

Questions for Political Parties

LIANZA Questions to political parties on issues important to ensuring New Zealand citizens benefit from a healthy and effective library and information service. We have included the responses received to date.

Community Digital Hubs – Libraries helping to Bridge the Digital Divide

Question 1: How will your party support the important role that public libraries play as community digital hubs including the provision of internet access?

Response from the Labour Party

Labour is committed to closing the 'digital divide'. We will support local councils and community organisations to oversee the roll out of low-cost Internet access for communities which face financial difficulty in accessing the Internet.

This pilot scheme will take the form of a contestable fund that supports local councils to work with local providers and other organisations to provide community-based Internet connections to help close the 'digital divide' and build partnerships with community organisations, RSPs and local businesses to ensure that their community has connectivity. It is envisaged that libraries will play essential roles in this scheme.

Labour will, over time and as resources allow build the National Library up to be a virtual and actual hub where all New Zealanders have good access to New Zealand's documentary heritage, and can use that information across their work, leisure and community lives.

In addition, Labour will implement legislation in line with UNESCO Guidelines on Libraries to have free public library services enshrined in law.

Response from the Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party

Maintain funding for internet services.

Response from the Alliance Party

The Alliance feels that everyone should have access to high speed internet so that the benefits of digital technology are available to everyone. We would be keen to see libraries funded to offer free internet access.

Response from the Maori Party

Public libraries are essential to educating communities, if resourced from a demand perspective, the library and its staff could be trained and supported to be more reflective of the communities they serve. Some will need more resources in different ways. The point is, they are all different and need resourcing to cope with demand how they see fit

Response from Internet MANA

The Internet Party is committed to supporting Internet access for all New Zealanders, including those unable

to afford it or lacking the necessary confidence, knowledge or skills. This is estimated at 200,000 households, of which 69,000 households have school-aged children.

Two paths will be followed. The first is to significantly step up the Computers in Homes programme. The second is to expand public Internet access facilities by encouraging and supporting schools, libraries (Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa), marae, councils, and community centres. This will be funded by a mix of local business sponsorship and direct government support.

Response from the National Party

The National-led Government is investing \$211 million in the Network for Learning (N4L) programme, which will provide quick and reliable internet complete with uncapped data, web filtering and network security services for participating New Zealand schools.

Earlier this year we also announced schools with ultra-fast broadband can now share their fibre connections with their local communities, meaning libraries could become digital hubs.

Schools can choose one of two models. Under an 'extended school wide area network' model, a school's wireless hub extends access to the school network beyond the physical boundaries of the school, creating opportunities for people to take advantage of the school's network away from the school.

Alternatively, schools may operate under a 'school as a community internet hub' model, where the board shares the physical fibre connection with a retail service provider. The retail service provider can then use the fibre to provide a commercial public internet service to the community.

These connections provide opportunities not only to learners, teachers, librarians, and school administrators, but also to the wider community around the school. This is especially the case for remote, rural communities or communities that struggle to afford access to the internet.

Response from the Green Party

The Green Party believes that all citizens and groups should be able to access information technology in New Zealand. Libraries act one of the few places where those without internet access can bridge the digital divide and librarians play a key role in both the provision and facilitation of ICT learning experiences. In order to ensure that all New Zealanders are digitally literate the Greens will support and fund the establishment of community technology hubs in schools, tertiary Institutions, public libraries and other community centres.

This will require appropriate investment in installing hardware and software, as well as providing ICT training. We will also support research into the feasibility of municipally owned free wireless Internet systems along the lines of those already operating in some cities in the US. Green Party policy incorporates the principles of network neutrality and sees them as some of the most important protocols for bridging the digital divide.

Response from New Zealand First

New Zealand First recognizes and supports the important role that public libraries currently play as digital hubs in their communities for those who have no, or limited, internet access. New Zealand First is interested in having a wider conversation that enables more of our citizens to access the internet in their own homes and therefore not being dependent upon libraries for this provision. We also see the need for a reintroduction of ACE in many of our townships to assist with the up-skilling of our citizens. We are however very aware that the traditional concept libraries is rapidly changing and would look to be part of that wider discussion.

Question 2: How will your party ensure New Zealanders are digitally literate? Do you support the roles that libraries are playing in meeting this need?

