

16 April 2026

By email to: [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2026/27

On 7 April 2026 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

The Electoral Amendment Bill is law and this year it will not be possible to enrol to vote on election day or for some weeks prior. Have targets been set by the Electoral commission to achieve the same voter numbers despite this, by greater pre-deadline enrolment? Has the electoral commission been given additional resources to achieve optimal enrolment prior to the enrolment deadline? Is the Electoral commission targeting the age groups and electorates with highest unenrolled people? Will the Electoral commission be utilizing other government institutions to advertise ways to enrol? For example will your excellent posters and resources be placed in hospital waiting rooms and MSD offices? Will secondary schools be contacted by the Electoral commission with these resources, in an effort to enrol those secondary school students who have turned 18 in their final year of school? How extensive will the enrolment campaign on social media be? Are you aware of any groups other than the electoral commission working on this important issue?

Responses to each of your questions are provided below:

Question one: Have targets been set by the Electoral commission to achieve the same voter numbers despite this, by greater pre-deadline enrolment?

We monitor enrolment levels on an ongoing basis and set measures for all New Zealanders, as well as Māori and youth. In a general election year, we also measure both peak enrolment levels when enrolment closes for the election and voter turnout. The table below contains our measures for 2025/26.

Measure	Target
Percentage of eligible population enrolled to vote (average for the period) ¹	85% or greater
Percentage of eligible 18 to 24-year-olds enrolled to vote (average for the period)	60% or greater

¹ Estimates of appropriation measure.

Number of people of Māori descent enrolled to vote (average for the period) ²	0.546m
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Question two: Has the electoral commission been given additional resources to achieve optimal enrolment prior to the enrolment deadline?

The Electoral Commission receives a multi-year appropriation for administering parliamentary elections and referendums, maintaining electoral rolls, servicing the work of the Representation Commission and providing advice, reports and public education on electoral matters. As part of Budget 2025 a tagged contingency for “integrity improvements to Electoral Services” was established.

As part of the integrity improvements funding, we have allocated \$4.243m to implement the new settings for enrolment that were introduced in the Electoral Amendment Act.

Question three: Is the Electoral commission targeting the age groups and electorates with highest unenrolled people?

Our engagement will focus on areas with lower rates of enrolment and participation and with population cohorts most likely to be impacted by the changes including Māori, Pasifika, youth, disability and ethnic communities.

Question four: Will the Electoral commission be utilizing other government institutions to advertise ways to enrol? For example will your excellent posters and resources be placed in hospital waiting rooms and MSD offices?

We will engage with public sector partners to utilise their networks to connect with people. This will include councils, service providers such as MSD and other public facing agencies as appropriate. Our resources, like posters, will be made available to them.

Question five: Will secondary schools be contacted by the Electoral commission with these resources, in an effort to enrol those secondary school students who have turned 18 in their final year of school?

Yes. We deliver face-to-face community education in schools, as well as with other education providers.

We also deliver Kids Voting, a civics education programme for students (years 0-13) that provides information and resources to run a mock election, giving students a first-hand voting experience. We will include information to remind students that they can provisionally enrol at 17 and be ready to vote when they turn 18.

² The Commission does not receive population estimates for people of Māori descent so is unable to calculate the percentage of eligible people of Māori descent who are enrolled.

We are also in the final stages of developing a youth action plan. This plan will guide engagement with youth across the country focusing on locations where youth gather and get support, including schools, education providers, sports clubs, community groups and service providers. We will be recruiting Youth Advocate roles to deliver on this plan.

Question six: How extensive will the enrolment campaign on social media be?

Social media will be used (including paid and organic content) at key points during the enrolment campaign to communicate key messages and information about enrolment.

Question seven: Are you aware of any groups other than the electoral commission working on this important issue?

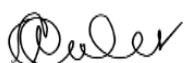
Candidates, political parties, MPs and third party groups play an important role in encouraging people to enrol and vote. We provide a range of resources that others can use to spread the word about enrolling and voting at: [Get brochures, posters and forms | Elections NZ](#).

We have established a community education fund, to provide short term funding for community-led projects focused on enrolment uptake for the election. More information about the fund is available here: [Community Education Fund | Elections NZ](#).

In the interests of transparency, we release responses to Official Information Act requests every three months. We will publish this response with your personal details redacted.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to make a complaint to the Ombudsman if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Anusha Guler
Deputy Chief Executive Operations