

## Public Service Association – election policy positions for political parties – questionnaire

The questionnaire was sent to all political parties running a nationwide campaign in the 2017 election, and with a comprehensive policy platform. The table below shows the responses of the parties that responded. Where they have included more detail in response to a question, we have included this on our webpage [detail]. The following parties didn't respond to our questionnaire: Mana, Conservatives, United Future.

When making your decision about how to vote in the September election, we suggest that you are guided by these responses, but also that you do your own research into the parties' electoral platforms, study their record in parliament and government, and attend candidate and political forums to gain more information.

Code: Y – Yes      N – N      IP – In Principle      D/A – Didn't answer or didn't provide answer in a required format

| Policy Area                            | If in government, would your party commit to the following PSA policy positions?   | Does your party support this position?<br>(Yes / No / In principle) |             |        |     |          |             |          |     |
|--|--|---|-------------|--------|-----|----------|-------------|----------|-----|
|  |  | Internet Party  | Green Party | Labour | TOP | NZ First | Māori Party | National | ACT |
| Stronger Community and Public Services | Sufficient funding increases to government and state sector agencies to allow for wage increases to keep pace with cost of living increases and private sector wage growth.  | Y   | Y           | IP     | IP* | Y        | IP*         | Y        | N   |
|  | The payment of at least the living wage to all public servants and people delivering government- contracted services.  | Y   | Y           | Y      | IP* | D/A *    | Y           | N        | N   |
|  | The removal of the cap on public service employees and the introduction of mandatory reporting on the numbers of contractors being used by government agencies.  | Y   | Y           | Y      | Y   | IP       | N/Y*        | N/Y      | D/A |
|  | The introduction of a public interest test to evaluate public impact prior to the outsourcing of any government delivered public services. The test would examine the environmental, community, democratic, financial, economic, social and administrative impacts of outsourcing the service. | Y   | Y           | IP*    | Y   | IP       | Y           | N        | N   |
|  | The mandatory use of responsible commissioning and procurement processes by central and local government to ensure that contractors are fully-funded and able to provide decent employment conditions for workers.   | Y   | Y           | Y      | IP  | Y        | IP          | N        | Y   |
|  | Amend the Crown Research Institutes Act to include in the principles of operation that CRIs should have regard to and support the principle and practice of scientific integrity.  |   | IP*         | IP     | Y   | Y        | Y           | IP       | Y   |
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|   |  |    |   |     |     |      |     |     |     |
|---|--|----|---|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the State Sector | Amend the State Sector Act and the Crown Entities Act to include an obligation on state agencies to integrate the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi into all their actions and decision-making as a matter of course. | Y  | Y | IP  | Y   | N*   | Y   | IP  | N   |
| Equal Pay                                 | Repeal or halt the Employment (Pay Equity and Equal Pay) Bill within 100 days of becoming government.  | Y  | Y | Y   | IP* | IP   | Y   | N   | N   |
|   | Amend the Equal Pay Act to strengthen the human rights of women, consistent with the Joint Working on Pay Equity and the outcome of the Kristine Bartlett case.  | Y  | Y | Y   | IP* | Y    | Y   | N   | N   |
|   | Require employers to provide aggregate remuneration information by gender and ethnicity.   | Y  | Y | IP* | Y   | d/a* | Y   | N   | N   |
|   | Improve the capability of employment institutions such as MBIE, mediators and the Employment Relations Authority to assist parties to efficiently make and resolve pay equity claims.                                  | Y  | Y | Y   | IP* | IP   | D/A | Y   | Y   |
| Housing                                   | Prioritise, in the first term of government, an extensive state house building programme that ensures the availability of a healthy, affordable and secure rental home for all those who need it.                      | IP | Y | Y   | Y   | Y    | IP* | Y   | N   |
|   | Changes to tenancy laws to give tenants greater security of tenure and require landlords to ensure rental properties are safe, healthy and habitable.  | Y  | Y | Y   | Y   | Y    | Y   | N/Y | N   |
|   | The establishment of a core public service housing agency which would bring all government housing functions into one agency, and remove the requirement of our state housing agency to pay dividends.                 | Y  | Y | IP  | N   | Y    | N*  | N   | N   |
| Local government                          | The restoration of the four wellbeings - social, environmental, cultural and economic - into the Local Government Act.   | Y  | Y | Y   | IP* | Y    | Y   | N   | N   |
|   | Amendments to the Local Government Act as necessary to remove any preference for contracted out services and enhance the constitutional and democratic independence of local government                                | Y  | Y | IP  | IP* | Y    | IP  | N   | D/A |

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|---------------------------|---|----------------|--------|--------|-----|----------|-------------|----------|-----|
| Transparency and Openness | Strengthening the Office of the Ombudsman, including giving the office the legal power to impose penalties for non-compliance with the Official Information Act.  | Y              | Y      | IP*    | Y   | Y        | IP*         | N        | N   |
|                           | Requiring all agencies within the ambit of the OIA to proactively release official information, including cabinet papers.   | Y              | Y      | IP     | Y   | Y        | IP*         | N        | Y   |
| Social Security           | A re-write of the Social Security Act to recognise that work is not always available and that people may have caring responsibilities, or physical and mental health needs that means work is neither possible nor desirable. | Y              | Y      | IP*    | IP* | IP*      | Y           | N        | N   |
|                           | Review of the sanctions regime with a view to removing the most unfair and punitive sanctions.  | Y              | Y      | Y      | Y   | IP*      | Y           | N        | N   |
|                           | Increase basic benefit levels to ensure they are set at liveable levels.  | Y              | Y      | IP*    | N   | Y        | Y           | Y        | N   |
|                           | Index benefits, including Working for Families payments, to the average wage.   | Y              | Y      | N      | N   | Y        | Y           | N        | N   |
|                           | Maintain the age of superannuation eligibility at 65 years.   | Y              | Y      | Y      | Y   | Y        | Y*          | N        | N   |
| Tax                       | Non-implementation of the current government's proposed tax cuts.   | Y              | Y      | Y      | Y   | Y        | N           | N        | N   |
|                           | Consider the introduction of a new top tax rate to improve progressivity in our tax system.   | Y              | Y      | N*     | N   | N        | D/A         | N        | N   |
|                           | Broadening of the tax base to include wealth taxes as a means of creating a fairer, more balanced tax system.   | Y              | IP*    | N*     | Y   | IP       | Y           | N        | N   |
| Industrial Relations      | Amend the Employment Relations Act to strengthen collective bargaining mechanisms and enable the negotiation of industry standards.   | Y              | Y      | Y      | N   | N        | Y           | N        | N   |