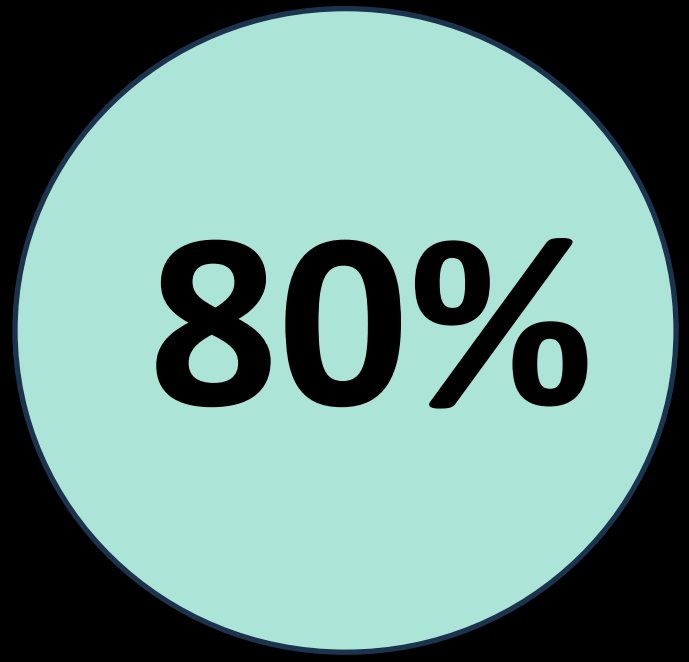
Leveraging Relationships for Civic Engagement

Helen Lock
Senior Education Advisor

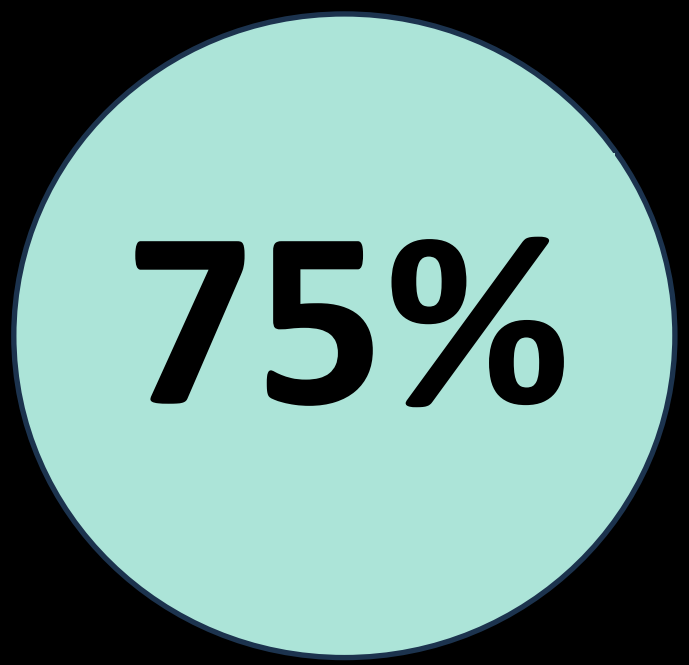
New Zealand Parliament
Pāremata Aotearoa

Why does civic engagement matter?

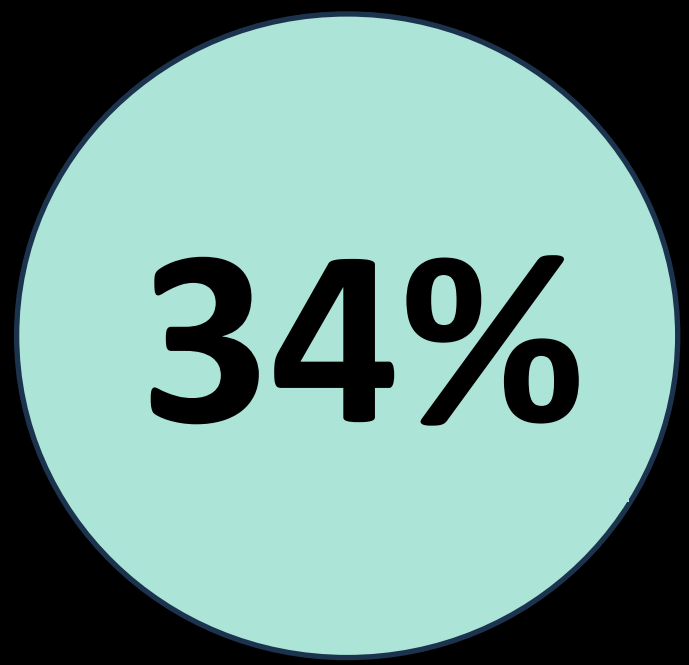
Perceptions of Parliament Research Project



Agree that New Zealanders share their views with Parliament on what is important to them.



