

GENERAL

Triennial elections for elected members of all local authorities throughout New Zealand, including district health boards, are to be conducted, by postal vote, on **Saturday 9 October 2010**.

The elections will be conducted under the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001, the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 and the New Zealand Health & Disability Act, 2000.

City/district councils conduct the district health board elections on behalf of the district health boards.

POSITIONS

Elections for the Bay of Plenty District Health Board will be required for 7 positions, elected 'at large' from the Board area which comprises the areas of Tauranga City, Western Bay of Plenty District, Whakatane District, Opotiki District and Kawerau District.

In addition, following the election, the Minister of Health appoints a further 4 members, making a total of 11 members per board.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations open on **Friday 23 July 2010** and close at **noon, Friday 20 August 2010**.

Nomination forms will be available during this period from:

- the Electoral Office (Independent Election Services Ltd, Ground Floor, Bledisloe House, 20 Wellesley Street, Auckland);
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board (Board Secretary, Main Building Reception, Tauranga Hospital, Cameron Road, Tauranga);
- or by telephoning 0800 922 822 where one will be posted out.

To be eligible to stand for election, a candidate must be:

- enrolled as a Parliamentary elector anywhere in New Zealand; and
- a New Zealand citizen.

In addition, under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000, as amended by the Crown Entities Act 2004, a candidate cannot be:

- a candidate for more than one district health board;
- a person who is an undischarged bankrupt;
- a person who is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the Companies Act 1993, or the Securities Act 1978, or the Securities Markets Act 1988, or the Takeovers Act 1993;
- a person who is subject to a property order under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988;
- a person in respect of whom a personal order has been made under that Act that reflects adversely on the person's:
 - competence to manage his or her own affairs in relation to his or her property, or
 - capacity to make or communicate decisions relating to any particular aspect or aspects of his or her personal care and welfare;
- a person who has been convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for a term of years or more, or who has been sentenced to imprisonment for any other offence, unless that person has obtained a pardon, served the sentence, or otherwise suffered the penalty imposed on the person;

- a person who has been removed as a DHB board member since the last DHB elections, under clause 9(c) or 9(e) of Schedule 3 to the NZ Public Health and Disability Act 2000;
- a person who has failed to declare a material conflict of interest before accepting nomination as candidate at the last DHB election.

Detailed Candidate Information Booklets will be available from the Electoral Office (phone 0800 922 822) from June 2010.

ELECTORAL ROLLS

Those eligible to vote at district health board elections are all resident electors whose names appear on the Electoral Rolls when they close. The Preliminary Electoral Rolls are compiled by the relevant city/district councils and will be available for public inspection (at council offices, libraries and post shops) within the Board district from **Friday 23 July 2010 to Friday 20 August 2010**.

All parliamentary electors are automatically enrolled on the local government Resident Electoral Roll, at the address where they live. A confirmation card will be issued to all parliamentary electors in July 2010.

Any alterations to the Resident Roll (eg change of addresses details, including new postal addresses) should be made by:

- completing the appropriate form at any Post Shop;
- telephoning 0800 ENROLNOW (0800 367656)
- accessing the Electoral Enrolment Centre website on www.elections.org.nz

ELECTORAL SYSTEM

The Single Transferable Voting (STV) electoral system will be used for all district health board elections. For many city/district council elections however, the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system is used.

VOTING PERIOD

Voting documents (including the district health board issue) will be sent to all eligible electors, by the relevant city/district council, by post, from **Friday 17 September 2010**.

The voting period is 3 weeks (**Friday 17 September 2010 to 12 noon Saturday 9 October 2010**). Electors may post their completed voting documents back to the relevant city/district council electoral officer using a pre-paid envelope sent with the voting document. Polling places for the issuing of special voting documents and for the receiving of completed voting documents will be available from Friday 17 September 2010 to noon Saturday 9 October 2010 at the relevant city/district council offices.

