

150 YEARS of Parliament in New Zealand

- 1805** Seat of government and Parliament moves to Wellington
- 1867** Creation of 4 Maori seats and separate franchise – now 74 MPs
- 1870** Secret ballot implemented
- 1876** Abolition of provinces, leaving central government as single legislative authority
- 1879** Universal male suffrage; parliamentary term reduced from five to three years
- 1880** Reduction in number of MPs from 95 to 74
- 1883** Female suffrage
- 1889** General Assembly Library building constructed
- 1902** Number of MPs increased to 80
- 1907** Fire of 11 December destroys much of Parliament Buildings
- 1912** New Parliament House begun
- 1918** Parliament moves into incomplete Parliament House
- 1919** Women eligible to become MPs
- 1933** First woman MP Elizabeth McCombs
- 1936** Radio broadcasting of Parliament commenced
- 1950** Abolition of Legislative Council
- 1969** Number of MPs increased to 84; frequent upwards adjustment from now on due to population growth in North Island; voting age lowered to 20 years
- 1974** Voting age lowered to 18 years
- 1988** Royal Commission on electoral system recommends MMP
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- 1991** Parliament moves into temporary Bowen House chamber; new hall buildings refurbished; returns to chamber in 1990
- 1993** Number of MPs reaches 99
- 1996** MMP electoral system implemented; 50 MPs
- 2004** Commemoration of 150 years of Parliament in New Zealand



1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000