



New Zealand Superannuation

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

National will have a superannuation policy closer to the election. We don't support changing the entitlements of those currently receiving super.

If re-elected, National will require employers to maintain matching KiwiSaver contributions for any employees over 65, recognising that more New Zealanders are continuing to work beyond this age and shouldn't lose out simply for having a birthday.

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

National supports universal entitlement and will not means test superannuation.

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

On April 1 2026, around 960,000 Kiwis receiving NZ Superannuation and Veteran's Pension benefitted from increased payments. NZ Superannuation for a married couple who both qualify lifted more than \$50 to \$1,708 a fortnight, an increase of over \$180 since the 2023 election.

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?

National will release our full policy platform closer to the election.

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

National will release our full policy platform closer to the election.



Dementia Care

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

Dementia is one of the biggest health and ageing challenges facing New Zealand, affecting tens of thousands of New Zealanders and their families. It is important to prioritise initiatives that improve early diagnosis, support people to remain independent for longer, and reduce pressure on hospitals and residential care. That's why we have grown the healthcare workforce by hiring 900 additional doctors and 2100 additional nurses, provided funding for an additional 24,000 planned care treatments through Budget 2026, and created 12-month prescriptions.

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

The challenge is not simply producing plans, it is ensuring that actions are practical, affordable, and deliver measurable results for patients and families. We are focused on improving access to diagnostics, reducing wait times for specialist assessments, strengthening primary and community care, and ensuring older New Zealanders receive the support they need closer to home.

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

We have invested a record \$2.1 billion of additional funding into the disability support system to help ensure disabled people, families and carers can access the support they need. We're also reforming the Disability Services Sector to provide more flexibility and choice in disability support funding, so disabled people and their families have greater control over the support that works best for them.

Housing for Older New Zealanders

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

We are making it easier, faster and cheaper to build more homes for all New Zealanders. The Government's housing growth reforms are designed to make it easier, faster, and cheaper to build the houses that New Zealanders need. housing costs over time. This includes replacing the RMA, fast-tracking housing developments, freeing up land for housing, and reducing barriers to building.

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

National have created 8,400 social housing places across the country since coming to Government, including 3,000 in Auckland.



In Budget 2025, the Government also established a flexible fund to combine housing investment into a single contestable fund to better target needs in place and deliver the right types of houses.

As part of the government's new housing investment approach, we will be focusing on building the right houses in the right place for the right people, with appropriate support for those who need it. Community providers such as Abbeyfield houses are encouraged to expand, providing a great form of affordable community housing for our seniors.

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

Since coming to Government, rents have come down 7% across the country. We've also boosted the Accommodation Supplement for people in private rentals, with Budget 2026 increasing maximum rates by between \$10 and \$30 per week for eligible low-income renters.

Aged Care Workforce

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

National will uphold the pay equity scheme, and we have a proud history of supporting pay equity. It was a National-led government that made the original pay equity settlement with care and support workers in 2017 for \$2 billion. It was also a National government that introduced the original framework for assessing pay equity in 2017.

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

900 doctors and 2,100 new nurses have been added to the frontline since National came to government. We've expanded nurse practitioner training, increasing places to 120 to support faster access to care and created incentives for GP practices to recruit 400 graduate registered nurses annually, improving access to primary care. We've also created better transitions from hospital to aged care, ensuring older patients receive appropriate community care while freeing up hospital beds.

Health

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

We've reduced hospital waiting times, we're training more doctors and nurses, we've boosted Pharmac funding to deliver 66 additional medicines, including 33 new cancer medicines. We delivered more than 16,000 additional elective procedures in 2025, including cataracts, hips and knees, expanded breast screening to women aged 70 to 74, and delivered 12-month prescriptions so people with stable, long-term conditions face fewer GP visits. National will announce its full Health policy platform closer to the election.



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

National has expanded bowel cancer screening, lowering the screening age first to 58 and then to 56, and expanded breast screening to women aged 70-74, allowing more older New Zealanders to access early detection and treatment. A new FIT symptomatic bowel cancer pathway is being rolled out nationally to prioritise colonoscopies for those most at risk, reduce unnecessary referrals, and free up specialist capacity so patients can be seen sooner.

Cost of living

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

Budget 2025 delivered rates relief to 66,000 more SuperGold Cardholders by raising the income abatement threshold to \$45,000, we're capping council rates to 4% to incentivise value for ratepayers, and we're building up our energy security by building more renewable energy and commissioning an LNG terminal to provide backup generation in dry years.

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?

We have already expanded rates relief by increasing the income abatement threshold for SuperGold Cardholders, helping 66,000 more seniors qualify for assistance with their rates bills. We have also increased the maximum rebate available and further increased eligibility thresholds from 1 July 2026 to ensure support keeps pace with rising costs. These changes are designed to help seniors on fixed incomes meet rising rates bills while continuing to live independently in their own homes.

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?

Continue to grow the economy and manage inflation to make sure that prices remain stable and we can invest more in Health, Education and Police.

Continue to cut red tape and make houses cheaper and easier to build, through Fast Track and our RMA replacement legislation. This will keep house prices and rents affordable for older New Zealanders.

Continue to improve the healthcare system so that older New Zealanders can get the care that they need, when they need it.



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

If re-elected, National will continue to manage the economy sensibly, keep taxes low and repair the economic damage done since Covid. We have delivered tax relief for hard working Kiwis, provided families up to \$120 per week off their childcare costs through FamilyBoost, and cut wasteful spending to lower inflation and interest rates. A re-elected National government will continue to fix the basics and build the future for all New Zealanders.

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?

The single greatest policy to make a difference for older New Zealanders is improving financial security in retirement. We've already increased KiwiSaver contribution rates and will make further changes, including compulsory KiwiSaver contributions, support for parents during parental leave, and continued employer contributions for workers over 65.