

te ira tāngata  
**Peoples Agenda**  
for **Aotearoa**



POWERED BY ACTIONSTATION



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# What is this agenda about?

The Ira Tāngata (which translates as ‘the human blueprint’) comes from a community of 180,000 people who have, in all sorts of different ways, helped to build ActionStation, a new force for people who believe in a fair and flourishing Aotearoa New Zealand.

We act together, in new ways and in real time, to create what we cannot achieve on our own: a society, economy and democracy that serves all of us – everyday people and the planet we love.

The main focus of our community’s action is in the sphere of government, both holding politicians to account for their actions and – as in the case of this agenda – calling on them to lift their sights above the cut and thrust of daily politics.

With this agenda we are calling on those who hold political power, and those who want our votes, towards a more inspired and inspiring vision of what our country can and must be in the future: a fairer place where all people, and the creatures and wild places we love, can flourish.

In this process, our community asked ourselves what we want Aotearoa New Zealand to be like in 2040, 23 years from now.

We chose this date because it will be 200 years since the Treaty of Waitangi was first signed. 2040 is also the date that the Matike Mai report recommends we aim for constitutional transformation.<sup>(1)</sup>

Following the framework laid out in Matike Mai, this Agenda is focused on the changes we want to see in the ‘kawanatanga’ (Crown/government) sphere, and not the ‘rangatiratanga’ (Māori self-determination and self-governance) sphere.

(1) [www.converge.org.nz/pma/iwi](http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/iwi)



The name Te Ira Tāngata was gifted to ActionStation by Maatakiri Rapira Te Ruki.

# How was this made?

Te Ira Tāngata: People's Agenda for Aotearoa was created in four phases.

## PHASE 1. IDENTIFYING THE ISSUES

- Members of the ActionStation community have been taking part in online surveys over the past three years to identify the issues they thought were of most importance in building a fairer and flourishing future for our country. We gathered insights from 50,636 responses;
- 393,982 people took part in campaigns on those issues, including by funding research into the issues and sharing their experiences and stories;
- ActionStation worked with Civic Dinners to create a discussion guide for exploring those issues in more detail, using composite stories, and a survey for capturing the data from those discussions.

*“ I enjoyed the experience. It was an interesting topic to think about and discuss, and not one that I discuss often. It was heart-warming to hear people caring so much about New Zealand’s future, and about making it a better place for all. ”*

Kai & Kōrero Participant

## PHASE 2. EXPLORING THE ISSUES AND DEVELOPING THE VISION

- 81 members of the ActionStation community volunteered to host in-person Kai & Kōrero <sup>(2)</sup> lunches and dinners around the country where they used a structured discussion guide to explore the prioritised issues in more detail, develop a vision for Aotearoa in 2040 and to identify the values needed to get us there;
- ActionStation hosted events in Auckland and Christchurch, which were attended by another 100 people;
- 280 people who attended those discussions filled in a comprehensive survey to capture the key findings / outcomes of their discussions.<sup>(3)</sup>

## PHASE 3. REFINING THE VISION AND VALUES

- ActionStation contracted an independent researcher to do a thematic analysis of the data from the Kai & Kōrero survey, and to create a survey to test those findings with a larger section of the ActionStation community;
- 4,013 members of the ActionStation community took part in that survey, prioritising different elements of the vision for 2040 and the values needed to get us there.

## PHASE 4. FINDING THE POLICIES

- ActionStation then consulted with a panel of policy experts to identify 2-3 key policy pathways, each of which was (a) aligned with the core values identified by our community members, and (b) supported by a body of evidence suggesting these policies could help achieve the outcome expressed in the vision statements prioritised by the community;
- The experts we consulted included advisors from the te ao Māori, academics and researchers, independent policy experts and people with lived experience of the issues covered;
- Some of the people who gave us advice were Moana Jackson, Shamubeel Eaqub, Max Rashbrooke, Max Harris, Jessica Berentson-Shaw, Bronwyn Hayward, Anna Powles, Katie Bruce, Jane Kelsey, Susan St John, Hirini Kaa, Sandra Dickson, Paul Young, Geoff Keey, Tabby Besley, Paul Gibson, Paul Barber, Peter Thompson and Lisa Marriott. While all of these people gave their time generously to advise us, none of them are responsible for the final content of this agenda, and their advice should not be taken as an endorsement.

