

Question	ACT	Green	Labour	National	Te Pāti Māori	TOP
<b>Care and Protection</b>						
1. Do you commit to ensuring legislation, policy and practice that meets New Zealand's commitments under UNCRC and the recommendations from UN CRC's concluding observations?	No	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
			Labour is committed to continuing our progress on child poverty and inequality, so that we can make New Zealand the best place in the world to be a child. Since 2017, we've worked consistently to lift children out of poverty, tackle cost of living pressures, and lift the incomes of Kiwi families. Now, as our economic recovery gains momentum, we're continuing to put the wellbeing of children at the centre of everything we do. We're working relentlessly to turn around New Zealand's record on child poverty. Our policies have seen around 77,000 children lifted out of poverty so far, and the latest figures show all nine child poverty measures continue to trend downwards. We've also made sure child wellbeing remains a priority for successive governments.	National supports the commitments New Zealand has made under the UNCRC and will continue to work to improve our legislative and policy settings to protect children from harm.		Anti corruption commission to hold all governments to account over recommendations
2. Do you commit to implementing policies/legislation and resources to achieve better outcomes for all children in New Zealand unable to live in their home of origin?	Yes ACT are seeking significant reforms of Oranga Tamariki, including more flexible provision of services for children.	Yes	Yes	Other	Yes	Yes
			Labour requires that agencies must work together on the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan, which requires the Chief Executives of Oranga Tamariki, the Police, and the Ministries of Education, Social Development, Health, and Justice to work together to achieve better outcomes for the children and young people in care. Examples of these positive impacts include Oranga Tamariki and Kāinga Ora working together to increase the number of homes available for disabled children who require more intensive support. Kāinga Ora have purchased seven homes in Christchurch, Wellington and Orewa with three more to come in Canterbury and Nelson. In the health space children in Oranga Tamariki residences will be able to transition smoothly between healthcare providers because of a new data system jointly developed by Te Whatu Ora and Oranga Tamariki. This partnership has also led to initiatives such as senior social worker liaison roles being introduced at Starship's acute mental health unit, with the positions to be introduced in Wellington and Canterbury after the successful trial.	National's goal is for every child in New Zealand to be safe from harm and have the opportunities and care they need to thrive, whether they be living with their parents, a family member or in State Care. Noting this is not currently the case for too many of our young people, there is clearly more work to do and National is committed to working with all parties to achieve this.	Our Mokopuna Māori policy is fundamentally based around whānau caring for babies. It's tikanga Māori practice to do this and is something most whānau done in their past time.  To do this, Te Pāti Māori asserts a Mokopuna Māori plan that will transition away from our children being in state care, and on the basis of that ensure that we introduce adequate supports so that these babies are raised by whānau with the support they all need to become thriving contributors.	

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3. Will you support Māori- and community-led solutions to keep tamariki with their whānau, and preserve their sense of belonging and identity?	Yes Yes - ACT support devolved provision of social services. However, the priority must be the welfare of the child above all other considerations, which is why ACT will seek repeal of Section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act.	Yes	Yes Please provide detail on how you plan on achieving this: <a href="https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-takes-steps-further-protect-rights-tamariki">https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-takes-steps-further-protect-rights-tamariki</a>	Other National's bottom line is the safety and protection of children. We will be highly supportive of community-led and Māori-led solutions if there is evidence they can achieve this goal.	Yes This is an absolute commitment in our policy platform. Too many Māori babies are in the care of the state, our platform ensures that we place care in the hands of whānau - how it should be.  We will; Require our Mokopuna Māori Authority to establish a partnership network across hapū, iwi and Māori organisations to ensure mokopuna Māori remain connected to their whakapapa and identity	Yes
4. Will you commit to implementing policies that prioritise and support meaningful engagement and collaboration with tamariki and rangatahi, families and whānau throughout the child protection process, while also monitoring and evaluating its implementation in practice?	Yes ACT will: Establish an accessible and child-friendly monitoring system which is truly independent from Government Offer kids the continuity of support in care they need by dividing the 'social worker' duties into a 'Mentor', focussed on support and advocacy, and a 'Child Protection Officer,' focussed on statutory duties. Increase public accountability of OT's Chief Executive Devolve service provision, empowering support from within communities Make caregiving more attractive to address a national shortage Transfer youth justice functions from OT to Corrections	Yes	Yes Labour is committed to continuing our progress on child poverty and inequality, so that we can make New Zealand the best place in the world to be a child. Amendments to the Oranga Tamariki Act binds Oranga Tamariki to a practical commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi ('the Treaty') while ensuring our policies and practices have the objective of improving outcomes for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau Māori. Oranga Tamariki's policies, practices and services must also reduce disparities for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau Māori while also having regards for mana tamaiti, whakapapa and whanaungatanga.	Yes National's bottom line is the safety and protection of children. We will work with children, their families, community providers and NGOs to ensure that children are receiving the best care possible throughout the child protection process.	Yes	Yes
5. Will you commit to implementing all recommendations by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in State- and Faith-based care?	Need more evidence	Yes	Yes Labour will ensure that all the nal and promptly considered.	Need more evidence National will respond to recommendations made by the Royal Commission once the final report has been completed.	Yes	Yes
6. Will you commit to putting in systems of accountability for Oranga Tamariki, with clear actions and consequences for failing to meet basic standards?	Yes ACT's visionary overhaul of Oranga Tamariki will create a more humane and accountable system focussed on children's safety and freedom from abuse and neglect. By creating transparent and independent systems of accountability, it will eliminate the "sweep it under the rug" attitude which has been so pervasive in the state care system. By splitting the social worker into 'mentor' and 'child protection officer,' ACT will create a system where vulnerable children have a consistent figure to support and care for them throughout their time in state care.	Yes	-	Yes National is dedicated to the care and protection and welfare of New Zealand children and young persons in State care and to put in systems of OT care and protection accountabilities, policies and processes which aim to enhance and prioritise the checks and balances of the National Care Standards with the first and foremost priority of ensuring our children and young people are kept safe and protected	Other No form of system of accountability is going to fix a broken system. It needs to be abolished and Te Pāti Māori has a transition plan in the waiting. Doing the same thing over and over again, expecting different results is plain stupidity.	Yes