To be counted, all completed voting documents must be in the hands of the relevant city/district council electoral officer by **noon Saturday 9 October 2010**.

Preliminary results will be known as soon as practicable following the close of voting (expected about 9pm) on **Saturday 9 October 2010**. These will be accessible on the Bay of Plenty District Health Board's website (www.bopdhb.govt.nz).

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information regarding these elections, please contact the Electoral Office:

Telephone: 0800 922 822 Fax: (09) 307 7443 Email: dale.ofsoske@aucklandcity.govt.nz

Write to: The Electoral Officer
 Bay of Plenty District Health Board
 C/- Independent Election Services Ltd
 P O Box 5135
 Wellesley Street
 Auckland 1141

Dale Ofsoske, Electoral Officer

District Health Board Elections

Frequently Asked Questions

July 2010

What is a District Health Board?

District Health Boards (DHBs) are responsible for providing and funding health and disability services in their districts. There are 20 DHBs in New Zealand.

What is the role of a DHB board?

DHB boards have all the powers necessary for the governance and management of the DHB. The board has to delegate the power to make decisions on management matters though to the DHB's Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The board's role is therefore one of stewardship, direction-setting and monitoring the DHB's overall performance against its goals. It is not one of day-to-day management, which is the domain of the CEO. The board also has no role in employment decisions beyond appointing the CEO.

How are boards made up?

Each DHB board consists of seven elected members, and up to a further four members appointed by the Minister of Health. This structure allows for a range of perspectives, skills and knowledge on each DHB board. The Minister of Health also appoints a Chair and Deputy Chair for each board from among the board's elected and appointed members.

Who are board members responsible to?

While most board members are elected by the public, all board members (both elected and appointed) are directly responsible and accountable to the Minister of Health. This is because DHBs are funded by the Government, using taxpayer dollars. It is acknowledged though that elected members provide a positive way of ensuring the community's voice is heard at the DHB board table.

Who can be a candidate at a DHB election?

To be a candidate you must be a New Zealand citizen and be on the parliamentary electoral roll. Certain other eligibility criteria also apply. A detailed candidate information handbook is available at: www.yourdhb.org.nz

It isn't necessary to be an experienced director or to have particular qualifications to be a DHB board member. Candidates with different backgrounds, skills, expertise and qualifications are welcomed and in fact desired. Boards work best when members have informed views on many aspects of the DHB's work, rather than a narrow focus on one or two issues.

TURN OVER ►

Are board members paid for their work?

Yes. Board members are paid an annual fee for their service on the board, and fee levels vary from DHB to DHB (depending on the size and assessed complexity of the DHB). Fees currently range from \$16,000 to \$26,000 per annum. The board Chair and Deputy Chair receive a higher fee.

Board members are paid an additional annual fee of up to \$2,500 for each statutory advisory committee they are a member of, and sometimes for other committees (eg, audit, risk and finance committees). Members are also covered for reasonable expenses associated with board and committee business, such as travel costs.

How do DHB elections work?

DHB elections are conducted by postal vote at the same time as local government elections and use the Single Transferable Voting (STV) system. 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.

Candidates are elected when they reach a specific level of support from voters (known as the 'STV quota'). To be elected to a DHB, candidates need to get a little over 12.5 percent of the vote. Voting for each DHB is also conducted on an 'at-large' basis. This means that every voter living in a DHB district is able to express a preference for every candidate who stands for the board.

Key dates for the 2010 DHB elections

23 July 2010	Candidate nominations open.
20 August 2010	Candidate nominations close (at 12 noon).
17-22 September 2010	Voting documents are issued – start of the voting period, special votes are issued and early processing of votes begins.
9 October 2010	Election day – end of the voting period (at 12 noon) and preliminary results are announced (as soon as practical after the close of voting).
From 9 October 2010	Special votes and counted and official results are declared.
6 December 2010	Newly elected board members take office.

Where can I get more information?

More information on DHB elections can be found at: www.yourdhb.org.nz