

Comparing the policies of Labour, NZ First and Greens on key family issues

REDEFINING MARRIAGE

ProtectMarriage.nz

 Labour	No response received
 NEW ZEALAND FIRST	This issue should be left to a binding government or citizens initiated referendum after a period of public debate. Polygamy & group marriage – No official policy
 Green	We strongly oppose the reducing of the definition of marriage to being between one man and one woman only. We don't have policy on (polygamy & group marriage) and we have no intention to extend the law to these types of relationships.

DECRIMINALISING ABORTION

ChooseLife.nz

 Labour	"(Abortion) shouldn't be in the Crimes Act. People need to be able to make their own decision. I want women who want access to be able to have it as a right." Jacinda Ardern – Newshub Leaders Debate, Sep 2017
 NEW ZEALAND FIRST	New Zealand First believes abortions should be safe, legal and rare. Any change must be subject to a binding government or citizens initiated referendum after a period of public debate.
 Green	Our full policy on this is a part of our Women's Policy. In short, our policy is to decriminalise abortion.

DECRIMINALISING ASSISTED SUICIDE / EUTHANASIA

RejectAssistedSuicide.nz

 Labour	No official response "Labour (leader) Jacinda Ardern, also on The AM Show, said she would vote for (euthanasia)." (April 2017)
 NEW ZEALAND FIRST	New Zealand First policy is that the vote on Euthanasia should not be left to temporarily empowered politicians but for the public to decide by a binding government or citizens initiated referendum, after a period of public debate.
 Green	Section 15 of our Health Policy outlines our End of Life policy. We support a law change to allow an individual access to medically-assisted dying, providing that, as a minimum, a series of safeguards are included. These specific safeguards are set out in detail on pages 8-9 of our Health Policy.

DECRIMINALISING MARIJUANA

SayNopeToDope.nz

 Labour	No response received "The student asks (Jacinda Ardern) direct questions about cannabis and gets equally direct responses: Does Labour believe in drug reform? Yes. More than for just medical purposes? Yes." (2016) Medicinal – "...if a medical practitioner considers that you meet the criteria to access approved medicinal cannabis products, then you will be approved. No ifs, no buts." – Jacinda Ardern (2016)
 NEW ZEALAND FIRST	Any change must be subject to a binding government or citizens initiated referendum after a period of public debate. Medicinal – New Zealand First is not opposed to research into the potential benefits of pharmaceutical marijuana extracts, provided that these benefits are unobtainable elsewhere, and that any benefits are shown to be greater than any potential negative effects such extracts may include. If research into the validity of medical cannabis is completed and Pharmac chooses to make marijuana based drugs available in New Zealand then we would support it being purchased only through a pharmacist with a valid doctor's prescription.
 Green	Our full Drug Law Reform Policy includes a section outlining our position to make cannabis legal for personal use. That includes legalising cultivation for personal use, introducing a legal age limit for personal use, and providing education. Medicinal - Our full Drug Law Reform Policy includes a section outlining our position on the medicinal use of cannabis. While awaiting broader law change for cannabis, we would remove penalties for any person with a terminal illness, or chronic or debilitating condition to cultivate, possess or use cannabis and/or cannabis products for therapeutic purposes, provided they have the support of a registered medical practitioner.

ANTI-SMACKING LAW

ProtectGoodParents.nz

 Labour	No response received
 NEW ZEALAND FIRST	New Zealand First will repeal the anti-smacking law (Crimes (Substituted Section 59) Amendment Act 2007).
 Green	It was former Green Party MP Sue Bradford whose law change led to the repeal of section 59 of the Crimes Act to mean that a child could no longer be smacked for the purposes of correction alone. This is still our position.

SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

JustTheFacts.org.nz

 Labour	"It's proposed Labour enacts a national sex and sexuality education programme. It would see a minimum standard set for sex and sexuality education in the national curriculum – issues covered would include sexual diseases, contraception, consent, sexual orientation and gender identity." (Oct 2013) "Labour will...implement the Ministry of Education's Sexuality Education Guidelines..." – Labour Education Manifesto (2017)
 NEW ZEALAND FIRST	Yes, on the proviso that there is greater parental involvement on the curriculum development. Parents able to opt out? – Yes
 Green	The Green Party's Youth Policy states that we will ensure the inclusion of comprehensive health and sex education at intermediate and secondary levels. We support the Ministry of Education's sexuality guidelines, and would provide more leadership from the Ministry to inform and upskill schools to be able to deliver them. Parents able to opt out? – We don't have specific policy on this.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION FOR TEENAGE ABORTIONS

HillarysLaw.org.nz

 Labour	(Opposed the petition of Hillary Kieft to get the law changed to allow for parental notification) "Labour's spokesperson for Justice Jacinda Ardern said the law should remain the way it was." (2015)
 NEW ZEALAND FIRST	(Supported the petition of Hillary Kieft to get the law changed to allow for parental notification) New Zealand First supports the parental notification for teenagers seeking abortion if the minor is in their parents care with an exemption in exceptional circumstances where the young woman could be placed in danger by such a notification.
 Green	Our full policy on this is a part of our Women's Policy. In short, our policy is to decriminalise abortion.

'GENDER IDENTITY' IDEOLOGY IN SCHOOLS

AskMeFirst.nz

 Labour	No response, but they support the new Sexuality Education Guidelines released in 2015 (which includes 'gender identity' ideology). "Labour will undertake an assessment of the need for gender reassignment surgery as an elective health service. This is a mental health and a suicide prevention initiative, especially for young trans New Zealanders." (our emphasis added) – Labour policy announcement (2017)
 NEW ZEALAND FIRST	New Zealand First does not have an official policy on gender identity being taught in NZ schools. Re bathroom, changing room and sports teams – no school or local body has contacted us on this.
 Green	Yes, we support ('gender identity' being taught in schools). Re Bathroom, changing room and sports teams – We absolutely support the rights of transgender people and we are very concerned about rhetoric that suggests people have any cause to be scared.

INDEPENDENT COMPLAINTS AUTHORITY FOR ORANGA TAMARIKI (CYF)

 Labour	No response received
 NEW ZEALAND FIRST	New Zealand First supports an independent complaints authority for the new Ministry of Vulnerable Children (Oranga Tamariki).
 Green	We support an independent agency. There is a lot of potential for things to go wrong in child protection, and just like the police, there really does need to be independent oversight.

BINDING CITIZENS' INITIATED REFERENDA

 Labour	No response received
 NEW ZEALAND FIRST	New Zealand First has long supported citizen-initiated binding referendums for contentious issues. These issues should not be decided by temporarily empowered politicians but by the public.
 Green	No, we do not have policy on this.