



Budget for All Mothers

Help for families that's simple and fair.

All kids deserve a great start to life. To make that a reality, parents need more time and more support in the important first months of their children's lives, and more flexible arrangements for when they go back to work.

To help that happen, the Green Party will:

1. Make the \$220 per week Parental Tax Credit available for all parents who don't get paid parental leave. This ensures universal support for all families with babies, removes discrimination against those not in work, and makes the whole system simpler.
2. Extend paid sick leave to 10 days a year, so that parents and whanau have time to look after sick kids and dependents.
3. Extend the OSCAR subsidy for before and after school care and holiday programmes to all low-income families and kids whose parents are not in paid work.
4. Give every newborn baby a Wahakura – Baby Pod welcome pack. This includes a safe sleeping place as well as clothes, nappies and bedding.

Why do we need this?

It's about time and money

We need a Budget for All Mothers because caring work is important and should be properly supported. Too many parents in Aotearoa are struggling to pay the bills and juggle work and family commitments. The Green Party will help to reduce those pressures.

The Green Party wants every Kiwi kid to have a great start in life – regardless of what their parents earn or whether they work or not.

To ensure great outcomes for kids, parents need more time, more financial support, and more flexible work arrangements. Well-supported kids become happy and healthy adults.

How will it work and what will it cost?

Parental Tax Credit

Currently, nearly 20,000 new babies and their parents are missing out on any income support when they are born. We will extend the Parental Tax Credit to all parents with a new baby who aren't currently eligible for any support, at an estimated cost of \$43 million per year.

A guaranteed \$220 a week for ten weeks, in the form of a Parental Tax Credit, will make a small but important difference for thousands of Kiwi families who are struggling to make ends meet. Universal access to support will mean that parents don't have to go through a complicated and confusing process to figure out what they are entitled to.

Extending sick leave

Most working parents have (at least) two jobs: one that they are paid for, and one that they aren't. We can't make more time in the day, but better flexibility for working parents is one way we can make their lives a little bit easier. The Green Party will extend sick leave from five to a minimum of ten days a year so that everyone can do what's right for their kids and families when they are sick.

OSCAR

The Green Party believes that all kids deserve access to fun, educational programmes after school and in the holidays. Currently kids are excluded from getting this help if their parents are receiving a benefit. We will extend eligibility for the OSCAR programme to all low-income families, regardless of the source of their income.

Programmes like these help low-income kids to keep up with their education over the holidays, as well as providing access to extracurricular activities like arts and sport. They are increasingly an important social safety net for kids who might otherwise go hungry over the holidays. Depending on uptake, this will cost between \$15 million and \$30 million per year, for an additional five to ten thousand kids respectively.

Wahakura

Wahakura – Baby Pods are a lifesaving device that help prevent sudden infant death syndrome (SUDI) by providing a safe space for babies to sleep. They have been successfully provided to hundreds of Māori families already, helping tamariki Māori who are at high risk of SUDI.

Wahakura will be rolled out across the country with support from midwives and DHBs, expanding on the successful pilot programmes already happening. This package is expected to cost \$12 million, with 40,000 or two-thirds of all babies expected to benefit. This will include a safe sleeping place, bedding and essential items for babies like clothes and nappies.

[www.greens.org.nz/
budget-for-all-mothers](http://www.greens.org.nz/budget-for-all-mothers)

The logo for the Green Party, featuring a stylized green leaf above the word "Green" in a white, serif font.