

Summary:

April-May 2022 Open Government Partnership NZ Workshops on potential National Action Plan 4 Commitments

20 June 2022

Between April and May 2022, the Te Kawa Mataaho | Public Service Commission's Open Government Partnership (OGP) New Zealand team facilitated four workshops as part of the process to deliver a [fourth National Action Plan](#) (NAP4).

The purpose of these workshops was for Expert Advisory Panel, civil society groups, and government agencies to work on the ideas collected through public consultation to identify, and scope potential fledgling commitments for NAP4.

The four workshops covered these themes:

1. Access to, and useability of, public information
2. Enabling and supporting participation in our democratic processes by individuals and groups
3. Government use of data and personal information
4. Information to support financial accountability.

This document includes fledgling commitments discussed at the April -May 2022 OGP NZ workshops, and workshop summaries.

Post-workshops, the next steps will involve identifying the strongest options and investigating their potential implementation. The OGP team will be engaging with interested parties to develop and refine commitments before the final subset will be presented to the Minister and then Cabinet for consideration later this year. NAP4 needs to be finalised by the end of 2022.

For more information, visit the [OGPNZ web site](#), or email ogpnz@publicservice.govt.nz

Fledgling Commitments Discussed at the April -May 2022 OGP NZ Workshops

No	Potential Commitment	Material References										
1	Establish a central government information repository, linked to open data	AUPI11, GUDPI13										
2	Explore ways to address misinformation and disinformation, and the impact on democratic institutions	AUPI10										
3	Enable access to information with the aim of increasing community participation. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving access to the political process for those excluded (e.g., young, illiterate, homeless, poor, digitally excluded) Creating safe physical/digital spaces for people to talk about their issues and needs Supporting public problem-solving Building on Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCOI) recommendations 28 and 29 to promote social cohesion. 	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>AUPI6</td> <td>EPIAG5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AUPI7</td> <td>EPIAG6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AUPI8</td> <td>EPIAG7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AUPI9</td> <td>EPIAG8</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>EPIAG11</td> </tr> </table>	AUPI6	EPIAG5	AUPI7	EPIAG6	AUPI8	EPIAG7	AUPI9	EPIAG8		EPIAG11
AUPI6	EPIAG5											
AUPI7	EPIAG6											
AUPI8	EPIAG7											
AUPI9	EPIAG8											
	EPIAG11											
4	Investigate and address the reasons why some people choose not to vote in New Zealand's local and central government elections	EPIAG2, EPIAG3										
5	Explore multi-channel delivery options for public services that will empower and create greater social cohesion through: improving services; increasing accessibility; and providing safe spaces	AUPI6, AUIP67										
6	Implement a deliberative process(es) i.e., citizens juries/assemblies. There's a need to identify topic(s) and scale, and consider context (including the option of using a pilot that is co-designed).	EPIAG9, EPIAG10										
7	Promote the use of the community engagement tool to increase community engagement in government policy, by expanding this practice more widely and establishing a mandated authority for this purpose	EPIAG12, EPIAG13, EPIAG14, EPIAG15										
8	Improve protocols, and increase consistency and priorities for the collection, use, and storage of government data. This includes better use of data.govt.nz website.	GUDPI7 GUDPI9										
9	Improve performance of government agencies using complaints information, and actions taken to address these processes	GUDPI5										
10	Publish evidence used to inform service and policy design (i.e., datasets used and how)											
11	Research awareness and use of AI (artificial intelligence) by government, and develop a monitoring framework (i.e., Algorithm Charter review findings). There's an opportunity to use deliberative processes to develop the framework.	GUDPI12, GUDPI11										
12	Undertake a review of clauses being added to legislation exempting certain information from Official Information Act (OIA) coverage	NA										
13	Increase anti-corruption measures	ISFAG 1										
14	Increase transparency of all government procurement decisions (including COVID-19 related and third-party suppliers), remove exemptions from mandatory rules, and embed Open Contracting Data Standard and Open Contracting Principles	ISFAG 7 ISFAG 8, ISFAG 9,										
15	Establish an independent fiscal institution	ISFAG 3										
16	Establish a beneficial ownership register for companies and trusts	ISFAG 2										
17	Establish a grants register for all sectors	ISFAG 11										
18	Create a Citizens' Budget – to help make government spending more transparent and accessible, so citizens can better understand this information	ISFAG 4, ISFAG 5, ISFAG 6										

