



Te reo Māori in all schools

Arohatia te reo Māori



GREEN PARTY 2017 ELECTION PRIORITY

Summary

“Ko te reo te mauri o te mana Māori” – Sir James Henare

The Green Party in government will revitalise te reo Māori in Aotearoa by giving kids the opportunity to learn it at school. Our goal is that all New Zealand school children will learn te reo Māori at school by 2030.

We will:

1. Establish a taskforce to implement te reo Māori as a core curriculum subject in all public primary and secondary schools from Year 1 to Year 10 by 2030.
2. Work with the education and te reo Māori sectors to create te reo Māori curriculum guidelines.
3. Develop a targeted strategy with incentives and scholarships to drive teacher recruitment.
4. Increase specialist te reo Māori teachers and kaiārahi i te reo.
5. Establish formal clusters of te reo Māori teachers, with facilitation and technical support from Language Advisors.
6. Negotiate to honour the Te Kōhanga Reo settlement claim (WAI 2336), and provide additional resource for kaupapa Māori education.

Every child in Aotearoa should learn te reo Māori. It is the first language spoken in Aotearoa, one of the things that makes us unique, and one of our three official languages. It’s a fundamental part of our identity as New Zealanders and gives us pride on the world stage.

Yet, the survival of te reo Māori remains in question. The number of fluent speakers of te reo has been decreasing, and most children are not enrolled in any form of Māori language education.

Introducing universal te reo Māori in all public schools is one of the best things we can do to normalise the language in Aotearoa, which will support whānau and community initiatives to thrive.

The Green Party’s plan will ensure that the Crown meets its obligations to protect and revitalise te reo Māori, and will lift outcomes for students.

Situation

We have a responsibility to protect and embrace our first language in Aotearoa. Yet despite huge progress over recent decades, the survival of te reo Māori is still not assured. Te reo Māori needs more help to thrive.

According to the latest census in 2013, only 3.7 percent of New Zealanders speak te reo Māori and the percentage of Māori who can hold a conversation about everyday things in te reo Māori has decreased by 4.8 percent since 2006 (21.3 percent in 2013, down from 26.1 percent in 2006).¹

A lot of people think that children in Aotearoa New Zealand are already getting the basics of te reo Māori at school. But that's sadly just not the case; most children are not.

In 2016, 77.2 percent² of children were not enrolled in any Māori language in education³. Around half of the schools in Aotearoa New Zealand (1302 out of 2529) had no students learning te reo Māori, or any other curriculum subjects in te reo Māori. When almost half of our schools aren't teaching te reo Māori, it's clear that we need to act to protect and revitalise our indigenous language.

In 2015, the Green Party sought a select committee inquiry. We wanted parliament to formally look into the capacity to deliver te reo Māori to students, and to make recommendations on how this could be strengthened. We hoped that the committee would consider the curriculum, issues of professional development for the delivery of te reo Māori, and seek views from schools and communities about the challenges, barriers and opportunities in the implementation of te reo Māori teaching and learning in their schools. Unfortunately, our call for an inquiry was opposed, and many of these questions remain unanswered.

The Ministry of Education does have some strategies in place around te reo Māori. The Te Reo Māori in English-medium Schools strategy and Tau Mai Te Reo: The Māori Language in Education Strategy 2013-2017 have given us a starting point.



Tau Mai Te Reo's target of 22 percent of learners participating in Māori language in education (primary and secondary education) was met in 2015.

It's time to aim much higher.

Under the new Māori Language Act 2016, the Government must release a Maihi Karauna (Crown Strategy) that sets out its objectives and policies relevant to the revitalisation of the Māori language, and the Government's plan to support that revitalisation.

In February 2016, the Green Party announced its support for universal te reo Māori in all schools as a suggestion of what could be prioritised in the Maihi Karauna. Since then, we have been meeting with stakeholders right around the country including te reo Māori revitalisation experts, iwi organisations, educators, teacher unions, and representatives of Te Mātāwai, the organisation charged with leading revitalisation of te reo on behalf of hapū and iwi Māori under the Maihi Māori (Māori Strategy).

Kaupapa Māori education has been struggling with a lack of resource and cooperation from government.

To make our plan a reality we know we need more teachers, more incentives to get people into training and the teacher workforce, better pay and conditions for specialist te reo Māori teachers, and most importantly a stronger commitment from government to make this happen.

Instead, the National Government has chosen to lump te reo Māori in with many other languages in its plan for second language learning.

Solution

The Green Party supports teaching te reo Māori to every New Zealand child. We have a responsibility to ensure that our first language thrives in Aotearoa, and introducing all children to it at school is the best way to make that happen. Learning a second language has proven benefits for all children. Māori students benefit from being immersed in their own reo and tikanga.

