



Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa

Tāngata Tiriti - 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 and Training Act 2020 ("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:	Frances Cowie
Playcentre:	Lincoln
Nomination for:	Trustee / Co-President (please delete as appropriate)
Governance Region:	Upper South Island

EDUCATION AND SKILLS THAT WOULD ADD VALUE TO THE TRUSTEE BOARD

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

As Centre President I supported our Bi-Cultural Officer to establish new Bi-Cultural practices at our Centre and in my own actions have been mindful that we follow tikanga both on session and whilst conducting Centre business. On session I was proactive to include Te Reo, through waiata and the telling of local pūrākau. Each year I have been a part of organising our Centres Matariki celebrations. Through Playcentre trips we have visited Te Wheke Marae, Rāpaki.

On arrival from Wales in 2014 I had very little understanding of Aotearoa's history, but I was keen to learn. After exploring the two islands from Catlins to the Bay of Islands I settled in Christchurch. In my first role here, working for the Director of Learning Resources at the University of Canterbury, I attended my first Te Tiriti of Waitangi workshop.

Through Playcentre Course 2, 3 and B404 I have furthered my knowledge on Te Tiriti, Tikanga and Te Reo. I have attended the Te Tiriti workshop at Te Pa o Moki, Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Play workshops with Harko Brown. I have taken this knowledge and woven it into my day to day interactions, parenting and Playcentre roles.

Being a Tāngata Tiriti Rep over the last year has brought a new level of understanding to my bi-cultural practice and I am grateful for the opportunity to have built a strong relationship with our local Te Whare Tikanga Māori representative. Being part of Playcentres Two House model has taught me a lot about what it means to be in bi-cultural partnership. I'm committed to continuing to build my bicultural competence and parenting my children in a way that promotes an understanding of the history of their country.

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

Coming from the UK we have nothing like Playcentre! I joined Lincoln Playcentre in Sept 2017 when my eldest was 14 months old, how I wish I'd known about it sooner. My second child was 2 weeks old when she joined and I'm so glad I had my Playcentre community to support me at that time. My eldest has recently graduated from Playcentre, and we are homeschooling. I still attend with my youngest who is now 3.

During my time at Playcentre I have held the role of Education officer, President and Treasurer. I have brought my skills and experiences from life before children, more on that below, not just to these roles but to "all the things" we do when we choose to be part of Playcentre.

Over the last year I have been a Tāngata Tiriti Representative for Upper South Island, attending the SGM and AGM, building communication pathways for Centres in our Region to connect with Reps and engage with National Governance.

In the last 5 years I have learnt a lot about the Playcentre way and Playcentre Philosophy.

I have a passion for Playcentre and I want to see it adapt and thrive in a changing environment.

From the beginning of my Playcentre journey I have been interested in Governance and how to enable Grassroots governance. I have regularly attended our Cluster Hui and see the potential of Centre Voice being heard through this forum. I understand the complexity of the problems Playcentre Aotearoa is experiencing with its Governance structure and would like to be part of finding a solution, one which sees Playcentre thrive and meet all its regulatory responsibilities whilst retaining its core kaupapa of being a Grassroots organisation.

What will you contribute to the Trustee Board?

- I am a self-motivated, methodical, highly organised individual with strong communication skills.
- I am a good listener and work well in both large and small teams.
- I am able to analyse financial data and management reports.
- I learn quickly and like to work to understand the root cause of the problems so as to help generate solutions.
- I enjoy collaborating on new ideas and developing strategies to deliver a shared vision.
- I have experience of sitting on the Board of a Medium sized enterprise in the UK with 60 staff and turnover of over \$25m per annum.

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

I have worked in a variety of roles in Finance, Operations and Project management.

I have accountancy training and whilst working in the UK held a qualification in Prince2 Project management.

My career started in finance, working across a range of areas from accounts clerk to financial controller. I then developed an interest in Business management, systems and processes. Initially I worked as a Business process manager, documenting processes and then working with delivery teams to improve existing processes and develop and implement new ones. I later worked as Project manager on the delivery of software systems to support customer service teams and document production. Through this work I honed my ability to work with a diverse range of people, to understand the issues at hand and help them develop solutions.

I later worked as operations manager at an Insurance brokerage, where I led teams developing new products, administering policies and supporting customers through the claims process. In time I became Operations Director at the same firm. This step took me from understanding the operational aspect of the business to focusing on its vision and strategic intent.

After moving to Aotearoa I worked as Business Analyst to the Director of Learning Resources at the University of Canterbury. Developing and delivering reporting across her department, including the financial and project reporting on the post-quake campus rebuild and the 10 year capital programme.

Since having my first child I have been a stay at home Mum and a Playcentre Volunteer.

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

I have the support of my family and am able to meet the time commitment for the role.

REFERENCES

Name of referee	
Telephone	
Email	