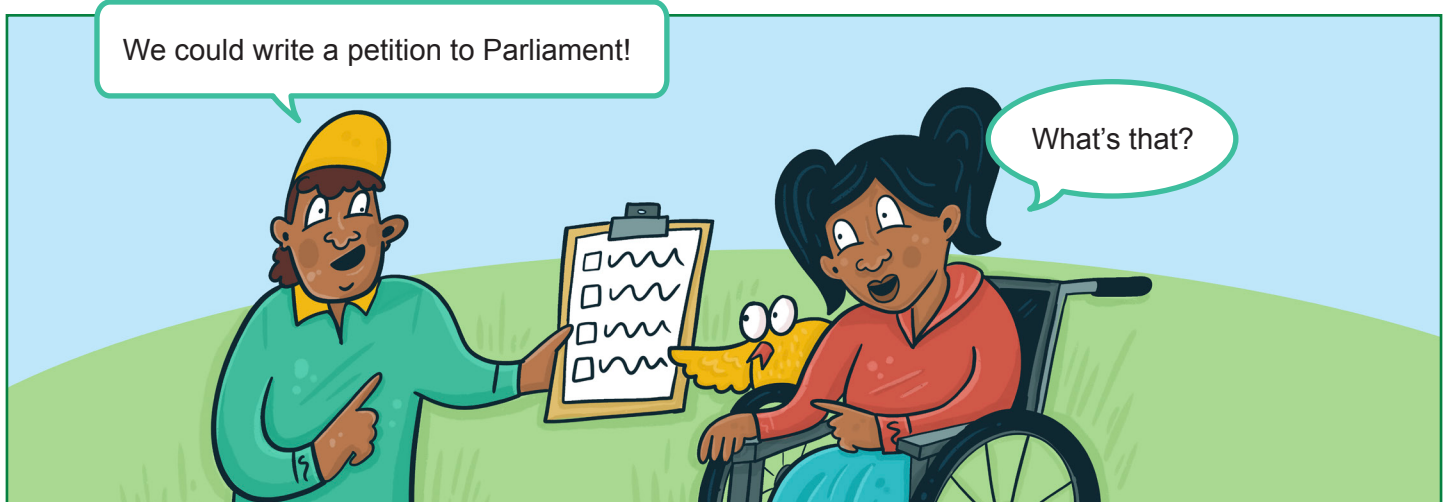
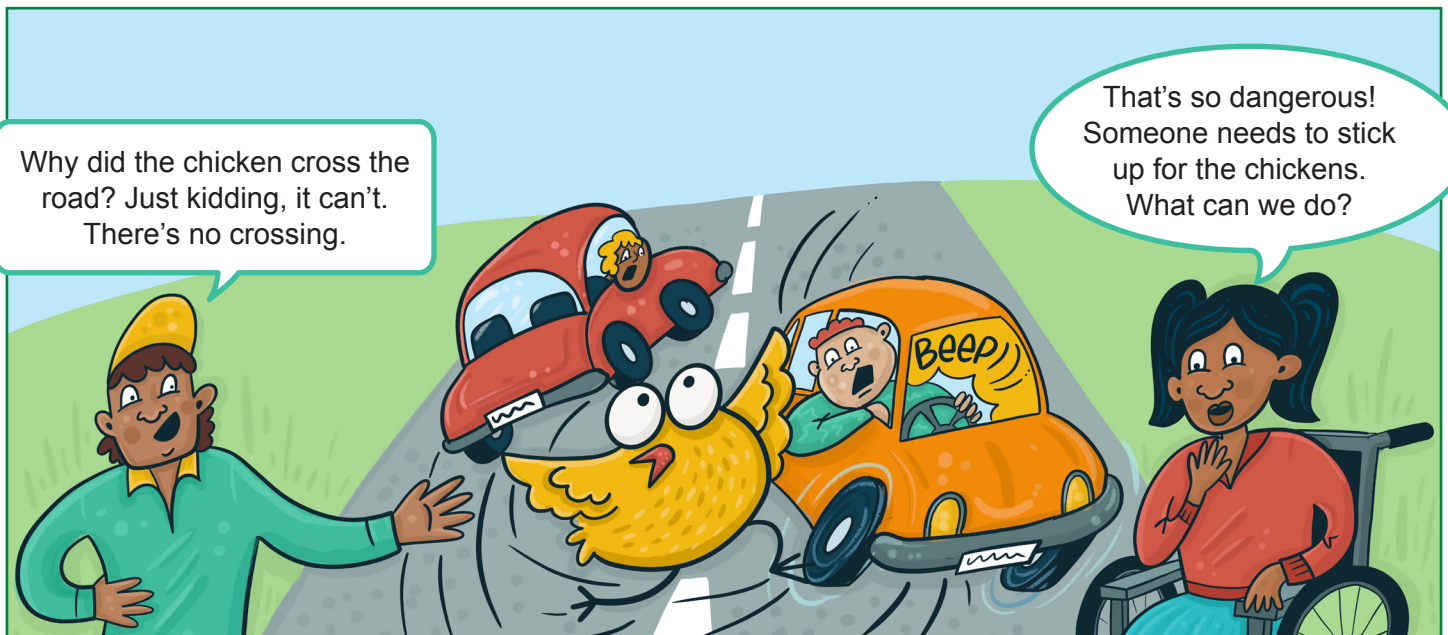


