

CONSTITUTION

***Kia rangatira te tū a Te Pāti Māori
hei roopū whakatīnana i ngā rau wawata
o te iwi Māori, o te motu hoki.***

Part 1: Kaupapa and Tikanga

HE KUPU WHAKATAKI

The Māori Party is born of the dreams and aspirations of tangata whenua to achieve self-determination for whānau, hapū and iwi within their own land; to speak with a strong, independent and united voice; and to live according to kaupapa handed down by our ancestors.

The vision for the Māori Party will be based on these aspirations, for they speak to us of whānau whose wairua is strong and vibrant; who have fully developed their spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical well-being; and who are confident, secure and pro-active in all aspects of the environmental, social, cultural, economic and political life of this great country of ours.

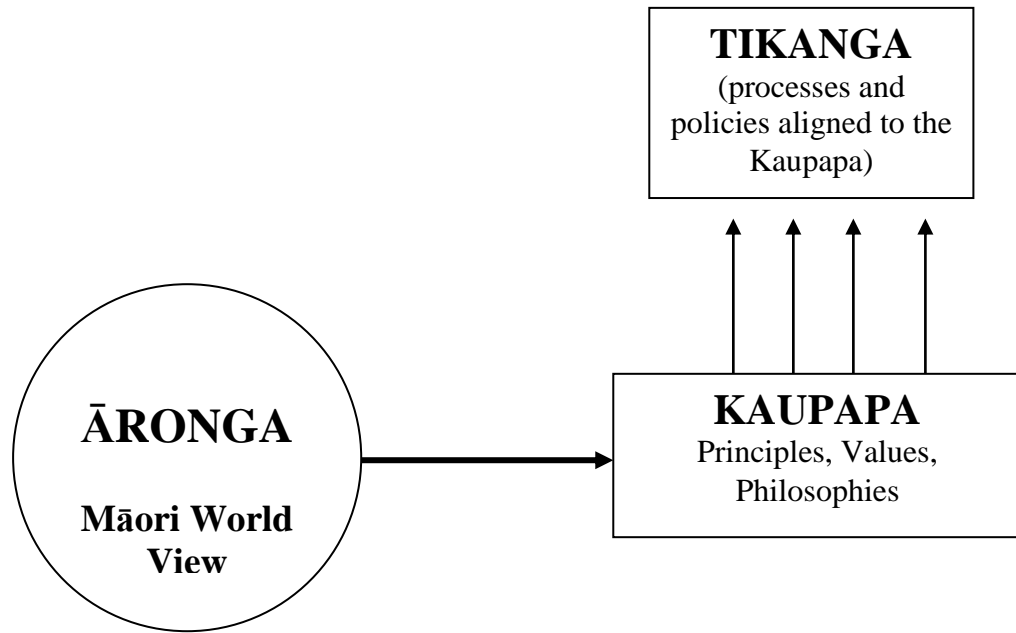
The MĀORI PARTY is for all citizens of this country. The Party's:

- founding was an initiative of Māori, te kākano i ruia mai i Rangiātea, for the benefit of all citizens of this land
- policies and practices derive from kaupapa tuku iho that are values that provide for the wellbeing of all and are in a constant state of enrichment and refinement as insights are gathered from new experiences and discoveries
- vision is of a nation of cultural diversity and richness where its unity is underpinned by the expression of tangata whenua-tanga by Māori, Te kākano i ruia mai i Rangiātea and
- commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding document of this nation and to its whakapapa is steadfast.

TE WAIHANGA I TE KAUPAPA

The Māori view of the world is described through pūrākau, karakia, mōteatea, whakataukī, whakapapa and many other puna korero. Kaupapa Māori is the foundation of Māori culture and is derived from this Māori world-view. Growing from within the kaupapa are our tikanga, like trees spring from Papatūānuku. The tikanga are the policies, practices and organisational structures of the Party that are aligned and consistent with the foundation kaupapa and will benefit not only Māori, but all those people who lay claim to this country as their homeland.

To achieve its vision, the Māori Party's existence will be based on kaupapa Māori, the foundation principles of the Māori world, and the bedrock from which we frame the objectives of the organisation. The Māori Party will demonstrate tikanga, consistent with kaupapa Māori.