(2) [www.kaiandkorero.com](http://www.kaiandkorero.com)

(3) [www.civildinners.com](http://www.civildinners.com)

# Our agenda values

In order to facilitate a wide-ranging and in-depth conversation about the kind of country we want to be in 2040, we asked members of the ActionStation community to consider: What are the values we need to embody in order to have a fair and flourishing future for all?

Participants were asked to prioritise 24 values that were made up of 12 drawn from tikanga Māori (Māori culture), and 12 from the work of researchers (in particular Shalom Schwartz) who have identified a set of values that are broadly held across global cultures.

The people who took part in creating this agenda had shared views about a number of common values. Some of those include:

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## EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

Equality together with fairness recognises different starting points and pathways to enjoying the same rights and freedoms.

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## KAITIAKITANGA

Custodianship: care and responsibility for taonga (that which you treasure), especially nature.

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## AROHA

Love, empathy and compassion for all without discrimination.

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## COMMUNITY AND BELONGING

Togetherness with the purpose of mutual care, support and creative enhancement.

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## MANAAKITANGA

Hospitality, kindness, respect, generosity and care for others without expecting anything in return.

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*“ I enjoyed the opportunity to talk about values, rather than issues and policies. It feels like having strong, positive values is the first step. From there, we can work towards better things, together. ”*

ActionStation Member

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These are not the only values that people talked about, but these were the ones people talked about most often. Other values are equally important, certainly for the people who talked about them. Those other values include curiosity, learning and creativity, wairuatanga, whanaungatanga and rangatiratanga. All of these values are important, interconnected, and to some extent interdependent.

It's especially important to consider these values collectively because, as research by linguists like George Lakoff has shown, concepts like 'equality' and 'fairness' can hold widely varying meanings for different people. These concepts are best understood by considering their context, and specifically the other values that are referred to alongside them.

In this case, for example, we can best understand what people meant by 'equality and fairness' by considering those concepts alongside the values of manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga, community, belonging and aroha. All the values inform each other, and considering them together both helps us to understand the meaning people ascribed to each of them and to apply them collectively, in a harmonious way.

As one survey participant wrote:

*“ Community and belonging are emergent values ... they emerge when we get the other things right. ”*



# Our agenda vision

Here is how our community believe Aotearoa New Zealand will be different in 2040 if we put the values set out earlier at the centre of government decision-making:

Aotearoa New Zealand will be a fair and flourishing country with care, creativity, courage and compassion at its core. We will honour te Tiriti o Waitangi and the rights of indigenous people in our constitution, our institutions and in everything we do. Everyone in our country will be proud of Aotearoa New Zealand for the positive role it plays globally.

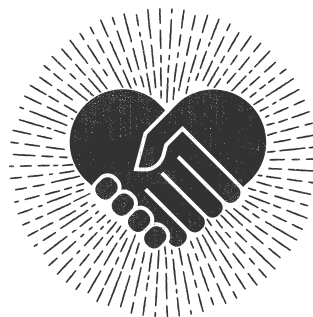
We will have a robust democracy powered by informed and connected citizens, guided by accountable leaders. In all our decisions, we will put the well-being of everyday people and all forms of life on our precious planet first, and government policies will build a society and economy that truly serves all of us. Every person in our country will be safe, welcome and included and will have enough to live on, a warm, safe place to live and the means and support they need to learn and thrive.

HERE ARE NINE VISION STATEMENTS AGREED UPON BY OUR COMMUNITY



## 1. HONOURING TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

Our constitution and structures reflect our Treaty commitments, and rangatiratanga is guaranteed to Māori. Every person in Aotearoa New Zealand understands and respects Te Tiriti as our founding document, understands the harm done by colonisation in our country, and works to heal injustices and to see Te Tiriti honoured.



## 2. INCLUSIVE & DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Every person in Aotearoa New Zealand feels safe, welcome and included in communities where resources are shared for common good and all voices are heard.



