

Alliance

for the common good

Manifesto

www.alliance.org.nz

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Alliance does not receive big donations from business or people pushing hidden agendas.

Alliance looks at the big picture

Our policies are evaluated for their impact on

Equality

Employment

Environment

Alliance wants a New Zealand, and a world, where everyone is valued and can participate as equals in their community. A world where everyone has;

- a decent income
- free education
- free doctors and dentists visits and prescriptions
- a safe healthy environment to live in
- affordable housing, power and food
- affordable phone and internet connections
- the right to privacy

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A Summary of Key Alliance Policies

Alliance stands for public ownership of essential assets so that everyone can access them and everyone can afford them.

We will fight to keep water, railways, roads and postal services in public ownership.

We will work hard to get electricity, telecommunications, ports and airports back into public ownership.

Alliance is committed to responsible spending and economic reform

We will not waste taxpayers money. We believe all government spending should benefit everyone.

All State Owned Enterprises, government departments and local bodies will be required;

- to run a 'buy New Zealand owned' policy in terms of product procurement or tenders.
- to pay workers a living wage (including contractors)
- to implement a 1:12 cap on CEO salaries

We will challenge economic thinking that is undemocratic and promotes inequality

Alliance believes everyone is entitled to free health care that is easily accessed whenever it is needed. We stand for;

- free doctors consultations for everyone
- the removal of prescription charges
- free hearing and eye tests, and free dental check-ups
- shortened waiting lists
- increased health funding through a dedicated health levy

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Alliance believes free education for all is a right, not a privilege. We would:

- abolish the Student Loans Scheme and immediately write off all loans
- introduce a living allowance for all tertiary students at the level of the Unemployment Benefit
- fully fund the public education system from early childhood to tertiary level, including removal of tuition fees
- reduce class sizes to a maximum of 20 pupils in all primary and secondary schools
- oppose bulk funding of schools
- abolish National Standards for primary school children

Alliance wants to get everyone into a home they can afford with;

- low-interest, no-deposit loans for low-income workers and beneficiaries to enable them to buy homes
- more state houses
- loans at below market interest rates for councils and other non profit agencies providing pensioner flats and social housing if rents are set at less than 25% of household income
- a public housing construction agency employing builders and apprentices to build state houses, and to modernise and insulate existing state houses
- rent controls, stronger tenancy protection and a warrant of fitness for rental housing

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Alliance wants safe communities. Secure and well-paid jobs, free education and health care will reduce crime rates and lead to safer communities. We want;

- an adequately resourced police force that works with the community to prevent problems and provide speedy responses to crimes
- a Victims Compensation Board to oversee a fund to help victims of crime
- improved access to mental health services so that New Zealanders who need help get it before they commit a crime and end up in the prison system
- a comprehensive independent review of existing drug legislation with a view to promoting harm minimisation and drug use reduction
- to disestablish the Security Intelligence Service, Government Communications Security Bureau and External Assessments Bureau
- to see increased use of Restorative Justice Programmes aimed at addressing the causes of crime and healing the effects of crime

Alliance believes everyone who wants one, should have a well paid secure job. We also believe there should be a better balance between work and leisure/ family time. We would;

- increase the minimum wage to the living wage - \$18.80 per hour
- introduce a 35-hour working week with no loss of pay
- immediately introduce five weeks' annual leave
- introduce greater protections for casual workers
- private business would be required to meet national standards in pay and conditions if they get government money
- support 12 months paid parental leave
- support the right to strike: to oppose lay-offs, to support other workers and for political reasons

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Alliance believes climate change is one of the greatest threats to our natural environment. New Zealand should be a world leader in finding solutions for climate change. We would;

- strengthen the Resource Management Act and open up public debate on all developments of environmental significance, including intensive farming
- minimise waste by encouraging the reduction of packaging, and local reuse, repair, recycling and composting
- aim for carbon neutrality by 2030
- abolish the carbon trading scheme and replace it with a carbon tax
- prioritize research into finding solutions for climate change and ensure results remain in the public domain

Alliance supports an environmentally sustainable affordable transport system based around public ownership. We would;

