Tracey Martin

Education Spokesperson



ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

At present, Government support to Adult and Community Education (ACE) is focussed on a narrow range of priorities, ie., literacy and language development.

New Zealand First is committed to a more holistic view of adult and community education and would not set or prescribe "top down" priorities.

For example; there is technology in weaving, literacy in cooking, wellbeing in yoga and mathematics in sewing.

New Zealand First's goal is to have stronger, better connected communities.

ACE builds relationships, brings people out of their homes, shares knowledge and skills, including intergenerational learning, between people.

- Ako to teach and to learn
- Reciprocity giving and receiving
- Tuakana-teina model

The opportunity to access second chance learning for New Zealanders of any and all ages is one of the keys to our nation's economic, social and cultural future.

New Zealand First is committed to ensuring that quality lifelong learning opportunities are available in all communities and that they are responsive to the needs, wants and interests of those communities.

Adult and Community Education (ACE) programmes and activities sit in the space between formal tertiary education and self-directed learning.

Lifelong learning happens everywhere at any time and at any age.

Research shows that those people engaged in learning experience greater wellbeing and remain connected to their communities.

New Zealand First will:

- Invest \$3million dollars for the delivery of the "Computers in Homes" programme.
- Invest \$2million dollars in direct support for Digital Literacy Training for Older New Zealanders via SeniorNet.
- Support the implementation of the ACE Actearoa Draft Strategic Plan 2016-2036
- Support increasing the budget for Adult and Community Education so that goals within the ACE Aotearoa Draft Strategic Plan can be delivered.
- Review student support systems to ensure they are fit for purpose and have adequacy for life-long learning.
- Work with the sector to develop dedicated legislative amendments to the Education Act 1989 clearly stating that lifelong and intergenerational learning are necessary to ensure relevant skills are maintained or acquired as life circumstances and industry needs change.
- Work with the Adult and Community Education sector to develop and implement an appropriate and affordable quality assurance process for ACE programmes and activities.

