

New Zealand General Election 2026

POLICY COMPARISON SNAPSHOT

Healthcare

 ACT	 Green	 Labour	 National	 NZ First	 Opportunity	 Te Pāti Māori
Increasing share of health budget spent on medicines reaching 12% by 2033. Enabling pharmacists to do more, removing barriers to opening new pharmacies, 24-hour lockers for medicine pick-ups, PACT certification transferable.  Expanding end of life choice access within guardrails and strengthening Registrar oversight National Cancer Centre established with Auckland and Christchurch campuses.	Free and accessible public health services including dental, GP, ambulance, aged care, and mental health services. Reduce mental health waitlists by investing in more therapists, psychologists, and social workers.  Increase entrants into health, including supporting Māori to train and upskill in health professions. Support health workers' wellbeing via fair pay and supportive workplace conditions.	New Medicard system 3 free GP visits, free prescriptions, free cervical screening, free maternity scans.  Lifting GP capacity via family doctor loan scheme and investments that free up >4.5 million appointments annually. Better hospitals by investing in clearing repair backlog and fixing essential systems.	Pharmac uplift of \$604 million through savings from reduced foreign aid. Set national target for clinical trials with a focus on cancer and rare disorders, including CAR-T cell therapy. Improved screening lower bowel screening age, extend breast screening age, free cervical screening, screening pilots for prostate and lung cancer. Establish Healthy Kiwis Programme doubling number of ‘active prescriptions’ (exercise and healthier eating) delivered via trained coach.	Promoting health prevention through nutritional interventions, health coaches, removing Pharmac barriers. Supporting GPs’ professional autonomy and acknowledging nursing workforce.  Investing in research and innovation in agricultural practices and nutritional interventions.	10-year Health Plan increasing health funding to 9% of GDP and increasing share of primary care funding. Focus on preventative care through earlier detection and treatment of illness. Reducing commercial interests in health through restrictions on lobbying and donations.	Focus on prevention and whānau wellbeing, not just crisis response. Strengthen Māori-led solutions including a health authority and culturally safe, accountable services. Gender affirming care provision within the public health system, including mental health services.

Note:  denotes where a health policy has stated a direct workforce implication.