

# **General roll or Māori roll?**



# General roll or Māori roll?

If you're of Māori descent and enrolling for the first time, you have an important choice to make. You need to decide which electoral roll you want to be on: the general roll or the Māori roll. The roll you choose decides which electorate you vote in.

## What is an electoral roll?

An electoral roll is a list of voters enrolled in an electorate.

## What is an electorate?

An electorate is a voting area for general elections. Every place in New Zealand is covered by both a general electorate and a Māori electorate.

Currently, there are 7 Māori electorates and 65 general electorates.

The voters in each electorate choose a member of Parliament to represent them.

## What does your choice mean for you?

If you choose the general roll, you'll vote for a candidate in a general electorate.

If you choose the Māori roll, you'll vote for a candidate in a Māori electorate.

You can vote for the same list of political parties whichever roll you're on.

## **Example**

If you live in Gisborne and you choose the Māori roll, you'll vote in the Māori electorate of Ikaroa-Rāwhiti. The candidate who wins the most votes in the Ikaroa-Rāwhiti electorate will be your local member of Parliament.

If you choose the general roll instead, you'll vote in the general electorate of East Coast. The candidate who wins the most votes in the East Coast electorate will be your local member of Parliament.

If you're not sure which roll to choose, talking it over with friends and whānau might help.

When you've made your choice, remember that enrolling only takes 5 minutes and you can do it online at **vote.nz**

## **How does my choice affect Māori electorates?**

Every 5 years, the number of Māori electorates is worked out using results from the population census and the Māori Electoral Option.

The number of Māori on the Māori roll could mean the number of Māori electorates increases, decreases or stays the same.

Your choice will also help decide the boundaries of Māori and general electorates.

# When can you choose rolls?

If you are Māori, and enrolling to vote for the first time, you choose which electoral roll you want to be on.

You can also change your roll type at any time, except:

- in the 3 months before a general election
- in the 3 months before local elections which are held every 3 years
- Before a parliamentary by-election if the change would move you into the electorate where the by-election is being held.