



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 and find the elections in your area

→ Choose an election and browse the candidates' profiles to learn about who is standing

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 on housing affordability in New Zealand, looking closely at Figure 5.
 - Which is the only country with less affordable housing than us?
 - Why do you think our housing so expensive?
3. Many different parts of central and local government are focused on housing. Local councils play an important part by building infrastructure that supports housing, and making rules that allow housing to be built. Some councils directly provide accommodation, too. Read [this](#) article on the role of local government in housing.
 - What responsibilities do councils have relating to housing?
 - What is one thing that councils can do to support more housing?
 - What role does the author think councils should play in providing housing?

→ Browse candidates' policies in the *Housing* topic

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

4. What are the main differences between the candidates' approaches to housing? Do some candidates seem more concerned about this issue than others?
5. 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?
6. Imagine you were a councillor or the Mayor.
 - Would it be important to you that people own their own homes?
 - What are two policy ideas that could increase home ownership?