

No.	Content of proposal	National's action
	<i>Violence against women</i>	
1	Provide the police with adequate resources to enforce protection orders and require police to act on all complaints of protection order breaches.... And provide both the police and Family and District Court judges with further and more comprehensive training about domestic violence.	National has put 600 more Police on the beat, and freed up more frontline Police hours with the introduction of smartphones and tablets. Police are also better equipped for all call outs, with tasers, and lockboxes in their cars. We introduced Police Safety Orders to provide immediate protection for families in domestic violence situations. There is a Family Violence Information Line people can call at any time for advice on where to access the most appropriate support.
2	Write into the Domestic Violence Act 1995 a prohibition on discharges without conviction for breaches of protection orders and amend the <i>Sentencing Act 2002</i> to provide that domestic violence is an aggravating factor.	<p>Under section 107 of the Sentencing Act 2002 the court may only order a discharge without conviction if it is satisfied that the direct and indirect consequences of a conviction would be out of all proportion to the gravity of the offence. While breaching a protection order is a very serious offence, the seriousness of the circumstances in particular cases vary greatly and it is impossible to say that discharge without conviction will never be the appropriate outcome in a specific case. It would be inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Sentencing Act to exclude a specific disposition for a specific offence. This is particularly true when there are other similar offences, such as breaches of restraining orders or parole conditions, which prohibit an offender from contacting a victim, which would not be subject to the same exclusion. The Sentencing Act already includes a number of aggravating factors that can be taken into account in relation to domestic violence offences, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the offence involved actual or threatened violence or the actual or threatened use of a weapon • the extent of any loss, damage, or harm resulting from the offence • that the offender was abusing a position of trust in relation to the victim • that the victim was particularly vulnerable because of his or her age or health or because of any other factor known to the offender • the number, seriousness, date, relevance, and nature of any previous convictions of the offender. <p>In addition, there is also a catch-all provision which provides that the court is free to take into account any other aggravating factor that the court thinks fit. Domestic violence includes violence against and neglect of children under 14, who are already covered by an existing special provision in the Sentencing Act (Section 9A). The term “domestic violence” can be interpreted very broadly and there could be uncertainty and inconsistency in the way the proposed aggravating factor is interpreted, given it would apply to all offending.</p>

3	Implement the recommendations in all of the reports of the Family Violence Death Review committee	The Minister of Justice supports the important work of the Family Violence Death Review Committee. Government agencies carefully consider the recommendations of the Family Violence Death Review Committee. Recent work by the Ministry of Justice directly addresses issues raised in the reports. The Domestic Violence Amendment Act 2013, which aims to improve the effectiveness of non-violence programmes, will effectively implement recommendations as part of a wider body of reforms. The Ministry of Justice works with the Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families and with other agencies to consider recommendations that involve multi-agency collaboration.
4	Implement an integrated response to domestic violence modelled on that of the Victorian Government which has made a sustained effort to ensure that departments, agencies and service providers both within and outside government work together.	The Ministry of Social Development Family Violence Unit leads work on family violence and acts as a secretariat to the Task Force Against Violence in Families. Minister Turia is considering a report from an External Advisory Group on focus areas for addressing family violence.
5	Introduce comprehensive education programmes in both primary and secondary schools to teach boys respect for women and girls, educate boys about alternatives to violence and teach them to value gender equality.	ACC is developing a programme on healthy relationships in schools to pilot later this year. It is working with the Ministry of Education. Encouraging a culture of respect is one of the most effective ways we can help to prevent sexual and dating violence. This pilot programme will teach young people the value of having healthy relationships based on respect, negotiation and consent.
6	Introduce education programmes in schools to teach girls about intimate partner violence and the warning signs of power and control by male partners.	The school based programme is being developed with an Advisory Group made up of sexual violence sector representatives, interested community groups, government agencies and specialist academics, with input from students, parents and teachers. The programme is still in its early stages of development and there will be further announcements on the specific content, providers, and schools that will be piloted in the third school term this year.
7	Provide specific resources to the Ministry of Social Development to support women and children to escape permanently from violent relationships, instead of being forced to remain in or return to violent situations because of financial constraints.	National takes violent crime very seriously. We introduced Police Safety Orders to provide immediate protection for families in domestic violence situations. There is a Family Violence Information Line people can call at any time for advice on where to access the most appropriate support. And the http://www.areyouok.org.nz/home.php website provides a great deal of information on support services for families. The Ministry of Social Development also has coordinators in each region to support Work Income staff to help identify and refer their clients to the Family Violence Intervention Programme. The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Social Development also provide funding support for Safe@home, delivered by Shine. It helps keep vulnerable women and children safe from domestic abuse without them having to leave their own homes.

8	Extend the Safer Homes in New Zealand Everyday programme throughout Aotearoa so that domestic violence victims and their children can remain in their homes.	Shine's safe@home service is a pilot crime prevention initiative. Expanding the service and other options for future home safety services for domestic violence victims at high risk of serious injury or death will be considered later this year.
9	Provide specific education to judges and lawyers about the Court of Appeal's decision in <i>Surrey vs Surry</i> [2010] NZFLR 1 and ensure that the correct test of 'necessity' under section 14(1) of the Domestic Violence Act 1995 is applied in relation to protection order applications.	Legal education and development for lawyers is the responsibility of the New Zealand Law Society through their Continuing Legal Education Ltd (CLE) branch. CLE provide seminars for lawyers on issues relating to family law, including domestic violence. In addition, the Family Law Section of the New Zealand Law Society publishes a quarterly magazine <i>The Family Advocate</i> , which regularly includes articles and discussion on important developments in the law including case law. Continuing legal education and development for judges is the responsibility of the Institute for Judicial Studies.
10	Family Violence Courts are to cease applying a therapeutic approach and instead focus on the safety of women and children.	In all criminal cases, judges consider the safety of the victims as well as the wider community when making bail and sentencing decisions. This includes judges in the eight Family Violence Courts. The Family Violence Courts are an initiative of the judiciary that involves dealing with family violence cases separately from the general criminal list. The same rules of procedure apply to criminal cases dealt with in the Family Violence Courts as in other criminal courts. Judges in the Family Violence Courts make greater use of section 25 of the Sentencing Act to adjourn proceedings between conviction and sentencing. This is the main difference between the Family Violence Courts and other criminal courts. The Family Violence Courts, as with other therapeutic courts, aim to reduce re-offending by helping offenders address the causes of their offending. An independent judiciary is a fundamental principle of our democracy. It would therefore be inappropriate for the Government to interfere with how individual judges apply the law. The Ministry of Justice is currently developing a range of initiatives to strengthen the response to domestic violence through our courts.
11	Amend the Care of Children Act 2004 to specify that domestic violence is a key factor in determining the welfare and best interests of children and reinstate the recently-repealed sections providing that there should be no unsupervised contact with children when there has been domestic violence.	Our Vulnerable Children Bill makes it much harder for parents who have severely abused, neglected, or killed a child to have a child in their care again. And our Children's Action Plan introduces a new Child Protect Line for people to report any concerns they have about children or young people.
12	Amend the Care of Children Act 2004 to state that the two most important factors for children's well-being post-separation are maintaining their relationships with their primary caregivers and minimising their exposure to inter-parental conflict;.....	The welfare and best interests of the child is the first and paramount consideration in decision-making about children under the Care of Children Act 2004. In considering a child's welfare and best interests a judge must take into account a (non-exhaustive) number of principles in Act. Only one of the principles is expressed in mandatory terms. Section 5(a) states that a child's safety must be protected and, in particular, a child must be protected from all forms of violence. The other principles set out in Section 5(a), which emphasise the importance of parents maintaining a role in the care, development and upbringing of their children, are couched in

