

**(McConnell, G., 2023)**

WHAKATAIRANGA KI PUNA

## Who's representing you? Record for Māori MPs, but fewer women in Parliament



Glenn McConnell | November 8, 2023

### Uncertainty for Pasifika as coalition talks continue

Incoming prime minister Christopher Luxon pulled out of next week's Pacific Island Forum.

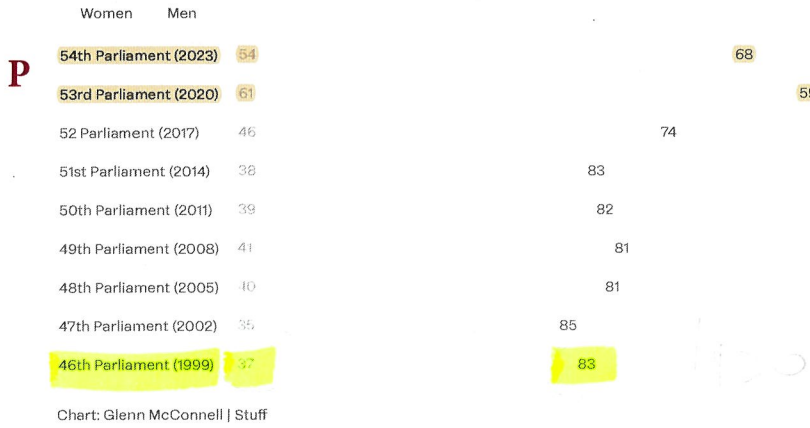
1 NEWS

When Parliament resumes, it will have the greatest number of Māori representatives in history – although the vast majority of Māori MPs will be in opposition.

The 54th Parliament will feature fewer women than the previous group and very few Pasifika representatives.

The number of women parliamentarians will drop from a historic high of 61, to just 54, when the new batch of MPs is sworn in. The gender balance will swing in favour of men during the next term of Parliament, after women – for the first time ever – outnumbered male parliamentarians last year.

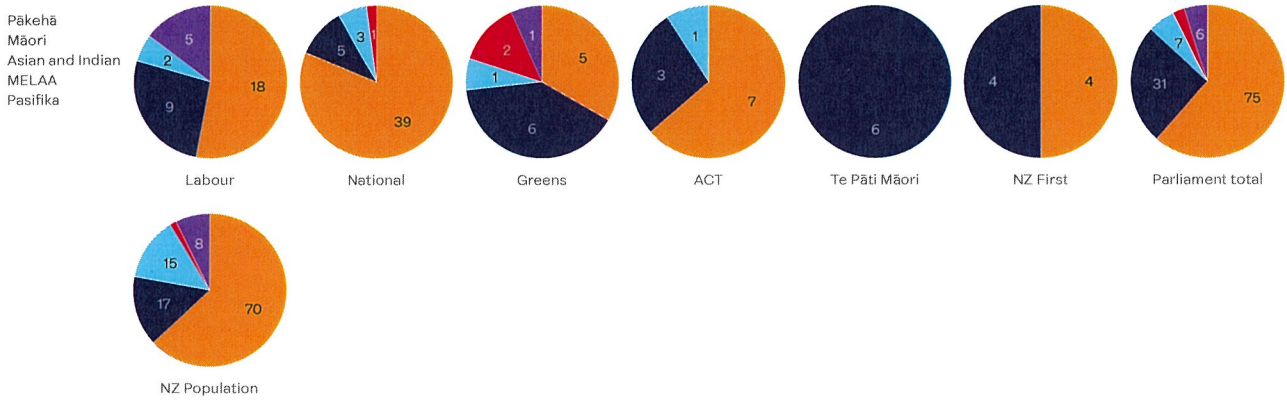
Monday, November 27, 2023



With 54 women elected, the next Parliament would include the second-highest number of women in New Zealand history.

The incoming Parliament would also host a history-making 33 Māori MPs, bolstered significantly thanks to the minor parties. Despite losing most of the Māori electorates, Labour would still have the largest Māori caucus in Parliament – with nine Māori MPs.

**Ethnic breakdown of the 54th Parliament**



Proportionally, National would return with the least ethnically diverse caucus in Parliament as 81% of its MPs are Pākehā. As well as five Māori MPs, National’s new caucus would include three Asian MPs and one Lebanese MP.

There were no Pasifika MPs in National, ACT, or NZ First – the three parties working to form the next coalition government. This lack of representation in government has led to concern from Pacific community leaders that their issues and concerns would be ignored.

Of particular concern was the ACT Party policy to abolish the Ministry for Pacific Peoples.

Monday, November 27, 2023



Chart: Glenn McConnell | Stuff · Source: Te Ara and Stuff

After a record-high 9% of MPs being Pasifika in the last Parliament, the next Parliament would bring a 10-year low for Pasifika representation. Just six Pasifika MPs had been elected, almost all in the Labour Party.

On Monday, incoming prime minister Christopher Luxon insisted his government was capable of serving Pasifika people. He told *Breakfast* he would appoint a minister for Pacific Peoples, and support the ministry – albeit he planned to cut some of its programmes “that don’t work”.

### Gender balance in the 54th Parliament

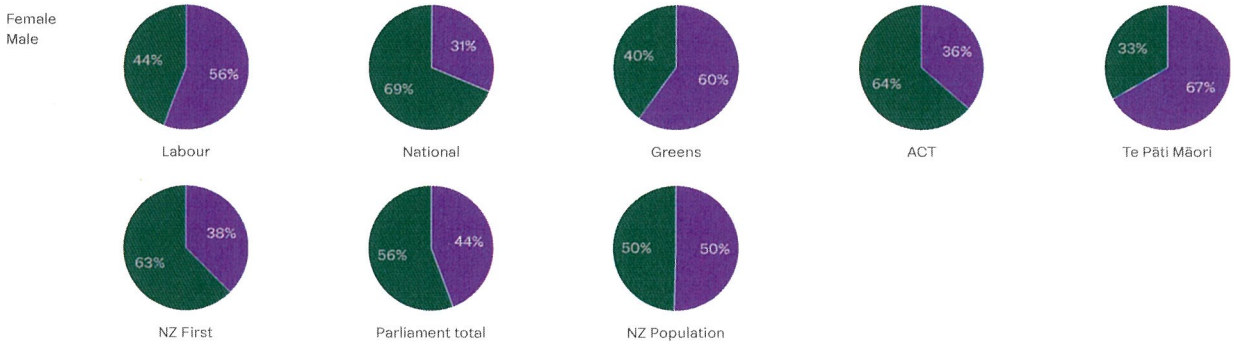


Chart: Glenn McConnell | Stuff

While the total number of women in Parliament declined at this election, women still held a majority in the Opposition. Women held about 60% of the Labour, Green and Te Pāti Māori seats.

Proportionally, National was the least gender diverse with just 31% of its MPs being women. ACT and NZ First were also majority male causes.

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