Response from the Labour Party

Too many New Zealanders – at least 1 in 5 - still do not have regular access to the Internet. According to the World Internet Project, 8% of New Zealanders were not using the Internet at all in 2013, while a further 14% were “low level” users, who use the Internet infrequently. The leading causes of non-use were affordability (34%), including lack of a connection or a computer to access the Internet), lack of interest (33%), and lack of knowledge of how to use the Internet (22%).

As part of our commitment to closing the ‘digital divide’, Labour will maintain and, over time as funding permits, increase funding to the Computers in Homes programme to 5,000 families annually and tech youth networks to promote greater digital inclusion.

Labour will make sure that schools are effective at developing students’ programming skills. We will investigate ways to promote the teaching of programming skills through teacher training courses and professional development programmes.

Response from the Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party

Yes, we would support librarians to continue improving digital literacy.

Response from the Alliance Party

We see it as vital that everybody has the opportunity to become digitally literate. We would like to see libraries supported to meet this need. Digital technology changes so rapidly that it is hard for the general public to keep up. Public libraries are accessible to all – young and old. It makes sense for public libraries to be a repository of this knowledge and to assist people to come to grips with new technology.

Response from the Maori Party

Yes, the public library is acknowledged as a neutral space and welcome to all in the community. They are also front line to the issues presented for those seeking digital literacy who may not be accessing any tertiary study. Therefore, staff will need training and a budget secure to engage experts to teach and speak inside libraries.

Response from Internet MANA

The primary way is a modern schooling system enabled by capability development, pedagogical evolution, and infrastructure. We support the call for a separate ‘Digital Services’ Learning Area in the NZ Curriculum.

Public libraries will play an even more important role in the digital age as critical community infrastructure. They have an important role in helping digital literacy for everyone, building on the valuable results already evident.

Response from the National Party

National made digital literacy one of the four educational focus areas for Adult and Community Education in schools.

Budget 2014 also allocated \$2.5 million additional funding in 2014/15 to provide more computers in homes and digital literacy training for low-income families.

This means up to 1,500 more low-income families will be able to learn basic computer and internet skills. Computers in Homes is run by the not-for-profit 2020 Communications Trust, and began as a pilot project in 2000.

Making the most of technology and digital content is essential to raising achievement for children and young people. When parents gain skills in using digital technology, they are able to enhance their children's learning beyond the regular school day.

Response from the Green Party

If sections of the community are excluded from modern information and communications technology, and the competencies associated with it, they will be excluded economically, socially, and politically. Increasingly, there is important information which is primarily, if not solely, made available on the internet.

In order to reduce barriers to access, the Green Party will improve public access to ICT by supporting the establishment of community technology hubs in schools and tertiary institutions (including their libraries), public libraries and other community centres. This will require appropriate investment in installing hardware and software, as well as providing ICT training.

Response from New Zealand First

We see the role of libraries as being complementary to other educational provision e.g. the re-establishment of ACE in our communities. Who plays what role is a conversation that needs to take place across many sector players e.g. ACE, schools and libraries.

Question 3: How will your party ensure that schools and public libraries have ongoing access to quality, low-cost internet access?

Response from the Labour Party

Labour will:

- Enable schools to use their five-year property agreements to invest in computer and interactive learning technology.
- Continue to roll out ultrafast broadband to every school in the country, whilst also ensuring that they have the technology infrastructure to make the best use of it.
- Continue to invest in the Network for Learning, the Virtual Learning Network (an online community supported by the Ministry of Education), software licences, and other programmes that ensure all schools have access to the resources they need to provide education for the 21st century.
- Continue the roll-out of the School Network Upgrade Project.

Response from the Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party

We would make sure there was enough funding to pay for ultrafast broadband.

Response from the Maori Party

We think WIFI in schools and public libraries across the country should be free for all citizens.

Response from Internet MANA

We will ensure that current projects to deliver fibre-based Internet access are completed as quickly as possible as well as providing free, fast and uncapped Internet connections. We will triple the amount of annual ICT funding to state and state-integrated schools. This will be an additional government expenditure of about \$75 million per year.

Response from the National Party

As detailed in question one, the National-led Government is investing \$211 million in the Network for Learning (N4L) programme. This will provide quick and reliable internet complete with uncapped data, web

filtering and network security services for participating New Zealand schools, meaning school libraries will have ongoing access to quality, low-cost internet.

Earlier this year we also announced schools with ultra-fast broadband can now share their fibre connections with their local communities, meaning libraries could become digital hubs.

These connections provide opportunities not only to learners, teachers, librarians, and school administrators, but also to the wider community around the school. This is especially the case for remote, rural communities or communities that struggle to afford access to the internet.