## 3. EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

We are a more egalitarian society in which wealth has been distributed more fairly to reduce inequalities, and every person in Aotearoa New Zealand has enough to live on, a warm, safe place to live, and the means and support they need to learn and thrive.



4. SHARED  
POWER

Power has been redistributed and decentralised through transparent and accountable government to ensure community interests are not disregarded, and everyday people have more power over their lives and their community, rather than big corporations, the wealthiest 1% and a handful of politicians.



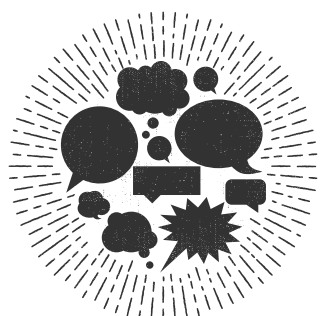
5. JUSTICE  
FOR ALL

A more compassionate justice system built on community and connection, which prioritises prevention of crime, restoration of harm and rehabilitation of people, so that every person in Aotearoa New Zealand has access to a justice system which gives them a chance to put right any harm they have done and to build a better future for themselves and their families.



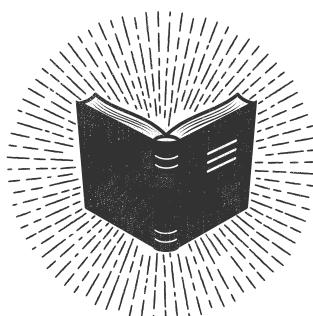
6. FLOURISHING  
PLANET

Sustainability and the health and well-being of all forms of life are at the heart of government decision-making and will drive our economy so that our natural taonga (treasures) thrive and our rivers, air, oceans and wild places are clean and healthy. We will honour the interdependence of humans and other natural taonga.



7. VIBRANT & TRANS-  
PARENT DEMOCRACY

Aotearoa New Zealand's transparent participatory democracy, characterised by openness, listening and collaboration for the common good, makes it possible for every person to participate actively in democratic processes, and be listened to on decisions that affect their lives.



8. EDUCATION  
FOR ALL

Fully accessible, comprehensive education in Aotearoa New Zealand encourages critical thinking and debate and supports everybody to develop their full potential at all stages of life.



9. OUR PLACE  
IN THE WORLD

Aotearoa New Zealand maintains an independent, principled and values-based approach to foreign policy, providing humanitarian assistance in conflict zones, international mediation and reconciliation services, and offering refuge to those who need a safe environment in which to thrive.





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# How will we get there?

Once we had this crowd-sourced vision for Aotearoa New Zealand in 2040, the obvious question was: how will we get there?

Part of the answer lies in the values our community has already identified: Aotearoa New Zealand will be a fairer and more flourishing country in 2040 if we restore those shared values – caring for each other and our natural treasures, being compassionate and ensuring everyone has a fair chance at a good life.

## BUT WHAT WILL THOSE VALUES LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

To answer that, we took the hundreds of suggestions made by the ActionStation community and talked to wise elders, independent policy experts, academics and people with lived experience of the issues.

## HERE'S WHAT WE LEARNED:

- We're going to need fresh ideas, bold policies, and a willingness to try new things;
- This is going to take more than three years;
- There are some steps that need to be taken as soon as possible, to tackle the most urgent problems and put us on the right track for a fairer future for all.

# Between now and 2020, here are the policy changes we would love to see enacted:

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## Housing

ENSURE EVERYONE IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND HAS A SAFE, WARM AND HEALTHY HOME BY:

- a. Building new state houses to increase the supply of affordable homes and end homelessness;
- b. Safeguarding people from dodgy landlords through sensible protections for renters, including guaranteed minimum quality, protection against excessive rent increases, security of tenure and the ability to challenge landlords;
- c. Getting the housing market back under control by cracking down on property speculation through a capital gains tax.

