



# Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa

## Kaitiaki | Trustee Board nomination form

The successful nominee will need to complete a form for 'fit and proper person' and 'conflicts of interest' statutory declarations, which are required from governing members of a private training establishment (PTE) under the Education Act 1989 ("the Act")

**Policy (Pre-requisites-Remits from NZPF Conference 1993):**

- All Playcentre Aotearoa Officers and nominees (elected and/or appointed) to have completed Treaty of Waitangi workshops and participate in ongoing training in Treaty and Bi-Cultural related issues.
- Representatives reflect their commitment to Playcentre by choosing Playcentre as the main early childhood education for their children

Name:	Heather Ruru
Playcentre:	Māngere Bridge
Rōpū Māori:	Te Rito Ngā Kākano Pūiri Whakamaru
Region:	Auckland

### EDUCATION AND SKILLS THAT WOULD ADD VALUE TO THE TRUSTEE BOARD

***What have you bi-culturally contributed to your Playcentre | Rōpū Māori?***

During my time as a centre member and after leaving centre, I represented Te Rito, Auckland at national hui - Hui ā-tau, National Executive, Conference and National Education meetings. I facilitated te reo Māori workshops and Te Tiriti o Waitangi workshops for our centres. As Kaiwhakahaere for Auckland Association I was the cultural advisor to the Governance Board and centre members, and supported the Bi-cultural officers in 16 centres. I organised marae visits to Te Aka Matua ki te Pou Hawaiki and Kotahitanga marae for 16 centres, and facilitated the gifting of a name from Ngāti Whātua for a new centre - Te Puāwaitanga o Atareta.

At this time, I am working to revitalise our rōpū Te Rito, establishing connections with whānau Māori within our centres and those within our Playcentre community. I have access to Te Rito's archives which date back to the mid 1980s, and am documenting our history. A life member of Māngere Bridge Playcentre, I am supporting to create relationships with mana whenua, (Te Akitai Waiōhua, Te Ahiwaru Waiōhua, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, and Ngāti Whātua) and planning to hold reo Māori workshops for our whānau. Eventually, Te Rito's plan is to have bilingual sessions at centres within our rohe.

I am highly proficient in te reo Māori and have sound understanding of tikanga and Te Ao Māori.

***What will you contribute to Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa?***

I will continue to contribute as I have in the past (see above). I will contribute my leadership experience as wahine Māori, to support emerging wahine Māori leaders.

Aside from my own iwi and marae, I have established networks within hapū and iwi and pan-tribal marae in Tāmaki, kaupapa Māori organisations such as Parakore, Tupuna Maunga authority, E Tū Whānau, and Māori Women's Welfare League. I am highly proficient in te reo Māori and have sound understanding of tikanga.

**What will you contribute to the Trustee Board?**

I will contribute proven governance and leadership experience formed within and outside of Playcentre. I am a past Auckland Association President and past NZPF Education team member. As I am grounded in Te Ao Māori, I always bring a Māori perspective, a wāhine Māori perspective, and also the level of professionalism required as a Māori representative on a Trustee Board of a national organisation.

My understanding of our two-house model and also similar Tiriti partnership models is substantial and I have solid understanding of Playcentre process both pre and post amalgamation.

**Provide a brief non-Playcentre work, volunteer, education and life history prior to and/or during Playcentre**

My son, Cash (now 13), and I attended Māngere Bridge Playcentre. I am a kaiako Rumaki reo Māori, teaching in Māori Medium (full immersion reo Māori). I have a BEd, teaching degree with a Māori Medium specialisation. I have several qualifications in te reo Māori including the diploma, Te Pīnakitanga ki te Reo Kairangi (Level 7), and I am currently completing certification as a licensed translator and interpreter with Te Taura Whiri (Māori Language Commission).

I design resources for Māori Medium settings and have experience in curriculum development, and cultural advisory experience within ECE and primary education - Auckland Normal Intermediate, Ponsonby Montessori Kindergarten, Balmoral SDA school, NZQA.

I am an experienced researcher working mainly in the social research sector, but most recently worked for University of Auckland on a lexicon for Māori medium educators. This included presenting the initiative at the Centre of Learning and Research in Higher Education conference.

My non-Playcentre leadership experience includes Board of Trustee member for Newton Central school (using Te Whao, a form of two house model), Pouwhirinaki for Te Puna Wānanga, Faculty of Education and Social Work University of Auckland. I continue to serve on subcommittees for my hapū and iwi, recently, regarding language revitalisation strategies in the Tūranganui-a-Kiwa region (Gisborne), and increasing participation in tertiary education by Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki.

**Time Commitment – please comment on your ability to meet the time commitment for the Trustee Board Member role:**

As an ex New Zealand Playcentre Federation Education team member, I understand the time commitment required for the role. I am available and able to travel for Board meetings held over weekends and comfortable meeting remotely (online) eg. with staff in Wellington. I have capacity to serve on the Board for 2021/2022.

**REFERENCES**

Name of referee	Michelle Lavender
Telephone	
Email	

If you have questions you wish to be directed to the nominee, please send them to the *Whare / House Administrator* to be forwarded on.