Have voted in a general election at some point.



Would like to have more engagement with Parliament.

The Good

The Bad

29%

Agree that Parliament is inclusive of communities across New Zealand

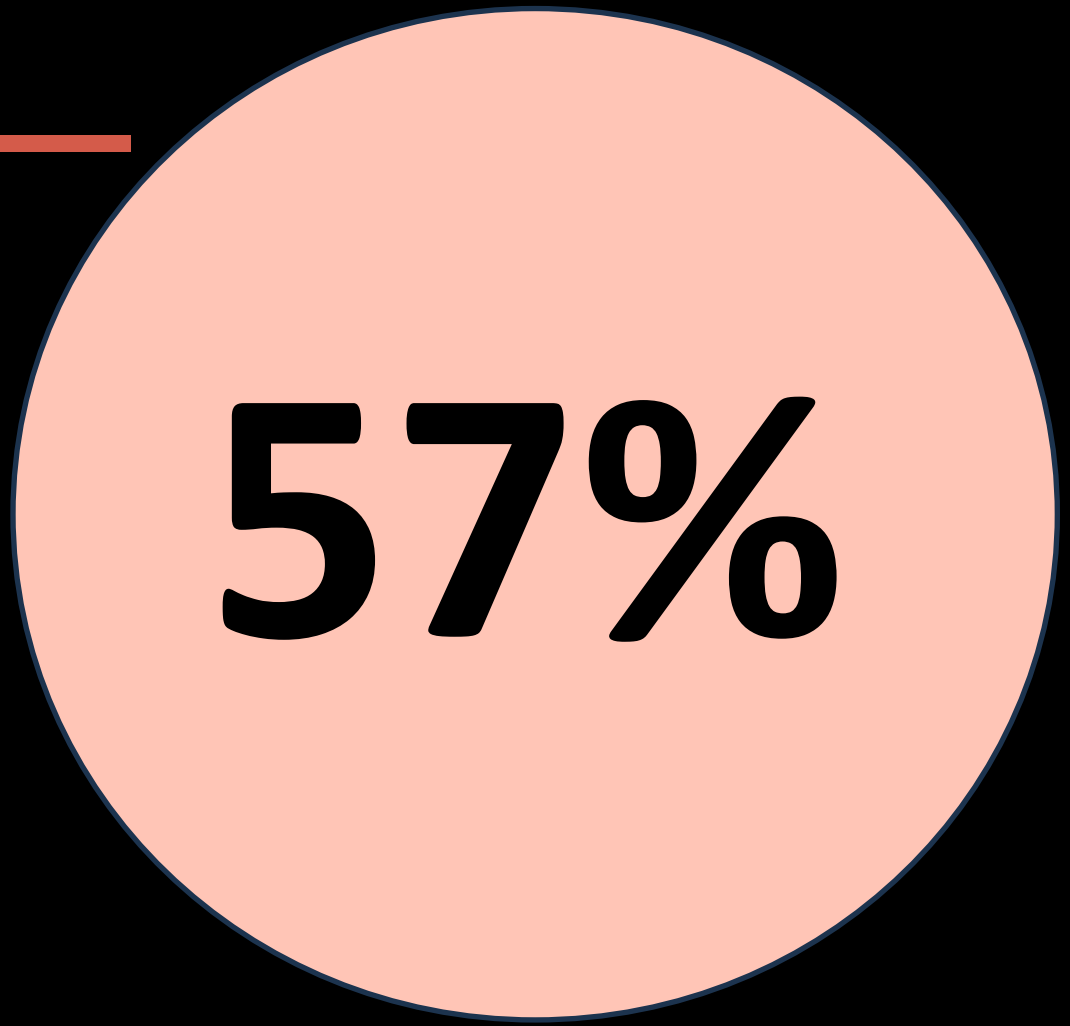
20%

Agree that Parliament listens to people

18%

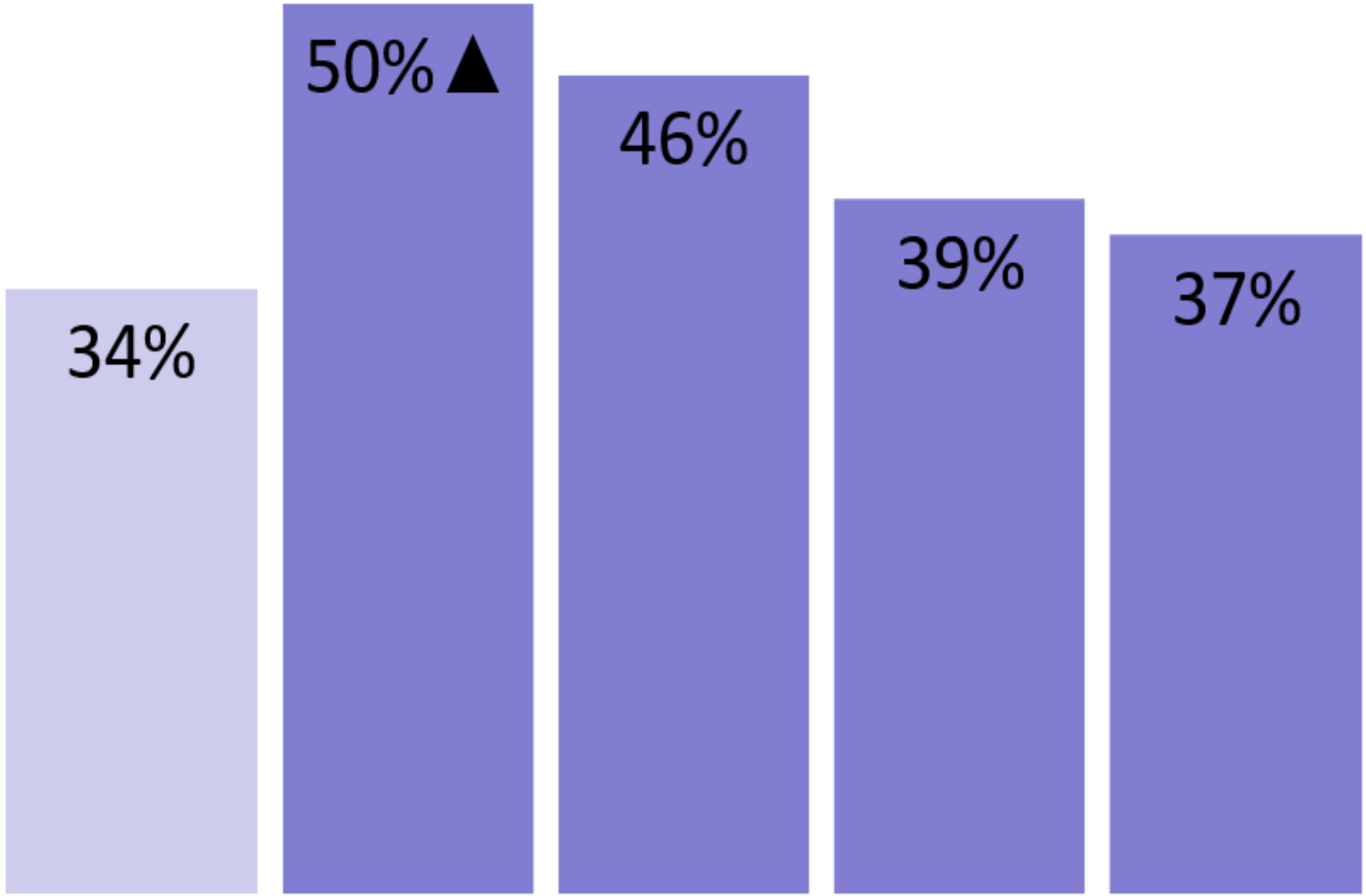
Agree that Parliament is for ‘people like me’