Workshop Summaries

Workshop 1: “Access to, and useability of, public information” 11 April 2022

Theme	Idea	Purpose (why)	Unique ID
Enabling Participation	Better access to public information for all (including gender, ethnicity, disability, and digital ability). Specific examples include having select committee public sessions televised, increased use of social media, and information hubs.	People are more informed and can access public information easily. Good examples cited were Unite Against COVID19 and Christchurch City Council web sites, and Inland Revenue’s work with the Citizens Advice Bureau to improve access for those with limited or no electronic access	AUPI6
	Extend commitment 11 from previous plan (NAP3) – an authoritative dataset of government organisations as open data for greater transparency	Increase transparency and access to data	AUPI7
	Release of ‘marked up’ up versions of complex legislative change	Increase transparency and reduce potential duplication of effort	AUPI8
	Increased collaboration with the public	Increased participation by citizens Greater and broader analysis and capture of ideas Increased innovation and engagement	AUPI9
	Addressing misinformation and disinformation as impacts on trust (e.g., vaccines)	Increase trust in government decision making and advice	AUPI10

Theme	Idea	Purpose (why)	Unique ID
Improved access	Central information repository	Make it easier for people to find information	AUPI11
	Better advocacy tools and portals	Provide support for people when they have an issue or problem	
	Free access to case law	Court judgments are a very important source of understanding what is going on in our Courts, and how people are being treated in the justice system Increase accountability of the judiciary	AUPI12
	Increased visibility and sharing of information. Publish Hansard and Select Committee public sessions.	Potential for all-of-government repository (see AUPI11). Increase proactive release of official information	AUPI13
	Reform OIA and Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) legislation	Legislation possibly not fit-for-purpose. Not leading to desired outcomes	AUPI14
Make OIA and LGOIMA information more accessible	Increase transparency and trust and confidence	AUPI15	

Theme	Idea	Purpose (why)	Unique ID
Accountability	Publicly release Chief Executive (CE) performance measures	Hold CEs accountable for performance and increase transparency	AUPI1
	Increased transparency of recruitment process for senior public service roles such as CE, board appointments	Perception of nepotism and cronyism	AUPI2
	Greater use of pilots and trials to increase innovation	Potentially there's a need for an independent panel	
	Independent bodies for specific functions (e.g., bodies to study the relationship between protected disclosures and OIAs, and to provide oversight of protected disclosures)	Will help move away from fear of failure or blame. Encourage greater innovation	AUPI3
	Disclosure of officials' names on emails and documents	Increase transparency and remove possibility of interference, actual or implied	AUPI4
		Increase accountability and transparency	AUPI5

Workshop 2: "Enabling participation by individuals and groups" 2 May 2022

Theme	Idea	Purpose (why)	Unique ID
Civics education & encouragement of voting	Provide more opportunities to interact with MPs and Parliament, government officials	To increase awareness and understanding of government among individuals and groups to increase participation School visits, mock parliaments, linking Parliamentary engagement teams and Speaker's outreach efforts. Share information about what vote translates to in Parliament, what do MPs do, and how to engage with them. Making government/politics/MPs relatable, so they are approachable/not intimidating. Understanding petitions, submissions, and select committees through community engagement (including free and inclusive community events). Government officials to be based or travel to regions to understand impact of government policy on local communities.	EPIAG1
	Create awareness about voting (including encouraging voting at all levels, experimenting with direct voting such as in school, and customising voting messages for diverse groups)	Get more people to pōti vote at all levels Having youth representation would make youth feel more connected, engaged, and empowered. There needs to be appropriate representation across diverse groups who can act as role models to communicate messages. Local Government New Zealand's current campaign to encourage voting in local government elections is an example of this. See: twitter.com/lgnz Develop a citizens' handbook	EPIAG2
	Compulsory civic education and engagement programmes in schools. This includes teaching about mixed member proportional representation (MMP)	Enable the understanding of government, Parliament processes at an early age, instead of beginning at the University level Promote programmes that teach democracy by doing.	EPIAG3