1. Establish a “te reo in schools” implementation taskforce

The Green Party will establish a taskforce to implement a Māori Language in Education Strategy 2018-2030 that will see te reo Māori as a core curriculum subject in all public primary and secondary schools from Year 1 to Year 10 by 2030.

Ka whakaara Te Rōpū Kākāriki i te kaupapa ako whānui i te reo Māori ki ngā kura kātoa i Aotearoa

– Marama Davidson, Green MP

We will bring together educators, experts in te reo Māori and language revitalisation, professional development specialists, and resource developers to drive and oversee our plan for universal te reo Māori in schools.

Their remit will be to work towards te reo Māori as a core curriculum subject in the compulsory education sector (primary and secondary) beginning with Year 1 in 2020 and each successive school year through to 2030 when all school levels from Year 1 to Year 10 will be included.

The task of teaching te reo Māori to all children at school is not a small one, and so the staggered approach allows for capacity building in the teaching sector.

The taskforce would oversee our plan and implement a range of models and initiatives that will be needed. Specifically, it will:

- Gather data and research about successful implementation of indigenous languages in schools overseas.
- Oversee the development of fit-for-purpose curriculum guidelines and delivery models.
- Identify a capacity-building and inspiration process for teachers.
- Identify specific changes needed in Initial Teacher Education and professional development.
- Monitor progress against the timeline and milestones for implementing the goal, and revise these if necessary.
- Uphold and draw on the fundamental role of hapū and iwi Māori, specifically supporting the increasing role of hapū and iwi organisations in te reo Māori delivery in education.
- Establish and maintain robust connections and relationships with all agencies that deliver the Maihi Karauna and with Te Mātāwai.

2. Curriculum guidelines

The Green Party will make a few small changes to the curriculum so that language will become a core area of learning for all students from years 1 – 10. All students up to year 10 will learn at least one secondary language, and that language will be te reo Māori.

Teaching te reo in year one will enable children to build on the work that many Early Childhood Education centres have done, introducing young children to te reo Māori.

We will work with the education and te reo Māori sectors to create fit-for-purpose te reo Māori curriculum guidelines for learning te reo Māori as a second language between Years 1 - 13.

This will be based on the existing *Te Aho Arataki Marau mō te Ako i Te Reo Māori - Kura Auraki* curriculum but will be updated and strengthened to ensure there is a focus on bilingualism and its benefits, language acquisition, language planning and revitalisation, and tikanga Māori, as well as basic competencies. These principles need to be reflected in the curricula for Initial Teacher Education, including for early childhood education.



The delivery model will be designed to be implemented by both specialist te reo Māori teachers, as well as existing core primary school teachers who would have support to upskill.

It is likely that te reo Māori for year 9 and 10 students in secondary schools will be taught as a full-year programme at the Level 4(a) stage. This means students learning te reo Māori as a stand-alone subject for at least three hours a week.

The Green Party will reinstate Te Kotahitanga programme, a research and professional development programme to support change within schools to better support Māori learning. This would cost approximately \$10 million a year to reinstate.

The implementation taskforce could look at establishing programmes to provide a baseline of te reo Māori in schools even before wider capacity exists to deliver comprehensive programmes, such as through models that are currently being trialled to teach all students in a school a handful of phrases and words each week.

3. Develop strategies to drive teacher recruitment

The Green Party will incentivise people to train as teachers and ensure they are able to access scholarships.

We will double the number of scholarships available for both Māori-medium and English-medium trainee te reo Māori teachers. (Māori-medium education is where a significant part, sometimes all, of a child's education takes place in te reo Māori, such as at kura kaupapa or in bilingual classes. English-medium te reo teachers usually teach te reo to children for who the rest of their education is in English).

There will be a targeted promotion campaign directed towards fluent and confident speakers of te reo Māori, especially those graduating from secondary school and kaupapa Māori education. This campaign will highlight the scholarships that are available and incentives for people to want to train.

We also need to overhaul Initial Teacher Education and professional development in relation to te reo Māori. This will include te reo Māori wānanga for teachers, regular non-contact time to study and in-school support, and a centrally-funded professional development process that focuses on the specific age appropriate curriculum guidelines.

We will support centres of excellence in te reo Māori and language acquisition at a tertiary level, to support high-quality teacher training and professional development.

The implementation taskforce will develop the specific details around these issues in the Māori Language in Education Strategy.

I'm really excited about every child learning te reo Māori and falling in love with this beautiful language that is uniquely ours

— Marama Davidson, Green MP

4. Increase te reo teachers and kaiārahi i te reo

The Green Party will increase both the number and the capability of te reo Māori teachers over the next 15 years to teach te reo Māori to all students.