- rebuild the national rail network as part of a publicly operated and integrated transport system that utilises rail and coastal shipping to reduce road freight
- end privatisation, such as public–private partnerships and toll roads, and shift a significant amount of funding from road construction to public transport infrastructure
- ensure that people and goods have ready access to places of work, distribution areas and ports.
- return ports into 100% public ownership and introduce cabotage to rebuild New Zealand shipping
- promote research into new transport fuels and seek to decrease reliance on oil

Alliance puts children first. We would;

- restore a Universal Child Benefit
- introduce universal, quality childcare
- introduce free school meals for children
- oppose youth rates

Alliance values the contribution New Zealand's senior citizens have made and continue to make to society. We would;

- increase superannuation to 72.5% of the average after-tax wage
- make superannuation available at age 55 at reduced rates until age 65 to reflect the growing need for public provision from an earlier age
- end all means testing of senior citizens needing long-term care
- subsidise telephones and transport for senior citizens

Alliance supports women's rights. We would;

- extend pay equity to the private sector. Pay inequities will be reduced when we have free childcare and after-school care, and when the work that women commonly do is rewarded with decent pay.
- introduce 12 months' paid parental leave for primary caregivers and two weeks' paid parental leave for their partners
- recognise the contribution of women in unpaid work
- support more effective strategies and increased funding to protect women from violence

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Alliance wants a New Zealand free from poverty where all people enjoy a good basic standard of living. We would;

- work towards the establishment of a single Universal Basic Income (UBI) system for all benefits at 72.5 % of the average after tax wage, with extra assistance for special needs
- as an interim measure raise all benefits back to pre-1991 levels immediately and provide Christmas bonuses and other additional payments to support beneficiary households
- rename the Ministry of Social Welfare the Ministry of Equality and Social Inclusion. It will focus on providing public service to disadvantaged New Zealanders.
- establish an independent Ombudsman to investigate complaints laid by beneficiaries
- adequately fund ACC and beneficiary advocacy groups

Alliance believes New Zealand should be a leader in building a better world for all, free of war and injustice. We would

- support the cancellation of all third world debt
- reject the TPP and other free-trade agreements that erode workers rights and threaten local businesses or allow overseas companies to override decisions made by our democratically elected government
- support the rights of all countries to insist that imported products meet environmental, health and labour standards
- support the Palestinian people in their struggle against military occupation
- close down the Waihopai, Tangimoana and other spy bases
- establish a smaller, more compact New Zealand Self Defence Force charged with strictly national defence, regional and UN peacekeeping, maritime surveillance and civil defence duties

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Alliance stands for an inclusive New Zealand where everyone is valued and able to participate in our society. We would

- ensure income support for people with disabilities that reflects the real costs of living with a disability regardless of how and when the disability originated
- prioritize work on eliminating barriers faced by disabled people in getting a decent education, finding employment and accessible housing, and undertaking recreation and leisure activities
- support decent pay and conditions for all disability support workers

Alliance recognizes that the Treaty of Waitangi is the basis for a genuine partnership between tangata whenua and the rest of the people of New Zealand. We support;

- redressing land and other grievances
- the safe-guarding of Maori customary rights
- the democratic organisation of iwi and urban Maori to ensure all Maori benefit from land and other compensation gained under the Treaty settlement process
- the promotion of Te Reo as the “first” language of New Zealand, including in the education system

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Alliance wants a fair tax system.

New Zealand needs extra spending on health, education, housing and transport and New Zealand needs to reduce economic inequality.

We all work hard. It is not fair, or good for our country, for some people earn \$14.25 an hour and others \$1400 an hour. Nor is it good for some people to accumulate an enormous wealth by way of assets while others struggle to pay rent or buy a modest home.

We believe those who earn high wages, private trusts, those with independent wealth and businesses that make excessive profits should pay a higher tax rate. Those on low incomes should pay a lower tax rate. In addition we would support;

- the first \$20,000 tax free for everyone
- a capital gains tax on everything but the family home
- a carbon tax
- a land tax
- an inheritance taxes at 20 cents in the dollar, beginning at \$1million
- a financial transactions tax of 2 cents per \$100 on bank withdrawals
- getting rid of GST

For more information;

For full details, other Alliance policies and ideas we are exploring,

visit our website www.alliance.org.nz

or write to Alliance Party P.O. Box 250 South Dunedin 9044

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