	Increase awareness of and involvement with local governments	Increase participation and engagement in local government Support communities and district councils to bring together their local active citizens on a regular basis – at least every three months – to get to know each other better, and to share what they can and are doing for the wellbeing of their communities.	EPIAG4
Theme	Idea	Purpose	Unique ID
Community focus, social cohesion	Ensure NZ’s democracy expresses the values of equality, inclusion and empowerment	Improving access to the political process While Aotearoa New Zealand guarantees basic civil and human rights, and many institutions have been developed to express the value of equality (e.g., voting in elections and referenda), many people are concerned about unequal access to the political process. In reality, many classes of people are excluded (e.g., young, illiterate, homeless, poor, digitally excluded), while other classes of people are able to gain access and influence (though, for example, donations to political parties). Open government and active citizenship must be practised in ways that overcome discriminatory barriers to participation.	EPIAG5
	Increase safe spaces for people to come together and share ideas	Create safe physical and digital spaces for people to come and talk about their issues and needs. Examples of this could be marae, community centres, and libraries. Tap into the experience and knowledge that is in Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and areas of government policy and services that can be improved. Focus on building relationships and stop being transactional. Fund community conversations, masterclasses and other adult education initiatives that develop the shared skills and public intelligence of active citizens. Draw on conversation from Workshop 1 on online safe spaces.	EPIAG6
	Promote social cohesion in communities across Aotearoa	Build on Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCOI) recommendations 28 and 29 to promote social cohesion. The RCOI report describes social cohesive society as one in which all individuals and communities have a sense of belonging, social inclusion, participation, recognition, and legitimacy. Recommendation 28 of the RCOI into the 2019 terrorist attack of Christchurch mosques identifies Ministry of Social Development (MSD) as having responsibility and accountability for coordinating a whole-of-government approach to building social cohesion (including social inclusion). Recommendation 29 urges MSD to collaborate with communities, civil society, local government, and the private sector on development of a social cohesion strategic framework and monitoring and evaluation regime.	EPIAG7
	Improve capacity across society to address problems by providing resources to support civil society action aimed at public problem-solving	Developing the capacity of civil society to actively participate in, and facilitate, self-governance at different scales, would strengthen the democratic system and legitimacy of policy choices.	EPIAG8

Theme	Idea	Purpose	Unique ID
Deliberative Processes	Trial participatory budgeting in local government	<p>Establish a centralised fund to which local and regional councils can apply for assistance with piloting participatory budgeting, and provide training and information about how it works.</p> <p>In addition, central government should provide resources setting out how such processes work and how councils might implement these.</p> <p>Involving citizens more deeply also strengthens democracy, connects citizens better to officials and elected representatives, increases efficiency (in the sense of making better decisions that do not have to be undone later on), and most fundamentally leads to the delivery of services that more genuinely reflect what people need.</p> <p>Participatory budgeting works by putting up a proportion of a local body's budget for new infrastructure spending and then asking residents to make trade-offs as to how that fund should be spent. This directly activates local knowledge and understanding of local needs.</p> <p>Deep engagement of residents, often numbering in the tens of thousands in moderate-sized cities, ensures the decisions have widespread support and perceived legitimacy.</p> <p>The expertise of public officials can be brought to bear by creating steps in the process where they comment on the technical feasibility of suggested spending.</p> <p>The long-term expectation would be that they ultimately fund such processes from local government's own budgets.</p>	EPIAG9
	Democratic and institutional innovation (e.g., Citizens' Assemblies, and regional hubs)	<p>Contemplate having an alternate mechanism to the submissions-based consultation processes, which do not work for ordinary people and is eroding trust and confidence in democracy.</p> <p>Aotearoa has perhaps a unique opportunity and an obligation to design forums of Citizens' Assemblies that honour the values and priorities of both tangata whenua and tangata tiriti – working cooperatively for the mutual and socially-just wellbeing of all our peoples and te taiao, co-designed in a tripartite tangata whenua, tangata tiriti and government partnership. These include the needs of future generations and of the environment on which our lives depend. Potential to observe/assess initiatives in this area and use it as a research piece/proof of concept to take forward. Te Reo o Ngā Tāngata/The People Speak (www.thepeoplespeak.nz/) made a submission and could be a group to work with.</p> <p>On some marae, values, and procedures of deliberation similar to those in Assemblies are used traditionally. The process resembles that of justice mediation, forms of conflict resolution and peace making and has many names and applications in resolving and healing human divisions.</p> <p>During setting up of Citizen Assemblies, values (such as manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, and kaitiakitanga), underpinning all activities are agreed by participants to provide a resonant basis for action for Aotearoa.</p>	EPIAG10