The Ugly

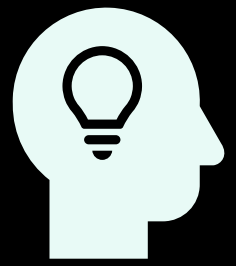


Confused the role of Parliament with the role of Government

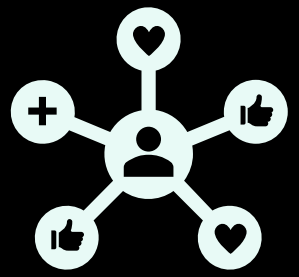
The implications


34%
50% ▲
46%
39%
37%
Total sample
18-34 years
Pacific Peoples
Māori
Has a disability
▲▼ Significantly higher / lower than total

Communication and access



Knowledge and literacy



Reach and messaging

Emotional reward

Turning Insights into Action

Case Study 1:
Electoral Commission
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

Enrol. Vote. Be heard.

vote.nz

ELECTORAL COMMISSION
TE KAITIAKI TAKE KŌWHIRI

KARAEHE KAEWA

WANDERING CLASSROOM

Brush up on your knowledge of all things Parliament with Karaehe Kaewa, Parliament Education's very own online learning hub.

Sign Up

Understanding Elections

An interactive explanation of how democracy, elections and Parliament work in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Free

Get started

Your vote is more powerful than you think - but only if you know how to use it.

This interactive module breaks down how democracy actually works in Aotearoa New Zealand: what Parliament does, how elections are run, and why your voice matters. You'll get to grips with MMP, find out what the Electoral Commission does, and learn exactly what you need to do to make sure you're ready to vote when the day comes.

By the end of this lesson you should be able to...

DESCRIBE

The role of the general election in Aotearoa New Zealand

EXPLAIN

The function of Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)

DISCUSS

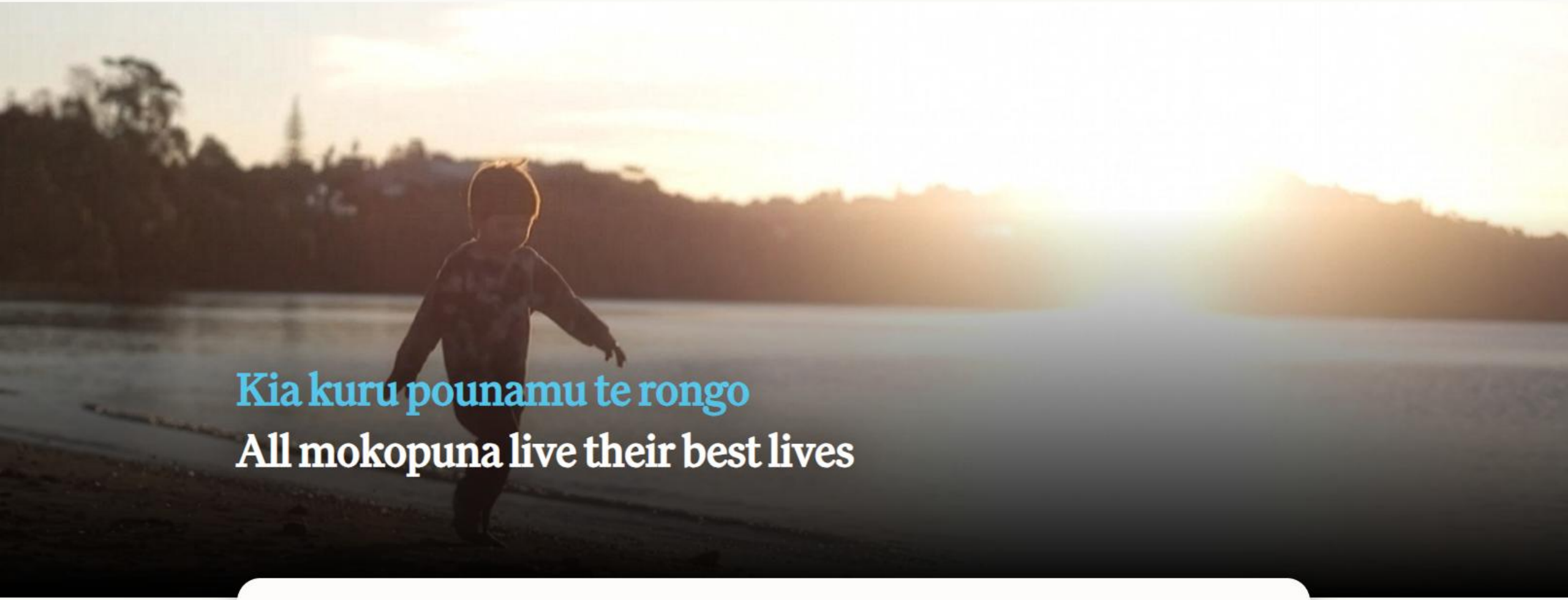
The importance of participation in elections