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## Mental Health

ENSURE SAFE, AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE AND RIGHTS-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ALL WHO NEED THEM BY:

- a. Increasing funding to mental health services for acute and community based mental health services nationally, and providing a wider range of treatment options;
- b. Conducting an independent national review into the structure and provision of mental health services in New Zealand, ensuring that the experience and insights of people who use, and work in, mental health services are given appropriate weight;
- c. Restoring fully independent oversight of the mental health system.



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## Water

### RESTORING THE HEALTH, MANA AND WAIRUA OF OUR RIVERS AND WATERWAYS BY:

- a. Setting strict and enforceable water quality standards, based on human and ecosystem health limits;
- b. Withdrawing public subsidies for irrigation and instigate polluter pays systems nationally;
- c. Using that revenue to invest in an agricultural transition fund, to support the country's shift towards environmentally-sound primary industries;
- d. Resolving the issue of water ownership by recognising Māori sovereign right to water under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.







Stock photo by Chameleons Eye.

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## Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi

ENSURING EVERYONE IN AOTEAROA  
NEW ZEALAND UNDERSTANDS, VALUES AND  
HONOURS TE TIRITI O WAITANGI BY:

- a. Ensuring that all children, as part of their compulsory education, learn about the hapū / iwi histories of their local area, the context and content of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, colonisation and its impacts, and about Treaty honouring initiatives;
- b. Ensuring a Treaty education strategy is developed for adults that includes the current role and status of the Treaty and the Treaty settlement process so people can inform themselves about the rights and obligations under the Treaty;
- c. Prioritising Māori learners and Māori led initiatives, ensuring that all children growing up in Aotearoa New Zealand are able to learn te reo Māori, that adult te reo Māori classes are accessible to all, and that te reo Māori is used widely in public media and communications;
- d. Retaining the Māori electoral seats, ensuring that only Māori will decide when or if they are no longer needed, and progress the Crown response to the WAI 262 claim.

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## Justice For All

BUILDING A MORE COMPASSIONATE JUSTICE  
SYSTEM WHICH PRIORITISES PREVENTION,  
RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION, AND ENDING  
THE OVER-INCARCERATION OF MĀORI BY:

- a. Reviewing the Bail Amendment, Sentencing and Parole Acts, and adopt legislation that directs judges to reduce Māori over-incarceration by using imprisonment as a last resort;
- b. Removing criminal penalties for the possession and use of all drugs;
- c. Investing in kaupapa Māori initiatives in communities, including the development of community-based rehabilitation centres.



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## Gender Equality

MAKING SURE EVERYONE IN AOTEAROA  
NEW ZEALAND IS SAFE FROM SEXUAL AND  
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BY:

- a. Reducing sexual and gender-based violence by providing:
  - i. Universal and best-practice sexuality education in all schools, including education on diverse sexualities and gender identities, healthy relationships and consent;
  - ii. Accessible, free, best-practice and culturally appropriate services for self-referral by people who are at risk of causing harm and want to change their behaviour.
- b. Ensuring nationwide coverage of culturally-appropriate and properly resourced specialist sexual violence support services to provide 24/7 early intervention following recent sexual assault and ongoing acute interventions when needed;
- c. Providing all women with access to free contraception, free and legal abortions, and maternal health care including maternal mental health care.

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## Accessible Aotearoa

MAKING SURE AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND IS  
100% ACCESSIBLE SO THAT DISABLED PEOPLE  
ACHIEVE EQUALLY WITH OTHERS THROUGH:

- a. Government leadership, education, training and information so we all better understand the experience of people with disabilities and how we can all remove barriers to access and participation;
- b. Government regulation, resourcing and support to make sure everyone (builders, landlords, employers and more) takes responsibility for making sure their services and facilities are fully accessible;
- c. Engaging people with disabilities more in policy-making and putting in place regulation to make sure public funds are not used to create or perpetuate obstacles to full accessibility in all areas of life.