Theme	Idea	Purpose	Unique ID
Meaningful engagement and consultation	Create a hub for people to engage submit proposals like petitions	Remove barriers in the process of collecting feedback by providing multiple channels for people (including exploring different formats to cater for diverse needs). This could be done by providing options for written, infographics, video, audio, in person, sign language, and braille. Provide templates and exemplars of what is expected. Provide people who can support those people who need help (like the elderly, children, and those with a disability). Ultimately, we need to attempt to get as many people as possible to participate across all ages. Incorporate multiple channels to provide feedback (including social media). Boosting the current consultation portal run by Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and increasing its functionality.	EPIAG11
	Simplify and incentivise the process of engagement and consultation. Closing the feedback loop will help participants see their contributions have been welcomed and genuinely considered and encourage them to take part again	Enhance engagement and consultation by government agencies Integrated and joined up consultations where possible to avoid consultation fatigue, provide reasonable time frames, take into account people's lives when seeking consultation, consider the possibility of providing costs for attending consultations, involve diverse agencies and organisations, maintain ongoing relationships with communities, regional outreach, and use of plain language. Should use the marae model for engagement where there is no hierarchy. Everyone has the opportunity to feel manaakitanga of marae and feel welcomed. People struggle to see the impact of their input. Government needs to show connection between impacts and feedback, detail the consultation process, keep submitters informed, publish results of consultation, require sources to be referenced in government advice - especially so that submitters and the public can see if and how their ideas are being used.	EPIAG12
	Promote the use of the community engagement tool (IAP2)	Introduce a recognised engagement framework to promote community engagement across public service agencies Phase-wise implementation of the community engagement tool across agencies to incorporate community engagement right from the initial stages. Being transparent about level of community involvement in different projects, will help overcome the perception that consultation is carried out after decisions have been made.	EPIAG13
	Establish a small government unit/ an all-of-government head of profession for public participation	Create an all-of-government head of profession for public participation who would be responsible for developing knowledge, capability and capacity, and standards in agencies across the government This could be under the Public Service Commission and dedicated to fostering the active citizenship which can impact the common good and wellbeing of all New Zealanders, as well as supporting a community of practice that supports learning and development amongst people working in this field. A joint civil society/government public engagement Community of Practice or Hub, revive Code of Practice (COP) on public participation with regular meetings.	EPIAG14

		Improve public engagement, better policy and decision-making, improved trust and confidence in the public service and the government.	
	Consider the principles of the UN Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) in the NZ context	Explore the potential of public participation in decision making New Zealand-endorsed Principle 10 of the Rio Earth Summit Declaration in 1992 spelled out that protecting the environment was not only a government responsibility, but also a responsibility for civil society and the private sector. The principle also said that in order for civil society and the private sector to be able to play their part, they needed legal rights to information and access to justice. See: UNEP Implementing Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration (UNEP).	EPIAG15

Workshop 3: “Government use of data and personal information” 16 May 2022

Theme	Idea	Purpose	Unique ID
Facilitating access to and sharing of data	Allow for joined up data by agencies to enhance service delivery (data sharing)	Joined up data would create more efficiency by reducing duplication and repetitive information gathering by individual agencies Would also provide richer information or data sets	GUDPI 1
	Transparency around the objectives of data being collected and use of this data	Be clear on what data is being collected, the purpose, and who will see it Without this transparency, this can lead to distrust for government. Provide information on the benefits of government talking to other organisations, using your data. If you can gain trust through transparency, individuals are more likely to engage and feel empowered.	GUDPI 2
	Improve use of data.govt.nz website by government and local government to increase visibility and accessibility of data	Opportunity to use data.govt.nz more and improve access to information A lot of data is more difficult to access than it should be	GUDPI 3
	Improve the transparency of, and practical access to, the information that is publicly available	Following on from the NAP3 commitment, apply an all-of-government approach to build and publish authoritative government datasets as open, machine-readable data.	GUDPI 4

