

Political Lobbying Project

June 2023 Update

Tēnā koutou

Thank you for registering your interest in the Political Lobbying Project. We are just getting started but have a series of events coming up you may want to be involved in.

To recap . . .

What our project is about

In April 2023, the Prime Minister asked the Ministry of Justice to lead two pieces of work to make political lobbying more transparent by:

- supporting “third-party” lobbyists (people who lobby on behalf of others) to develop a voluntary code of conduct
- developing wider policy options for regulating lobbying activities.

We aim to strike the right balance between enabling legitimate advocacy that benefits society and protecting the public interest in having transparency around these activities.

To achieve this, we need clarity about what lobbying is, who political lobbyists are and who they lobby. We need to identify the issues specific to New Zealand including Treaty implications. We also need to understand how this work fits with other policy work designed to ensure public trust in our democratic processes and to identify what has worked and what hasn't in other countries.

Coming up . . .

Register for forums

We are holding a series of forums for different groups through the next few months to help us identify the issues that need to be considered:

- 1. July:** Preliminary meetings to help get discussions rolling among consultant lobbyists on how to develop a voluntary code of conduct. We aim to bring people together to help identify options for the process and approach.
- 2. August/September:** Introductory online meetings about the wider regulatory project to gather initial perspectives, tailored for different stakeholder groups.

People who have registered their interest on the Ministry of Justice [lobbying webpage](#) will be emailed invitations to relevant meetings.

Did you know

In 2021 the OECD reviewed member countries' approach to political lobbying and concluded that the lobbying landscape is evolving. The reviewers found “the advent of digital technologies and social media has made lobbying and influence more complex than the way it has been traditionally defined in regulations”. The report suggests that a more comprehensive approach to defining lobbying is necessary to cover the influence on policy-making and electoral processes in all its forms.

Read the OECD report [here](#)

About these updates

We will send these updates every few months to keep you informed on progress and about opportunities to engage.

If you know of anyone else who would like to receive these updates, please pass this on to them. Anyone can [register their interest](#) on the Ministry of Justice political lobbying project webpage. These updates will also be posted online.

Mā te wā
The Project Team