NGĀ KAUPAPA O TE PĀTI MĀORI

The following **kaupapa** and **tikanga**, while not exhaustive, are consistent with the Māori world view and help us define and maintain the Party's focus and structure. These kaupapa can be framed as the objectives of the organisation, with various tikanga covering policies, operations and organisational structures emanating from these kaupapa.

1. Manaakitanga

Manaakitanga is behaviour that acknowledges the mana of others as having equal or greater importance than one's own, through the expression of aroha, hospitality, generosity and mutual respect. In doing so, all parties are elevated and our status is enhanced, building unity through humility and the act of giving. The Party must endeavour to express manaakitanga towards others, be they political allies or opponents, Māori and non-Māori organisations, taking care not to trample mana, while clearly defining our own.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Manaakitanga

- i. to be recognised by Māori as a political organisation that does manaaki the aspirations of Māori;
- ii. to ensure that relationships between the Party and whānau, hapū, iwi and other Māori organisations are elevating and enhancing;
- iii. to promote a fair and just society, to work for the elimination of poverty and injustice, and to create an environment where the care and welfare of one's neighbour is still important.
- iv. to ensure that members agree to work together, treat each other with respect and act with integrity in their party work.
- v. to involve all peoples in the process of rebuilding our nation based on mutual respect and harmonious relationships.

2. Rangatiratanga

Rangatiratanga is the expression of the attributes of a rangatira (weaving the people together) including humility, leadership by example, generosity, altruism, diplomacy and knowledge of benefit to the people. As an organisation, the importance of *walking the talk*, following through on commitments made, integrity and honesty is demonstrated. As a people, rangatiratanga is reflected in the promotion of self-determination for Māori, and an expression of the rights defined by Mana Atua, Mana Tupuna and Mana Whenua.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Rangatiratanga

- i. to recognise and acknowledge the authority of whānau, hapū and iwi in their respective electorate;
- ii. to enhance the relationship between Tino Rangatiratanga and Kāwanatanga as provided for in Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
- iii. to assert and confirm the role of Māori as tangata whenua;
- iv. to promote Māori self-determination through the establishment of a forum to provide a Māori viewpoint and guide and advise the parliamentary team;
- v. to acknowledge, nurture, support and reflect rangatiratanga within the Party and other Māori organisations;
- vi. to ensure that the conduct and activities of the parliamentary team, leaders and the organisation as a whole are reflective of the attributes of rangatira.

3. Whānaungatanga

Whānaungatanga underpins the social organisation of whānau, hapū and iwi and includes rights and reciprocal obligations consistent with being part of a collective. It is the principle which binds individuals to the wider group and affirms the value of the collective. Whānaungatanga is inter-dependence with each other and recognition that the people are our wealth.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Whānaungatanga

- i. to promote and contribute to the survival of Māori as a people;
- ii. to promote respect for all cultures and ensure all people have an understanding of, and respect for the status of tangata whenua;
- iii. to encourage relationships between whānau, hapū, iwi, other Māori organisations and the Party that reflect inter-dependence;
- iv. to promote whānaungatanga as the model for good collective arrangements between different parties

4. Kotahitanga

Kotahitanga is the principle of unity of purpose and direction. It is demonstrated through the achievement of harmony and moving as one. All are encouraged to make a contribution, to have their say and then together a consensus is reached. As a nation, the Party will promote harmonious relationships between all people.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Kotahitanga

- i. to consistently work for unity among Māori people;
- ii. to avoid taking decisions and approaches that lead to division and disharmony within the organisation;
- iii. to establish a parliamentary team that can work together and are committed to speaking with a single voice on behalf of Māori;
- iv. to promote harmonious and cooperative relationships amongst all people;
- v. to promote nation-hood based upon a knowledge of a shared heritage and an understanding and celebration of cultural distinctiveness.

