

Transparency International New Zealand Welcomes Prime Minister's News: NZ to join Open Government Partnership.

Transparency International New Zealand Inc
Wellington New Zealand

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Transparency International New Zealand Deputy Chair Murray Petrie welcomed today's news that Prime Minister John Key has indicated New Zealand intends to join the Open Government Partnership.

Mr. Petrie says the Open Government Partnership is a multi-country initiative which has an aim of securing "concrete commitments from governments" to promote greater transparency, support citizen participation and to implement high ethical and integrity standards.

"Transparency International New Zealand is currently finalizing research assessing transparency and integrity in New Zealand which strongly supports New Zealand's active participation in the Open Government Partnership.

"The New Zealand chapter of Transparency International looks forward to working in partnership with other NGO's, business organisations and the Government, to develop a national plan of action comprising new initiatives on transparency, public participation and integrity.

He says that the countries New Zealand usually benchmarks itself against are members, with Australia confirming its intention to join in May.

Notes to editors:

1. Transparency International is the global civil society coalition leading the fight against corruption - <http://www.transparency.org/>. Transparency International New Zealand (TINZ) is the local chapter of the global organisation - <http://www.transparency.org.nz/>.

2. **About Transparency International New Zealand:**

Transparency International is the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption. The local chapter works to actively promote the highest levels of transparency, accountability, integrity and public participation in government and civil society in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Transparency International New Zealand is currently undertaking a comprehensive assessment of New Zealand's National Integrity Systems. The concept lead by Transparency International is the assessment of a country's institutional arrangements for integrity from the perspective of fighting corruption and fostering ethical behaviour. It is a comprehensive assessment across 13 pillars, focussed on integrity, a concept that embraces a great deal more than a lack of corruption.

3. **For further inquiries please contact:**

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