



ASSOCIATION OF SALARIED MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

TOI MATA HAUORA

Summary of political parties' health policies ahead of Election 2023

| ACT Party | |
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| Services and public health initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase GP funding by 13%• Publicly subsidise common elective surgeries in private hospitals through competitive tender• Establish Mental Health and Addiction NZ, a standalone agency to allow patients to choose between a range of providers |
| Workforce | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make easier pathways for overseas trained doctors to practice in NZ• Enable Physician Assistants to take on less complex tasks to free up GPs• Attract more doctors and primary health professionals under a new immigration policy and establish better training and accreditation pathways• Forecasts for health workforce planning to avoid 'under' or 'over' shooting• Establish an Occupations Tribunal, to assess equivalent foreign registration and licensing so internationally trained health workers could start work immediately, bypassing New Zealand's registration requirements |
| System and infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give the Minister of Health the ability to override regulatory authorities if the Minister considers the authority's processes, practices or registration criteria go beyond what is required under the HPCA Act• Independent review of Pharmac• Private provision and leaseback of public hospitals through public-private partnerships with large, global infrastructure developers |

| Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand | |
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| Services and public health initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transition privately funded health services to fully-funded publicly owned services– including dental care, general practitioner clinics, ambulance and emergency services, aged care, palliative care and mental health services• Free and unlimited talking and creative therapies, mental health units, and locally based mental health services• Beneficial fortification of food• Reduction of unhealthy ingredients (sugar, sodium) in food, and restrict marketing of unhealthy food• Require adequate ventilation to reduce exposure to airborne pathogens and contaminants |

Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action the National Suicide Strategy |
| Workforce | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet union demands for fair wages, pay parity, a reasonable workload and conditions that support the wellbeing of health workers Train and employ more psychologists; clinical and other social workers; counsellors; psychotherapists; specialist nurses and occupational therapists Incorporate holistic and collaborative psychiatric approaches within medical school offerings Increase entrants into the health professions, retention of health practitioners and practitioners in the workforce and placements for on-the-job learning |
| System and infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit direct to consumer advertising by drug companies Empower and resource the Te Aka Whaiora (Māori Health Authority) to work in equal partnership with Ministry of Health and Te Whatu Ora |

Labour Party

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| Services and public health initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free basic dental care for under 30s, rolled out by July 2026 Expand primary mental health services to 3.5 million people Deliver He Tapu Oranga, the 10-year suicide prevention strategy Clear backlogs of people on waitlists for orthopaedic surgery, and other procedures and treatments Deliver 3,500 more cataract surgeries Expand telehealth services Free prescriptions Free cervical screening for those aged 25 to 69 Free breast screening extended from 69 to 74 years Develop an endometriosis action plan Implement a diabetes prevention and treatment programme for pacific communities in South Auckland |
| Workforce | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train 50 more doctors every year from 2024, increasing to 335 a year by 2027 Create 700 extra nursing places in 2024, increasing to 1000 additional trainees by 2025 Grow the general practice and primary care workforce Grow dental workforce through targeted immigration campaign, and train 30 more dentists per year (50% increase) Continue the Health Immigration Service and recruiting health workers from overseas Fund an additional 12 Psychiatry trainees per year |

Labour Party

System and infrastructure

- New hospitals in Nelson and Hawke's Bay. Complete the builds of Whangarei and Dunedin
- Complete the construction of Waikato, Lakes, Tairāwhiti and Hillmorton mental health and addiction facilities
- Increase Pharmac funding by \$1 billion over 4 years

National Party

Services and public health initiatives

- Set health targets for accountability (reduced wait times for ED, time to first specialist assessment, operations, and cancer treatment, and a 95% immunisation rate for 2 year olds)
- Reinstate \$5 prescription co-payment and aim for targeted policy for over 65s and community service card holders
- Fund 13 treatments for lung, bowel, kidney, and head and neck cancers identified by Te Aho o te Kahu as having clinical benefit
- Extend breast screening up to age 74
- Immunisation incentive payments to GP clinics that meet improvement measures for childhood, MMR and influenza vaccinations

Workforce

- Establish a third medical school in Waikato and increase places at Auckland and Otago medical school by 50 from 2025 (additional 220 doctors by 2030)
- Training plan to credential IMGs currently unable to be registered in NZ
- Increase nursing and midwifery workforces through bonding after graduation and providing student loan relief
- Six-month temporary visas for nurses and midwives to come to NZ to look for work
- Relocation grants of up to \$10k offered to up to 1000 qualified nurses and midwives
- Fair and equitable wages and safe working environments for nurses

System and infrastructure

- Dissolve the Māori Health Authority, in favour of a Māori Health Directorate within the Ministry of Health
- Devolve centralised decision making back to the regions

New Zealand First

Services and public health initiatives

- Increase funding for medicines
- Meet St John funding demands, and ensure Plunket, Rescue Helicopters and Surf Lifesaving are funded adequately
- Remove GST from basic foods
- Establish a Waitlist Reduction Fund of \$925m each year to allow GPs to purchase approved specialist appointments and operations for patients

New Zealand First

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand free annual dental check up to 18–25-year-olds, pensioners, and Community service card holders Specific actions for prostate cancer and breast cancer screening |
| Workforce | <p>Prioritise GPs in immigration settings</p> <p>Enable residence in 30 days of arrival and permanent residency in 2 years</p> <p>Amend HPCA Act to fast-track MCNZ registered doctors into GP</p> |
| System and infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abolish Te Aka Whai Ora Repeal the Therapeutic Products Act Replace PHARMAC with an agency focused on patients Disestablish MedSafe and enact Mutual recognition agreements for medicines from two peer regulators |

Te Pāti Māori

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| Services and public health initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free primary care and free dental for whānau earning less than \$60k Free delivery of medication to houses for whānau earning less than \$60k Implement a Māori Health Card that Māori patients can use at services they need, so funding follows the patient Accelerate and protect Mātauranga Māori Models for Health Drop Māori cancer screening by 10 years Establish a comprehensive Kaupapa Māori Mental Health service Remove GST from all kai |
| Workforce | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest \$1 billion annually in Health Workforce Development |
| System and infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase funding for Te Aka Whai Ora to 25% of all health funding Increase PHARMAC funding Establish a Māori ACC |

The Opportunities Party (TOP)

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| Services and public health initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully funded healthcare for young people (under 30 years) including GP visits, primary dental care, annual eye checks, and mental health care (up to 5 sessions per year) Fully funded ambulance service Fully fund contraception, and antenatal ultrasounds Support Te Whatu Ora to provide public GP practices in under-served rural areas that don't have a primary care provider |
| Workforce | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fair, liveable wages and safer roster hours for health workers Increased placements at medical, nursing and dental schools Introduce an accelerated post-grad medical programme for people who have completed clinical or science degrees Increase funding to the voluntary bonding scheme for nurses, midwives, doctors and allied health |

The Opportunities Party (TOP)

**System and
infrastructure**

No system and/or infrastructure policies announced