5. Wairuatanga

This is reflected in the belief that there is a spiritual existence alongside the physical. It is expressed through the intimate connection of the people to our maunga, awa, moana and marae, and to tūpuna and atua. These connections are affirmed through knowledge and understanding of atua Māori and must be maintained and nourished towards the achievement of well-ness. It is central to the everyday lives of Māori people and is integral to the way Māori view the world.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Wairuatanga

- i. to encourage, maintain and promote spiritual identity and connection with the land;
- ii. to break down secular and non-secular divisions and promote a unified and holistic approach to life;
- iii. to develop a wairua nourishing and nurturing environment within the organisation;
- iv. to promote the importance of oranga wairua for Māori well-being;

6. Mana Whenua

Mana Whenua is the principle which defines Māori by the land occupied by right of ancestral claim. It defines turangawaewae and ūkaipō, the places where you belong, where you count, where you are important and where you can contribute, Mana Whenua is essential for Māori well-being. The places Māori find ourselves, our strength, our energy are where Māori have mana whenua. Once grounded to the land and home, Māori are able to participate in society in a positive, productive manner.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Mana Whenua

- i. to ensure that the Party is of the Māori people;

- ii. to assist Māori to establish and maintain their connections to their own land;
- iii. to develop arrangements that foster the values of ūkaipō, of importance, belonging and contribution within the organisation,
- iv. to develop a parliamentary team that will take advice and guidance from Māori in the first instance;
- v. to promote mana whenua as the basis for land management policies.

7. Kaitiakitanga

Kaitiakitanga embraces the spiritual and cultural guardianship of Te Ao Mārama, a responsibility derived from whakapapa. Kaitiakitanga entails an active exercise of responsibility in a manner beneficial to resources and the welfare of the people. It promotes the growth and development of the Māori people in all spheres of livelihood so that Māori can anticipate a future of living in good health and in reasonable prosperity. Preserving and maintaining the Party so it can continue to fulfil its functions and duties is implicit within this kaupapa.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Kaitiakitanga

- i. to encourage an extensive recording programme to collect and archive mātauranga Māori with kaumātua and other repositories of knowledge;
- ii. to promote the achievement of wellness and well-being for Māori;
- iii. to foster and promote sustainable management and growth of the economy so as to provide a stable and secure environment for future generations;
- iv. to create a clean, safe and healthy environment by promoting the protection, restoration and enhancement of mauri within our natural environments.

8. Mana Tupuna / Whakapapa

Mana Tupuna is that which defines who Māori are as people. It is the bridge which links us to our ancestors, which defines our heritage, gives us the stories which define our place in the world. Mana Tupuna helps us know who we are, from whom we descend, and what our obligations are to those who come after us. This is achieved through the recital of whakapapa, tracing the descent from Te Kore, to Te Pō and eventually through to Te Ao Mārama. Whakapapa is also a tool utilised in analysing and synthesising information and knowledge.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Whakapapa:

- i. to encourage the view that all Māori are related leading towards co-operation and unity,
- ii. to support endeavours by Māori to establish and maintain our whānau, hapū and iwi connections and continue our positive contribution to wider society ;
- iii. to promote whakapapa as an analysis and synthesis tool within the research activity of the Party.

9. Te Reo Rangatira

*Ki te kore tātou e kōrero Māori, ka ngaro te reo,
Ka ngaro te reo, ka ngaro ngā tikanga.
Ka ngaro ngā tikanga, ka ngaro tātou ki te Ao.
Ko te reo te kaupupuri i te Māoritanga.*

Te Reo Māori is the cornerstone of all that is Māori. Accelerating the revival of te reo Māori is a central focus of the Māori Party. Te reo Māori is the medium through which Māori explains the world. The survival of the people as Māori and the uniqueness of Māori as a race will be enhanced through the maintenance of te reo Māori.

Tikanga of the Māori Party derived from Te Reo Rangatira

- i. to ensure the revitalisation of te reo Māori;
- ii. to promote wider recognition of te reo as the first and official language of the country;
- iii. to promote the development and growth of the te reo Māori both as the indigenous language of this country, but also as the appropriate language to carry Māori knowledge and contemporary Māori customs;
- iv. to promote mātauranga Māori pathways that are of benefit to the people and lead to our advancement;
- v. to provide for research and development that leads to the advancement of mātauranga Māori and ensures the survival of the people as Māori;
- vi. to provide opportunities to encourage bi-literacy in our society.

Part 2

RULES

1. Name

- 1.1 The name of the party shall be the 'Māori Party' (The Party).
- 1.2 The Party shall be a political party and shall maintain registration in terms of S.63 of The Electoral Act 1993.
- 1.3 The registered office of the Māori Party shall be determined by the National Council.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 To acknowledge and fulfil the Kaupapa set out in this constitution.
- 2.2 To develop and implement the party policy manifesto consistent with the kaupapa.
- 2.3 To ensure the election of competent persons as parliamentary representatives.

