

Our 2014 Priorities

“National is continuing to build a stronger economy that creates more jobs, lifts incomes, and provides the essential services and support that families need.”



National
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RESPONSIBLY MANAGING THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCES

Building on our record of reining in spending while supporting families.

- Return to Budget surplus in 2014/15.
- Focus spending on high-priority areas.
- Require greater efficiency from government departments.
- Invest in new public assets, such as schools and hospitals, with the proceeds of the Government share offers.



BUILDING A MORE COMPETITIVE AND PRODUCTIVE ECONOMY

Helping businesses invest, grow, and create jobs by driving reform through our Business Growth Agenda.



EXPORT MARKETS

- Negotiate Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement and trade agreements with India and Korea.
- Invest more in food safety to safeguard export markets.
- Attract more international students and tourists.



INFRASTRUCTURE

- Invest in state highway projects. Start Transmission Gully, next sections of Waikato Expressway, finish 3rd section of Chch Western Corridor; continue with Waterview Connection.
- Roll out the first new electric trains in Auckland.
- Extend ultra-fast broadband and faster rural broadband networks to more people.
- Make housing more affordable by freeing up land supply, increasing productivity, and reducing development charges.



INNOVATION

- Invest more than ever before – over \$1.3 billion – in R&D.
- Bring together NZ's top scientists with the 10 National Science Challenges.
- Support high-tech innovators through Callaghan Innovation R&D grants, and new technology 'incubators' for start-ups.



SKILLED AND SAFE WORKPLACES

- Expand the Youth Guarantee programme to 10,000 places and provide 4500 places in vocational training at school.
- Increase apprenticeship funding while bringing all apprenticeships together under one scheme.
- Expand Apprenticeship Reboot from 10,000 to 14,000 places.
- Make employment law fairer by extending flexible working arrangements and improving collective bargaining rules.
- Make workplaces safer by implementing the biggest reform of workplace health and safety in 20 years.



NATURAL RESOURCES

- Encourage oil and gas exploration while maintaining environmental standards.
- Reform resource management, reducing number of consents required and uncertainty of current regime.
- Improve environmental reporting.



CAPITAL MARKETS

- Complete Govt share offers, giving Kiwis a chance to invest in NZ companies, and boosting capital markets.
- Encourage international investment to create jobs.
- Pass laws to deter cartel behaviour, encourage competition, and target loan sharks.



DELIVERING BETTER PUBLIC SERVICES

Focusing on results, seeking new and better ways to deliver services for families, continuing to contain and reduce costs. We've set specific, measurable targets to:

- Reduce long-term welfare dependence.
- Support vulnerable children.
- Boost skills and employment.
- Reduce crime.
- Improve interaction with government.



EDUCATION

- Keep good teachers in the classroom and share expertise across schools with new positions for excellent teachers and principals.
- Launch the Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards.
- Connect schools to affordable, quality, fast internet.
- Ensure parents know how their kids are performing against National Standards.
- Open the first partnership schools, providing more options for students.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Continue welfare reform, which has seen 1500 people a week going off welfare into work.
- Make spouses and partners accountable for benefit fraud and cut benefits for criminals on the run from the law.
- Better protect children with children's teams as well as more robust screening and vetting.
- Pilot a micro-finance scheme to help low-income people avoid debt traps.



SOCIAL HOUSING

- Grow community housing by extending income-related rent subsidies to new tenants in community housing.
- Trial a housing warrant of fitness on Housing NZ houses.
- Introduce reviewable tenancies to ensure the right people are in the right house for the right duration.
- Invest in home insulation targeting households in need.



INTERACTING WITH GOVERNMENT

- Make it easier for businesses and the public to interact with government online.
- Roll out the NZ Business Number, so businesses only need to provide government with their information once.



HEALTH

- Continue treating an extra 40,000 elective patients, and increase this by an average of 4000 a year.
- Further increase immunisation rates.
- Deliver more and faster access to MRI and CT scans.
- Launch Healthy Families NZ, a community promotion encouraging healthy choices.
- Support young people with mental health issues to get the help they need, and improve services via the PM's Youth Mental Health Project.



LAW AND ORDER

- Strengthen victims' rights with a victims' code and by expanding Victim Support.
- Stop serious offenders contacting their victims with new restraining orders.
- Increase penalties for online sexual abuse and cyber bullying.
- Reform the Family Court to encourage early resolution and reduce stress on children.
- Continue to focus on frontline policing, which has seen crime at a 33-year low.
- Lower reoffending rates, which have already fallen by 11 per cent.



REBUILDING CHRISTCHURCH

Rebuilding our second biggest city is the largest economic undertaking in New Zealand's history. We are working hard to support Canterbury families as they rebuild their lives.

- Drive the rebuild with total contribution of over \$15 billion.
- Repair more homes, with 50,000 repairs fully completed by EQC so far.
- Invest in horizontal infrastructure with \$591 million of projects currently under construction.
- Continue construction of key anchor projects, including the Bus Interchange, Justice and Emergency Services Precinct, and Christchurch and Burwood Hospitals.
- Invest \$1 billion in the Christchurch education renewal plan.
- Assist residents with their insurance claims with the Residential Advisory Service.

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

National's clear plans and our priorities are delivering the brighter future New Zealand families, businesses, and communities deserve.

FIND OUT MORE: national.org.nz/priorities.aspx