		<p>terms of "should" meaning something that is desirable rather than essential. The safety principle would generally be decisive in any assessment by the court. National recently reformed the Family Court. An important focus of the reforms is in protecting children from the harmful effects of parental conflict. To achieve this, the Government has introduced family dispute resolution (FDR) to keep parental disputes about the care of children out of court where this is appropriate.</p> <p>FDR involves an independent professional helping parents and guardians to identify the matters in dispute, facilitate discussion, and help them reach agreement. It is focussed on achieving a lasting outcome and giving people the skills to resolve future problems. FDR also encourages parents to be responsible for reducing the negative effects of conflict on children. The government has also enhanced Parenting through Separation, an existing parental information course, to assist parents focus on the issues affecting their children and understand the harmful effects on-going parental conflict can have for children.</p>
13	Provide adequate, permanent and sustainable funding for sexual violence and domestic violence services.	<p>The National-led Government recognises the sector does incredibly important work for victims of sexual violence and needs funding certainty. It is a basic right that people should feel safe and secure and free of fear. Sexual violence takes this basic right away all too often. The Government's long-term strategic work with the sector includes the development of a nationwide prevention package, and a committed focus on improving sector development, funding, and governance.</p> <p>Budget 2014 provided \$10.4 million in new operating funding to support sexual violence services over the next two years, to give immediate stability for the specialist services which are providing vital support for New Zealanders impacted by sexual violence.</p>
14	Provide adequate funding for immediate access to counselling by women and child survivors of domestic violence and conduct research into the effectiveness of stopping violence programmes provided to male perpetrators of domestic violence.	<p>The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Social Development also provide funding support for Safe@home, delivered by Shine. It helps keep vulnerable women and children safe from domestic abuse without them having to leave their own homes. A new domestic violence programme is being trialled from July this year for community offenders, to help reduce reoffending and prevent family members from being re-victimised. Domestic violence offenders in the community will take part in 26 sessions over 60 hours, with a focus on minimising the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse, improving relationship and parenting skills, and managing emotions and attitudes.</p> <p>If the evaluation is successful it will be rolled out in 2015, and will provide a more effective, uniform approach across the country, replacing the range of different programmes which currently exist.</p>
15	Provide permanent, adequate funding to women's refuges throughout Aotearoa.	<p>The Government provides funding to Women's Refuge and the Safe@home programme.</p>

17	Fully implement by 2017 all of the recommendations of the Ministry of Justice's report <i>Te Toiora Mata Tauherenga, report of the taskforce on sexual violence 2009</i> .	<p>The Te Toiora Mata Tauherenga report made 71 recommendations, most of which fall within the social sector. The Government responded to the report in 2010. As part of that response, the following were introduced to support sexual violence victims in the criminal justice system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist sexual violence court advisors to support victims of sexual violence through the court process. • The Sexual Violence Discretionary Grant, which provides financial assistance to victims towards expenses incurred as a result of sexual violence. • Increases in travel, accommodation and childcare assistance for victims to attend court. <p>The Minister intends to introduce a Bill that includes provisions to protect victims in sexual violence cases from any further unnecessary trauma during the trial process. This Bill includes tightening the rules about questioning a complainant about their previous sexual experience. It also includes a presumption that child witnesses give their evidence via the video of their police interview (where available) or via the other alternative ways of giving evidence set out in the Evidence Act 2006. Approximately 750 child witnesses give evidence in criminal court cases each year, the majority of whom are complainants in sexual offence cases.</p>
18	Action by 2017 all of the recommendations in <i>From 'real rape' to real justice</i> and provide the Law Commission with resources to complete its work on alternative trial processes with a commitment from political parties to implement the recommendations of the final report by 2017.	See answer for 17.
19	Reinstate six free counselling sessions through the Family court to ensure that as many cases as possible concerning contact with children and which do not involve domestic violence are resolved at an early stage and by way of decisions of the parents, rather than by judges imposing decisions.	<p>The Family Court reforms have replaced the focus on providing counselling for private relationship issues with a focus on resolving parenting issues and reducing conflict for the benefit of children. This new focus is reflected in changes to the provision of counselling services and the introduction of Family Dispute Resolution (FDR), which is now the main forum for resolving parenting disputes outside the court. While the introduction of FDR represents a shift away from taxpayer funding of relationship counselling, some counselling will still be available. In Care of Children proceedings, parties may be directed to attend counselling if a judge considers it the best way to assist parties with their parenting relationship or the implementation of any decision of the Court. Some preparatory counselling will also be available to help parents make the most of FDR.</p>

20	Reverse legal aid cuts and ensure that legal aid is available to those on low incomes and require the Ministry of Justice to prepare and implement a plan to ensure that lawyers and legal aid are available to domestic violence victims throughout Aotearoa.	<p>The Legal Services Act 2011 promotes access to justice by providing legal services to people of insufficient means, as determined by the application of income and asset thresholds. As noted by the Court of Appeal last year, the Act's purpose cannot be achieved unless the costs of legal services are kept within the available funds. To ensure that eligibility is maintained for as wide a group as possible into the future, measures to control the cost of legal aid are necessary.</p> <p>The Legal Services Amendment Act 2013 made changes to civil eligibility and to encourage repayment of debt. The changes contained protections for vulnerable people, to ensure that funding is prioritised to those who have a greater need for legal assistance. For example, applicants for protection orders under the Domestic Violence Act 1995 are exempted from the \$50 user charge and are more likely to receive legal aid than other applicants when their income exceeds the prescribed thresholds.</p>
	Benefits	
21	Introduce a universal basic income by 2020 and, in the interim, increase the level of benefit support provided to single parents to a sustainable level by reversing the 1991 benefit cuts, tying benefits to a figure which covers a basket of basic needs as is the case in Sweden, and indexing payments to wages.	<p>The welfare system will always be there to support people who genuinely need it but National is focused on getting people off welfare and into work. We believe work leads to a better life, better opportunities, and a brighter future for people and their families.</p> <p>National introduced a work bonus as an incentive to help people move off a benefit and onto a wage, which allows the benefit to be phased out incrementally so people keep a proportion of it as they transition to a wage.</p> <p>In January this year more than 2,500 people have received the Work Bonus. The majority were sole parents. Over the past year 15000 people have come off a benefit.</p>
22	Amend the <i>Social Security Act 1964</i> to provide that its primary objective is to provide a liveable income to those who are not in work, with a 'liveable income' being defined as one which enables an individual or family to provide for all the necessities of life and to participate fully in the community.	<p>The welfare system will always be there to support people who genuinely need it but National is focused on getting people off welfare and into work. We believe work leads to a better life, better opportunities, and a brighter future for people and their families. We believe anyone who can work should be in employment, in training, or looking for a job. Over the past year 15000 people have come off a benefit.</p>
23	Amend the <i>Social Security Act 1964</i> to make the welfare and best interests of children a primary consideration in developing and administering laws and policies relating to benefits.	<p>National has been working hard to support our vulnerable children. We introduced social obligations for beneficiaries, so children in benefit dependant homes get the best possible start in life. These new obligations will ensure that around 220,000 children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Attend 15 hours a week in ECE from age three o Attend school from age five or six o Enrol with a GP/PHO o Complete WellChild/Tamariki Ora checks. <p>We have also introduced the Children's Action Plan and are passing new laws to protect children through our Vulnerable Children Bill.</p>