3. Membership

- 3.1 The Māori Party is an inclusive and broad political movement and accepts membership from any persons who:
 - work to support the Māori Party kaupapa and tikanga;
 - act within the Māori Party constitution;
 - abide by lawful decisions made in accordance with the Māori Party constitution;
 - pay the appropriate membership fee as fixed by the national council;
 - and who is not a member of a competing political party as determined by the National Council.
- 3.2 Any person of at least 13 years of age may make application to join the party. A person may apply to join directly to the Secretary on an official membership form or through an Electorate Committee. Any person of 13-16 years of age may become a *non-voting Junior member* of the Māori Party, for a gold coin membership fee for a three year membership; and at 17 years of age and over, members will enrol at a koha based membership for three years membership as adults with full voting rights.
- 3.3 The applicant shall be advised in writing by the Secretary or the Treasurer of acceptance of their membership. Commencement of membership for the purpose of clause 3.5 and 3.6 shall take effect from the date of the acceptance of the application form by the Secretary or Treasurer.
- 3.4 On acceptance, financial members shall be entitled to attend and participate in party membership meetings and to stand for party internal office-holders positions.
- 3.5 Any person who is a member of the Māori Party on the date at the opening of nominations, shall be entitled to participate in decision-making in local candidate and local list recommendations.
- 3.6 The registration fee entitles membership for three years.
- 3.7 The National Council may decline or cancel any membership that the Council believes does not meet the criteria outlined in clause 3.1. The applicant shall be advised in writing of the decision. The applicant may appeal that decision at the next National hui of the party where the decision shall be final.

4. Party Structure

- 4.1 The Party has a National Council ('the Council') which provides the Party leadership according to the kaupapa. The National Council shall deal with the fundamental running of the Party. The National Council is the governing body of the Party

outside of an Annual General Meeting and to this effect the National Council shall meet bi-monthly.

4.2 The Council comprises the following –

- a. Party President; two Co-Vice Presidents (one tāne and one wahine) and ;
- b. Up to four Council members selected by each Electorate (including rangatahi and both wahine and tāne), or their substitute as determined by each Electorate. Each may hold office for three years.
- c. There shall be a special general meeting immediately following the General Election to select the Party Leadership (two co-leaders, one female, one male). Those selected shall be in office for three years.
- d. The management of the Māori Party, on behalf of the National Council, is authorized and determined by the National Executive. The National Executive comprises Party President; two Co-Vice Presidents (one tāne and one wahine) and two co-leaders (one female, one male).
- e. Nominations for President and Vice-President to be lodged with secretary six weeks before AGM and distributed to the electorates at least four weeks before the AGM.
- f. If there is a vacancy during the three year term, in any of the above Offices, then the National Council may appoint a person to hold office for the balance of term.
- g. No person shall be eligible for office of President or Vice President unless he / she has been a member of Māori Party for at least three years.

4.3 Removal and Replacement

An Electorate Council member can be removed from the Council by consensus of the Electorate Council. The election of the co-leaders to take place at the first AGM following a general election.

- 4.4 All decisions of the National Council shall be by consensus. (Consensus may be defined as a process of ‘whakawhitiwhiti whakaaro,’ To arrive at an outcome at which those present, are accepting’). The National Council shall ratify or otherwise, any decision made by the National Executive since the previous meeting. All National Council policy remits must be ratified by an AGM or a Special General Meeting called for that purpose (see section 7).
- 4.5 That there be a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities for President and two Co-Vice Presidents and that these roles and responsibilities be ratified by National Council.
- 4.6 The National Council shall hear all appeals from any electorate.
- 4.7 All National Council meetings shall rotate within the Māori seat electorates. Each electorate shall be responsible for the setting up and payment of all accounts for each

meeting. Each electorate will ensure that the fees for their elected representatives are paid for by their electorate. It shall be the responsibility of the host electorate to collect fees from attendees other than electorate representatives. Any person failing to pay their just dues may not take an active part in the meeting.