Te Pōti
THE VOTE
Te Pōti
THE VOTE
Te Pōti
THE VOTE
Petitioning Parliament
A guide to having your say in Aotearoa's Democracy
Colour your own mace!
If you could design your own mace for Parliament, what would it look like?
DEBATING CHAMBERS
TEST

ELECTORAL COMMISSION
TE KAITIAKI TAKE KŌWHIRI
vote.nz
Ratonga Whare Pāremata
Te Whakapāpātanga Pāremata
WHO'S WHO?
The different roles in Parliament
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
SERJEANT-AT-ARMS
PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE
Te Ratonga Whare Pāremata
Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives

Student Leaders
Student Leaders
FOREST VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

Case Study 2:
Children's Commissioner Mana Mokopuna



Kia kuru pounamu te rongo
All mokopuna live their best lives

Help and advice for whānau, parents and caregivers

See more

Find out your rights as a mokopuna

See more

Reports, media releases, submissions and resources

See more

Session One: Elections

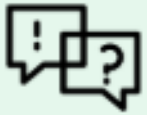
Cast your vote in an interactive elections activity run by the Electoral Commission. In this session, you will:

- See how MMP works in action
- Explore why voting matters
- Compare List MPs and Electorate MPs

Session Two: Parliament 101

Take a closer look at how Parliament works with Parliament's Education Team. In this session, you will:

- Break down what Parliament actually does
- See how people across Aotearoa are represented
- Track how a law is made, step by step



Session Three: Debating Roleplay

Put your ideas to the test in a Parliamentary-style debate on a mock bill of your choice. In this session, you will:

- Step into the shoes of the House of Representatives
- Learn the difference between Members' bills and Government bills
- Collaborate and challenge ideas as Government and Opposition