Response from the Green Party

The Green Party will set standards for world-class high-speed Internet access which we will aim to provide at reasonable cost to every community in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Schools and local authorities face competitive and financial pressures in providing appropriate technology for learners, and the Green Party supports the use of open and transparent tender processes where public money is involved.

The Green Party will ensure that the Ministry of Education takes a proactive role in working with schools to ensure negotiations with technology companies over ICT products and services work best for learners and their communities, and to ensure schools do not become sites for the marketing and commercialisation of learning products.

We will also ensure that the Ministry of Education provides information and support to schools about the benefits and advantages of free open-sourced software.

Response from New Zealand First

The “how” is the details that drops out of a will, a commitment and a belief that these things are important. New Zealand First believes that ongoing access to quality, low cost internet access is vital for our schools and libraries in the first instance with a view to spread this to our population as a whole.

Access to Research

Question 4: What is your party’s position on ensuring that all publicly funded research, including data is accessible to all New Zealanders?

Response from the Labour Party

Labour will review the recommendations of the Data Futures Forum and look to bring in policies that allow New Zealand to take advantage of the big data future, at the same time as protecting privacy rights and ensuring strong governance processes for managing public and private data sets.

New Zealand is well placed to take advantage of its size, scale and technological position to revolutionise the way information is used to provide better insights into public affairs and deliver innovation in the private sector. We will look to establish data platforms that allow different data sets to be mixed and examined and new innovative insights to be gained.

Response from the Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party

We would support moves to publish all publicly funded research online.

Response from the Alliance Party

We strongly believe that publicly funded research, including data should be accessible to everyone, everywhere. Nowhere is this more vital environmental research. New technologies and methods of controlling carbon emissions must be made freely available for them to have any impact on preventing global warming. But the same could be argued for much medical research or any research that was for the common good.

Response from the Maori Party

We believe that the findings from research should be shared but not the raw data. There are too many ethical issues with making data public.

Response from Internet MANA

We will mandate that all taxpayer-funded research and associated data be open access with the public able to freely access and reuse it, unless prohibited under any required ethical consent or approval. There may be a period of transition and a Task Force will be created to support and accelerate implementation of the mandate. The Task Force will also examine and address issues related to funding, peer review, and evaluation of academics and academic works resulting from the mandate.

Response from the National Party

A considerable amount of research is already publically available. Also, a lot of researchers publish their findings. Under the Official Information Act most information collated by government agencies is available publicly subject to the terms of the act around commercial sensitivity, privacy, and confidentiality.

Response from the Green Party

No response provided to this question.

Response from New Zealand First

New Zealand First is committed to 'public good' research and will provide a pool of funding specifically for this purpose.

The Important Role of the School Librarian

Question 5: Does your party support the presence of a school librarian in schools? What steps will your party take to ensure that all students have access to appropriately qualified school librarians?

Response from the Labour Party

The Labour Party is supportive of the presence of a school librarian in schools. But it may not always be practical or possible to employ an appropriately qualified school librarian (eg a small rural school), we also support schools working with local councils to better coordinate provision of public services and facilities such as libraries, swimming pools, recreational facilities and community halls.

Response from the Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party

We would ensure that only qualified librarians were hired for every school.

Response from the Alliance Party

We support school librarians. Literacy skills are vital for student's future success. Schools should be required to employ qualified librarians.

Response from the Maori Party

Absolutely, we know how important they are to the whole process of teaching and learning. We would advocate ensuring each school has a library with trained library staff (through professional development opportunities for unqualified staff) but also a forum to share good practice within the profession at local, national and international forums.

Response from Internet MANA

We believe the role of school libraries and school librarians are even more important in a digital age than they have been so far. The specifics of how they operate and play a bigger role will continue to evolve. Schools and librarians are best placed to lead this themselves in a collaborative and innovative manner. Government's role is to support schools, including access to qualified school librarians.

Response from the National Party

We support librarians in our schools. While we believe in encouraging our young minds to learn to research, we know the important role librarians play in our schools encouraging and fostering that learning, and also in teaching children how to research. Schools' operational grants which are used to fund support staff will increase by 2 per cent at a cost of \$85.3 million over the next four years. This new funding will bring the total amount spent on school operational grants to \$1.23 billion during 2014/15.

Response from the Green Party

The Green Party supports all schools having the support of a qualified librarian. Where schools are of sufficient size to justify having a full-time librarian on staff, the Green in Government will resource them to employ one.