24	Carry out an independent and comprehensive review of the way in which the Ministry of Social Development, through Work and Income New Zealand, administers benefits and provide detailed recommendations for changes to ensure that all benefit recipients receive the full entitlements provided by law and are treated with dignity and respect at all times and that staff failing to provide full benefit entitlements to recipients are sanctioned.	<p>National has reformed the welfare system. We are focused on getting people off welfare and into work, as we believe work leads to a better life, better opportunities, and a brighter future for people and their families.</p> <p>Of course the welfare system will always be there to support people who genuinely need it. But we believe anyone who can work should be in employment, in training, or looking for a job. Over the past year 15000 people have come off a benefit.</p>
25	The investigation of prosecution of alleged benefit fraud is to be placed in the hands of an independent Commissioner and the Ministry of Social Development is to be required to reimburse people on benefits when their benefits have been unlawfully stopped or reduced.	<p>We believe our approach is working and there is no need to put benefit fraud in the hands of an independent commissioner. Ministry of Social Development fraud investigation staff are professional investigators, well trained to approach fraud investigations in an objective, sensitive and fair-minded manner. If decisions from fraud investigations are disputed, appeal avenues are available to the beneficiary that allows an independent tribunal to review the decision. The Ministry of Social Development has good systems for ensuring investigators focus on the right cases, and do not incorrectly penalise beneficiaries. In the rare instances where a mistake is made and a decision is overturned on appeal, Work and Income will pay out any money withheld due to the now-overturned benefit decision, or recovered incorrectly.</p>
26	Amend the law to provide that mothers are not to be imprisoned following convictions for benefit fraud.	<p>The Ministry of Social Development takes a zero tolerance approach to welfare fraud, and where they have clear evidence that a beneficiary has intentionally defrauded the taxpayer they will put that evidence before a court. A decision on sentence is then for a Judge to make, considering all the factors set out in the Sentencing Act, including the personal circumstances of the defendant. The Government does not believe it is appropriate to give some beneficiaries preferential treatment in sentencing for their crime beyond this.</p>
27	Review benefit abatement rates and alter them so that high marginal tax rates no longer apply for people on benefits moving into paid employment.	<p>National is focused on supporting people off welfare and into work. We believe work leads to a better life, better opportunities, and a brighter future for people and their families.</p> <p>National introduced a work bonus as an incentive to help people move off a benefit and onto a wage, which allows the benefit to be phased out incrementally so people keep a proportion of it as they transition to a wage.</p> <p>In January this year more than 2,500 people had received the Work Bonus. Over the past year 15000 people have come off a benefit.</p>
28	Abolish the Ministry of Social Development's Benefit Review Committees and establish a fully independent process for reviewing the ministry's decisions.	<p>The Ministry of Social Development strives to uphold independent and fair decisions on benefits, and this is reflected through a stringent review process.</p> <p>If applicants are not satisfied with the decision of the Benefit Review Committee, they can appeal to the Social Security Appeals Authority (SSAA). The SSAA is an independent judicial tribunal managed by the Ministry of Justice.</p>

29	Insert into the <i>Social Security Act 1964</i> a legal presumption that mothers receiving benefits and who are convicted of benefit fraud are not required to repay the sum if this would take longer than 12 months, thereby recognising that very large debts prevent the women from moving into the workforce and in fact penalise children as much - or more than - mothers.	The Government rejects the idea that some beneficiaries convicted of welfare fraud should be given a free ride. They have defrauded the taxpayer, and that money must be recovered. In recovering that money the Ministry of Social Development will always take into account the circumstances of that person – including any dependent children – and arrange a repayment rate that is appropriate and manageable.
30	Encourage women on benefits to study and provide financial support for them to gain qualifications, rather than cutting benefits for mothers who engage in study.	National has reformed welfare to support more people into training or work, as we know this means a better life, better opportunities, and a brighter future. We introduced the Youth Service is to help young people into education, training, or work-based learning, helping them build their skills. We also introduced Guaranteed Childcare Assistance Payment, so childcare costs do not stop young parents from studying.
<i>The workforce</i>		
31	Extend paid parental leave from 14 to 26 weeks and increase payment levels to 100 percent of the average male wage.	The National-led Government is committed to doing its part to give children the best possible start in life. Families will benefit from a growing economy offering more jobs and higher wages, and it is also appropriate that they are among the first to benefit from extra government spending as the economy picks up. Investing almost \$500 million more in the well-being of New Zealand's children and families is at the heart of new spending in Budget 2014. Part of that package is to extend paid parental leave to 18 weeks, extend it to caregivers other than parents and increase the parental tax credit by \$70 a week to \$220 a week, and extend it by two weeks to 10 weeks. Other parts of the package are free GP visits and free prescriptions for children under 13, \$155.7 million more for Early Childhood Education to get more kids participating and keep fees down for parents, and \$33.4 million extra to support vulnerable children. On top of those, for the first time spending on health tops \$15 billion a year. And spending on early childhood, primary, and secondary education will reach \$10 billion. And on 27 May, the Government announced that parental leave payments will increase from 1 July 2014 to reflect the 3.3 per cent increase in the average weekly wage over the past year. National does not support Labour's 26 weeks paid parental leave proposal as it goes too far, costs too much, and is poorly targeted.
32	Implement pay equity and commit to abolishing the gender pay gap by 2020, with the Living Wage to be implemented immediately for all workers and a Pay and Employment Equity Commission to be established.	The Government supports and will enforce all current legal requirements, such as non-discrimination in employment and equal pay. But we believe that the bargaining or negotiation process is the proper forum for addressing pay equity issues. We are not prepared to advocate for the living wage – if employers can pay more, we encourage them to do so. But the cost of the living wage is inflation, less competitive businesses and fewer jobs. This Government believes the minimum wage – which we have increased year on year while in office – is the best way to strike the right balance between protecting low paid workers and ensuring jobs are not lost.