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## LGBTIA+

MAKING SURE EVERY PERSON, WHATEVER THEIR  
SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY,  
CAN LIVE SAFELY AND WITH DIGNITY AND HAVE  
EQUAL RIGHTS PROTECTED BY LAW BY:

- a. Doing a better job of addressing the needs of LGBTIA+ people in strategic planning for all essential public services by gathering better demographic data;
- b. Ensuring all schools and education centres are safe and supportive environments so that every young person, whatever their sexual orientation and gender identity, has a safe place to learn and thrive;
- c. Making our health system work for everyone, with particular attention to:
  - i. The health needs of transgender, genderqueer and intersex people;
  - ii. Mental health services that meet the needs of LGBTIA+ people.
- d. Guaranteeing formal equality under the law, including adoption law, especially for trans and intersex people, clarifying gender identity as a basis for non-discrimination and ensuring the safety and dignity of trans and intersex people in our prisons.

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## Our Role in the World

ENSURING WE MAINTAIN AN INDEPENDENT AND VALUE-BASED APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY, AND THAT WE OFFER REFUGE TO THOSE WHO NEED A SAFE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO THRIVE BY:

- a. Building on our reputation as neutral and good-faith actor to play an independent mediator role, particularly around regional issues, recognising the particular value that Māori approaches can provide to mediation and peacekeeping;
- b. Ensuring Māori hold decision-making power in relation to Aotearoa's involvement in investment agreements, foreign policy and international indigenous rights;
- c. Doing our part to respond to humanitarian crises by increasing our humanitarian assistance to people affected by conflict; and doubling our annual refugee quota and associated funding.

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## Trade & Investment Deals

ENSURING TRADE AND INVESTMENT DEALS PRIORITISE INDIGENOUS AND HUMAN RIGHTS, PUT PEOPLE AND PLANET OVER PROFIT AND NEVER INTERFERE WITH OUR DEMOCRACY.

- a. We urge the New Zealand government not to enter into international economic agreements that will undermine its ability to:
  - i. Regulate the economy for social and environmental well-being;
  - ii. Hold assets;
  - iii. Provide services to the public and enter into commercial arrangements;
  - iv. Set its own rules on overseas investment and change these rules in accordance with national priorities.
- b. Foreign corporates must not have access to rights, remedies and dispute mechanisms other than those available to local investors.
- c. Indigenous, environment and human rights obligations must come first in all international agreements.



Stock photo by Chameleons Eye.

## Abuse in State Care

ENSURE JUSTICE IS ACHIEVED FOR SURVIVORS OF HISTORIC STATE ABUSE, AND LESSONS LEARNED BY:

- a. Conducting a comprehensive inquiry into historic state abuse in child welfare, disability support and psychiatric facilities, which proactively reaches out to, and generously compensates and rehabilitates, survivors, acknowledging and individually apologising to them and their whānau;
- b. Documenting evidence and lessons learned, including on institutional racism and institutional ableism, supporting whānau first, and making changes to, and ensuring safeguards are in, systems where vulnerable people from young children to elderly people could be 'out of sight, out of mind';
- c. Restoring the mana of the state through negotiating with survivors for a high-level state apology for systemic failures, saying "sorry" to our stolen generations.





Stock photo by Grace Thang.

## Broadcasting, Arts & Culture

ENSURE WE HAVE INDEPENDENT, DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC BROADCASTING, MEDIA, ARTS AND CULTURE THAT CONTRIBUTE TO A HEALTHY AND ROBUST DEMOCRACY AND TO OUR COLLECTIVE WELL-BEING AS A COUNTRY BY:

- a. Sustaining a robust autonomous (with independence from political or commercial influence) public broadcasting and media service that effectively holds power to account, and supports healthy democratic debate;
- b. Ensuring adequate public investment in public interest media and broadcasting in the form of sufficient and sustainable funding that is not vulnerable to political or commercial demands;
- c. Ensuring inclusiveness through diverse content, perspectives, and ideas connected to communities in a range of accessible formats and platforms;
- d. Recognising, measuring and documenting the role that participation in arts, culture and creativity plays in our collective well-being, and investing more money in the sector, supporting a diverse, accessible and culturally relevant range of emerging and established art and culture practitioners and institutions;
- e. Supporting sustainable careers for people working in arts and culture, including in the provinces, through funded arts apprenticeships, mentorships and income support like the former Pathways to Arts and Employment Scheme.

We recognise that by the time some Members of Parliament receive this Agenda, some of the proposed changes above will have already been enacted. We commend those involved for taking positive action.

That said, it is also our community's belief that in order for our vision to be fulfilled, we need the combination of policies to be implemented in full as each tackles a different aspect of the current challenges.

We recognise this is not a comprehensive set of policies to get us to a fair and flourishing future for all. Other policy areas that emerged as being critical during this process were: Work / Education / Democracy / Transport / Migration / Health (apart from Mental Health)

We have chosen not to focus on those areas as there are many other good organisations in Aotearoa New Zealand doing this work.

# Some bold ideas we could enact between now and 2040:

The People's Agenda is a living document. But here are 20 of the bold ideas that came through the Kai & Kōrero process from members of the ActionStation community. This list is likely to change over time, as we explore more ideas together.

1. Make the wellbeing of all forms of life the ultimate goal of government and measure it through a replacement for GDP, which is enshrined in legislation;
2. Enact constitutional transformation so that the original intent of Te Tiriti o Waitangi is honoured and rangatiratanga is guaranteed to Māori;
3. Radically enhance the security and dignity of all people and end poverty through a guaranteed, unconditional minimum income indexed to wages at the level of NZ Superannuation;
4. Get big money out of politics by setting a hard cap on political donations (e.g. at \$2000), increasing public funding for political parties, and by giving every registered voter a small amount of money – an 'electoral funding voucher' – to give to the political party of their choice, once every electoral cycle;
5. Guarantee a lifelong entitlement to education and retraining, supporting people to retrain in response to the changing world of work including the transition away from extractive industries in response to climate change;
6. Institute a proper wealth tax (e.g. 1% of the value of your wealth payable annually) funding a Kids Kiwisaver scheme to build the wealth of poor kids;
7. Transform our justice system to prioritise the prevention of harm, and the restoration and rehabilitation of people by closing all prisons and replacing them with wellness centres that ensure the safety and dignity of all;





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8. Enact a Zero Carbon Act to get us to a zero carbon society and economy by 2040;
9. Establish a public Just Transition Fund to help communities affected by the transition away from fossil fuels build strong, resilient, and diversified new economies that work for everyone;
10. Provide publicly-funded energy to all households, powered by 100% renewable energy from community-owned sources and connected through a smart grid;
11. Commit to an ongoing state-build of housing to ensure genuinely affordable housing for everyone in New Zealand (housing costs, whether renting or mortgage, should not be more than 30% of household income), and retrofitting existing homes so that all homes are warm, dry and healthy;
12. Take an independent, principled and value-based approach to foreign policy, including providing humanitarian assistance, international mediation and reconciliation services;
13. Develop a values-based approach to climate refugees, grant refuge to 10,000 people per year, provide well-resourced ongoing support for resettlement and take a compassionate approach to family reunification;

14. Ensure all people with a disability have fair access to essential services through a National Disability Insurance Scheme and make Aotearoa New Zealand a fully accessible country by passing an Accessibility for New Zealanders Act;

15. Create a publicly funded multi-platform dedicated to public interest journalism, good national debate and bringing people together for discussion and deliberation across the political spectrum;

16. Radically transform our cultural norms and practices around sexuality and healthy relationships through universal and best-practice sexuality education in schools, and a ban on sexist advertising;

17. Restore collective bargaining so that the benefits of change and productivity growth flow through into wages, better job security and conditions, and encourages productive, participatory, high-trust workplaces and tripartism;

18. Fund a massive deployment of urban rail and rapid transit in the cities, put freight on railways, and re-introduce a passenger service obligation including remote areas of the country;

19. Set up a publicly funded scheme to match and connect young people and elderly people, reducing social isolation and building social cohesion;

20. Establish a rights and ethics framework for decisions in health, catching up with current changes in bioethical debates, an ageing and increasingly disabled society, so that we can front-foot technological advances and economic drivers.

**W**e welcome further discussion with you on Te Ira Tāngata, and we look forward to engaging with you productively and positively to help achieve this vision together.

**Feel free to contact me for more information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Or you can contact the ActionStation team at:  
**info@actionstation.org.nz**

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