








ANSWERS:  
SUPPORT FOR  
FAMILIES



#EducatedVote17



## 5. Support for Families

How would you?	Support parents to support their children's learning and to upskill themselves for more stable employment?	Ensure families have the resources to give their children a good start in life?
	<p>The best way to empower parents is to give them more of a say over their children's education. ACT also supports stronger connections between schools, families, communities, iwi, philanthropists, business organisations and social service providers. Schools are naturally placed to be strong community hubs. More generally, ACT will ensure that the New Zealand education system is open and innovative so that people can quickly retrain.</p>	<p>ACT would make housing affordable and lower taxes, by cutting wasteful government spending like corporate welfare. This would put more money back into the pockets of hard-working Kiwis. ACT is also a pro-economic growth party and is focused on creating more higher-paying jobs.</p>
	<p>The research shows that parents support their kids' education best by being learners themselves. Restoring ACE funding is critical for families, whānau and 'aiga. Workplace-based training would also be a priority for the Greens. We will increase the availability of the Training Incentive Allowance, and make it fairer so parents are not concerned about having to pay it back upon gaining stable employment.</p>	<p>Our Budget for All Mothers and Mending the Safety Net package are designed to ensure parents have the time and money to focus on raising happy, healthy kids:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make the \$220 per week Parental Tax Credit available to all families who don't get paid parental leave to give baby born in New Zealand the same support.</li> <li>• Extend sick leave to a minimum of 10 days a year.</li> <li>• Make the OSCAR subsidy for after school and holiday programmes available to all kids from low-income families.</li> <li>• Give every new born baby a Wahakura - Baby Pod, which includes a safe sleeping place as well as clothes, nappies and bedding.</li> <li>• Increase all core benefits by 20 percent.</li> <li>• Increase the value of Working for Families for all families.</li> <li>• Create a Working For Families Children's Credit of \$72 a week.</li> <li>• Reduce the bottom tax rate from 10.5 percent to 9 percent on income under \$14,000.</li> <li>• Raise the minimum wage to \$17.75 in the first year and keep raising it until it's 66 percent of the average wage.</li> </ul>

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	<p>Labour will reinstate funding for night classes and other adult learning opportunities. Adult learners will also be able to access 3 years of free post-school education if they have not done formal post-school education or training in the past. This will allow those who went directly from school into employment to re-train. We will review the support for those on Job Seeker and Student allowances.</p>	<p>Labour has designed a Families Package that delivers more money to families with children and reduces child poverty. We will boost Working for Families to all those who currently receive it and extend it to 30,000 more families. We will introduce a Best Start payment of \$60 a week for each child in the first year after paid parental leave ends. This would be extended for low to middle income earners up to age three. We would also: Introduce a Winter Energy Payment for people receiving superannuation or a main benefit; reinstate the Independent Earners' Tax Credit; implement the Accommodation Supplement increases announced in Budget 2017; and introduce 26 weeks' paid parental leave.</p>
	<p>The Māori Party will develop a four-year zero-fee scholarship to target the 'First in Whānau' to engage in a Bachelor level qualification programme, we will also increase the number of TeachNZ scholarships and double the amount of MPTT and cadetships currently available.</p>	<p>The Māori Party has set a target to eliminate poverty in Aotearoa by 2025. To help achieve that goal we will introduce a living wage for all workers and also make a 'cost of living' adjustment to all work-related benefits. We will provide all children with free early childhood, primary and secondary education and free afterschool care and holiday programmes. We will make public transport free for primary and secondary school children.</p>
	<p>We're going to make it easier for parents to track their children's progress at school - Families will benefit from more regular updates on how their child is progressing against a longer and more detailed list of key learning areas. We are also investing \$2 billion in our Family Incomes Package, and are especially focused on helping low income families with children and steep housing costs get ahead. This involves tax reductions and increases to the accommodation supplement.</p>	

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	<p>We will improve the quality of all ECE services. We will also: Realistically fund Playcentre to support its growth and increased participation; work with Te Kohanga Reo National Trust to develop a supportive and sustainable funding model; support HIPPY in their provision of early childhood education for 4 and 5 year olds and their families; and support real choice for parents of special needs students, including special needs units incorporated into mainstream schools and the retention of special residential and day schools.</p>	<p>This would depend on the circumstances from which those families come because this is about having a warm, dry home, an income that meets their needs, access to free/affordable health care and so on. This crosses many policy areas which will set a standard of living that New Zealand First will not let our citizens fall below.</p>
	<p>Parents are the first teachers but many can't afford the luxury of time with their children at home. The Opportunities Party's tax reform would vastly reduce taxes on income, particularly for those on low incomes. This will help struggling young families spend more quality time with their children. TOP's priority is to invest in early childhood education, particularly in low-income communities, with the aim of high-quality, free, universal fulltime ECE for children aged 3 and over. This could increase female employment rates as has happened in other countries with fulltime subsidised childcare. We would also review the tertiary sector to ensure it provides whole-of-adult-life education for a productive and well-rewarded paid workforce.</p>	