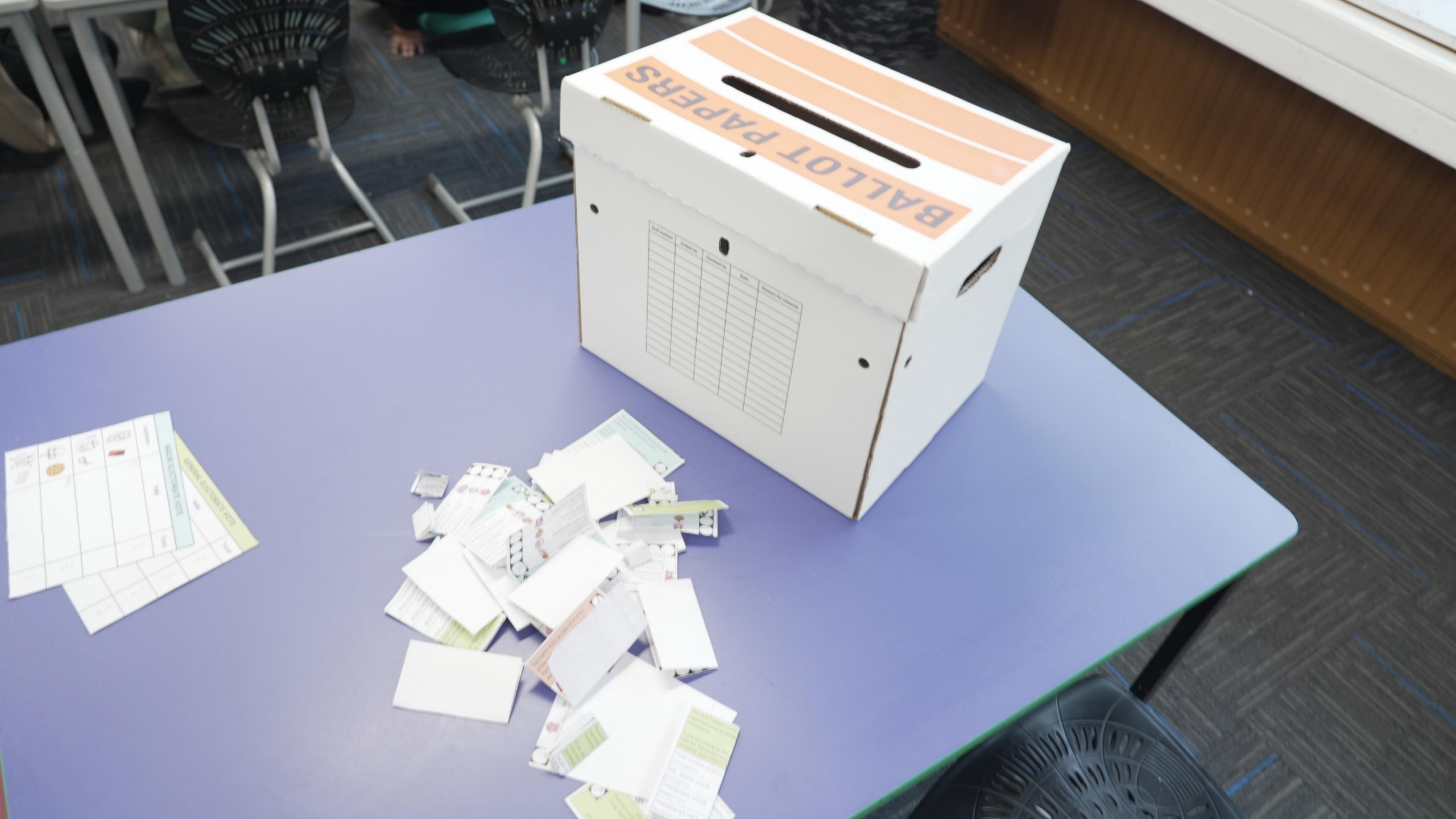
Session Four: Participation

Knowing your mana, knowing your rights. Your voice and your whakaaro have value. Learn to speak up, get involved, and understand what it means to have a say with Mana Mokopuna.

- Discover your rights within Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Unpack what it means to activate your mana and have a say.
- Explore ways to take action on issues you care about.

Tō Whare, Tō Kainga

- Many schools face significant barriers to visiting Parliament
- 18 schools applied within the first week
- 27 schools in the region applied
- **Session 1** – Electoral Commission
- **Session 2 & 3** – Parliament Education Team
- **Session 4** – Mana Mokopuna


BALLOT PAPERS

Chocolate Party
Tobias

PLAN YOUR SPEECH

Case Study 3:
YouthLaw Aotearoa

YouthLaw
Free legal help throughout Aotearoa

Your Rights | Q & A | Free Legal Help | 0800 UTHLAW(884529)

Trending topics...

THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM

SEARCHES & CONFISCATIONS

CONSENT

WORK

OUR VOICE. WAHA.

prouder about their place in the world.

Waha is a programme that builds collective understanding of citizenship, civics, and change. It's a gateway for young people to find their own voice, their collective voice, and raise themselves and their people up.

About

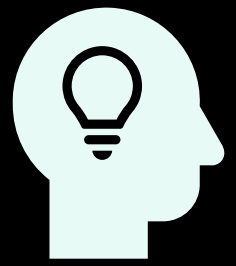
Waha brings civics education to students. The programme is designed to engage young people in a positive, motivating, and uplifting way.

In reo Māori, "waha" can mean gateway, an opening, or a passage. Here, the subject of civics is made open, engaging and relevant to young people. As a verb, "waha" takes on an even richer meaning: to rise up. In this context, Waha serves as a gateway to rise up towards democracy.

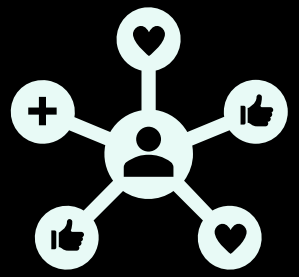
Read More >

Key Takeaways

Communication and access



Knowledge and literacy



Reach and messaging

Emotional reward

Questions?