Petitioning Parliament

A guide to having your say in Aotearoa's Democracy



A petition is a request you can make to Parliament, asking them to change something, like a law or policy. People can support your petition by signing it. It can help raise awareness and build momentum to solve the issue or help others see it in a different light.



1. Create your petition

- You can create a petition on paper or on the Parliament website
- If you create a petition on another website, you'll still need to lodge it with Parliament.
- Make sure your petition meets Parliament's rules. It needs to be addressed to the House of Representatives (that's all the MPs in Parliament) and be about something that they can take action on. You can find the full list of rules on the Parliament website.

Tip: You have to be able to respond to communications about your petition, so it's best to use your personal contact details, not an organisation or school email address!

All petitions are checked by Parliament staff to ensure that they meet these rules. You can contact staff at parliamentary.petitions@parliament.govt.nz for advice at any time.



2. Collect Signatures

- If people sign your petition online, they'll need to include their name and email address. For paper petitions, they'll need to include their name and signature.
- You only need one signature to present a petition to Parliament!
- There's no time limit for how long your petition stays open for signatures, so you can decide how long people have to sign.

3. Find an MP to present your petition

- Once your petition has closed for signatures, you'll need to find an MP to present it to Parliament within 6 months.
- You can contact any MP, including your local MP, to ask them to present your petition. To find an MP's contact details, visit Parliament's website.

Now Parliament has your petition! But there's still plenty more that needs to happen. Sometimes it can take more than a year for Parliament to consider a petition.

What happens next:

4. The Petitions Committee looks at your petition

The Petitions Committee is a group of MPs whose job it is to oversee the petitions process. They might consider your petition themselves, or refer it to another select committee, or a Minister.

If the Petitions Committee, or another select committee, considers your petition they:

- May ask you to provide written evidence or ask you to speak with them.
- Might also ask other people, experts, or organisations to provide evidence about your petition.
- Will write a report about your petition, which will be presented to Parliament and made public.
- May occasionally make recommendations to the Government. If they do, the Government has 60 days to respond.

If a Minister considers your petition:

- The Minister has 60 working days to respond.
- The response is given to Parliament and made public.

The Petitions Committee can also propose that Parliament hold a debate on your petition, but this is pretty uncommon.

Whew, that was a long process! So does this mean we'll get chicken crossings now?

Not necessarily. But even if we don't get the outcome we want, we have got decision-makers to think about our ideas, gained public attention, and learned about different perspectives on this issue!