However, it will not be financially justifiable or practicable to provide schools with small rolls in provincial towns and rural locations with full-time librarian support. In Government, the Greens will investigate options of visiting librarians covering a number of schools in a region and/or online librarian support to ensure such schools also have the professional librarian support their students deserve.

Response from New Zealand First

New Zealand First supports the retention of school librarians and would look to discuss with the sector the best method to ensure that this important role was supported inside schools, including a way to address this issue for small rural schools through possible cluster support for a multi school librarian.

Copyright

Question 6: What approach does your party plan to take to the review and updating of New Zealand copyright legislation? In what timeframe will you complete a review of the Act?

Response from the Labour Party

Labour supports a vibrant and innovative New Zealand content industry, and the role of intellectual property law in enabling content creators to gain a fair return for their efforts. Labour is also committed to a vibrant, creative market for digital productions where consumers can easily find and buy the material they want.

Labour will undertake a full review of the Copyright Act, with the aim of introducing a new Copyright Bill by 2015 that updates and extends the framework for digital copyright in New Zealand.

The review will be based on the following principles:

1. The copyright framework must continue to incentivise creators of content and support them in protecting their rights from unlawful use,
2. Where possible, barriers to competition and growth should be reduced, and
3. There are areas of life where copyright should not interfere. The review will take account of copyright reviews in other jurisdictions including the UK, Australia, Canada and United States.

Response from the Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party

We support an independent review of copyright laws within a 1-2 year timeframe.

Response from the Alliance Party

Copyright is going to become a critical issue in the future. We are particularly concerned about the effect trade agreements such as the TPP might have on our ability to decide our own copyright legislation. Copyright is a balancing act but we strongly believe that access to information is vital to a democratic and equal society. We would give a review of copyright legislation a high priority but would want to consult widely to make sure we get the balance right.

Response from the Maori Party

We would support a review of NZ Copyright legislation to bring it into the digital age with safeguards.

Response from Internet MANA

We want an independent, first principles review of copyright to guide future lawmaking. The review will be specifically tasked to take into account economic, technological and cultural perspectives in a digital age. There will not be an *a priori* assumption that copyright is the best or only or even necessary way to effectively promote creativity and new creative works

That will take time and fundamental change will be constrained by international treaties and embedded business systems. We will therefore immediately move to update the Copyright Act for the digital age, including:

- Allow for the parallel importation of non-infringing digital goods, services, and content similar to that for physical goods. Allow for circumvention of geo-blocking to access legal online content similar to that for technological protection measures for copying. Make it clear that there will be no liability, primary or secondary, in New Zealand for using technical means to access legal sources of content overseas.
- Amend the “three strikes” peer-to-peer file sharing provisions.
- Introduce a generalised ‘fair use’ exception. Expand ‘fair dealing’ to allow the full range of exceptions recognised in international laws such as format-shifting, parody, satire, education, disability, and heritage, as well as related exceptions for non-commercial user-generated content and content mining.
- Clarify and strengthen ‘safe harbour’ provisions (shielding Internet intermediaries, including libraries, from civil liability arising from the action of their users subject to meeting certain requirements) to prevent their abuse by copyright owners.
- Allow greater public access, format shifting, and creation of new creative works from orphan works (where copyright owners are positively indeterminate or uncontactable) in the public interest.

- Consider whether legal protection for Digital Rights Management (technological restrictions that control what people can do with, and how they can access, digital media they have legally purchased) should be completely removed.

We will call for an independent, objective, evidence-based analysis of economic, technological, and cultural perspectives to recommend the length for which copyright in a work should be granted to individuals and corporate owners. It is anticipated that substantially smaller periods of time than currently granted will result.

Response from the National Party

The National Government has agreed that the review of the Copyright Act 1994 will be delayed until the conclusion of the on-going Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiations. It would be impractical for a review to be undertaken before negotiations have concluded.

Response from the Green Party

The Green Party is concerned that the review and updating of New Zealand's copyright law is being delayed by the National-led Government's pursuit of conclusion of the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement. The Greens believe that New Zealand's copyright laws should be written by and for New Zealanders, rather than outsourced to secret negotiations dominated by Hollywood.

Review of copyright legislation has now been outstanding for six years since first recommended, and there is a significant public demand that it proceeds promptly. The Greens respect that public demand, and when in Government will ensure that a review of copyright law is a high priority.

