

Open Government Partnership New Zealand

National Action Plan 2018-2021

Progress report for: Jan 2020 - June 2020





Commitment 1: Engagement with Parliament

Lead agencies: Office of the Clerk and Parliamentary Service

Objective: To improve public understanding of how Parliament works and engage a greater number of people with its work.

Ambition: People will be able to access information about how Parliament works more easily and more people will engage with Parliament and have their say.

OGP values:

Milestones		Progress
1	Expand the use of Parliament TV to provide information about Parliament, in addition to coverage of the House, to show New Zealanders that Parliament is relevant to them. Content will be reviewed annually and viewer numbers will be monitored quarterly. <i>Start/End dates: June 2018/June 2020</i>	
2	Make Parliament more interactive by holding three public events every year, focused on engaging people with Parliament, to raise awareness that Parliament is for everyone. <i>Start/End dates: December 2018/December 2019</i>	
3	Develop and publish content showing 'real people' start petitions and make submissions to select committees, and make the options for having your say transparent and easy to understand to show people how to participate in the democratic process. <i>Start/End dates: June 2018/June 2020</i>	
4	Develop and enhance a 360° Virtual Reality Tour of Parliament to raise children, young people's and all New Zealanders' awareness of what Parliament does by making it more accessible and interesting to inspire future voters <i>Start/End dates: June 2018/October 2018</i>	

Progress key:



some delays



underway



completed

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

Pre COVID-19

- The video which explains how the base isolators in Parliament function was updated in January and surfaced on our channels. This provides an up to date

and accessible insight into the Parliament buildings. The YouTube video has received 723 views.

- Inter-Parliamentary Relations is part of Parliamentary Business, and we have focused on using a range of mediums and channels to ensure the public understands the value of it. When delegations visit New Zealand, we take the opportunity to introduce them to other parts of New Zealand, and give local businesses and organisations the opportunity to discuss their work with them. This engagement with international parliament staff and our staff is valuable outreach work.
 - From 9-13 February 2020, the Speaker of the Iceland Parliament visited New Zealand. They visited Rotorua and had meetings with Te ahi O Maui Geothermal Power Station and Eastland Energy generation before visiting a Kiwifruit orchard in the Bay of Plenty, the Gisborne District Council, Riverland Food Producers and Ngāti Porou Seafood group.
 - A delegation from the New Caledonia congress visited 17-20 February and also visited Rotorua. In Auckland, they visited Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority and the Manukau Urban Māori Authority.
 - A European Delegation visited 22-26 February and visited the Auckland War Museum/ Tāmaki Paenga Hira, and the Māori Court/He Taonga Māori. They also visited Mint Innovations.
 - A delegation from Tonga visited electorate offices in Auckland in February, They visited the Tāmaki Regeneration Company in Panmure and the Onehunga Citizens Advice Bureau to give them ideas about different ways to engage with their communities.
 - A delegation of New Zealand and Pacific MPs visited a school in Niue to discuss democracy in February. As New Zealand citizens, this outreach is significant in ensuring all New Zealanders have access to resources.
- On 1 March, we held Children's Day at Parliament. This gives children and their families a free experience of Parliament with tours, resources, education workshops and games. The Electoral Commission joined the event to encourage parents to enrol.
- The Women's Suffrage Room was reopened on 4 March. The room has been refurbished with a camellia decal (representing suffrage) and with photos and art of and by women that tell the story of women's participation in parliament. A breakfast with Members of Parliament and representatives from organisations focused on women was held to celebrate. Interviews from this event will be weaved into Parliament's next flagship video on Women in Parliament.

During COVID-19

COVID-19 had significant impact on Parliament's in person services to the public. The precinct was closed for an extended period, and select committees were required to move online. The lockdown period meant our Speaker's Outreach programme was unable to continue, and other regional events we hoped to attend were cancelled. All education visits had to be postponed, impacting 3,555 students over 130 groups.

We ensured that the latest information about what the different alert levels meant for Parliament was easily available so that members of the public knew what they could expect and how they could view, or participate in, the work of Parliament.

We experimented with digital resources and utilise the ones we had. We pushed the Virtual Tour of Parliament to the public, and continued widely accessible education through webinars. Select committees ran all business online, and a new specialist select committee was created: the Epidemic Response Committee. This committee was also livestreamed to PTV, the first time a select committee has been broadcast on that channel. Over its lifespan, the ERC received 26, 2476 views on Facebook alone.

