

Renews New Zealand

Miss Suominen

Wai Whanau
Year 9

Article #1



renewsnz

17



Money

Teens working in NZ are paid less than everyone else

Here's why these activists think the starting-out wage should go.

Re:



A group of five Year 13s from Christchurch are trying to abolish the starting-out wage.

The group, which calls themselves **'No Starting Out Wage'**, has started **a petition to amend the Minimum Wage Act**, which gives employers the legal right to pay teens who are starting work less than everyone else.

Representative Ben Bothanley-Low spoke to Re: News about why they're campaigning.

Re:



What is the starting-out wage?

It's the minimum wage given to 16 and 17-year old workers who have not yet completed six months of continuous work with one employer.

As of April this year, the starting-out minimum wage meant young workers get \$18.16 an hour, compared to the adult minimum wage of \$22.70.

In some cases, this means **young workers are being paid 20% less than their adult co-workers** for the same work.



Re:



When did you notice it was an issue?

"It first came on our radar when I was actually paid it. It wasn't so much of a big deal for me, my family isn't really struggling through the cost-of-living crisis or anything, we're doing alright so it wasn't a massive deal," Ben says.

"But a lot of our friends and co-workers and other people we know in general said how it affected them.

"We live in an area where there is a bit of poverty around, and people don't always have what they need. So it's pretty hard seeing people not being compensated for their work."

Re:



Why is it important?

"People our age think, 'you just need a bit of pocket money', but it's not really about that, **people our age still have cost of living to deal with.**

"So young people [think], 'alright, I have to settle for bad pay, I'm doing the exact same job as my coworker standing over there next to me, but I'm getting paid less for it for no reason.'"



Re:



What is your hope for the future?

"We hope the starting-out wage will be gone, that we'll always be paid at minimum wage. **The whole minimum should be minimum.**

"But to a wider extent we are not going to stop when the starting-out wage is gone. I say 'when' because **we're going to fight till it's gone.**

We're not going to stop until we have done to the best of our ability to protect young people in the workplace."

Re:



Summary

Link to article:

<https://www.renews.co.nz/teens-working-in-nz-are-paid-less-than-everyone-else/>

Summarise here (3-5 sentences):

Reflect

Link to article:

<https://www.renews.co.nz/teens-working-in-nz-are-paid-less-than-everyone-else/>

How does this make you feel? (3-5 sentences):

Other Perspectives

Use your research skills to try and figure out why the starting-out wage was put in place. How could this be a good thing? (3-5 sentences):

Article #2

Save this post to use later

**ELECTION
SHOWDOWN '23**

**Policy breakdown:
education**

Here are some of the key policies different political parties think will help fix NZ's education system.

Re:



National

National

Education

National wants to **ban cell phone use at school** to help lift student achievement.

- Schools would be able to **decide how they enforce it**, but it could mean handing in phones before school or leaving them in lockers or bags.
- Parents would be able to contact their kids via the school office.
- There would be **exceptions for students with health conditions** or special circumstances.

National wants an **hour of reading, writing and maths** every day in primary and intermediate. It would require standardised assessment for reading, writing and maths **at least twice a year every year from Year 3-Year 8**.

National also wants to make **financial literacy, such as learning about debt, bank accounts and mortgages, compulsory** in schools.

Previous plans to **abolish fees-free tertiary education** have been abandoned.

Re:



Labour



Education

Labour wants to make it **compulsory for schools to teach financial skills.**

- Students will learn about **budgeting, managing bills, investing, Kiwisaver, insurance and taxes.**
- Financial skills will mostly be taught through maths and social sciences.
- **Schools will have flexibility on how they teach it** but there will be essential learning outcomes for each year level.
- Teachers would receive the needed training and resources.

Labour also wants **compulsory core reading, writing, and maths requirements**, to make sure there is consistency between schools.

Additionally Labour wants to **fund 20 hours free early childhood education** for two-year-olds, continue **funding free school lunches** and make the **apprenticeship boost scheme permanent.**

Re:



Green

Green

Education

The Green Party want to **fund universal teaching of te reo Māori and tikanga** and create Te Tiriti o Waitangi education for all year levels. As well as incorporate sustainability, mātauranga Māori and age-appropriate animal rights education within the school curriculum.

Make it a requirement under the Education Act to include **principles of sustainability**, e.g. building schools sustainably.

Provide an enforceable right to **inclusive education**, similar to the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Establish a unit within the Ministry of Education designed to make schools listen and respond to the **voices of students**.

Partner with rainbow organisations to **deliver rainbow diversity education and teacher training**.

The Green Party additionally want a **universal \$385/week** university student support payment, to **ban class streaming** and **expand free school lunches to more schools**.

Re:



ACT

The logo for ACT, featuring the lowercase letters 'act' in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by two slanted forward slashes '//'. The logo is white and set against a dark pink background.