5. Electorate

- 5.1 Each Māori electorate shall be represented on the National Council. Further electorates may from time to time be accepted by the Party National Council.
- 5.2 Each Electorate shall have an Electorate Council which shall be responsible for all party activities in the Electorate.
- 5.3 Each Electorate shall hold an Annual Hui of financial members. The annual general meeting will elect officers, deal with any remits sent by branches, and receive the annual report from the chairperson/s and the treasurer/s.
- 5.4 The offers of the committee (ie chairpersons, secretaries and treasurers) shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the electorate plus up to three elected members from each branch.
- 5.5 The activities and business of each Electorate shall be organised as each Electorate decides and at all times be consistent with the Party's kaupapa. It shall be incumbent on all electorates to keep in close contact and support the National Office of the Party. It shall keep all branches informed of all Party matters and to this end shall call an electorate meeting at least quarterly and more often if required. At such meetings voting and speaking rights shall be restricted to members. It shall also be incumbent upon the electorate council to cause the selection/election of a candidate to contest each election. This shall be done in a manner prescribed by the Electorate Council in accordance with the Candidate selection policy. It shall also be incumbent upon the electorate to raise the necessary funds for their candidate's election campaign and it must be carried out in accordance with the Electoral Act. Excepting that each candidate may select his or her own campaign managers, it shall be incumbent of these managers to at all times work with and for the electorate council.
- 5.6 At each Annual Hui, three National Council members, and their substitutes shall be selected as defined in clause 4.2.
- 5.7 All decisions of the Electorate Council shall be by consensus (as defined in 4.4 above).

6. Branches

- 6.1 Each branch shall be represented on their electorate council by up to three financial members - one tāne, one wahine, one rangatahi. Any changes should immediately be brought to the notice of the Electorate Secretary accompanied by the branch Minutes showing such changes.
 - Each branch shall have an executive comprising Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and a minimum of seven other members.
 - Each branch shall ensure proper financial systems and controls
 - Each branch shall record and keep accurate minutes of their branch hui
 - Branches may be established subject to electorate approval
- 6.2 In each electorate district there shall be one or more branches authorized by the electorate council. Each branch must have a minimum membership of ten (10) financial members of the Party.

- 6.3 (i) Every such branch authorized by the Electorate Council shall enrol members into the Party.
- (ii) They shall also fundraise and pay all such dues and levies which may from time to time be imposed by the Electorate Council or by the National Council.
- (iii) Each branch shall have a cheque account for which there must be a minimum two signatures but no two signatures from the same household.
- (iv) Branches must send a copy of their Income over Expenditure plus a copy of the bank statement to the Electorate Council monthly meeting. A probationary period should be set between the existing branch and the new branch.
- 6.4 Any person wishing to set up a new branch inside an already established branch area, must first of all, get that electorate's permission. No branch shall withhold permission without just cause. Any overseas branch wishing to establish a new electorate, can affiliate to an electorate of their choice

7. Annual National Hui

- 7.1 The party shall annually hold a National hui. Such hui shall be no later than the 1st November at a place and time approved by the Council. The business of this meeting shall be:
- (a) Selection of President, Co Vice Presidents and Co Leaders
 - (b) Receiving of Council, Electorate, and any other reports
 - (c) Receiving the year's audited financial reports
 - (d) The amendment, cancellation or addition of any party rule.
 - (e) The consideration and acceptance of policies prepared by the Council or Electorate Committees.
 - (f) Receiving, considering and acting upon any other remits from the Council or Electorate Committees.
 - (g) Such other matters necessary for the carrying out of Party activities.
- All remits must first be passed by the Electorate committees who shall forward them to the National Council at least six weeks before the Annual Hui.
- 7.2 All decisions of the annual Hui shall be by consensus (as defined in 4.4 above).

8. Special National hui

The Council may call a special National hui at any time and shall, at the request of three electorates or by request of at least 200 financial members from each of three Electorates.

9. Candidate Selection

Candidates shall be selected as set out in the First Schedule below.

The council may at any time determine the procedure for selection of candidates. And such determination shall be of immediate effect. Following each selection of candidates and general election, we will review the selection procedure for candidates.

10. Alteration of Constitution

The Constitution may be amended, added to or rescinded by resolution of the Annual National Hui of the Party or a Special National hui convened for such purpose.

11. Resolution of differences

11.1 All financial members agree to work together to support the Constitution of the Party and to treat each other with respect and are expected to act ethically and with integrity in their party work. Differences that may arise from time to time shall be resolved at the earliest opportunity by those involved.

11.2 Disciplinary action may be brought against a member who:

- refuses to comply with the Party Constitution;
- improperly deals with any party funds;
- in any other way wilfully brings the party or its members into public disrepute.

