

Election Manifesto 2023

FOR:	Consultation	DATE:	20 March 2023
FROM:	Volunteering New Zealand	STATUS:	DRAFT

OUR CALL TO ACTION FOR POLITICAL PARTIES

We call on political parties to **protect** and **grow** the mahi aroha, volunteering effort and effect in Aotearoa New Zealand. Volunteering will generate the flows of wellbeing, public service, community building and social cohesion that are necessary for our communities to grow and thrive. Impactful volunteering is essential for the implementation of various policy agendas across many communities.

We are calling on political parties to commit to:

1. Retaining a minister for the community and voluntary sector that sits inside Cabinet. This will enable a better partnership between our community and key people in government.
2. Making volunteering a cross portfolio issue within government. Significant strides have been made in this area, with the establishment of a cross-agency volunteer working group in 2022. This group has agreed to focus on reducing the compliance burden for volunteer organisations, and investment in volunteering infrastructure and diversity. The impetus for this must continue so that support for volunteering is joined-up and responsive.
3. Increasing sustainable funding for volunteering infrastructure (place, space, policies, programmes, funds). Provide greater funding for Volunteering New Zealand to lead out and deliver on its mandate of being the voice of volunteers within New Zealand. And greater funding to the Volunteer Centres; it has not changed in about five years. Volunteer leadership is vital to growing and supporting volunteering.
4. Champion better data collection and research on volunteering. Request relevant government agencies update data sources used in the Living Standards Dashboard.

WE ALSO SUPPORT PEAK BODIES HUI-E! AND PHILANTHROPY NZ IN THESE CALLS:

- We urge political parties to develop and publish a comprehensive policy specifically for the community and voluntary sector.
- **Enable education and capacity building** – these are important to assist community groups to comply with regulations and promote a healthy sector. *Further, with the ROVE reforms, there is opportunity to consider training and development needs for volunteer managers and volunteers.*
- To prioritise the needs of our communities and to commit to supporting and strengthening the tangata whenua, community, and voluntary sector.