33	Require all organisations applying for and obtaining government contracts to have in place policies to promote diversity in their workplaces and to ensure that their organisations have 50 per cent female leaders by 2020.	The Government has Principles of Government Procurement that are aimed at ensuring that the Government gets the best value for tax payer dollars. While we encourage diverse workplaces, it is important that when buying goods or services, we do so on sound commercial basis.
34	Ensure that flexible working hours are actually available in reality to parents in the workforce and that parents who make use of flexible working hours do not suffer discrimination and lack of promotion.	The Government is committed to extending the right of employees to request flexible working arrangements. The Employment Relations Amendment Bill, currently before Parliament, makes several positive changes to flexible working provisions, including: extending the right to request flexible work arrangements to all employees, removing the six-month period of employment before an employee has the right to request a flexible working arrangement, and removing the limits on the number of requests an employee can make for flexible working arrangements over a year.
35	Conduct a comprehensive survey of New Zealand workplaces to provide statistics about the numbers of male and female leaders in workplaces and develop and implement a detailed strategy to significantly increase the number of female leaders in the workplace by 2020 and to remove barriers to women's advancement in the workplace.	The Government has supported the release of a report <i>Realising the opportunity</i> which identifies the barriers to women's advancement in the workplace and recommends strategies to address those barriers. The Human Rights Commission and State Services Commission produce regular publications which provide information about women leaders in workplaces in the public and private sectors. Their documents are publicly available.
36	Provide funding to extend the availability of safe and high-quality childcare.	The Government provides funds for OSCAR out of school care and recreation services for school aged children aged 5 –14 years. And for young ones we are investing \$1.5 billion into early childhood education (ECE), up from \$860 million in 2007/08. This investment includes 20 hours funding for all families, making ECE about 33 per cent more affordable than it was before the 20 Hours ECE was introduced in 2007. It also includes \$41.3 million to support those ECE services that work with children from our most vulnerable communities. We believe ensuring each and every child gets a good education is the most important thing our Government can do to raise living standards, and create a more productive and competitive economy. And that has to start at the very beginning, with early childhood education.
38	Make full employment Aotearoa's key goal and take steps to ensure that workers have permanent full time work by halting the on-going casualisation of the workforce.	Our comprehensive plan to responsibly manage the government's books, build a stronger economy, deliver better public services, and help rebuild Christchurch is working. For example, the economy is growing, 84,000 new jobs were created in the past year, and average wages are going up faster than inflation. And if we stick to the plan the forecasts are for ongoing growth, increasing wages and dropping unemployment.

39	Provide funding for women to complete apprenticeships and introduce incentives to encourage women into male dominated industries.	As part of our Business Growth Agenda to help New Zealand businesses get ahead we're focusing on lifting skills across the board, starting in schools and going right through to apprenticeships and tertiary education. Budget 2014 investment in tertiary education includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$20 million in 2013/14 and 2014/15 for a further 6000 apprentices in the Apprenticeship Reboot programme, bringing total funding for the scheme to \$69.4 million and the total number of places to 20,000. New enrolments in apprenticeship training have grown by 24 per cent since 2012 following the introduction of the Reboot scheme last year. • \$199 million additional investment in tertiary education, including \$83.3 million allocated to lifting tuition subsidies in disciplines including science (8.5 per cent increase), agriculture (8.5 per cent), and selected health sciences (pharmacy 16.4 per cent and physiotherapy 12.4 per cent). • An additional \$53 million over four years to establish another three Centres of Research Excellence (CoREs), bringing the total number to 10.
40	Abolish the 90 day trial period and youth wages.	The Government believes flexibility and choice in our labour market helps create jobs, increase wages and encourages innovation. We do not agree these measures should be abolished: the starting-out wage provides an incentive for employers to help give young people a foot and the 90-day trial period is about encouraging businesses to take on new staff.
	Parenting	
42	Introduce a Universal child benefit, comprising a non-income tested, non-transferable payment made to the primary caregiver.	We believe welfare should be there for those who need it. National has better targeted Working for Families to support those who need it most. In Budget 2014 we announced we will extend paid parental leave by four weeks, starting with a two-week extension from 1 April 2015, and another two weeks from 1 April 2016. And the eligibility of paid parental leave will also be expanded to include caregivers other than parents.
43	Extend the Working for Families package to all families, regardless of whether or not the parents are in paid work.	National better targeted Working for Families to help the families who need it the most, and to keep it sustainable for the future.
44	Provide support to parents in the first year of a child's life, including making additional funding available to Plunket to ensure that all children can be visited regularly in the first year of their lives.	In Budget 2011 we provided \$21.3 million over four years for additional WellChild visits with a particular focus on the needs of first time mothers. This will mean, on average, three additional WellChild visits for around 18,000 mothers who need this additional support.
45	Provide funding to for counselling and single mothers' support groups.	The Ministries of Health, Education, Social Development and ACC fund counselling depending on the type required.

46	Ensure that parenting is recognised as an important and demanding job and recognise the contribution that single parents make to Aotearoa, including by an education campaign to inform the public about the difficulties faced by single parents and the way in which public stigma undermines their role and makes their lives more difficult.	This Government supports all parents by funding services such as PlunketLine, early childhood education, and free doctors' visits and prescriptions for children aged under six years – which will be extended to children aged under 13 from July 2015.
47	Do not separate mothers and babies when jail terms are being considered for women convicted of offences.	Mothers with Babies units operate at Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility, Arohata Women's Prison, north of Wellington, and Christchurch Women's Prison. The self-care units give mothers with babies the chance to bond in a safe and supportive environment, assist the mother to develop and maintain a functional relationship with her child pending the mother's release, and reduce the likelihood of the mother re-offending. In September last year, the Corrections (Mothers with Babies) Amendment Act 2008 came into force. The Act extended the timeframe that eligible mothers are able to keep their children with them in special units for, from nine months to two years of age. In preparation for the introduction of the Act, two new units were built. These units can accommodate up to ten mothers and their children.
48	Extend education programmes for mothers in schools.	This Government has consistently prioritised teen parents at risk of benefit dependency with education, training, and support through our Youth Services package, and our Investment Approach to welfare reform. National has also nearly doubled funding for early childhood education since 2007/8, to remove barriers to education and employment for teen parents. The Government also continues to fund Teen Parent Units at schools, which help young parents to complete their college education in a supportive environment.
	Child support	
49	Reverse the changes to child support laws which were due to be implemented on 1 April 2014 and have now been delayed until 1 April 2015.	These changes will ensure the Child Support Scheme is fairer and more efficient. The changes have been strongly shaped by extensive consultation. The new formula will provide a more equitable system of financial support in a variety of circumstances. In particular, it will better reflect many of the social and legal changes that have occurred since the introduction of the scheme more than two decades ago, such as the greater emphasis placed on separated parents sharing the care of, and financial responsibility for, their children. This in turn will increase incentives for parents to meet their child support obligations. Budget 2014 also allocates \$43.5 million over the next five years to increase the collection of Child Support from liable parents, and improve the promptness of payments. Around 73 per cent of liable parents do not make their first child support payment on time and 44 per cent of Child Support debt is not under any payment arrangement at all. That is not fair to children relying on Child Support. The initiative is expected to deliver a \$174 million increase in Child Support payments over five years, a return of about \$4 for every \$1 invested.