- 'Looking Back', a suite of 20 one-hour episodes exploring New Zealand's parliamentary and political history, was uploaded under the new Parliament On Demand section of the Parliament website for increased accessibility in late May.
- We launched our online webinar series. These online webinars are open and free to the public. They are pitched at audiences from beginner to mid-level, with some experts tuning in. They explain parliamentary processes in simpler terms. Public participation is encouraged through use of the chat function and surveys. Expert speakers provide insights on the topic before a Q + A session. All the webinar materials are provided post webinar on our website for accessibility. They have had a steady number of participants, with all but one averaging over 120 participants.
 - **Select Committees 101 (2 April)**
This was rated 4/5. 100% of survey participants said they felt more confident in making a submission to a select committee after the webinar.
 - **How Laws are made (17 April)**
This was rated 3.8/5. 100% of survey participants said they were more confident about the legislative process after the webinar.
 - **Petitions 101(1 May)**
This was rated 3.7/5. 100% of survey participants said they were more confident about creating or signing a petition after the webinar. Some comments included: "*all my questions were answered*", and people appreciated the "*access to experts*" and learning how to "*influence change*".
 - **Get to know the Budget process (11 May)**
This was rated 3.8/5.

- **Elections 101(28 May)**

This was rated 3.6/5. 100% of survey participants said they were more confident in their knowledge of elections after the webinar. One participant appreciated the “*easy to comprehend information*” in the webinar.

- **Question Time 101 (12 June)**

This was rated 3.2/5. 80% of survey participants said they were more confident in their knowledge of question time after the webinar. One participant enjoyed the webinar’s “*relaxed manner.*”

Post COVID-19

- On 13 May, the new Parliament on Demand section was launched on our website. This makes viewing our video content more user friendly and accessible.
- On 18 May, a Parliament 360° Virtual Reality Tours school resource was released. This resource provides:
 - An overview about Parliament, a scavenger hunt based on one of the tours, and a short research activity on values behind some of the rooms/objects/artwork featured in the tour; and
 - An activity exploring features of our democracy, links to the virtual tour and a retrieval table that help to link back to features of democracy.
- On 18 May, we released the Spotlight on Standing Orders video. To date it has 774 views on YouTube. This video explains the rules of Parliament in an informal way.
- A new resource for senior social science students was released to develop a greater understanding of specific processes at Parliament that support public social actions e.g. submissions, petitions and protest. It has been promoted through communications to teachers and social media.
- Public Tours began again from 11 June. A new tour- called Tour at Twilight ran from 6pm allowing flexibility to the public of when they might visit Parliament. This tour was sold out and is now part of the regular schedule.

HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES

- In June, we commissioned Colmar Brunton to conduct a piece of research on audiences for Select Committees. Because of COVID, select committees had to conduct business remotely. This showed that:
 - New Zealanders are six times more likely to have watched or listened to Select Committees after lockdown than before.

- Viewership and listenership via livestream on Facebook doubled since lockdown.
 - An estimated 61,000 New Zealanders indicate they are highly likely to watch Select Committees in future.
 - New Zealanders have a stronger preference for watching or listening live over the internet, live on social media, or live on Parliament TV than on radio or video on demand.
 - Younger New Zealanders prefer to tune in live on social media, whereas older New Zealanders prefer Parliament TV.
 - Māori are more likely than average to have watched or listened to select committees live on social media.
- A teacher's reference group was established in February. This group allows for public input into development of programmes and for collaboration on how best to engage young people with Parliament.
 - In April we commissioned Intopia, an international accessibility agency, to conduct an accessibility audit of the Parliament website and run some usability sessions with users of assistive technologies. This work identified areas that require development or content improvement to ensure the website is accessible and usable, and have established a roadmap of work to be done over the coming months.
 - A survey of teachers sent to 2,500 schools nationwide to better understand teacher's needs and expectations, This greatly influences our education programme and resource development. There were 3373 survey respondents.
 - The individual interviews that were incorporated into the Rainbow Voices video released last year were uploaded on 29 June onto our website so that the public can listen to the uncut interviews. The original long form video has over 10,200 views on Facebook.

HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED

- Three How-to Guide videos were uploaded with NZSL translation on the On Demand section of the Parliament website. These videos step the public through how they might have their say.
- On 10 February we held a workshop for young people on select committees and how to make a submission. The Speaker and an MP attended to give their perspective on submissions. The success of the workshop led to our first Webinar on Select Committees on 2 April with the Clerk as the expert speaker.