11.3 A serious complaint against a member for any of the above reasons shall first be communicated in writing to the relevant Electorate Council. If it cannot be resolved at this level, it shall be referred to the Disciplinary and Disputes Committee of the National Council who shall act swiftly and with discretion to seek resolution of the matter; and that the dispute is resolved on the basis of the kaupapa of the Party.

11.4 **The Disciplinary and Disputes Committee of the National Council** shall:

- Be elected by National Council
- Take office for three years only as per clause 4.2 but may be elected for a second term
- Be chaired by one of the Co-Vice Presidents
- Meet as required and deemed by the Co-Vice President
- Not exceed five members
- Declare any conflicts of interest at the start of any meetings
- any vacancy that arises shall be filled by a National Council representative elected by a majority of the national council
- The quorum shall be three including the Co-Vice President or nominated Chair
- Nominate a new chair should the Co-Vice President declare a conflict of interest
- Direct the Co-Vice President to vacate the chair in the event that a complaint is leveled at that Co-Vice President
- All resolutions shall be reported to the National Council
- All complainants shall be advised of the outcomes

12. Position on National Council

The Electorate Committee shall determine the criteria required for members to represent the electorate on the National Council.

13. Dissolution Clause

13.1 An Annual National Hui of the Party may resolve that the Party be dissolved as from the date to be named in the resolution, and may also by such resolution direct the method of disposing of the assets and property of the Māori Party after its dissolution.

- 13.2 Upon the resolution being confirmed at a subsequent meeting called for the purpose and held not earlier than 30 days after the date on which the first resolution was passed, the Party shall be dissolved.
- 13.3 A notice of the resolution and its confirmation shall be sent to the Electoral Commission and the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. The property of the Māori Party shall upon dissolution be transferred to such political or other organisations having objects similar to those of the Māori Party within New Zealand as the meeting of dissolution shall determine or in default as may be determined by the High Court of New Zealand on the application of the National Council.

CANDIDATE SELECTION GUIDELINES FOR THE MĀORI PARTY

A. *Principles*

Our candidate selection process shall be based on the principles of:

- Whānaungatanga Manaakitanga
- Rangatiratanga Kotahitanga
- Wairuatanga Kaitiakitanga
- Mana Whenua Mana Tupuna/ Whakapapa
- Transparency Fairness
- Participation Reasonable Notice
- Inclusiveness

B. **SELECTION PROCESS OVERVIEW**

1 Candidates for Electorate Seats

- 1.1 There shall be hui of each electorate to select candidates at which all financial members who live within the boundaries of that electorate, shall be entitled to attend and to participate in the selection of the candidate provided they are members on the date that candidate nominations open. In the case of Māori electorate seats, financial members of Māori descent or on the Māori roll who live within the boundaries of that electorate are eligible to participate¹. Any candidate shall have been a Māori Party member for at least three years. The National Executive reserves the right to waiver the rules in the selection of the candidate should they deem a candidate to be of exceptional quality
- 1.2 Clear notice of the nomination criteria and selection process to be followed must be circulated and made available to eligible financial members at least two weeks prior to the **nominations opening date**.
- 1.3 The candidate selection hui shall, if there is a consensus, select the candidate according to the circulated process.
- 1.4 Failing a consensus being reached, the financial members shall refer the matter to the Electorate Council who shall have the authority to select the candidate.

¹ The Council has determined that the following interpretation of the Constitution will apply regarding 3.5 of the rules and 1.1 of the First Schedule. That sections 3.5 and B1.1 (First Schedule) be applied to express the kaupapa, especially whanaungatanga and kotahitanga.

- 1.5 Where either the candidate selection hui or its delegates have reached a consensus as to who should be the candidate, this person's name shall be submitted forthwith to the National Council and the National Council shall immediately either confirm the nomination, or, if in the opinion of the National Council the nomination requires further consideration, the National Council shall meet with the Electorate and resolve a way forward.
- 1.6 Where the electorate is already served by a sitting Member of Parliament who wishes to stand again, the delegates (*National Council Executive Members for that electorate*) shall consult their electorate about the process that will be followed for confirming the MP for that electorate.
- 1.7 Upon completing the consultation process, the delegates shall submit the name of the selected MP forthwith to the National Council, and the National Council shall immediately confirm the nomination;
- 1.8 If in the opinion of the National Council, the nomination requires further consideration, the National Council shall meet with the Electorate to resolve a way forward.
- 1.9 Electorate Councils will ensure strict conflict of interest policies are established and complied with for the candidate selection processes to ensure neither selection processes nor prospective candidates improperly influence the selection process.