Theme	Idea	Purpose	Unique ID
Use of data to develop insights and improve services	Make use of the data collected by agencies relating to complaints about performance to improve services (including in relation to service delivery, responsiveness,	Use the data collected in the community to improve services There is a concern that Government agencies are not responsive to communication from the public and using the data collected to improve services, spot issues, and proactively manage risks relating to business performance. Government agencies are not always using the data, monitoring it, and analysing it.	GUDPI 5

engagement and policies and legislation)		
Maintain and publish an information asset register listing all the systems used	This would provide greater transparency and enable public access to the detailed documents for the system. These include ethics evaluations (if any), privacy impact assessments, opt-in or data collection agreements, business case, architecture, and design.	GUDPI 6
Develop a data quality and governance strategy and all-of-government approach to the use of information in the public domain	To have an appropriate level of assurance over the integrity of the data being used and the quality of analysis – create and publish a data quality and governance strategy which is fit-for-purpose, and at least complies with the Government Chief Data Steward’s Data Strategy. One size may not fit all. Larger agencies may need to apply more appropriate standards. Other standards to consider include ISO/IEC 38505 and ISO 8000-150. Ensure the public can fully participate in the development of the government strategy and approach to a data strategy and regulation, and it is developed with good transparency. Require regular and transparent auditing and monitoring for compliance of a data quality/ governance strategy and regulation of the use of public information.	GUDPI 7
Create a public place for measuring and monitoring wellbeing across New Zealand	Generate regular one-page reports on communities in NZ with key metrics including wellbeing Independent measures of wellbeing in New Zealand would assist in understanding whether the quality of life here is trending in the right directions, and would provide an independent baseline against which new initiatives could be measured and assessed. Make this data accessible and easy for anyone to drill down to their community or area, and to make it easy to identify any measurable impact (good or bad) of new policies, services or programmes.	GUDPI 8

Theme	Idea	Purpose	Unique ID
Need for digital security measures	Develop an audit trail where you can see how your data has been used by government, every time you provide information. There should be a way you are notified if that information is then shared.	Clear and available statements about the generic information the government knows about all citizens as individuals. People want to know what and how info kept about them is being used.	GUDPI 9
	Invest in better servers in NZ – local, secure and ethical	It is important to have information on where government data is held. Government uses Microsoft and data is held in Australia. More transparency is required on the implications of this. Government agencies publish details of their activities in collecting data from or about New Zealanders, and explain: why they collect it; and how they review, manipulate and store it.	GUDPI 10

	<p>Domestically owned, operated, and hosted email accounts and social networks, linked with 'RealMe'. Can be closed to some extent from the rest of the internet, to prevent phishing. Can be used for government communications (e.g., newsfeed), civic engagement (e.g., similar to 'Loomio'), online local and regional voting, and as verification email for various domestic services requiring a higher security level such as internet banking. Better cybersecurity to protect data of submitters on government initiatives.</p>	
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Theme	Idea	Purpose	Unique ID
Understanding use of artificial intelligence (AI), such as algorithms and facial recognition	Develop a local and central government strategy, and a legal and ethical policy framework, to regulate the use of AI, including by 3 rd party algorithm providers, to increase accountability, transparency, security and to protect personal information privacy	<p>There is a need to adequately resource and prioritise mandatory regulation of AI and progress algorithmic transparency that deals with key issues around data privacy and bias.</p> <p>The draft Algorithm charter is not fit for purpose.</p> <p>Regulating AI use for accountability and transparency must be fit-for-purpose and well-considered. There is a lack of transparency and education about algorithms and their misuse leading to misinformation and bias.</p> <p>The use of personal (e.g., facial and plate number) recognition technology by central and local government agencies needs to be regulated post haste.</p>	GUDPI 11
	Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand	<p>Recognise the pervasive influence of AI and the need for an oversight.</p> <p>There exists an Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>However not all agencies who are authorised to collect data on people have signed up to this.</p> <p>The Charter provides guidelines but does not mandate any commitment to open government.</p> <p>AI systems have been able to proliferate due to the exponential growth of human and machine generated data leveraged by powerful machine learning algorithms, whose performance on a given task increases with labelled data.</p> <p>This recent progress is remarkable in important respects, but also creates unique challenges.</p> <p>Without proper oversight, AI may replicate or even exacerbate human bias and discrimination, cause potential job displacement and lead to other unintended consequences.</p> <p>This is problematic when AI is deployed in high-stakes domains such as criminal justice, healthcare, or employment.</p> <p>Government officials throughout the world are increasingly aware of both the opportunities and risks associated with AI and urged to act as AI's influence over society increases at a fast pace.</p> <p>See: Publicise use of Artificial Intelligence (OGP NZ)</p>	GUDPI 12