- On 9 April, the Virtual Tour was launched in Te Reo. This allows the public, no matter where they are, to step into Parliament and explore the buildings and their significance.
- The first Education team newsletter 'Ayes on Education' was sent out to all schools in New Zealand. This newsletter explains all the various resources and ways schools can engage with Parliament.
- New Zealand Sign Language interpretation was available for the following items of business:
 - Election Access Fund Bill, Third Reading—Weds 11 March
 - Finance Minister's Statement about COVID-19 funding—Tues 17 March
 - Budget—Thurs 14 May

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Continued programme of webinars (now monthly). Upcoming topics are:
 - Executive and Cabinet (July)
 - Māori Electorate seats (August)
 - Dissolution and Opening of Parliament (September)
- Resources on the Budget process and the Petition life cycle accessible online.
- Livestreamed tours of Parliament for those who cannot visit the physical grounds of Parliament.
- Development of an E-Book about Parliament for children that will be accessible online.
- Development of all resources to include interpretation into Te Reo Maori and greater considerations for use of New Zealand Sign Language in programmes and resources.
- Development of online programmes to increase public participation to school groups who may not otherwise be able to access a face to face tour of Parliament.

LINKS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED

- Base Isolators Video (Jan 2020): <https://ondemand.parliament.nz/special-features/?itemId=63747>

- Iceland Delegation Visit (Feb 2020): <https://ondemand.parliament.nz/inter-parliamentary-relations/?itemId=60662>
- New Caledonia Delegation Visit (Feb 2020): <https://ondemand.parliament.nz/inter-parliamentary-relations/?itemId=60663>
- European Delegation Visit (Feb 2020): <https://ondemand.parliament.nz/inter-parliamentary-relations/?itemId=60466>
- Niue Visit (Feb 2020): <https://www.parliament.nz/media/6470/report-of-the-pacific-women-parliamentarians-meeting-niue.pdf>
- Children's Day (March 2020): <https://ondemand.parliament.nz/events-at-nz-parliament/?itemId=60647>
- Reopening of the Women's Suffrage Room (March 2020): <https://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/features/parliament-s-women-s-suffrage-room-relaunched/>
<https://ondemand.parliament.nz/events-at-nz-parliament/?itemId=60646>
- Epidemic Response Committee: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/scl/epidemic-response/news-archive/watch-public-meetings-of-the-epidemic-response-committee/>
- 'Looking Back' at New Zealand's political and social past (May 2020): <https://ondemand.parliament.nz/looking-back-snapshots-from-new-zealands-past/>
- Parliament's Webinars: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/parliament-webinars/>
- Parliament on Demand (May 2020): <https://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/features/parliament-on-demand-nz-parliament-s-new-home-of-video-content/>
- 360 Virtual Reality Tours School Resource: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/educators-and-students/resources/parliament-360-virtual-reality-tours-school-resource/>
- Spotlight on the Standing Orders (May 2020): <https://ondemand.parliament.nz/spotlight-on-parliament/?itemId=61180>
- Social Actions and Parliament (June 2020): <https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/educators-and-students/resources/social-actions-and-parliament/>
- Twilight Tour (June 2020): <https://www.facebook.com/NZParliament/posts/youre-invited-to-see-parliament-in-a-new-light-join-us-for-a-twilight-tour-and-d/2974570349263001/>

- Research on audience for select committees (June 2020): <https://www.parliament.nz/en/footer/about-us/parliamentary-engagement/engagement-research/research-on-audiences-for-select-committees-june-2020/>
- Rainbow Voices Extended Interviews (June 2020): <https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/history-and-buildings/buildings-and-grounds/parliament-house/rainbow-room/>
<https://ondemand.parliament.nz/special-features/>
- NZSL videos (June 2020): <https://ondemand.parliament.nz/nzsl-videos/>
- Youth workshop on how to make a submission (Feb 2020): <https://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/features/youth-workshop-how-do-i-make-a-submission/>
<https://ondemand.parliament.nz/special-features/?itemId=63748>
- Virtual Tour in Te Reo (April 2020): <https://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/features/huri-haere-i-te-p%C4%81remata-i-te-reo-m%C4%81ori-ahakoa-%C4%81hea-ahakoa-kei-hea-tour-parliament-in-te-reo-m%C4%81ori-anytime-anywhere/>
- Ayes on Education (April 2020): <https://www.parliament.nz/media/6455/ayes-on-education-april-2020.pdf>