

## Profile of the 54th Parliament (2023-26)

Prepared by Rasik Ranchord

### History

This is the 54th Parliament. NZ Parliament estd in 1854 and is one of the oldest continuously functioning legislatures in the world. It has met in Wellington since 1865. The word 'Parliament' derives from the French word 'parler' which means 'to talk'.

### Prime Minister

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon. 2nd Term in Parliament. 2 years since became leader of National Party.

### Deputy Prime Ministers

This is a new Feature. 2 DPMs

First Winston Peters - First 18 months

Second David Seymour - Last 18 months

### Type of Government

NZ is a robust liberal democracy

This is a centre-right government. Previous 6 years Centre-Left

This is the first genuine coalition since MMP Electoral System introduced in 1996

All 3 governing parties will have ministers in Cabinet

### Final Election Results

N. 49 + L 34 + G 15 + ACT 11 + NZF 8 + TPM 6 = 123

Voter turnout 2,851,220

2023 78.4%. (slightly down). 2020 82%

**Overhang** 3 seats. Normally there are 120 MPs but the size of Parliament can increase if a Party wins more Electorate Seats than it is entitled to based on its share of Party Votes.

### Formation of New Government

Announced on Fri 24 Nov 2023

41 Days after Election Day - 6 weeks

20 Days after Final results - 3 weeks

### (a) Cabinet Ministers

20 (7 with previous Cabinet experience and 13 new Cabinet members)

N 14 + ACT 3 + NZF 3 = 20

**(b) Ministers Outside Cabinet** 8 N 5 + ACT 2 + NZF 1 = 8

### (c) Under-Secretaries 2

**Governing Parties** N + ACT + NZF = 68

**Opposition Parties** L + G + TPM = 55

**Leader of the Opposition** Rt Hon Chris Hipkins (former Prime Minister)

The function of the opposition is to hold the Government to account.

### Parties that Qualified for Parliament

N + L + G + ACT + NZF + TPM = 6

### Parties that did not Qualify for Parliament 11

Front Runner that did not qualify was The Opportunities Party (TOP) 2.2% of party votes

Total number of Parties that contested this Election: 17

### **Christian Parties** (overtly Christian or having Christian values)

1. New Zeal. 2. Freedoms NZ. 3. New Conservatives. 4. Leighton Baker Party

Aggregate of 4 Parties: 1.14% of Party Votes. Sad commentary: Some Christian parties have existed since 1996 but have been unable to work together to reach the 5% threshold.

### **Speaker of the House**

Gerry Brownlee (N) has been MP for 27 years

### **Number of Male - Female MPs**

Male 68. Female 55. Total 123

### **Age range of MPs**

Youngest - Hana-Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke (21years). Youngest MP ever in 170 year history of Parliament.

Oldest - Winston Peters (78 years)

In 2020 Election the median age was 48 years. In 2023: figures not yet available.

### **New and Returning MPs**

New MPs 40. Almost 1/3rd of Parliament

Returning MPs 83 (almost 2/3rds of Parliament)

### **Ethnic Diversity in Parliament**

1. Europeans. 2. Māori. 3. Pacific Peoples. 4. Asians. 5. Middle Eastern. 6. Mexican

7. No African MP this time (in 2020: 1)

The House of Representatives should reflect diverse ethnic communities in NZ. There are now over 200 different ethnic communities speaking over 160 languages.

### **Christian MPs in Parliament**

This is a sensitive issue and often difficult to obtain information. My estimate is a minimum of 15 (about 12% of this new Parliament - subject to further information)

### **MPs not returned to Parliament**

Returning to the Private Sector can often be a very difficult experience especially if they have been in parliament for many years. We must uphold them in prayer as they make the transition.

### **Time Line**

Oct 14 Election Day

Oct 28 Final Results and Coalition Negotiations begin in earnest

Nov 24 Coalition Negotiations completed and announced

Nov 27 Ministers of the Crown sworn-in at Government House

Dec 5 & 6 All other MPs sworn-in

**Other Events:** The State Opening of Parliament

‘The Speech from the Throne’ (The Governor-General reads the incoming Governments plans for this new term of Parliament)

About 20 December the House rises for the Christmas Break and Holidays.

30 November 2023

**END**