Workshop 4: “Information to support financial accountability of the government” 30 May 2022

Anti-corruption and beneficial ownership

Theme	Idea	Purpose	Unique ID
Implement specific anti-corruption measures	Promote fiscal transparency through implementing the recommendations in the OECD report Exporting Corruption 2020 (foreign bribery), and from GOPAC (Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption)	<p>New Zealand is rated as having only “limited enforcement” of foreign bribery in a 47 country assessment by Transparency International’s Exporting Corruption 2020 report.</p> <p>Exporting Corruption is an independent assessment of the enforcement of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention (short for OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions), which requires parties to criminalise bribery of foreign public officials and introduce related measures.</p> <p>This commitment will cover fiscal transparency of elected Parliamentary and local body representatives and include anti-corruption clauses in New Zealand’s Free Trade Deals.</p>	ISFAG 1
Make beneficial ownership transparent	Legislate and implement a register of beneficial interests in companies and trusts, where the 'beneficial' interest denotes the person(s) ultimately controlling or owning the organisation and that addresses transparency issues. The register(s) would incorporate the Open Beneficial Ownership Principles, which define what 'good' looks like for beneficial ownership transparency and that will make company ownership data accessible and traceable globally.	<p>New Zealand has previously committed, in various forums, to pursue a register of beneficial interests, but made insufficient progress.</p> <p>It is important that a register of beneficial interests is created and includes the beneficial interests of companies and trusts, where the 'beneficial' interest denotes the person(s) ultimately controlling or owning the entity in question and address transparency issues.</p> <p>New Zealand lags behind countries (like the UK) in having important anti-corruption mechanisms, including having a register of beneficial interests for companies and trusts.</p> <p>New Zealand has minimal company regulation, and an exceptionally large number of trusts, which currently are subject to very minimal scrutiny.</p> <p>Weaknesses have already been exposed, as revealed in the Panama Papers.</p> <p>With New Zealand businesses become increasingly integrated with the global economy (coronavirus notwithstanding), the likelihood of corrupt practices being imported increases.</p> <p>The lack of transparency in the ultimate ownership of companies, trusts, and other entities makes it hard to determine things (such as who is benefiting when public funds go to private entities, if entities are paying the correct amount of tax, and if entities involved in money-laundering or other forms of corruption).</p> <p>With beneficial ownership public, it ought to be clear who, ultimately, controls and benefits from a company when (as a e.g.) one company is a subsidiary of another, or shares are owned by another company, and other mechanisms used to disguise beneficial ownership.</p>	ISFAG 2

An independent fiscal institution, a Citizen's Budget, a whole of govt budget and transparency of tax spending

Theme	Idea	Purpose	Unique ID
Create an independent fiscal institution	Complete work underway to create an independent fiscal institution. The proposal was to improve New Zealand's fiscal policy framework through establishing an Independent Fiscal Institution. This would: provide for independent evaluation and commentary on New Zealand's fiscal policy performance; improve parliamentary scrutiny of public finances and fiscal policy; and provide for independent costings of political party policies to better inform public debate.	Treasury consulted on Establishing an Independent Fiscal Institution in 2019. It had party support at one stage, but then wasn't advanced. See also New Zealand's Fiscal Policy Framework: Establishing an Independent Fiscal Institution (The Treasury). However, the proposal did not garner sufficient political support at that time and would require cross-party support to proceed. See also: Independent Fiscal Institution Information Release (The Treasury) and Submissions and Advice (New Zealand Parliament)	ISFAG 3
Make allocation of government money easy-to-understand	Create a Citizens Budget to explain the government's budget proposals and public finances in one simple, plain language document (often referred to as a "citizens' guide to the budget"	Good budgeting obliges the state to provide a clear, accessible, and transparent account of the revenue it raises through taxes and what it proposes to spend this money on. Current budget information lacks accessibility, and it is often too complex for citizens to understand because the formats are consistently changing, and the general estimate process is bad. Budget at a Glance attempts to make the information user-friendly, but is too generic and lacks personal relevance. Currently, New Zealand publishes less, clear, budget information, rather than more. Because of this, New Zealand may drop from our traditionally high international ranking (e.g., the 2019 Open Budget Survey ranked New Zealand first equal with South Africa), as New Zealand's performance has since declined in terms of transparency and participation. In 2020, Treasury stopped publishing a number of the Budget at a Glance publications. Furthermore, none of the documents Treasury had published along with the major fiscal documents for the 2017 Budget were published prior to the 2020 election, and nothing was provided in their place.	ISFAG 4
	Revamp the treasury's citizens budget formal breakout sectoral level data – as a source of funding, and uses of funding by sector. Commit to create a genuine 'Citizens	A genuine Citizen's Budget, in the sense of a multimedia Budget communication, will allow ordinary citizens (including those with low financial literacy), to understand how the government is spending money. This communication could take the form of a cartoon/graphic novel, an animated video, a series of easy-to-decipher infographics, or some other form.	ISFAG 5