2. Candidates for List Seats

- 2.1 Electorate Councils shall determine and prioritise their five list nominations (which may include the electorate candidate) according to an agreed process.
- 2.2 All nominations for the party list shall be party members of that Electorate.
- 2.3 The Electorate Council will submit its prioritised list to the National Council. The National Council will then prioritise the list according to an agreed process (see section 13 of these guidelines).

3. Management of the candidate selection process

- 3.1 The Electorate Council will manage the candidate selection process. The Council shall appoint a Returning Officer for the receipt of nominations and to oversee the final selection process.
- 3.2 Disputes will be referred to the Electorate Council.

3.3 Electorate Councils should exercise discretion to ensure that the process is fair and transparent to guard against any perception of conflict of interest.

4. Candidate selection timelines

4.1 The selection process from the official minuted decision through to the formal announcement shall not be longer than eight weeks.

4.2 The date of selection shall be between three weeks and six weeks after close of nominations.

5. The Nomination Process

5.1 Candidates must be nominated by a ropu tuku iho (whānau, hapū, or iwi) or branch (or branches) who are representative of more than fifty financial members, and:

- have been fully paid up members of the Māori Party at the date nominations open, and
- live within the boundary of the electorate

5.2 Nominations must be made on the prescribed form as authorised by the National Council.

5.3 Nominations shall be open for a three week period and must be received by the Electorate Secretary before 5.00pm on the day nominations close. A nomination sent by post or courier shall be deemed to have been lodged within the specified time frame if the date stamp on the envelope is before the close of nominations and is received within three days of the close of nominations. If any nominations fall into this category the envelope must be retained and attached to the nomination form.

5.4 Immediately after 5.00pm on the day nominations close the Electorate Secretary shall inform the National Secretary and branch secretaries of that electorate of the names of the persons nominated.

5.5 By 5.00pm on the fourth day after nominations close the Electorate Secretary shall advise the National Secretary and Branch Secretaries of that electorate whether any valid postal nominations have been received.

6. **Eligibility to be Nominated to be a Member of Parliament for the Māori Party**

Any person who is a fully paid up member of the Māori Party, is eligible to be nominated as a candidate if they are eligible to become Members of Parliament in accordance with the regulations set out in the Electoral Act.

7. **Documentation required to accompany a nomination**

All nominations must be accompanied with:

- The official nomination form
- A declaration for internal party purposes
- Resume and personal profile available for circulation
- Police Check²

8. **Access to Membership data**

Nominees are expected to recognise that the rangatiratanga of membership lists does not reside in any one member, but in all members, and decisions on the use of the membership list reside in all members.

Nominees may not have access to the electorate membership lists. They may request that the names on their nomination form be checked for accuracy before nominations close. No nominee or their agent may use branch or electorate membership lists they may have access to for the purpose of lobbying members to support their candidacy.

9. **Eligibility to participate in the selection process for a candidate**

9.1 All persons are eligible to participate in the selection of a candidate in that Electorate if they are:

- a) Financial members of the Māori Party at the date that nominations open and live within the boundary of that electorate;
- b) In the case of Māori electorate seats, those of Māori descent or on the Māori roll are eligible to participate (see footnote 1).

10. Conflict of Interest

Each nominee is expected to extend manaakitanga towards other people by acting in ways that are mana-enhancing. [This may include people standing down from party positions; or they may resign from these positions]. The Electorate Council and the National Council must observe and document a process which safeguards the integrity of the overall selection process.

11. Candidate Selection Hui

11.1 The Electorate Secretary shall arrange for hui in such venues as deemed appropriate by the Electorate Committee. These hui will be held in the time period between close of nominations and the selection date for the candidate.

