

# District Health Board Elections

District Health Boards (DHBs) are responsible for providing, or funding the provision of, health and disability services in their districts. New Zealand has 21 DHBs and elections to DHB boards are held every three years at the same time as local government elections.

## How do DHB elections work?

Voters use the Single Transferable Voting (STV) system to elect seven members to each DHB board. Voting is also conducted on an 'at large' basis. This means that every voter in a district has the opportunity to rank all the candidates who stand in that district.

Under STV, voters rank their desired candidates in order of preference. When casting an STV vote, voters write a '1' beside the candidate they most prefer, a '2' beside the candidate they next prefer, and so on. Voters can rank as many or as few candidates as they wish: their vote will be valid as long as a '1' appears on it.

## How do I stand for a DHB board?

DHB boards need real people with real experience, from a mix of different backgrounds. If you're interested in standing for your DHB, start thinking about it now. Nominations open on Friday 27 July and close at 12 noon on Friday 24 August.

To be a candidate you must be a New Zealand citizen and be on the parliamentary electoral roll. Certain eligibility criteria also apply. A detailed candidate information handbook is available on the Ministry of Health's website at [www.moh.govt.nz/dhbelections](http://www.moh.govt.nz/dhbelections)

## What are the key dates for DHB elections?

27 July 2007	Candidate nominations open
24 August 2007	Candidate nominations close (at 12 noon)
21-26 September 2007	Voting documents issued – start of voting period, special votes are issued and early processing of votes begins
13 October 2007	Election day – end of voting period (at 12 noon) and announcement of preliminary results as soon as practical after the close of voting
From 13 October 2007	Special votes counted and official results declared
10 December 2007	Newly elected board members take office

## Where can I get more information?

More information on DHB elections can be found on the Ministry of Health's website at [www.moh.govt.nz/dhbelections](http://www.moh.govt.nz/dhbelections)