

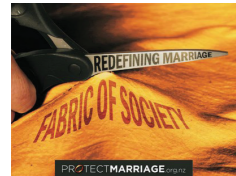
What is the party policy on family issues?

= Consistent with Family First position = Not consistent with Family First position = Policy not specific

Detailed responses were received from **NZ First, Greens, ACT, United Future, Maori** and **Conservative** parties. **Labour** responded saying only that the issues were "conscience issues". **National** said they would set out their "key policies" closer to the election. The **Opportunities Party** said they only have a policy around the marijuana issue. We have also taken into consideration media/public comments that the parties or party leaders have made to try and determine the party's position.

REDEFINING MARRIAGE

ProtectMarriage.nz



The redefinition of marriage has been one of the most significant political issues of our time. A politician's position on this issue exposes his/her worldview and gives a clear indication of how he/she understands the role of family in civil society. In 2013, Parliament chose to reject natural marriage, its cultural significance and its role in the care of children. Marriage was reduced to nothing more than a contractual partnership. It is not an exaggeration to claim that, with no clear public mandate, politicians were, and remain guilty of 'cultural vandalism'. The 'equality' cause is not advanced by destroying institutions. Marriage 'equality' was never about equality because there are people who are still not able to marry. The politicians simply redefined marriage to conform to the ideology of deconstruction. It's hardly surprising there are now attempts to extend the definition of marriage to allow for polygamy and group marriage, and to punish people who hold to the traditional definition of marriage. The redefinition of marriage has deconstructed and weakened the meaning and purpose of marriage as a specific cultural and historical institution. In 2004, the government introduced Civil Unions and changed over 150 pieces of legislation to provide legal recognition and protection for other forms of relationships. The State should not have presumed to re-engineer a natural human institution.

(The parties were asked if they have an official policy on supporting or opposing the definition of marriage being restored to one man and one woman only, and what is their policy on the potential for the Marriage Act being expanded to allow polygamy and group marriage?)

	Conservative Party believes that marriage should be between 1 man and 1 woman. Conservative Party does not believe that bigamy or polygamy are relationships that would benefit New Zealand or the children brought up here so would not support anything other than 1 man, 1 woman marriage.
	This issue should be left to a binding government or citizens initiated referendum after a period of public debate. Polygamy & group marriage – No official policy
	Our policy is not to restore the Marriage Act to one man and one woman only. ACT does not have a policy on (polygamy or) group marriage
	We strongly oppose the reducing of the definition of marriage to being between one man and one woman only. We don't have policy on (polygamy & group marriage) and we have no intention to extend the law to these types of relationships.
	The Māori Party does not have an official policy on supporting or opposing the definition of MARRIAGE being restored to being one man and one woman only. However, we do believe that individuals should have the right to choose. The Māori Party does not have a position on polygamy or group marriage. However, we do support the law of the land and its position on polygamy or group marriage.
	This is a matter of individual conscience.
	No response received
	No response received

DECriminalising ABORTION

ChooseLife.nz



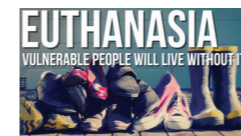
The good news is that abortions are at the lowest rate since 1990. But some political parties want to 'decriminalise' abortion and consequently diminish safeguards that exist for vulnerable women. Decriminalisation will pave the way for late term and partial birth abortions, and 'gendercide' (abortion based on the sex of the unborn child, usually targeting female babies). Terminations will be possible up-to-birth, and not only because of "severe foetal abnormality". Women's health and the rights of the unborn child would be threatened. Coercion to have an abortion is a major issue and the current law goes some way to putting safeguards around that. A sound law should not leave women exposed to harms such as those recently witnessed in the US trial of Kermit Gosnell who operated a dangerous legal abortion facility resulting in a client's death. A good law should promote informed consent and complete information about abortion and related risks, and provide women with independent pregnancy counselling. Abortions can harm women – a fact supported by half of New Zealanders according to a survey in 2017. The abortion rate will continue to drop as knowledge of the prenatal development of the unborn child increases, and as an increasingly pro-life younger generation become parents themselves. The "bunch of cells" argument which has driven the "right-to-abortion" argument is now just 'flat-earth science'.

	"I think what (the Abortion Supervisory Committee) mean is liberalise it, and we wouldn't do that." Bill English – PM (Mar 2017) ¹ "Wholesale reform of abortion law is not something I'm currently looking at." Amy Adams – Minister of Justice (Dec 2016) ²
	Conservative Party opposes the decriminalisation of the abortion.

	"I support women's choice... It does need to be reviewed and upgraded, and I agree with (deputy leader) Jacinda (Ardern) - we should not have it in the Crimes Act; it is not a crime..." – Andrew Little, Leader. ³
	Our full policy on this is a part of our Women's Policy. In short, our policy is to decriminalise abortion.
	"Our abortion laws are archaic, and should be modernized. I have always believed in personal choice, and that extends to the issue of abortion. Morally, abortion is about a woman's body and her choice... The right thing to do is reform abortion law to reflect what actually happens: women exercise choice for their own reasons. If I did not already have a bill on an important moral issue in the Members' ballot I would seriously consider a bill on this issue." - Media Release – David Seymour (Mar 2017) ⁴ ACT does not have a policy on decriminalisation of abortion. (Official response)
	We believe that in matters pertaining to life and death, decisions are best made in the context of Whānau Ora – the whānau determining the best outcomes for their whānau. We place high value on whakapapa - the sacred genealogical lines of one's descent. As Māori, we need to be confident that the respect we have for whakapapa, for whanaungatanga, and for tikanga are fully understood by ourselves and others. The Māori Party believes the current law in relation to abortion needs to be reviewed. There are a range of issues concerning abortion laws, including cultural issues. We recognise there is a conversation to be had as a nation about the extent to which abortion should be treated as a crime or a health issue. We welcome the debate and the need for a rethink of the current law.
	New Zealand First believes abortions should be safe, legal and rare. Any change must be subject to a binding government or citizens initiated referendum after a period of public debate.
	United Future sees abortion legislation as a matter of conscience and so does not have a party position.

DECriminalising ASSISTED SUICIDE / EUTHANASIA

RejectAssistedSuicide.nz



One of the main reasons that politicians in NZ have rejected previous attempts to decriminalise assisted suicide / euthanasia is that they realised that 'safeguards', while sounding good, would not guarantee the protection required for vulnerable people including the disabled, elderly, depressed or anxious, and those who feel themselves to be a burden or are under financial pressure. The international evidence backs up these concerns, and explains why so few countries have made any changes to the law around this issue. There are mixed messages when society rightly wants to take a zero-tolerance approach to suicide, yet at the same time attempts to approve assisted suicide. The potential for abuse and flouting of procedural safeguards is a strong argument against assisted suicide. The solution is to ensure a palliative care regime in NZ that is fully funded and world class. That's where the politicians should focus their attention. The recent Inquiry in to assisted suicide / euthanasia had 78% opposition (16,000+ submissions) opposing assisted suicide / euthanasia.

	"Prime Minister Bill English says he'll vote against any legislation allowing euthanasia in New Zealand." ⁵
	Conservative Party opposes the decriminalisation of Euthanasia.
	"Labour's position is to support the cross-party select committee inquiry. Euthanasia is a conscience issue, not a party political issue, and it is not one of Labour's priorities... Labour will not be introducing a private member's bill on euthanasia." Letter received from Andrew Little (Dec 2016) ⁶ "I personally support euthanasia. I personally support Maryan Street's bill." Andrew Little (Mar 2017) ⁷
	Section 15 of our Health Policy outlines our End of Life policy. We support a law change to allow an individual access to medically-assisted dying, providing that, as a minimum, a series of safeguards are included. These specific safeguards are set out in detail on pages 8-9 of our Health Policy.
	Leader David Seymour has a Private Member's Bill changing the law to allow assisted suicide / euthanasia. It would be a conscience vote for ACT MP's.
	This is a misleading term, as no one is advocating euthanasia in the current discourse. What is being talked about is allowing assisted dying for those with terminal conditions. The main issue with this is ensuring that no one is being pressured into taking up assisted dying, which requires appropriate checks and balances including sufficient funding for end of life care. With this in place there is no reason to not allow a person to choose how they end their life. Currently that happens with people going nil by mouth – essentially starving themselves to death. This is a cruel way to manage end of life choices.
	Again, we believe that in matters pertaining to life and death, decisions are best made in the context of Whānau Ora – the whānau determining the best outcomes for their whānau. We place high value on whakapapa - the sacred genealogical lines of one's descent. As Māori, we need to be confident that the respect we have for whakapapa, for whanaungatanga, and for tikanga are fully understood by ourselves and others.
	New Zealand First policy is that the vote on Euthanasia should not be left to temporarily empowered politicians but for the public to decide by a binding government or citizens initiated referendum, after a period of public debate.
	We view it as a matter of conscience. However, we do think it is time for a wider debate in the community about advances care planning. A discussion that includes not only euthanasia, but other issues like palliative care, If there will be any legislation it should flow after that debate has taken place.