Response from New Zealand First

This conversation is part of a much larger piece of work that New Zealand First is calling for cross party talks on. This is part of the challenge of the digital age that many nations are attempting to address but for which none has a singular solution.

The importance of a strong National Library

Question 7: How will your party ensure that the National Library is appropriately funded to meet its role as a leading cultural and heritage institution, a critical enabler of the educational and research communities of New Zealand; and as a leader in the information and knowledge sector for the country?

Response from the Labour Party

Labour will, over time and as resources allow build the National Library up to be a virtual and actual hub where all New Zealanders have good access to New Zealand's documentary heritage, and can use that information across their work, leisure and community lives.

We will increase funding to speed up critical digitisation of heritage collections across New Zealand so existing collections are available online as quickly as possible.

Labour will commit to Archives New Zealand and the National Library being re-established as independent and separate entities outside of the Department of Internal Affairs. We will investigate the National Archivist being an Officer of Parliament.

The decision to merge Archives New Zealand and National Library into the Department of Internal Affairs has undermined the independence and influence of these institutions that are crucial parts of our constitutional

and democratic infrastructure. The Chief Archivist and the National Librarian are currently third tier managers who are not part of the leadership team at DIA, with no guaranteed access to Ministers.

Archives NZ play the ultimate accountability role for government. It is their job to make sure records are kept and retained. They play a key part in our constitutional infrastructure. The National Library is a key force in our historical and democratic processes. Both need independence and influence to do their job properly, and that is currently being compromised.

Response from the Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party

ALCP policy will bring in extra revenue from taxing cannabis, this would be used to increase funding for libraries.

Response from the Alliance Party

The National Library needs to be fully government funded at a level that enables it fulfill its role effectively. This funding must be ring fenced within Internal Affairs budget.

Response from the Maori Party

Funding to support all cultural and Maori knowledge must be transparent and held to account by the people handling the knowledge, the Minister and staff. We will advocate for better support and resourcing to protect and advance mātauranga māori and cultural knowledge.

Response from Internet MANA

We value the contributions of the National Library and its ongoing importance to New Zealand. While we don't have a specific policy position on the National Library, there clearly needs to be adequate funding provided to effectively and efficiently deliver on the functions and expectations from it.

A part of ensuring good public services is to grow New Zealand's digital economy with flow-on effects on the country's prosperity, jobs, and revenue to fund economic, social and cultural advances sustainably.

Response from the National Party

Faced with tight financial constraints across the public service, in 2011 the National-led government moved to future-proof the key skills and functions of the National Library by amalgamating it and Archives New Zealand with the Department of Internal Affairs. Central to this was the need to exploit digital capability to manage information and have effective stewardship of and access to information held within the online domain. We subsequently introduced a new Vote structure to the Internal Affairs portfolio that provides flexibility and opportunities for moving resources around to meet priorities.

In 2012 the Prime Minister officially re-opened the National Library building in Wellington after a \$65 million refurbishment that took three years to complete. The Library now has greatly improved storage conditions for the preservation of fragile documents and images in the collections, along with a modernised facility where the public can interact with visual representations of New Zealand's history. The knowledge and information the National Library holds is accessible to researchers, students and casual visitors coming to the building or online through a re-launched website.

The National Library is supporting New Zealand to learn, innovate and grow by collaborating with others to turn knowledge into value. The National Library's public programmes since the reopening have included a focus on big data and leading edge innovations in New Zealand. Through National's Network for Learning, the National Library will be a key provider of library and information content and services to schools. A priority for the Library is creating readers by developing collaborative initiatives to promote, strengthen and inspire reading engagement and improve literacy skills. Collaboration with libraries around New Zealand and newspaper companies to digitise New Zealand's heritage newspapers has also been behind the success of the

Papers Past website run by the National Library. The completion of eighty two years of the New Zealand Herald up to 1945 has been a recent milestone.

Response from the Green Party

The Green Party opposed the absorption of the National Library and Archives New Zealand into the Department of Internal Affairs because of our concerns regarding the both their independence and their funding bases.

The Greens in Government will work to separate the National Library and Archives New Zealand to return them to being stand-alone institutions and ensure they are funded appropriately and transparently.

We will also ensure the National Library is monitored by the Library and Information Commission to ensure it meets appropriate standards of library and information services.

Response from New Zealand First

New Zealand First would look to reinstate the separate reporting by the National Library as we believe that through this separate reporting, the pivotal role of the Library is recognized. The country can then be confident that funding is not syphoned sideways to other projects as can happen when reporting of entities is lumped together.