	Housing	
50	<p>Make the provision of adequate, healthy housing for all New Zealanders a government priority, including by introducing a legal requirement for all rental houses to have warrants of fitness and providing funding for inspections to ensure that this law is complied with.</p>	<p>National has worked hard to ensure Kiwi families have access to warmer, healthier, and low-cost homes – whether that’s social housing, renting in the private market, or in their own homes. We’re focused on freeing up land supply, reducing compliance costs, containing building material charges and improving productivity in the building industry.</p> <p>We know the health and wellbeing of families and children is linked to the quality of their accommodation. That’s why we’ve ensured that over 280,000 homes are warmer and healthier through successful insulation schemes. We’ve also fast-tracked children at risk of rheumatic fever to the top of the waiting list for state housing. The National-led Government is trialling a Warrant of Fitness (WOF) scheme on 500 Housing New Zealand homes to help ensure healthier and safer living environments for people living in state houses, particularly those on lower incomes. The Government has not made any decisions about the wider application of the WOF to the private rental market. Our first duty is to ensure our own houses are in order. We also want to test the trial scheme to ensure it is practical and cost effective.</p>
51	<p>Draw up and then implement a detailed plan setting out how to provide enough houses and make them financial affordable so that all New Zealand families have a realistic prospect of purchasing their own homes.</p>	<p>We remained focused on our comprehensive package of reforms to improve housing affordability, ensuring more people can achieve the Kiwi dream of owning their own home. The best way to make housing affordable is to build a more competitive and productive economy – one of National’s four key priorities of this term. National is committed to addressing the key factors that influence housing supply and affordability. We are improving housing affordability by freeing up land supply and fast-tracking new housing developments through housing accords with local government. We’re also investing heavily to increase skills and construction productivity, including 2,000 more trades training places. Nationally these changes have seen residential building consents reach a six year high, with 21,000 new houses consented in 2013. The Government offers a range of initiatives to help people purchase their first home. Welcome Home Loans are available to enable people with a 10% deposit to buy owner-occupied properties in selected areas. In addition, first home buyers who have contributed to KiwiSaver for more than three years may also have access to the KiwiSaver First Home Deposit Subsidy. A key component of National’s affordability programme has been the passing of the Housing Accords and Special Housing Areas Act 2013 (the HASHA Act), which enables central and local government to work together through housing accords to resolve identified affordability concerns through increasing land supply. Using the HASHA Act, the Government and Auckland Council recently announced the establishment of special housing areas. These first three tranches of special housing areas will bring over 35,000 sections onto the market and are a significant step towards the Auckland Housing Accord’s target of consenting 39,000 new homes and sections created over three years, compared to the 3,600 homes consented each year over the past four years before the Accord was signed. The latest figures show there were 18 per cent more building consents issued in the first quarter of 2014 than in the same quarter last year (when the Accord wasn’t in place).</p>

	<i>Wahine Maori</i>	
52	Provide funding for hui of wahine Maori throughout Aotearoa to discuss and decide priorities and implement an information programme about Te Tiriti o Waitangi.	Wahine Māori access funding from a variety of sources. Te Puni Kokiri researches issues relating to wahine Māori from time to time.
53	Conduct research into the disadvantage of wahine Maori and draw up a detailed plan to address it.	The Ministry of Women's Affairs recent report E Tu Ake! Stand Tall and Proud focuses on women with low and no qualifications into sustainable work. This report does not focus specifically on Māori women, but notes they are overrepresented in this cohort. Te Puni Kokiri researches issues relating to wahine Māori from time to time.
54	Require all government agencies and those receiving funding from the Government to give priority to measures to improve the position of wahine Māori.	This is an operational matter for Te Puni Kokiri.
55	Research and implement measures to address the discrimination suffered by wahine Māori through their reduced benefit from national superannuation due to their shorter life expectancy.	This Government is committed to providing superannuation for 65-year-olds at 66 per cent of the average wage. In the past six years – from 1 April 2008 to 1 April 2014 – all rates of Superannuation have increased by 28 per cent, much higher than inflation of 15 per cent.
	<i>Immigrant and refugee women</i>	
56	Provide adequate funding to Shakti and other organisations which provide support to immigrant and refugee women	The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is the lead agency for the operational coordination of refugee-specific services and the implementation of the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy, a whole-of-government approach to delivering improved refugee resettlement outcomes. MBIE funds the delivery of national refugee resettlement support services provided to quota refugee families in the first 12 months of their settlement in New Zealand. This support has a strong focus on encouraging independence, linking refugees to mainstream services. MBIE provides funding to the Shakti Safe House Inc. to cover operational and management support costs associated with the running of the Shakti accommodation facility. Shakti Education Training and Advisory Company (SEDAC) delivers Second Chance, which is a 12 week programme offered free of charge to women leaving Shakti refuges. It covers life-skills training in a wide range of areas, such as English language, health and nutrition, finance and budgeting, positive parenting, driver licensing, sustainable living and job-seeking. In addition, the programme offers counselling, group therapy and art therapy. The classes consist of lectures, group discussions, individual work, and field trips. There is a particular emphasis on visual learning to transcend language barriers.

57	<p>Increase funding for English language and other courses aimed at assisting immigrant and refugee women to settle in Aotearoa and abolish barriers to their participation in the workforce as well as ensuring that benefit support is readily available to immigrant and refugee women.</p>	<p>The English for Migrants programme, run by the Tertiary Education Commission, enables migrants to participate in English language courses, helping them settle into communities and work. Organisations such as the Shakti Community Council Inc., which has several centres and refuges around New Zealand, provides a 24-hour domestic violence intervention service and other social services for migrant women. They also offer educational programmes and English language classes. New Kiwi Women Write Their Stories creative writing workshops, run by the Auckland Council, were created in 2011 for migrant women in Auckland to help them find their voice and express themselves through literature. On arrival in New Zealand, quota refugees undertake a six week reception programme at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre which aims to support the refugees' settlement in New Zealand and has a focus on employment for working-age refugees. National backs refugee resettlement support services provided to quota refugee families in the first 12 months of their settlement in New Zealand. The support focuses on encouraging independence and linking refugees to mainstream services.</p>
58	<p>Enact legislation to protect women and children from forced and underage marriage and strengthen legal protection for women coming to New Zealand via male sponsorship and who are then abused either in the workplace or in marriages or relationships</p>	<p>Underage and forced marriage is already illegal in New Zealand. The Government is not aware of specific gaps in the law which lead to underage women being forced into marriage. There are non-legislative initiatives underway responding to concerns about forced and underage marriage. For example, a number of government departments have signed an agreement to provide a collaborative multi-agency response to forced marriage. It is important to focus on education and building relationships of trust with migrant and other groups, so that newcomers to New Zealand are aware of the law and respect the rights and values of people living in this country. Consideration is being given to how best to raise awareness that forced marriage is illegal in New Zealand and educating women and girls about their rights. It is also important to continue providing a range of services through government and community organisations to protect and support people who may be in a forced or underage marriage, or are being abused.</p>

