

Questions for Tangata Tiriti Trustee Nominees - 2022

Name: Peta-Emilia Vassalini

What is your position on the new proposals/recommendations that the Trustee Board shared with members on 16 May?

Like many of our membership I am still processing the new proposals/recommendations that was shared with us on the 16th of May. My first reaction was one of a sense of loss as how would we be able to still have the control and autonomy as a centre when we have established a certain culture, and the impact that having a Kaimahi may have on this.

Looking at the broader picture, currently the liabilities lie with the Trustees and the authority to manage these lies with the centre. This has been highlighted with the audit report noting that our organisation is at risk of fraud, along with the Health and Safety liabilities.

With the proposed trust deed, it allows the Trust Board to take action when they are required to, and this is the right of the board to be able to act in the best interest of Playcentre Aotearoa.

Do you support the current board recommendations for Ki te pae tawhiti? If there are any you don't support, please provide a brief summary of your preferred alternative solution to the current challenges that Playcentre Aotearoa faces.

The membership has been asking for a constitutional review of the current constitution since amalgamation. It was understood at that the time of amalgamation that significant aspects of the constitution were less than ideal, and that it should be reviewed as soon as possible. Last year highlighted the need for this review and the contradictions within our current constitution and the need for a new one. There has also been changes to the Trust Act 2019 that needed our constitution to be updated to be in line with the Act.

This is presented the opportunity to review your current constitution, and make sure they are clear and comprehensive. As well as us to reflect on ourselves as an organisation to make sure that we have a philosophy and values that will carry our organisation into the future.

What is one thing you would change about the current proposal, Ki te pae tawhiti, and why?

One thing that I would change about Ki te pae tawhiti? This is a difficult question as I do not have the same information that the current board had when making these recommendations. Any changes that I would make would be made without understanding the full picture, this in itself is poor governance and decision making.

It does need to be noted that the person that fills the position will be stepping into the role in November after the AGM, which is after the SGM and the vote by centres. This new person will not be able to change the recommendations, they will either be part of the board to work under the new Trust Deed or they will be part of the Trust Board that works under the current constitution, and work on a different pathway forward. It is only if the vote is a NO that the new trustee maybe able to influence change.