Pay Equity

Question 9: What is your party's position on creating pay equity for the Library and Information sector?

Response from the Labour Party

Labour supports the principle of equal pay for equal work. Labour will develop legislative and policy responses that recognise the right to equal pay; require a positive duty to advance equality, and provide the mechanism to determine work of equal value.

We will identify what we can learn from the work of the Pay and Employment Equity Unit to advance pay equity. We will seek solutions for all sectors of the economy (public and private).

Labour will ensure that information about pay rates is made available so that comparisons can be made and unfair inequalities in pay rates between men and women are revealed.

We will consider the introduction of a requirement that job vacancies have a minimum start rate advertised.

Response from the Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party

We would support pay equality with similar professions.

Response from the Alliance Party

The Alliance supports pay equity for all sectors. We acknowledge that that jobs predominantly done by women have historically been underpaid and that this continues today. It is an issue that must be addressed. We consider it a travesty that the aged care sector have had to pursue pay equity through the courts. Like the library and information sector the aged care sector is virtually fully publicly funded.

It is up to the government of the day to lead by example on pay equity by ensuring that pay equity is applied to all sectors it funds.

Response from the Maori Party

We will review and support pay equity and professional development for all staff.

Response from Internet MANA

We don't have a specific policy position on this but generally support pay equity and fairness.

Response from the National Party

The Government provides money to local councils to allocate to essential services such as libraries. The council then distributes the funding as it sees fit. We generally support the principle of pay equity but it is not for central government to dictate how local government organises their funding.

Response from the Green Party

The Green Party is committed to pay equity in the library and information sector, as in all sectors. Despite the Equal Pay Act, women still earn significantly less than men. Women-dominated professions are paid less, and women are punished for taking time off for caring for children. To close the gender pay back, we will introduce a Bill to require employers to provide transparent information about pay rates to employees on request.

We will review the Equal Pay Act and ensure it includes the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. We will also establish a Pay Equity Commission, and require state sector employers to undertake pay audits and job evaluations of all occupations within five years. We support increases to paid parental leave, and extending eligibility to self-employed and new employees.

Green MP Jan Logie's [Equal Pay Amendment Bill](#) seeks to remove discrimination in pay rates between men and women in the same jobs by making publicly available statistical information relating to their rates of remuneration. Please also refer to our [Women's Policy](#), and our [Equal Pay Campaign](#).

Response from New Zealand First

New Zealand First does not have a position on this issue.

Question 10: Will you address the discrepancy of School Librarians being classified as Support rather than Core Staff in schools?

Response from the Labour Party

The Labour Party will work to develop a central funding system for school support staff. This is an essential first step towards extending the Living Wage to all those working in schools.

Response from the Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party

We think librarians should be considered core staff.

Response from the Alliance Party

We do not think there should be a separation of support and core staff at all. All staff are vital to the efficient and effective running of a school. We see this as simply a device to separate salaries that can be bulk funded as part of the operational grant from those paid directly by the ministry. We not approve of bulk funding of salaries for any positions in schools. We believe they should be paid directly by the Ministry of Education. This enables salaries, qualifications and conditions of employment to be standardized in all schools.

Response from the Maori Party

Library staff should be core staff as a library should be regarded as essential to teaching and learning and achievement.

Response from Internet MANA

We don't have a specific policy position on this. In these situations, we will take an evidence-based approach within a framework of fairness and equity. Following this, we are committed to addressing issues quickly and decisively.

Response from the National Party

National values the contribution school support staff make to our children's education. We support measures by schools to reward support staff as a matter of being good employers. Schools receive a cash grant, for them to use as they decide. Over the past six Budgets operational grants have increased by more than \$600 million, in line with inflation. These increases will help schools cover increases in operating costs, including the costs of non-teaching staff. The increase, from the start of the 2015 school year, will take financial pressure off schools and help them continue to focus on the thing that is most important to all of us - raising student achievement. We are spending more than ever before in education.

Response from the Green Party

Yes, as per the Green Party's response to Question 5 above, the Green Party supports all schools having access to professional librarian support and in Government will ensure that School Librarians are categorised as Core Staff.

Response from New Zealand First

New Zealand First would welcome a discussion with the sector as a whole regarding this issue, but as indicated in previous answers we see this role as an important one and therefore would lean toward a recognized funded position.

The Green Party responses authorised by Gareth Hughes MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington