

## Jacinda Ardern Elected as NZ Labour Leader

August 2017

Jacinda Ardern has been unanimously elected Leader of the New Zealand Labour Party following the resignation of Andrew Little this morning. Kelvin Davis was unanimously elected deputy leader of the Labour Party. Ms Ardern previously served as deputy leader under Mr. Little.

This Hawker Britton Occasional Paper will outline bios for Ms Ardern and Mr. Davis and detail some of their initial policy priorities.

There will be a general election in New Zealand on 23 September 2017.

### Bios

Ms Jacinda Ardern  
*Leader of the Labour Party*  
*Spokesperson for Justice, Arts, Culture and Heritage, Children, and Small Business*  
*Associate Spokesperson for Auckland Issues*  
*MP for Mt Albert*



Jacinda Ardern was first elected to the NZ Parliament as a List MP at the 2008 general election. She was subsequently elected as the Member for Mount Albert at a February 2017 by-election.

Ardern was first elevated to the Labour frontbench in December 2011 as the spokesperson for social development, and has since served in several shadow portfolios. In March 2017, she was unanimously elected deputy Labour leader.

Prior to entering Parliament Ardern worked as an Associate Director for the UK Cabinet Office's 'Better Regulation Executive'.

She previously served as President of International Union Of Socialist Youth, the largest international political youth organisation in the world.

Ardern started her career as a researcher in the offices of Labour leaders the offices of Phil Goff and Helen Clark.

Kelvin Davis  
*Deputy Leader*  
*Spokesperson for Māori Development, Spokesperson for Corrections, Spokesperson for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations*  
*MP for Te Tai Tokerau*





Kelvin Davis was first elected to the NZ Parliament as a List MP at the 2008 election. He subsequently lost his seat at the 2011 election, but was returned as the MP for Te Tai Tokerau in 2014.

Prior to entering Parliament Davis served as principal of an Intermediate School.

He previously worked for the NZ Education Advisory Service and on the Te Putahitanga Maturanga education improvement and development project.

Davis started his career out as an Intermediate School teacher and subsequently principal.

### **Policy priorities**

At her first press conference as Labour leader, Ms Ardern indicated the following were priority policy areas for her:

- Housing availability and affordability;
- Education;
- Environmental protection; and
- Broader issues of inequality.

She also confirmed the Labour-Green MOU, signed in May 2016, would remain in place under her leadership.

### **Further information**

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