



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 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:	Ruth Farrell
Playcentre:	Paremata Playcentre
Nomination for:	Trustee
Governance Region:	Lower North Island

EDUCATION AND SKILLS THAT WOULD ADD VALUE TO THE TRUSTEE BOARD

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

One of the great things about Playcentre is the way it helps so many of us as adults learn and grow. When I joined Playcentre seven years ago, I only knew a couple of words in te reo Māori, and nothing at all about tikanga. Since then, I have learned a huge amount both from the other adults at my centre and other centres, who generously shared their knowledge; and from Playcentre education, especially when completing Course 4 (Playcentre Practice) of the Playcentre Diploma in Early Childhood and Adult Education.

These days, I'm the one leading Te Timatanga Time (an activity we started a few years ago, which we use to begin our session, with the Playcentre mōteatea, karakia, mihi, and waiata); I've welcomed manuhiri to Playcentre as kaikaranga; I've ensured a focus on te ao Māori in our centre annual plans; I work to use te reo Māori where I can in learning documentation; and to members and tamariki newer than me, I've passed on what I know of tikanga and te reo Māori – while trying to deepen my knowledge of te ao Māori in my spare time, through extra study.

I started at Playcentre with about as little knowledge (or interest) as anyone could have, and I have grown hugely in this area over my time here. My goal is always to pass on this gift of knowledge, both to other adults and to our tamariki. I feel much of that is what Playcentre is about: we come to our centres, we grow, we learn, we pass on what we know to others – and we use that knowledge to deepen the experience our tamariki have and the worlds they are exposed to.

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

Playcentre Aotearoa has been in a time of change since before amalgamation, and in times of change it's important to have people at the helm who have a clear vision of what they want the future to look like; a pathway to get there; the flexibility to adjust when needed; and the steadfastness to see it through.

I do not have a governance background outside of Playcentre (and, a little, Youthline). However, as a current centre member and LNI rep, I have a working knowledge of the needs of centres, an understanding of national governance, and a deep appreciation for our Playcentre philosophy both at a centre, regional and national level; as well as what many members are looking for in terms of centre outcomes and communication.

On a personal level, I care deeply about our organisation; I'm passionate about planning for and creating a bright future for our parents, tamariki and staff within our organisation; and I'm dedicated to working as hard as I can to achieve that bright future for Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa.

What will you contribute to the Trustee Board?

I will contribute my time, my energy, day-time meetings and night-time work; working with the team to achieve the best possible outcomes for Te Whānau Tupu Ngātahi o Aotearoa; being involved in sub-committees; leading projects; working to research and learn what I need to know; and working to gain centre voice and engagement in organisational changes. While I tend to be quieter in meetings, preferring to listen and gather others' thoughts and perspectives, and to reach consensus where possible, I am not afraid to speak up when I feel it's needed, or to challenge others or raise questions. I have a strong sense of integrity and responsibility, excellent communication skills, and critical thoughtfulness.

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

- Spent seven years of my childhood in Kyrgyzstan, before returning to NZ during high school years
- After high school, became involved in Youthline, and was involved as a helpline counsellor and committee member there for seven years
- Completed Bachelor of Arts (double major in English and history) in 2008
- Completed Graduate Diploma of Journalism in 2010, then worked at Fairfax Media until leaving after having my second child
- Completed Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Secondary) in 2021
- Have recently accepted a part-time role as a teacher aide (learning support) at a local primary school

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

I've talked to several current trustees about the commitment needed, and I'm confident I have the time needed for the role. My current time commitments are primarily to my Playcentre, where I'm a co-president; and to my part-time teacher aide role. My youngest children will begin school next year, and I had planned to seek full-time teaching work next year. However, if chosen as a trustee, I would instead look to continuing part-time work to ensure I can commit enough time to prioritise what's needed for the Trustee Board and for Playcentre Aotearoa.

REFERENCES

Name of referee	
Telephone	
Email	