Education

ACT is making an election promise to **fine parents if their kids don't attend school.**

- Currently parents can only be fined if there's a court conviction, but ACT wants it to be more like a speeding ticket.
- ACT also wants the Ministry of Education to publish an electronic truancy register every day. **And if schools don't, they would risk losing their government funding.**
- ACT would also take the \$38.5 million the government currently spends on truancy and **give it to schools to hire their own truancy officers.**

ACT also wants to **scrap free school lunches, bring in extra mock exams** and allow schools to **more easily opt out of NCEA** and instead do internationally recognised qualifications such as Cambridge or International Baccalaureate by funding them equally.

Establish a \$250 million a year Teaching Excellence Reward Fund to **reward outstanding teachers.**

Re:



New Zealand First



Education

New Zealand First is promising to **remove gender ideology from school curriculum.**

Enforce compulsory education and **address truancy.**

Review the New Zealand curriculum to **"remove critical race theory and de-colonialism".**

Provide better pathways and funding for STEM subjects and **focus more on reading, writing and arithmetic in schools.**

Change 'Fees Free' to cover fees for university students in their third year of study, not in the first year as it currently is, to reward students for "successfully passing all coursework to that point".

Offer **free apprenticeships for in-demand trades** by refunding fees and course costs after successful completion of each trade examination. As well as wipe in-demand critical workers' student loans by **one year's worth for every two years in full time work.**

Re:



Te Pāti Māori

māori

Education

Te Pāti Māori is promising to **fund Māori education the same as mainstream education.**

It would establish a **\$200 million fund to establish new hapū-based wānanga.** Implement the Te Kōhanga Reo settlement claim by **increasing funding for kōhanga and guaranteeing pay equity** across the sector. As well as **increase the number of scholarships** for young Māori and reo Māori speakers to train as teachers.

Te Pāti Māori also want to **pay teachers based on their te reo competency.** Have te reo Māori and Māori history **core curriculum subjects** up to Year 10. As well as have **50% of the curriculum in te reo by 2030.**

Additionally it wants to **double the student allowance, end expulsion for kids under 16** and establish Māori-led taskforce that will specifically focus on how **Māori students with disabilities and learning differences are taught in schools.**

Re:

Respond

Respond

Using the letter writing format on Google, pick ONE of the following scenarios to respond to:

1. Writing a letter to your local mp about the starting-out wage, either trying to abolish it or trying to keep it in place

OR

2. Writing a letter to one of these political parties giving your student perspective- either agreeing with their views and expressing why it would make education better or expressing why you disagree and why it would make education worse

Make your letter 250 words minimum

Edit/ Peer Review

I marked _____ letter.

This is my feedback:

My grade:

Use this Rubric

Curriculum assessment writing rubric for all text types YEAR 9

| | Working Towards Curriculum Expectation | At Curriculum Expectation | Above Curriculum Expectation | Beyond Curriculum Expectation |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| Understanding text conventions (incl Purpose and audience) | <p>You are working towards creating a text that is relevant to the task, often including appropriate and deliberately selected structures and conventions which support the text's purpose and ideas</p> <p>(Structures and conventions include visual techniques, verbal techniques, tone and register)</p> | <p>You have created a text that is relevant to the task, consistently including appropriate and deliberately selected structures and conventions which are linked to the text's purpose and ideas</p> <p>(Structures and conventions include visual techniques, verbal techniques, tone and register)</p> | <p>You have created an effective text which conveys ideas and purpose through deliberate use of structures and conventions.</p> <p>(Structures and conventions include visual techniques, verbal techniques, tone and register)</p> | <p>You have constructed a compelling text which draws together deliberately selected structures and conventions to enhance the reader's understanding of your intended ideas and purpose</p> <p>(Structures and conventions include visual techniques, verbal techniques, tone and register)</p> |
| Language Use [Vocabulary and Language Devices] | <p>You are working towards using interesting language (including some language techniques) and a writing style which is appropriate to your audience</p> | <p>You have started to control your use of interesting language/ language techniques relevant to your topic, as well as a writing style appropriate to your audience</p> | <p>You have deliberately used a wide range of language features effectively while sustaining a writing style which is appropriate to your audience</p> | <p>You have consistently and deliberately used a wide range of language features effectively while sustaining a writing style which is appropriate to your audience</p> |
| Accuracy in Writing | <p>You have made errors in grammar, spelling and/or punctuation which are intrusive and affect meaning.</p> | <p>You have made errors in grammar, spelling and/or punctuation which are intrusive at times, but readers can infer meaning.</p> | <p>You have made minor errors. Meaning is consistently clear.</p> | <p>You have made few to no intrusive errors. Meaning is consistently clear.</p> |

Your Mark

Working toward/at/above/beyond