59	Implement a public education programme to provide information about the difficulties faced by immigrant and refugee women both before and after they arrive in Aotearoa and to overcome prejudice from New Zealanders towards immigrants.	Since 2011 National has empowered Conferences run by the Office of Ethnic Affairs (OEA), such as EthnicA and Ethnic People in Commerce (EPIC), to promote the benefits of diversity in all areas of life whether in the workplace, in the public sector or at the Board table. We are working with new migrant communities and well established New Zealand businesses and communities to create long-lasting relationships through practical measures. Diversity in the workplace and boardroom are actively promoted and enabled through events such as these. We believe the OEA offers leadership forums, including one dedicated to encouraging more ethnic women to put their names forward for leadership positions and to provide them the skills and confidence to do so. The Settling In programme, previously held under the Ministry of Social Development, has moved to fall under the OEA. Settling In was developed to identify and address the social service needs of refugee and migrant communities, with the aim of supporting communities to develop their own solutions. As OEA work with a number of refugee and migrant community groups, they are more effectively able to target services to the areas they are most needed.
60	Amend the <i>Immigration Act 2009</i> by inserting a section stating that the welfare and best interests of the children are to be treated as the paramount considerations in immigration cases involving children and introduce a legal requirement	The Immigration Act 2009 (the Act) provides the high-level framework for the management of immigration in New Zealand. Section 3 of the Act describes the purpose of the Act is 'to manage immigration in a way that balances the national interest...and the rights of individuals'. The Act was drafted to ensure immigration consistency with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, making special provisions for non-citizens under-18 years of age.
61	Increase Aotearoa's refugee quota from 750 to 1500 a year, ensure that the quota is filled every year and give priority to providing asylum to women and children.	Under New Zealand's Refugee Quota Programme, 750 (plus or minus 10 per cent, so between 675 and 825) refugees are resettled in New Zealand annually. The New Zealand Government is not seeking to increase the Refugee Quota. The Refugee Quota Programme reflects New Zealand's commitment to work with the international community and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) in assisting the world's most vulnerable refugees to find a durable solution to their protection needs. The Refugee Quota includes within the annual 750 places, at least 75 places for women at risk and 300 places for family reunification. Refugee Quota Programme numbers resettled over the last five years follow: 2008/09 – 700; 2009/10 – 709; 2010/11 – 527*; 2011/12 – 679*; 2012/13 – 751. *Note: quota numbers resettled were impacted by the Christchurch earthquakes given the impact on settlement services and available housing. In relation to asylum seekers, all claims for asylum in New Zealand are determined in accordance with the Immigration Act 2009, which codifies New Zealand's immigration-related obligations under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and the related 1967 Protocol, and also the 1984 Convention Against Torture and 1966 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

62	Reverse the 2006 law changes which provided that children born in Aotearoa do not become citizens at birth.	<p>At present we have no plans to reverse the law change. Most people giving birth in New Zealand are not affected by the change to the legislation. It is estimated that between 100 and 600 newborns each year (about 0.2% – 1%) are not New Zealand citizens because of the changes made in 2006.</p> <p>The changes were made to ensure citizenship and its benefits are limited to people who have a genuine and ongoing link to New Zealand. They prevent a person from travelling to New Zealand on a temporary permit solely to give birth and gain New Zealand citizenship for their child born in this country.</p>
63	Withdraw the Government's one general and two specific reservations on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and implement all obligations under the convention.	New Zealand takes its international obligations, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, seriously.
	Parliament	
64	Follow the examples of more than 100 other nations and introduce specific measures to increase the number of female MPs from the current 34 per cent to 50 per cent by 2020 and ensure that the level of female representation in the House remains permanently at 50 per cent.	The National party does not believe in, or support, the use of parliamentary gender quotas. We believe in the notion of equal opportunity, of individual freedom, and choice. Women and men have equal opportunity to stand for public office in New Zealand; and will be successful or not, based on their personal merits and accomplishments. Women have a strong presence in the National Party. There are currently 15 female MPs, 7 of whom are Ministers.

65	Review the Ministry of Women's Affairs funding to ensure it is adequate and implement measures to enhance its visibility and status and to ensure that all government agencies consult it during policy development and are required to implement its recommendations.	<p>The Ministry of Women's Affairs (MWA) works to improve social, economic and cultural outcomes for all New Zealand women, including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contributing to relevant Better Public Services targets, such as reducing violent crime by 20% over five years; reducing the number of people of working age on a benefit for 12 months; increasing participation in early childhood education; and increased trade qualifications • primary prevention of violence against women through initiatives such as the Family Violence Ministerial Group and the Government's Review of the Sexual Violence Sector • contributing to the achievement of the Business Growth Agenda targets, such as the Canterbury rebuild and engaging women in economic growth areas • other Government priorities, such as increasing the percentage of women on public sector and private sector boards. <p>MWA has identified three priority outcomes to meet this performance challenge which are linked to Government priorities: more women in leadership, greater economic independence and increased safety from violence.</p> <p>MWA regularly consults during policy development and Ministry officials are often sought as members of officials' groups and project teams developing new government policy. The Ministry's Chief Executive is part of several public sector formal and informal groups, providing an oversight of government planning and policy development. MWA's visibility is important only as it contributes to the achievement of the government outcomes. MWA's communications activities ensure it remains visible and connected with the stakeholders that it needs to engage with to improve outcomes for women and to achieve government objectives. These activities include the recent launch of <i>More Women Better Boards</i> to get more women onto boards, the ongoing updating of the Ministry's website, continued publication of the <i>Pānui</i>, and regular interaction with key stakeholders.</p>
	Health and reproduction	
67	Decriminalise abortion.	There are no plans to change the current laws on abortion.
68	Provide free contraception.	We already heavily subsidise many available contraceptives.
69	Provide radiotherapy for breast cancer within 12 weeks of surgery.	This Government introduced a target that all cancer patients, ready for treatment, wait less than four weeks for radiotherapy or chemotherapy. Last quarter, all DHBs were meeting that target.

72	<p>Improve access to mental health services for women and girls and conduct research into the high levels of anti-depressants prescribed to women to ascertain whether these are being prescribed as a 'quick fix' by busy doctors and what alternatives would be preferable.</p>	<p>Mental health is a priority health area for Government. In November 2012, Cabinet approved the 5-year strategy, Rising to the Challenge: The Mental Health and Addiction Service Development Plan 2012–2017. The plan includes 100 actions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •improve mental health and wellbeing, physical health and social inclusion for people with mental illness and addiction issues •encourage more effective use of resources •enhance integration of mental health and addiction services •reduce disparities in health outcomes •improve access to and reduce waiting times for mental health and addiction services. <p>These actions will be delivered by the Ministry of Health, district health boards and mental health and addiction service providers across our communities.</p> <p>People are more likely to make a better recovery from mental illness or addiction when they take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing, and when they have good support around them. Individuals, families, whānau, communities and service providers all have important roles to play in Rising to the Challenge.</p>
	Sport	

