

Question	ACT	Green	Labour	National	Te Pāti Māori	TOP
A liveable income						
1. Will your party continue the work toward ensuring a living wage for all?	- Rather than trying to find new ways of slicing up the cake, ACT is focused on growing the entire economy for all. A "living wage" is moot if New Zealand is a prosperous country with a growing economy...	Yes	Yes Since Labour came into government, we've worked hard to lift wages and reduce cost pressures on Kiwis, through measures like cheaper doctor's visits, free lunches in schools, and the family tax credit. We've steadily boosted the minimum wage – bringing it to \$21.20 per hour. We've delivered the largest pay increase for nurses, teachers and principals in over a decade. We've also passed the Equal Pay Amendment Bill to ensure people who perform work of the same value are paid the same, and we're implementing Fair Pay Agreements, which will improve wages and conditions and support our economic recovery.	No New Zealanders are struggling with the cost of living, driven by high inflation. National will strengthen the economy to reduce the cost of living and lift incomes for all. National supports a mandatory minimum wage being set in law and revised annually. Some businesses voluntarily commit to paying their employees the living wage and we support their efforts to do this. We do not think it's realistic to impose the Living Wage on all businesses as some would be forced to let people go, or may completely fail.	Yes Our policy is to immediately raise the minimum wage to the living wage and legislate for an annual increase to keep up with cost-of-living increases.	Yes Universal basic income
2. Will your party commit to adequate increases to welfare support, so that all whānau, whether on a main benefit, studying, in work, or caring for self or others, have a liveable income and can afford the essentials for families to thrive not just survive?	No	Yes	Yes Labour's focus continues to we've made huge improvements into Government, we've cobenefits don't fall further an	Yes The first and most important steps we will take to helping lift people out of poverty is through fixing the economy. We will reverse the growing number of people on main benefits, and help ease the cost-of-living on all New Zealanders.	Yes Te Pāti Māori is absolutely committed to adequate increases to welfare support. Some of most immediate priorities that will have effect include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removing financial penalties, sanctions and work-test obligations for beneficiaries Individualising benefits so that abatement is not incomes tested depending on who you choose to engage in a relationship with We are also committed to ensuring our students are equipped to thrive so that they become outstanding contributors to Aotearoa's future, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoring all student allowance eligibility for postgraduate, part-time, and long course Creating a universal student allowance and double student allowance rates, in line with benefit increases Writing off the living cost component of all student loan debt 	Yes Universal basic income, welfare top ups still available

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3. Do you commit to individualise benefits so that people in relationships are not discriminated against and harmed by the welfare system?	Need more evidence	Yes	-	-	Yes	Yes
			Labour is continuing our work towards a social sector that better serves our people and communities by improving how government commissions and works with social services, through ensuring responsive, whanau-centred and community-led services, which reflects their needs and aspirations, ensuring people, whanau and communities right across the country can expect to have their welfare needs at the heart of our social services. This includes removing unnecessary red-tape, through continuing to modernise our welfare system so that social sector organisations can support New Zealanders to live with dignity and deliver support where necessary.	We will take a comprehensive look at the benefit system as whole to ensure beneficiaries who need support receive it while those who can work are supported into jobs.	Individualising benefits is a long standing policy of ours and will absolutely go a long way to ensuring we rid the couples-based assessment. It is unjust, and unfair.	Universal basic income
4. Will your party increase the Accommodation Supplement to ensure that it is accessible to those who need it, and it adequately reduces the cost of housing to affordable levels, regardless of where a person or whānau live in New Zealand?	No	Other	-	-	Other	Yes
		The Greens would welcome a review into the Accommodation Supplement, but we also recognise that ultimately, we must get to the heart of the issue: impossibly high rents caused by unlimited and almost entirely unregulated rent increases. Our Pledge to Renters will uphold renters' rights by introducing rent controls and a rental WOF, and we'll build thousands more warm, dry, affordable homes in the places people want to live. It will ensure incomes rise faster than rents, and alongside our Income Guarantee, will mean fewer people will need the Accommodation Supplement.	Labour has not released its manifesto. However, • We're continuing to progress the Accommodation Supplement review, which aligns with the Working for Families review. This will have an initial focus on increasing uptake of the accommodation supplement, as well as consideration for an area boundary review to modernise current areas given the significant amount of housing change since the latest update in 2018. This is important by ensuring housing is affordable and accessible	The cost of housing and rent has risen dramatically under Labour. National's priority will be fixing the housing market to put downward pressure on rents and house prices. We will continue to review benefit rates and other support, including the accommodation supplement, to ensure they are appropriate.	With our plan to ensure everyone's first \$30K goes tax free, including those on benefits and accommodation supplements, we are confident this will significantly equip an individual to be able to support themselves in this space	Universal basic income with welfare top ups as needed

