



New Zealand Superannuation

Does your party support retaining the eligibility age for New Zealand Superannuation at 65?

Labour has been clear that it will not means test New Zealand superannuation or increase the age of eligibility. While National wants to make Kiwis work hard for longer, we recognise that Kiwis have already worked hard long enough by the time they reach 65.

Does your party support retaining universal entitlement to New Zealand Superannuation, regardless of income or assets?

As above

Does your party support maintaining the current rate and indexation of New Zealand Superannuation? If not, what changes would you make?

As above

Accommodation Supplement

(The accommodation supplement is subject to an asset test. For single individuals, the cash asset limit is \$8,100. For couples, the limit is \$16,200.)

Will your party increase the asset threshold for eligibility for the Accommodation Supplement? If yes, what threshold do you propose and when would it be introduced?

The Labour Party is committed to a fair system that helps people deal with the cost of living. We'll be announcing more policies over the coming months to help Kiwis with the cost of living.

Does your party support reviewing the Accommodation Supplement asset thresholds on a regular basis to ensure they remain fit for purpose?

As above.

Dementia Care

What specific measures would your party introduce to improve dementia care and support for people living with dementia and their families?



Fixing the health system will be at the heart of the next Labour Government. Our policies are firmly focused on access and funding for primary care and prevention, in order to turn around the long-term challenges facing our health system.

Under Labour, every New Zealander will get three free doctor's visits a year through the new Medicard. labour.org.nz/medicard

We will announce further health policy closer to the election.

Does your party support fully funding and implementing the national Dementia Action Plan? If so, over what timeframe?

In Government, Labour put the Dementia Action Plan in place, and we support progress towards its goals. While our health system is under significant strain and facing cuts under the current Government, it's important progress on important, positive initiatives such as this are not lost. When you look at health funding over decades, a pattern is clear: National cuts health, Labour protects it.

Our health policy is focused on prevention, and we will announce further prevention policy closer to the election.

How would your party improve access to respite care, community support, and specialist dementia services?

We are committed to ensuring New Zealanders have access to care close to home, no matter where they live. Labour will release further health policy closer to the election.

Housing for Older New Zealanders

What policies does your party have to increase the supply of affordable housing for older New Zealanders?

The Labour Party is committed to a fair system that helps people deal with the cost of living. We'll be announcing more policies over the coming months to help Kiwis with the cost of living, including for affordable housing.

Does your party support increasing the number of public and community housing units specifically designed for seniors?

As above.

How will your party help older renters who are struggling with rising housing costs?

As above.



Aged Care Workforce

Does your party support restoring or strengthening pay equity protections for aged care and disability support workers?

Labour is committed to restoring a fair pay equity process and paying women what they are worth.

What policies will your party implement to recruit and retain the aged care workforce?

New Zealanders should be able to find secure work for themselves, here at home - especially in the areas where we have shortages or a stretched workforce. We're committed to protecting these jobs and ensuring our aged care workforce is sustainable now, and into the future.

The current government has been one of the most anti-worker in living memory. They've cut women's pay, weakened health and safety protections, brought back 90-day trials, scrapped fair pay agreements, gutted thousands of jobs from the public service and are cutting sick leave for part-time workers.

Health

How will your party improve access to general practice, specialist services and elective surgery for older New Zealanders?

The health system is struggling because too many people aren't getting early care for conditions through their family doctor: fees are too high and 600,000 Kiwis can't afford to visit their GP. Labour will fix this, by providing every New Zealander with three free doctor's visits, fixing funding for general practice, and backing doctors to set up more clinics with the Family Doctor Loan Scheme. Every dollar invested in primary care saves money for the rest of the health system. Unless we fix access to primary care, all other efforts to fix our health system will fail.

Every New Zealander should have access to timely diagnosis and treatment, and that our skilled medical graduates should be able to find work here at home. In 2023, Labour approved the funding of 50 new medical students at Otago and Auckland Medical Schools. The current Government has added another 50, and there will also be the future cohort of Waikato Medical School students coming on-stream. So, from 2029 there will be expanding cohorts of doctors ready to work in our health system. We're committed to working alongside our medical schools and colleges to expand the specialist pathways available to these graduates, ensuring they are sustainable and meet the needs of New Zealanders.

We will assess the current arrangements for outsourcing elective surgery, to make sure this money is being spent most effectively, and whether patients would receive better value for money if it was invested to strengthen our public health system long-term.



What will your party do to reduce waiting times for diagnosis and treatment of conditions that commonly affect seniors?

We will improve access to primary care, to free up millions of appointments, so you can get an appointment when you need to. We will also provide increased funding and support for clinics to free up capacity, to help with wait times. We've worked with GP representatives on a plan to provide more space, effective technology and a streamlined triage system, to make sure appointments are based on patient need, and allowing GPs to focus more of their time on face-to-face care with patients.

Cost of living

What specific measures will your party introduce to reduce the cost-of-living pressures facing older New Zealanders?

At a time when the cost of living is biting hard, older New Zealanders should not be left wondering how they will make ends meet. Seniors have spent decades contributing to our country. They deserve security, stability, and dignity in retirement. Labour's number one priority is a more affordable New Zealand; that's why our policies are focused on making it cheaper and easier to access healthcare, why we have capped public transport fares to \$20, and why we are bringing down the cost of installing solar – so that your and your families' bills are lower.

Does your party support changes to rates rebates, energy assistance, or other targeted support to *reduce living costs, and/or does it support the Ratings Assistance Scheme to defer rates costs*, for qualifying seniors?

Labour is also standing up for seniors as consumers too. Retirement village residents must be listened to, not sidelined in favour of operators. If elected, a Labour Government will ensure you or your family get your money back within three months of leaving a retirement village. We're stepping in where National has been missing and taking real action on the cost of living.

Aging Well

What are your party's top three priorities for improving the wellbeing and quality of life of older New Zealanders over the next parliamentary term?

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If elected, what actions will your party take in its first year to improve outcomes for seniors?

As above.

Closing question

What single policy or initiative do you believe would make the greatest positive difference to the lives of older New Zealanders, and why?

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