	29%
	3	54%	15%	31%
Justice	1	50%	15%	35%
	2	51%	17%	33%
	3	43%	22%	35%
Media & Representation	1	54%	19%	26%
	2	59%	13%	29%
	3	53%	14%	33%
Science	1	59%	16%	25%
	2	59%	10%	32%
	3	50%	22%	28%
Social Development	1	57%	9%	34%
	2	54%	13%	34%
	3	53%	11%	36%
Technology and Innovation	1	53%	19%	29%
	2	55%	7%	38%
	3	49%	25%	26%
Youth Development	1	56%	12%	32%
	2	57%	10%	33%
	3	55%	7%	38%
Youth Wellbeing	1	57%	10%	33%
	2	54%	13%	33%
	3	53%	6%	41%



UN Youth New Zealand is a non-profit organisation that provides civics education outside the traditional classroom context. Through fun workshops, conferences, Model UN, and outreach events, we engage high school and tertiary students in the most pressing affairs of their country and the international community. Our goal is to inspire young New Zealanders to be global citizens in the rapidly globalising world of today. Global citizenship exists in an incredibly diverse range of forms, and UN Youth hopes to provide the opportunities for all young people to be the global citizen that they aspire to be.

Throughout Aotearoa, our work equips young people to become informed, engaged, and critical New Zealanders who understand their global context and the connections between the local and the global. Our organisation provides young people with the necessary educational and social skills to excel. Annually, over 3000 young New Zealanders from Northland to Southland attend a UN Youth event.

UN Youth hosts three conferences nationally each year drawing together hundreds of students from across the country. One of the conferences looks at solving problems in the community and government policy, the second considers international affairs and diplomacy, and the last aims to engage young New Zealanders in politics and democracy. An online Diplomacy Competition is also available for all high school students across New Zealand to help them further develop their understanding of these issues.

We also lead three annual international trips for high school students — a study tour through Europe and the United States, a cultural exchange trip to Australia and the Pacific, and a small delegation to the Evatt Competition run by UN Youth Australia. For tertiary students, we run a trip to the Harvard National Model UN in the United States, and a trip around South East Asia focused on globalisation.

UN Youth is powered by a body of 150 volunteers across the country who dedicate many hours of their week to engaging young people and growing the organisation.













**UN  
YOUTH**

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**Aoteroa Youth Declaration is a UN Youth New Zealand event**