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5. Will your party support continued funding for more diverse skills training to ensure young people, and those struggling with employment, can gain meaningful employment and fulfilling career pathways to aspire to?	- ACT want education reforms to ensure that all youth have the skills for gaining employment. ACT's education policies support more diverse education opportunities, and reject "one size fits all" centralised approaches. ACT supports more intensive case management to assist beneficiaries into work.	Yes	Yes We've supported more than 60,000 New Zealanders through free trades training and apprenticeships, and we've announced an extension to the Apprenticeship Boost scheme. We've brought back the Training Incentive Allowance for higher-skill courses, to help more than 4,170 (to the end of December 2022) sole parents, carers, and people with disabilities aord the cost of study and take the next steps toward careers. Since the expansion of Flexi-Wage in February 2021, Flexi Wage has supported almost 25,000 people into work, and we've supported more than 5,000 young people into employment, education, or training through He Poutama Rangatahi.	- We will take a comprehensive look at the job and training programs that are currently being offered and evaluate their pros and cons. We will look to add programs in areas that are lacking and cut programs that are providing adequate support and skills.	Yes Aside from creating new training opportunities for young people, we would ensure that anyone in training and education has enough income to live with dignity.	Yes Invest in night classes
6. Will your party introduce tax policies that fairly redistribute wealth to address inequalities and invest in critical social services such as education, health, justice and welfare?	Yes ACT proposes a simplified fairer two-tier tax system, with a tax credit for lower income New Zealanders. This will ensure all New Zealanders are better off, and a simplified system is less prone to abuse and evasion. The tax policy will ensure that health, justice and welfare services are funded at the same level.	Yes	- Labour has launched a major cost of living package that removes GST from fruit and vegetables and delivers the largest ever boost to the In-Work Tax Credit to approximately 160,000 families. o GST to be removed from fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables from 1 April 2024 o Boost to In-Work Tax Credit by \$25 a week to \$97.50 – largest ever increase to IWTC will benet approximately 160,000 families The cost of living is the biggest issue facing New Zealanders in this election. Cutting GST from fruit and vegetables and boosting Working for Families will ease the pressure on families as we get through this inationary cycle.	No National will fund and deliver the quality public services New Zealanders deserve. National opposes a wealth tax because it would harm our already fragile economy and put people's jobs and incomes at risk. National will stop wasteful spending, and ensure funding is prioritised towards frontline services – where it will have the most impact for New Zealanders. We will grow the economy so that the funding available for public services grows over time.	Yes Our tax policy is the reform our broken tax system needs. It is all about redistribution of wealth, and will crack down hard on the greedy in support of the needy. We will achieve this by: - Wealth tax: A 2% tax on net wealth over \$2 million, rising to 4% on net wealth over \$5m, and 8% on wealth over \$10m - Higher company tax: Reversing National's 2008 cut to the company tax rate, bringing it from 28% to 33% - Foreign companies tax: Introducing an additional 2% tax on overseas-based companies' financial transfers - Land banking tax: Introducing a 33% tax on land value increases, for land that remains undeveloped four years after purchase (with an exemption for Māori freehold land) - Vacant house tax: A new 33% tax on the market value of properties that remain untenanted for six months or more - Tax evasion crackdown: Investing \$500m into the Serious Fraud Office and Inland Revenue to investigate the \$7b lost to tax evasion every year	Yes Tax switch policy

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7. Will you introduce pay transparency legislation in the next term of government?	No Compulsory pay transparency is a breach of personal information. If individual businesses or workers wish to disclose their pay, that is for them.	Yes	Yes Labour has taken action on pay transparency - around 900 entities with over 250 employees will be required to publicly report their gender pay gap, and later those with over 100 workers. The reality is that women have different experiences in the workplace than men, and change is needed. Requiring companies to publish their gender pay gap will encourage them to address the drivers of those gaps and increase transparency for workers. Labour is also committed to exploring the inclusion of ethnicity in pay gap reporting as Māori, Pacific peoples and other ethnic groups often face the compounding impact of both gender and ethnic pay gaps. Through this next phase of consultation we'll be able to consider the inclusion of ethnicity before legislation is drafted	Yes National supports moves to assure equality and equity for girls and women in New Zealand. National introduced the Equal Pay Act and made pay gap reporting transparent in the public sector. We support moves to require large firms to report on their gender pay gap.	Yes We are 100% committed to ensuring employers are transparent with and fully disclose their pay-bands, to ensure that our whānau, when applying for jobs know where they'll be valued for the contribution they make to the business and the economy.	Yes
Tick for Kids reflections / recommendations	We want to have a society where children flourish in a family with an income level that is adequate to meet the cost of living. High income nations such as New Zealand can afford to support families via a living wage so that all whānau, whether they are income earners, main benefit holders, studying, in work, or caring for self or others can thrive and not just survive. We urge the incoming government to make changes to relationship status policy that privileges relationships at the cost of individual agency. We want to see the introduction of individualised benefits to align with an individualised income tax system so that sole parents and other groups who are reliant on a benefit are not disadvantaged. Additionally we argue for continued funding for diverse skills training to build the skills and capabilities of our people. Finally we seek a commitment to introduce tax policies that fairly redistribute wealth to address inequalities and invest in social services such as education, health, justice and welfare which are critical for the development and wellbeing of all our children in Aotearoa.					