We will establish a new senior position at management level to coordinate te reo programmes in schools, but with a more hands-on teaching focus. This position will carry out professional development for all primary school teachers so they can deliver some te reo in their classes, as well as directly teach te reo to the students.

Our plan is to ensure that every primary school, based on an average size of 200 students, would have access to a senior te reo Māori teacher. This would require 2,364 new teachers eventually over the next 10 years.

Kaiārahi i te reo are currently employed as te reo support staff, and there will be training and support offered for these staff to become the senior te reo Māori teacher in our primary schools.

Building capacity in the teaching sector will over time ensure we can implement universal te reo Māori for year 9 and 10 students at secondary schools.

Guaranteeing available teaching positions for te reo Māori and increasing the pay and conditions of te reo Māori teachers will provide strong incentives for te reo Māori speakers and learners to enrol in teaching qualifications. Pay changes will be the subject of negotiation through collective bargaining.

The Green Party will re-establish the Ministry of Education position of Language Advisor to provide support to these te reo Māori teachers with professional development and language learning delivery.

The Language Advisors will provide support to facilitate and advise formally established clusters of kaiārahi i te reo and specialist te reo Māori teachers in both primary and secondary education. There will be one in every region.

5. Establish teacher clusters

The clusters will link in with hapū, iwi, and community te reo Māori revitalisation initiatives, as well as te reo Māori experts, to ensure consistency of high-quality language learning delivery and responses to issues such as dialectical differences.

This will provide support to teachers with the benefit of having practical connections in the implementation of the Māori Language Act's Maihi Karauna and Maihi Māori strategies, which will be necessary to achieve the overall goal of revitalising te reo Māori.

6. Kōhanga Reo and kaupapa Māori education

We acknowledge the kōhanga reo, kura kaupapa, wharekura, and whare wānanga movements and all the whānau who have worked so hard, going right back to the te reo Māori petition in 1972, to bring te reo Māori back from the brink to where we are today.

It is a testament to their determination and fortitude, and the constant work of hapū and iwi across the country over decades, that we can even consider setting a target of universal te reo Māori in public schools.



The Green Party will put the Te Kōhanga Reo settlement claim (WAI 2336) back on the table, and negotiate to provide recognition and redress for harmful actions of the Crown over the last few decades.

This claim sought justice for the assimilation of the kōhanga reo movement into the early childhood education regime under the Ministry of Education. The claim asserted that this led to a decline in the number of Māori children attending kōhanga reo. This was upheld by the Waitangi Tribunal. However, the Ministry of Education took the implementation of the Tribunal's findings off the Government's agenda in 2013 amid allegations about Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust.

We will over time increase the number of kōhanga reo / puna reo and Māori-medium compulsory-sector schools and preschools so that all children are near to one of these sites. This is likely to require more capital funding over time, as well as investment to increase workforce capacity.

We will appropriately recognise the current Whakapakari (Level 7 qualification) for Kōhanga Reo Kaiako, and support them to transition and upgrade to new qualifications and receive in-depth, Kaupapa Māori ITE so they have viable, long-term career options.

Fiscal impact

The Green Party's plan to revitalise te reo is a long-term plan and the investment needed will rise over time. For example, it would not be possible to employ all the teachers needed in year one, because they don't exist.

We estimate that providing kaiarihi i te reo at a ratio of one to every 200 students nationwide could cost \$142 million a year, including reasonable pay increases to bring their pay up to comparable levels to other teachers (through collective bargaining). However, the cost in the first few years would be considerably less than this, and will rise over time as more teachers are trained, the workforce grows, and we move closer to achieving the goal.

Other costs include:

Policy initiative	Estimated new spending (millions, annual)
Establishing implementation taskforce	\$0.1
Scholarships	\$11.0
Promotion/marketing of scholarships	\$1.0
Reinstating Ministry of Education Language Advisors	\$1.0
Reinstating Te Kotahitanga programme	\$10.0

The full costs of this package will be met from the Green Party's commitment to increase the overall education budget.



Sources

¹ <http://www.stats.govt.nz/Census/2013-census/profile-and-summary-reports/quickstats-about-maori-english/maori-language.aspx>

² <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/maori-education/maori-in-schooling/6040>

³ Māori language in education includes Māori-medium education (students are taught all or some curriculum subjects in the Māori language for at least 51 percent of the time), and Māori language in English-medium (students are learning te reo Māori as a language subject, or taught curriculum subjects in the Māori language for up to 50 percent of the time). No Māori language in education means students may be taught simple words, greetings or songs in Māori, or are not recorded as receiving Māori language at any level.

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