



The amount of money in people's wallets is not just the result of how much they get paid: it's also the result of policy decisions. The government decides how much tax each person pays, and how much each person receives in support from the government. Different parties have different ideas about how much the government should take in tax, or on how much it should provide in support. In this activity we will explore the different approaches to income support.

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

→ Find and read the 'Tax and income support' section

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

1. Almost all parties agree that some of the money the government collects from taxes should go towards providing income support to some people. Why does the government provide income support?
2. Who is eligible for income support from the government? What types of income support are available to people? Read the government's [Financial Assistance](#) page to get started.
3. People in different age groups are eligible for different types of income support. For example, people older than 65 are eligible for a payment called superannuation paid every two weeks (sometimes called a 'pension'). Young people can access income support for activities like job training or study. Why might the government target income support based on people's age? How are the types of income support different for different age groups?
  - You can read more about income support for 16-19 years olds [here](#)
  - You can read more about superannuation [here](#)

→ 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

4. What are the main differences between the parties' policies on income support? Which parties want to increase the amount of income support the government provides to people? Which parties want to decrease the amount? What are their reasons?
5. For one of the policies you have saved, write a PMI Chart (plus, minus, interesting). How would the policy impact you? How would it impact your family?
6. If you were in the government, what would your income support policies be?