73	<p>Create a New Zealand co-ordinating group on Women and Sport and set up a Women in Leadership Development programme to address the low numbers of women in senior sporting administrative roles and ensure that 50 per cent of sports funding at all levels of sport from local areas to High Performance Sport New Zealand goes to sportswomen.</p>	<p>We currently support a range of initiatives as outlined in Q's 76-77. National believes in equal opportunities for both women and men, and actively supports women who want to take on leadership roles in sports administration/leadership. We are proud of our achievements to date and will continue to build upon them.</p> <p>Background Sport Sector Workforce Statistics: BERL economics 2010 estimates for the paid workforce were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall sport and recreation workforce – 55% male and 45% female • Technical workforce (eg, sportspeople, coaches, instructors, outdoor guides) – 61% male and 39% female • Manager workforce (eg, CEs, Administrators, Sports Centre Managers) – 57% male and 43% female • Support workforce (eg, receptionists at leisure centres, Finance and Marketing Managers) – 52% male and 48% female <p>(Source: BERL economics (2012) New Zealand Sport and Recreation Sector Workforce Estimates: Situation Analysis. Wellington: BERL economics)</p> <p>Estimates for the volunteer workforce in 2007/08 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All adults (16+ years) – 25.3% Males – 24.9% Females – 25.8% <p>(Source: Sport and Recreation New Zealand (now Sport NZ) (2008). Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Participation Among New Zealand Adults: Key Results of the 2007/08 Active NZ Survey. Wellington: SPARC)</p> <p>Relevant Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women in sport governance: The Sport NZ Board has set a voluntary goal of 40% of either gender in sport governance by 2020. Sport NZ has invested in the training and promotion of women in sport governance over the past two years, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of training seminars • Development scholarships (\$20,000 annually) • Ten women in the mentoring programme per year • Networking events • Support for the Appoint Professional sub group of women in sport governance on the Appoint Better Boards talent portal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of on line resources • Promotion throughout the sector to address governance diversity in general and gender diversity specifically • High Performance Investment: Investment is in line with HPSNZ's Strategy - focussed on more winners on the world stage regardless of gender. Many elite female athletes receiving investment. For more details see - http://www.hpsnz.org.nz/
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74	Provide funding matching that paid to the Rugby World Cup 2011 and America's Cup teams to ensure that female sports players have the same opportunities and support to develop skills and sports-based careers as do their male counterparts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment decision for major events like the Rugby World Cup (RWC) and America's Cup based primarily on an economic rationale. • In terms of RWC, sport development (volunteering, rugby development programmes for players and officials, club programmes) were set up for all • Sport NZ contributed \$1.5 million to the Volunteer Programme costs which had more women than men • New Zealand also target elite sporting events for female athletes, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netball World Championships held in NZ in 2007 • Bid to host the Women's Hockey World Championships. • To host Women's Hockey World League Round 4 in 2017 – a major event. • 2009 held the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup. • A number of other events being considered currently. • Many other major events across the sports of athletics, triathlon, Winter sports, Yachting, swimming, equestrian are for men and women in equal measure.
	Leadership	
75	Set a target of 50 per cent female judges at all levels of the court system by 2020 and draw up and implement a plan to achieve this.	The Judicature Modernisation Bill reflects the Government's position on the appointment of judges. It does not propose changes to ensure that certain proportions of female judges must be appointed. Instead, it places a new requirement on the Attorney-General to publish information about the process he or she follows when seeking expressions of interest and recommending persons for appointment as a judge. In advance of the Bill, the current Attorney-General has published information largely consistent with the new provisions. This information emphasises that a range of considerations are relevant when determining which people should be recommended for appointment. These include legal ability, qualities of character, personal technical skills and how well an appointment reflects society. A person's gender is just one of many factors that should be considered relevant to being a competent judge. Setting a target for appointments based on just one element within a dimension risks having people appointed as judges who are not necessarily the best candidate for the job.

76	Set a target of 50 per cent female board members by 2020 and draw up and implement a plan to achieve this.	<p>National does not support the use of quotas on public company boards. We believe women, and men, should gain an appointment based on their own merits. Women have a proud history of achievement in leadership and governance roles, and we believe in celebrating this, while encouraging further improvements.</p> <p>Under a National-led Government, we have taken active steps in championing research to identify, confront, and mitigate barriers to women's economic participation and leadership. We remain committed to our goal that the percentage of appointees to state sector boards who are women will increase to 45 per cent by 2015. Through initiatives such as <i>Equal Future Partnership</i>, <i>Building Back Better</i>, <i>E Tū Ake! Stand Tall and Proud</i>, <i>Women in Transport Action Plan</i>, and <i>Realising the opportunity: Addressing New Zealand's leadership pipeline</i>, New Zealand women are more able, and more likely, to be economically independent now than at any other time over the past 30 years.</p> <p>The National-led Government launched the initiative to track and report on gender diversity and policies on the NZX. Indications are that this is an area where results are tracking positively. We also supported the launch of the 25 Percent Group – independent business leaders committed to 25 per cent participation of women on company boards by 2015. At present women hold 14.75 per cent of directorships on New Zealand's top 100 listed companies. This has increased from 9.3 per cent in 2010. To help increase women's participation on state sector boards and committees, MWA manages a database of over 800 women who are ready to serve on boards and further their governance careers. The database has recently gone through a review to ensure the CV's it holds are up-to-date and ready to be forwarded on when appropriate vacancies arise.</p>
77	Introduce a legal requirement that 50 percent of chief executives in government be women by 2020.	<p>We have commenced work on the 'pipeline' – women's career pathways – launching the report <i>Realising the opportunity: Addressing New Zealand's leadership pipeline</i> in September 2013. The research helps identify and alleviate barriers to women's economic independence and leadership. The report received national and international recognition.</p> <p>National does not support the use of legislated quotas.</p>
Disability		
78	The Government is to sign and ratify the protocol to the United Nations convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.	<p>National wants people with disabilities to get the support and freedom they need to lead fulfilling lives. We have put in place a number of initiatives to improve services for disabled people and their families. We've given more people the choice about how to spend their support funding, and the freedom to live how they choose.</p>
79	Enact legislation modelled on the United Kingdom's Disability Discrimination Act to protect disabled women.	<p>Budget 2014 confirms a range of measures to support New Zealanders who live with disabilities. It includes:</p>
80	Include schools in the New Zealand Disability Strategy and provide them with proper resources to educate disabled children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New operating funding of \$6 million over four years to provide vocational support services to school leavers with disabilities who are entering the Very High Needs Scheme. • \$3.8 million in new operating spending over 2014/15 to 2016/17 to extend the Enabling

81	Introduce employment initiatives to encourage employers to employ disabled women.	<p>Good Lives disability support approach for the Waikato region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New operating funding of \$6 million over four years to establish a body to promote New Zealand sign language. <p>Those in the Very High Needs Scheme are likely to have a significant level of physical, intellectual or sensory impairments - or a combination of these - and have significant difficulties with learning, hearing, vision, mobility, language and communication. This new funding will help them to transition from school to adult life.</p> <p>The funding for the Enabling Good Lives approach will transform the disability support system in Waikato in a similar way to the approach currently in place in Christchurch, where those with disabilities can live independently.</p> <p>We've established a full-time Disability Rights Commissioner and funded the <i>Be.Accessible</i> campaign which promotes positive attitudes towards those with disabilities.</p> <p>Improving support for disabled New Zealanders is an important part of our work to build a better, sooner, more convenient health service for all New Zealanders.</p> <p>National will continue rolling out support programmes that help disabled people live independently and have a voice in our communities.</p>
82	Implement an affirmative action/access plan to provide more opportunities for disabled women to participate fully in society.	
83	Establish a Disability Issues Commission and ensure that all domestic violence and sexual violence services are fully accessible to disabled women and that staff are trained to work with the issues presented by disabled women.	
84	Implement initiatives to provide security for disabled women.	
85	Ensure that all new houses, buildings and means of transport fully comply with disability access requirements.	
86	Provide funding and other support for advocacy services for disabled women to ensure they have sufficient resources to participate fully in the community.	
Credit and financial literacy		
88	Use Kiwi bank to provide funding and support for microfinance schemes such as the Angel Fund to offer affordable loans to women throughout Aotearoa, thereby keeping them out of the hands of loan sharks and enabling them to access financial support when they seek to return to the workforce.	<p>The National-led Government recently announced a new community finance partnership pilot. We will be partnering with Bank of New Zealand, Good Shepherd NZ and The Salvation Army to develop a finance initiative that will offer people on low incomes affordable and sustainable credit. The initiative will see sustainable interest free and low interest loans being made available for some people that might not otherwise be able to service a loan with high interest rates and hidden fees.</p>
89	Provide comprehensive financial education programmes to women throughout Aotearoa to ensure that they can manage their financial affairs, and in particular to inform them of the dangers of signing up as guarantors to husbands' or partners' loans.	<p>The Government supports the initiatives of the Commission for Financial Literacy and Retirement Income.</p> <p>It also supports the work of budgeting services and Budget 2014 included new operating funding of \$22 million over four years for non-government organisations delivering community budgeting services to families.</p>
90	Establish a government-run scheme enabling women to buy cheap and reliable cars financed by way of microfinance.	See answer Q.88