11.2 At the hui the following process shall be followed:

- a The Electorate Council shall appoint a chairperson prior to the hui.
- b The process of the hui will be determined by the Electorate Council.
- c The process of each hui will give each candidate an opportunity to speak; to be available to respond to questions; and enable those who nominated to speak in support of their nominee.
- d Process will need to include returning officer, scrutineers, and key questions for all candidates across all hui.
- e The Returning Officer, scrutineers and Chair will meet prior to each meeting beginning to ensure consistency of processes.
- f The number of hui will be determined by each Electorate Council and should be well advertised and promoted.
- g Selection of candidates will be on a ranked by preference basis (STV³) by each person eligible to participate in candidate selection.
- h STV counting should be carried out with use of appropriate data entry and software.

² Nominees are to produce proof that a police check has been requested and are to provide a declaration of any convictions that may be listed in the police check report. The record is to be forwarded to the President and any further action shall be at his/her discretion.

³ www.stv.govt.nz has a summary of the Single Transferable Vote system. With STV you number the candidates in order of preference ('1' beside the candidate you like best, '2' beside your second choice etc). To get elected, candidates need to reach a quota of the votes

- i The result of each hui priority ranking will be recorded at the end of each roadshow hui.
- j The outcome of the final candidate selection will be communicated to participants in a timely manner.
- k The candidate selected in each electorate will be the candidate supported by the majority as established by the STV process.

12. GENERAL ELECTORATE SEATS

12.1 In keeping with 5.1 of the Constitution the National Council may accept further electorates from time to time. In the event that the National Council is desirous of standing candidates in General Electorates the following process will apply:

- a The National Council will, after consultation with the relevant electorate council of the Māori electorate in which the general seat is located, assure itself that it is in the interests of the Māori Party to stand a candidate.
- b The National Council will confirm that the general electorate council endorses the kaupapa of the Māori Party and accepts the electoral processes of the Party, adapted to their circumstances. The National Council will ensure that the Electoral processes are observed.

13 CANDIDATES FOR LIST SEATS

13.1 Electorate Councils shall determine and prioritise their five list nominations (which may include the electorate candidate), according to an agreed process.

13.2 Each ranked electorate list is submitted to the National Council.

13.3 The National Council identifies a set of criteria to be applied in determining priorities including:

- skills and expertise;
- gender/age;
- inclusiveness; (i.e. Pasifika, tauīwi);
- sector networks and credibility;
- mana whenua.

13.4 The Council will determine what weighting applies to these criteria.

- 13.5 Having established a preliminary list based on the criteria specified in point 13.3; the Council may give consideration to other relevant factors before finalising the list.
- 13.6 The Council will reach agreement on ranking, and list accordingly. In the event that the Council should not reach consensus the decision will be made by the President, and co-leaders.
- 13.7 Electorate Councils will be advised of the final list at the earliest opportunity.
- 13.8 The list will be published, once all Electorate Councils have been informed.

14 EARLY ELECTION CANDIDATE SELECTION PROCESS

Where an early election is called, the National Council may decide to use the following process as an alternative to the process set out in the first schedule:

1. Where an early election is called where is less than three months to polling day, all current sitting Members of Parliament will be automatically selected to stand in their electorates for that election.
2. All other electorate candidate selections shall be completed on a date determined by the National Council
3. Where electorates are unable to complete their selection of candidates on the date determined by the National Council, the National Council shall have the authority to select candidates according to an agreed process.
4. A List committee shall recommend a candidate list to the national Council. The List committee shall consist of:
 - The Party President
 - The co-leaders
 - Seven members elected by the National Council on the nomination of each electorate
5. Nominees for the List committee must be Māori Party members.
6. With the exception of the co-leaders, nominees must not be party list candidates but can be electorate candidates.

7. The National Council shall determine the boundaries of each list area.
8. The List Committee shall complete its recommendations on a date determined by the National Council.
9. The List Committee will have the authority to interview potential list candidates where necessary.
10. The list committee will rank the candidates with the co-leaders placed at 1 and 2. The list Committee must take into consideration any criteria set by the National Council.
11. The List Committee shall recommend a final party list to the National Council.

Appendix One: Selection of Candidates by Māori Party Members

Section 71, Electoral Act 1993

Every political party that is for the time being registered under this Part of this Act, shall ensure that provision is made for participation in the selection of candidates representing the party for election as members of Parliament by –

- a) Current financial members of the party who are or would be entitled to vote for those candidates at any election; or
- b) delegates who have (whether directly or indirectly) in turn been elected or otherwise selected by current financial members of the Party;
- c) a combination of the persons or classes or persons referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.