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7. Will your party pledge to prioritise Te Aorerekura in their action plan, ensuring that all communities and tangata whenua are actively involved in preventing and reducing harm for tamariki and whānau across Aotearoa New Zealand?	Need more evidence	Yes	Yes	Other	Yes	Yes
			<p>We want to see a justice system where victims are heard and protected, and our track record demonstrates this. We have tripled the funding to the Victim Assistance Scheme and doubled the funding to Victim Support. We will also introduce legislation to give greater protections and rights to the victims of family and sexual violence.</p> <p>Significant progress is being made towards the Government's goal of eliminating family violence and sexual violence. Launched only recently, Te Aorerekura is already delivering results. For example, the primary prevention and community-led responses that are so importantly prioritised in Te Aorerekura received a significant boost in this year's Budget. For the first time, Budget 2023 includes a gender budgeting 'snapshot', ensuring that budgets can support a gender-equitable, inclusive future</p> <p>o Budget 2023 funds several initiatives aimed at supporting victims and survivors of family and sexual violence and eliminating violence, both online and offline. We have also launched new family violence workforce capability frameworks for organisations and practitioners, so more people have the knowledge and skills they need to respond appropriately to violence and enable long-term healing. The Government is on track to deliver all 40 actions in the first action plan for Te Aorerekura - Aotearoa New Zealand's first ever National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence.</p>	<p>We agree with the 25 year strategy to eliminate family and sexual violence and will translate the strategy of Te Aorerekura into an action plan with targets and measures to ensure that there is action and accountability.</p>		
8. Will you commit to building and strengthening workforce safeguarding and child protection capability and capacity to help prevent and reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect?	Need more evidence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
			<p>Over the past four years, OT has significantly increased the number of specialist Māori roles across all levels. These specialist roles help improve our involvement and relationships with local hapū and iwi which leads to better placement of tamariki with their whānau, hapū or iwi when necessary.</p>	<p>New Zealand's child welfare, care and protection and youth justice systems and workforce are critical to the overall wellbeing of at-risk children. National will work to strengthen safeguards to ensure those working in these systems have the appropriate expertise, experience and skills to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect.</p>		
Do you have any further comments or policies on this theme you would like to highlight?	N/A					When universal basic income eradicate poverty in New Zealand, many other social issues will be resolved.
Tick for Kids reflections / recommendations	<p>We want to see an Aotearoa New Zealand where the Government takes seriously its parental responsibility for tamariki in care. Consequently, we seek commitment to align legislation, policy, and practice with UNCRC, implementing its recommendations to protect children's futures. We advocate for a system that works in active partnership with tamariki, rangatahi, whānau, communities and tangata whenua to prevent and reduce harm and family separation; and provide quality and culturally appropriate alternative care and support services. This includes upholding commitments to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We emphasise the need for equitable access to support for all children in care, including those outside the formal system.</p>					