91	Amend the <i>Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003</i> to provide that interest of no more than 20 per cent may be charged on loans in Aotearoa and draft regulations strictly limiting the fees which can be charged on all types of loans.	Some lenders have irresponsible lending practices and some consumers make poor decisions. This contributes to cases of spiralling debt and financial hardship among vulnerable consumers. National will pass the Credit Contract and Financial Services Reform Bill. This Bill includes measures so that lenders comply with responsible lending principles that will reduce the risk of unaffordable credit. Some of these measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible lending principles that require lenders to be satisfied that the borrower can repay a loan without substantial hardship. • Requiring lenders to publish their cost of borrowing and provide initial disclosure before credit contract is entered into. • Ensuring that the Court has regard to the costs of borrowing • Clarifying the unreasonable fees provisions.
Media and Internet		
92	Toughen laws aimed at preventing online pornography, sexual grooming of children, bullying and harassment.	National has legislation in the House to implement new measures to tackle cyber bullying and the devastating impact it has on young people. The recommendations suggest a new offence targeting digital communication, and amending existing laws to ensure they apply to digital communications. The recommendations would also establish a communications tribunal to provide speedy access to remedies such as take-down orders and cease-and-desist notices, and require schools to have anti-bullying programmes. The Government also has the Objectionable Publications and Indecency Bill before the House to increase maximum penalties for objectionable publication offences (such as child sexual abuse online). We will increase maximum penalties for possession, import, or export of an objectionable publication, and future-proof laws against advances in technology. The bill also creates a new offence of indecent communication with a child, or a person an offender thinks is a child, to protect against offences such as sexual grooming. It will be punishable by a maximum of 3 years' imprisonment.
93	Establish courses to educate women about the internet and to encourage more women to pursue careers in the IT industry.	There are a number of non-government organisations which promote education about the internet and encourage more women to pursue careers in the Information Technology industry.
94	Require film and television producers receiving funding from government agencies to employ 50 per cent women in their productions and ensure that 50 per cent of characters, including main characters, are female. The taxpayer funding provided to subsidise major films made in Aotearoa in recent years has almost exclusively benefited men, with the movies employing male producers and directors and the characters being almost exclusively male.	Funding for New Zealand television content is provided through NZ on Air. The criteria for funding are determined by NZ on Air and are at 'arm's length' from the Minister. There are no plans to change this arrangement. We do note that one of the criteria set by NZ on Air is to fund content that has a diversity of faces, stories, and storytellers to reflect all New Zealanders.

95	Prepare and implement a plan to reduce violence on television.	National is supportive of steps to ensure every broadcaster is responsible for maintaining in its programmes and their presentation, standards that are consistent with among other things the observance of good taste and decency. We are also supportive of the current structure that allows individuals concerned about the content of television programmes to complain to the Broadcasting Standards Authority.
96	Decline funding for films, books, movies and other forms of entertainment which portray and encourage misogynistic attitudes.	See answer Q. 94
	<i>Animals</i>	
97	Abolish sow stalls, battery cages and all intensive farming in New Zealand by 2020 to end the torture suffered by female animals and implement a Declaration of Sentience in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to recognise in law that animals are sentient beings and not objects.	On 2 May 2013, Minister for Primary Industries Nathan Guy launched the New Zealand Animal Welfare Strategy, setting out a high level framework for how we treat animals. National intends to proceed with its decision to ban the use of battery cages and sow stalls. Recent codes of welfare for pigs and layer hens require that sow stalls no longer be used from the end of 2015, and battery cages no longer be used from the end of 2022. Animals are sentient and as a humane society we have responsibilities to ensure our animals' needs are met. Animals play an important role in many aspects of New Zealand life, and New Zealanders have high expectations of our animal welfare system.
	<i>International</i>	
98	Implement the recommendations arising from all periodic reviews of Aotearoa's implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.	All 48 recommendations have been assigned to a range of lead agencies, according to their content. An interim report responding to CEDAW recs 36 (a-c) and 38(a&b) will be completed by September 2014. New Zealand remains committed to the Articles of the CEDAW Convention. We are pleased with our progress so far but we are not complacent about the challenges ahead.

	Funding the Women's Election Agenda Aotearoa 2014	
99	Increase the top tax rate to 39 per cent and do not provide any more tax cuts for the wealthy.	<p>New Zealand's income tax and support system continues to provide significant income redistribution, with households earning more than \$150,000 a year (15 per cent) forecast to pay 74 per cent of net income tax in 2014/15, compared with 58 per cent in 2008/09. Four years after the Government's comprehensive tax reforms, latest data confirms that New Zealand's income tax and support system significantly redistribute incomes to households in need. The Government has maintained a redistributive income tax and income support system that supports low and middle income families and helps New Zealanders through times of need. So at any particular time, a large number of households effectively don't pay income tax. Households earning under \$60,000 a year – which is just under half of all households – are expected to pay 9 per cent of income tax. When we take income support payments into account, as a group they will actually pay no net income tax at all.</p> <p>Major tax reforms</p> <p>The general election will be held on 20 September 2014 and no tax policy has yet been announced. However, we have made some major reforms since becoming the Government. Here are the main changes:</p> <p>In Budget 2010, National announced the biggest reform of the tax system in nearly 25 years. The tax package reformed the tax system to make it fairer, more sustainable, and a better support for economic growth. The reforms included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1 October 2010, across-the-board personal tax cut, GST increased to 15 per cent and NZ Superannuation, Working for Families and benefit payments increased - lifting incomes, keeping skilled Kiwis in New Zealand, and helping families get ahead. • From 1 October 2010, the tax rates for most PIEs and bank interest fell. The tax rate for other savings vehicles fell to 28 per cent from 1 April 2011 – encouraging savings. • From 1 April 2011, tighter rules around the taxation of investment property took effect – making the tax system fairer. • From the 2011/12 income year, the company tax rate fell to 28 per cent – encouraging productive investment and lifting competitiveness. • Additional funding for Inland Revenue of \$119.3 million over four years will enhance Inland Revenue's compliance activities, including audit and debt collection. <p>Budget 2012 and Budget 2014 have invested more money to help ensure everyone pays their fair share of tax. The extra funding is bolstering Inland Revenue's work to collect more tax from the hidden economy, the property sector, aggressive tax planning, and fraud.</p>

100	Introduce a capital gains tax on property and abolish tax exemptions for family trusts to ensure that the wealthy pay their share of taxes and to provide funding for the Women's Election Agenda Aotearoa 2014 and programmes for the economically disadvantaged.	We've made a lot of changes to the tax system (see answer to question 99) to put more money in people's pockets, reward hard work, and encourage savings – the last thing the country needs is new taxes. Property speculators already pay tax on capital gains. The capital gains tax proposed by the Opposition would exempt about three quarters of housing and it has not stopped rapidly rising house prices in other countries.
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