



# Te Tira Ahu Pae



## Hei Hāpai Whakamana

# Political Party and Independent Candidate Policy

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## 1. Purpose

This Policy outlines the expectations of political parties and independent candidates when engaging in events and activities held by Te Tira Ahu Pae. It supports an



inclusive environment, prioritises student safety and wellbeing at Massey University, and upholds the Association's obligations under the Charities Act 2005.

## 2. Introduction

Te Tira Ahu Pae ('the Association') acknowledges the important roles universities play in promoting political conversations, affecting changes impacting students, and providing students with the tools they need to make informed choices during election periods. This Policy outlines the requirements of Te Tira Ahu Pae and invited parties to ensure student safety and wellbeing is prioritised, maintaining an inclusive environment for all Massey University students.

## 3. Scope

This policy applies to [representatives of registered political parties](#), and independent candidates running for local elections. It covers areas or events governed by Te Tira Ahu Pae, the students' association for Massey University. It does not apply to events coordinated independently of the Association.

All political party representatives and independent candidates involved in working with Te Tira Ahu Pae or attending events should be provided a copy of this Policy, and may contact Te Tira Ahu Pae for further information in relation to this Policy.

Te Tira Ahu Pae Student Representatives and staff should be familiar with and follow this Policy when arranging interactions or events with political parties.

## 4. Requirements under the Charities Act 2005

**4.1** As a registered charity, Te Tira Ahu Pae is obligated to follow the [Charities Act 2005](#) and any legislation that replaces it. Where Te Tira Ahu Pae wishes to engage political parties, it shall act in a **non-partisan** manner and offer to work, invite, or accept invites equally from registered parties across the political spectrum.

**4.2** Any amendments to this Policy or related procedures should acknowledge and continue to follow any obligations under the Charities Act 2005.

## 5. Prioritising student wellbeing

**5.1** While Te Tira Ahu Pae is required to work with, invite, or accept invites from all interested political parties, student safety and wellbeing are to be prioritised in any actions undertaken by the Association.



**5.2** The Association should act to prevent detrimental impacts on students when working with, inviting, or accepting invites from political parties. This may include (but is not limited to) —

- a.** Holding political events on days that are distinct from general events where students would typically expect to attend without political engagement, such as general O-Week events and Clubs' Day
- b.** Advertising events a minimum of one week in advance for students to make informed choices about event attendance
- c.** Advertising safe, accessible and quiet spaces should students wish to leave events and access support if they feel overwhelmed or unsafe

**5.3** Te Tira Ahu Pae must undertake a basic risk assessment prior to confirming events, with consideration of risk to student safety and wellbeing for any activity or event involving political party representatives and independent candidates.

**5.4** Te Tira Ahu Pae will inform any politically affiliated students or student-led clubs who may be the focus of protests or targeted discussions on campus, to support their awareness and safety.

## 6. Security and safety

**6.1** Te Tira Ahu Pae may, **at their sole discretion**, disallow the attendance of specific individual non-students at events for reasons including concerns relating to breaches of this Policy, student safety, Te Tira Ahu Pae Code of conduct, or the appropriateness of attendee behaviour.

**6.2** Te Tira Ahu Pae may, **at their sole discretion**, ask non-student attendees to leave Te Tira Ahu Pae spaces or events for reasons including concerns relating to breaches of this Policy, Code of conduct, student safety & wellbeing, or the appropriateness of attendee behaviour.

**6.3** Te Tira Ahu Pae may work with Massey University security staff to enforce this Policy.

**6.4** Te Tira Ahu Pae may opt to cancel an event or activity for reasons provided in this Policy, at any time.



**6.5** Te Tira Ahu Pae shall inform Massey University of any expected protests or activities as a result of events with political parties on campus.

**6.6** There shall be a contact point from Te Tira Ahu Pae made available and **publicly advertised** for students to express concerns or feedback. Concerns and feedback may be used to improve future events and amendments to this Policy.

**6.7** Political party representatives and independent candidates shall inform Te Tira Ahu Pae and Massey University of any concerns, safety issues, or incidents affecting student health and wellbeing related to event attendance, both prior to and during events.

## 7. Events and activities

**7.1** Political party representatives and independent candidates are encouraged to act in good faith and follow the rules laid out in this Policy. We encourage representatives and candidates at events to —

- a. Provide accurate information to attendees, and act in a manner that is transparent
- b. Consider student privacy
- c. Use language or messaging that respects the diversity and identities of our student population
- d. Engage in constructive and respectful discussions with students
- e. Listen to student voices and engage in concerns brought forth by students
- f. Respect noise levels and acknowledge students are likely to be studying on campus
- g. Uphold and uplift Te Tiriti o Waitangi

**7.2** Political party representatives and independent candidates are discouraged from the following at events —

- a. Soliciting one-on-one communications via social media platforms
- b. Exerting any pressure or undue influence on students to be involved in conversations, sign-ups, donations, or activities with political parties
- c. Promoting hate speech, discrimination, or violence



**d. Promoting misinformation and disinformation**

**7.3** Where this Policy is breached by a political party representative or independent candidate, Te Tira Ahu Pae reserves the right to withdraw invitations or restrict participation in future events or activities.

**7.4** Political parties and independent candidates shall not use any Te Tira Ahu Pae logos or imply endorsement in the promotion of event attendance.

**7.5** Political parties and independent candidates attending events shall be respectful of allocated time slots and designated event areas.

**7.6** Political parties and independent candidates taking photos or videos at events should obtain the explicit permission from all individuals to use any photos or videos which feature them.

## **8. Political clubs and club events**

**8.1** Te Tira Ahu Pae celebrates student involvement in political discourse. Clubs inviting political parties to events and activities shall be aware of this Policy and follow these rules.

**8.2** Clubs shall inform the General Manager before inviting political party representatives and independent candidates onto campus and work in good faith to uphold this Policy and ensure student safety and wellbeing is prioritised.

**8.3** Political clubs are expected to follow the same policies and procedures provided by Te Tira Ahu Pae including those related to governance, funding, and conduct.

## **9. Political affiliations of Student Representatives**

**9.1** We encourage Te Tira Ahu Pae Student Representatives to make clear to the General Manager conflicts of interest such as party membership when arranging and inviting political parties on campus.

**9.2** Te Tira Ahu Pae Board members should declare political conflicts of interest such as party membership in the Interests Register.

## **10. Ratification**

**Policy version: 1.0**



**This Policy was ratified by the Te Tira Ahu Pae Board on:** 17/10/25

**Minutes detailing ratification:** Board Meeting #21, Motion 2.5

**Date due review:**

**Authorised by:**