

Call for Ara Taiohi Board Member Nominations

We have three positions on our Board for the 2026-28 term, and nominations are now open! Board nominations are an opportunity for Ara Taiohi members to step into governance and contribute to the direction of our organisation. This year, we have two current Board members running for re-election, and other eligible individuals may also be nominated. By nominating someone you respect and trust, or by standing for office yourself, you are ensuring the leadership of Ara Taiohi is in good hands as we work to deliver on our strategic priorities of connecting the sector, raising the standards, championing youth development and promoting sustainability.

This is an opportunity to have a say in our organisation, supporting people who work with young people to become more connected, effective and accountable. We are very keen to have nominations that reflect the diversity of our sector, particularly culturally. All Board members must be committed to honouring the Te Tiriti partnership that underpins Ara Taiohi. Included below are the nomination form and role descriptions.

Nomination of Board Members

The Ara Taiohi Board consists of our Kaihautū, Co-Chair and up to seven other members.

We are keen that our Board is as diverse as possible, with a balance of backgrounds and skills. To be nominated, a person must be:

- an Ara Taiohi member
- able to demonstrate connections and linkages with the membership and wider youth sector.
- have strong governance skills
- qualified to be an officer under the Charities Act 2005.

Any member can nominate another member for the Board (including themselves). To be eligible for election, nominated members must complete and return a nomination form by Monday, 12 October, 10.00am.

Current Members

Name	Organisation	Role	Term	
Continuing Board Members				
Raniera Pene	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua	Te Kaihautū	2024-2026	Appointed by Ngā Kaihoe for 2026-2028

Moana Matautia-Tepania	I Have a Dream Charitable Trust	Board Member, Finance Audit Risk Committee Member	2025-2027	Mid-term
Zoe Findlay	Barnardos	Board Member, Korowai Tupu representative	2025-2027	Mid-term
<i>Positions up for election</i>				
Chillion Sanerivi	Pou Pasifika	Co-Chair	2024-2026	Re-standing
Anya Satyanand	Ember Innovations	Board Member	2024-2026	Re-standing
Atarau Hamilton	Mahi AI	Board Member, Finance and Risk Committee Member	2023-2025	Not re-standing

How to nominate Board members

If you're interested in being on the Board or know someone who might be, please fill in the nomination form, available at <https://form.jotform.com/262376311633858>

Please note: Nominations must be received by Monday 12 October, 10.00 am.



Board Member Role Description

Purpose: to ensure that Ara Taiohi runs effectively in line with the Constitution and the needs of the members.

Board members are responsible for:

1. Setting the overall strategic direction and main policies for the organisation.
2. Protecting the kaupapa (including accountability to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Mana Taiohi the youth development principles), mission and values, and keeping the organisation consistent with these.
3. Ara Taiohi assets and the results of the organisation.
4. Overall responsibility for funding for the organisation.
5. Supporting the Executive Officer and ensuring accountability.
6. Organising and fostering the smooth running and development of the Board.

Specific Tasks

1. Ensure clear kaupapa, values and direction.
2. Annually assess the external environment and ensure regular strategic reviews are undertaken.
3. Adjust the direction and policies to meet changing member and environmental needs.
4. Communicate and strengthen relationships with the wider youth sector.
5. Enable and hear the voice of diverse caucuses (including Pacific) and membership and channel into decision-making.
6. Promote Ara Taiohi public reputation and profile.
7. Oversee the finances and legal compliance.
8. Review and approve the annual budget.
9. Support the activities of the organisation.
10. Participate in subcommittees or additional roles as appropriate (Board representation is required on rūpū for Korowai Tupu, Te Ngākau Kahukura, Sector Leadership and the Finance Audit and Risk Committee. It is expected that non-office holders will participate in at least one of these committees).

Organising the work of Governance:

1. Attend and contribute to all Board meetings where possible.
2. Have a good decision-making process.
3. Ensure good communication between the Board, staff and the members.
4. Undertake forward planning to achieve the vision.
5. Recruit Board members.
6. Develop and review governance policies.
7. Participate in annual board self-evaluation.

Key Attributes/ Skills (required for overall Board)

1. Understanding of and commitment to the kaupapa of Ara Taiohi.



2. Commitment to the Ara Taiohi Tikanga (below).
3. Connectedness and networks in the wider youth development sector, and with public, private and community sector.
4. Commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and tikanga/kaupapa Māori.
5. Financial literacy.
6. Strategic thinking ability.
7. Human resources experience.
8. Passion for and knowledge of youth development.
9. Ability to negotiate/promote solutions to problems caused by cultural and other misunderstandings.
10. Ability to put the needs of the Board and Ara Taiohi above their personal objectives.
11. Work with others to foster trust, optimise resources and expertise.
12. Communicate with self-awareness, openness and honesty showing mutual respect.
13. Commitment to being a good employer.

Ara Taiohi Rōpū Tikanga

- We role model the following practice in all our work:
- Bicultural practice - a collective commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and kaupapa Māori at all levels.
- Positive youth development – we advocate for and practice positive youth development in all our work.
- Seek diversity – we seek input from the diverse communities that make up the sector and strive to make our work inclusive to all who want to be involved.
- Strengths-based – we value the capacity, skills, knowledge, connections and potential in individuals and communities.
- Collaboration – we work in partnership and collaboration wherever we can to strengthen the impact of our work.
- Sector development – we work for the collective/sector good, not that of an organisation or an individual.
- Respect difference – we work across the broad range of the sector and allow for difference of opinion and respectful, robust and informed discussion.
- Unification – we aim to represent a collective voice for the sector.
- Restorative practice – we work proactively to avoid conflict through listening, dialogue and intentionally building positive interpersonal relationships – and managing conflict through a restorative conversation or circle with a skilled facilitator.
- Decisions are made on good information – informed by research, best practice and meaningful data. Where this isn't available, we endeavour to undertake the necessary research.
- Have FUN!