	Budget', in which Budget information is explained (using text/visuals/audio) in a way that any citizen can understand.	The communication would explain the importance of the Budget and highlight key spending areas/amounts, making an effort to relate items of spending to people's everyday lives and concepts they can readily understand.	
	Improve transparency of government tax spending by creating a mechanism to provide sufficient, easily understandable information about how government money is spent/allocated	Distribution of tax money could be more transparent and accessible in a searchable form so people can access and understand this information. See, for example, the Australian Tax Office (ATO), which recently added a new feature to your tax return which breaks down where an individual's taxes go in a handy graph, showing exactly how many of their dollars support different facets of federal public spending: economic aid, housing, education including breaking down welfare payments.	ISFAG 6
Information on the third parties that deliver govt functions	Introduce a whole-of-government budget, which explains the contribution made by volunteers in achieving government priorities	Introduce a whole-of-government budget and improve recognition of and transparency of the contribution made by volunteers in achieving government priorities	ISFAG 7

Transparency of all of government procurement, government grants, COVID-19 spending, and review of the procurement model for social spending

Theme	Idea	Purpose	Unique ID
Information about who and what the government spends money on	Increase procurement transparency and accountability. Adopt and embed the Open Contracting Data Standard and Open Contracting Principles across all public sector procurement. Update the mandatory rules to remove all transparency exemptions, and engage in the Open Contracting Partnership.	<p>Publish procurement data regardless of whether the procurement is done via Government Electronic Tender Service (GETS), an all-of-government panel of approved suppliers, or direct procurement by an agency.</p> <p>Current commissioning and procurement models are not adequately transparent and accountable for the public services that contractors and third parties perform.</p> <p>New Zealand needs to open up procurement data (not just from GETS), remove the exemptions to reporting on GETS, and enable the public to access all government contracting data.</p> <p>Making more contract details transparent (e.g., in a central register), may help prevent workers exploitation and enable labour and materials to be traceable and audited.</p>	ISFAG 8
	Increase transparency and accountability around COVID-19 related payments. Publish details of all COVID-19 procurements, including supplier and contract value, for all contracts awarded.	<p>Public needs information about where the large amounts of money for COVID-19 went and whether the payments achieved their purpose.</p> <p>Publish details of all COVID-19 procurements including the supplier and contract value, publish the supplier and contract value for all contract award data, update the mandatory rules to remove all exemptions, and join the Open Contracting Partnership.</p>	ISFAG 9

	Review the government's model for contracting services in the social sector to ensure it is fit-for-purpose and meets its objectives in the context	Facilitate the sustainability of non-government organisations (NGOs) and volunteer groups by making it easier to access funding through contracts and grants, and increase transparency of the award of contract and grants at the central and local government level. This would give due weight to the quality of service provided by incumbent providers and the benefits of continuity for the client base rather than just the value of the contract, when comparing tenders for contracts.	ISFAG 10
	Require transparency in relation to government grants, grant decision-making, and where the grants are going	Transparency around which organisations receive governments will enable agencies that make grants to identify which entities are/are not receiving grant funds. This creates a source of public information about what grants are going to which organisations, which area(s), addressing which type of needs.	ISFAG 11