



## **Crossing the Floor: The Story of Tariana Turia**

Helen Leahy

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This biography of Tariana Turia sees family members, iwi leaders, social justice advocates and politicians share their experiences of this remarkable woman. While parliament was not part of her life plan, Tariana Turia was involved in many community initiatives. A turning point came in 1995, when Tariana's leadership was evident in the reoccupation of Pakaitore. Here was a woman with the courage to care, the determination to speak up and a deep commitment to whanau. Inevitably, she was invited to stand in the 1996 general election. In her eighteen years as an MP, she advanced thinking in the disability area, advocated for tobacco reform and spoke out about sexual abuse, violence and racism. She also led the Whanau Ora initiative. In 2004, she crossed the floor, leading to the birth of the Maori Party.



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