

## Housing

### Housing affordability



We all need somewhere to live, but our houses are some of the most unaffordable in the world. In our country, the average house price is seven times the average income, which is high by international standards. While rising house prices are good for people who own homes, the increasing housing costs shut many of us out of the market forever, increasing inequality. In this activity you will explore and discuss the nature of housing policies.

→ Go to [policy.nz/2023/party-vote/policies/housing](https://policy.nz/2023/party-vote/policies/housing)

→ Find and read the 'Housing affordability' section

→ Explore answers to these questions and share your ideas and reasoning with others

1. What are some advantages and disadvantages of owning your own home? Why might some people rent a house instead of owning a home?
2. Read [this](#) article from 2019 on housing affordability in New Zealand, looking closely at Figure 5. Which is the only country with less affordable housing than us? Why is our housing so expensive? Do you think anything has changed since 2019?
3. The government deals with housing affordability through an agency called the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). You can read more about HUD [here](#).
  - What five factors does HUD say it can use to improve housing affordability? Can you think of any other factors that can affect the price of a house?
4. Another agency called [Kāinga Ora](#) builds public housing, and supports Kiwis to buy or rent affordable homes. Does everyone in New Zealand have the 'right' to own their own home, or is this a 'privilege' that not everyone may be able to attain? Why do you think this? Should the government intervene to make houses more affordable to buy or rent? Why or why not?

→ Go back to [Policy.nz](#) and browse the policies. Click on policies to read more detail

→ Save the policies you agree with by clicking the heart icon

5. What are the main differences between the parties' approaches to housing affordability? Do some parties seem more concerned about this issue than others?
6. For one of the policies you have saved, think about the advantages and disadvantages of the policy. How would it affect someone who owns a house? How would it affect someone renting?
7. Imagine you were Minister of Housing. Would it be important to you that people own their own homes? What are two policy ideas that could increase home ownership?