

Advertisement

Lay Member — Registration Panel, Matatū Aotearoa | The Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand

Bring an independent, public-interest voice to the threshold decision about who is allowed into teaching — and therefore permitted to work with children and young people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

About the role

The Registration Panel is the body to which the Governing Council of Matatū Aotearoa has delegated authority under section 487 of the Education and Training Act 2020 and rule 60B of the Teaching Council Rules 2016 to decide applications for teacher registration that raise concerns about the applicant's character, fitness, previous registration or certification history, or other Schedule 3 criteria. The Panel's decisions determine whether an applicant enters the profession.

Rule 48C(4)(a) of the Teaching Council Rules 2016 requires that every meeting of the Registration Panel includes at least one person who is not a teacher, an employer, or a member of an employing body. That reserved lay seat exists so that an independent voice sits on every Panel — bringing the perspective of children, young people, parents, whānau, and the wider public into the threshold decision about good character and fitness to teach. The March 2024 Terms of Reference records that lay members "help to gauge the public's perception and expectation of good character."

What you would bring

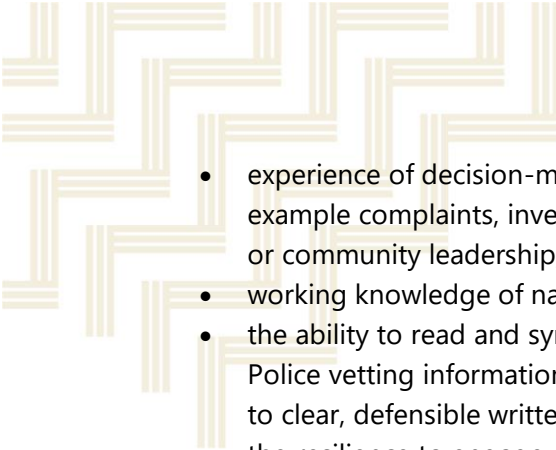
You will be expected to carry three lenses into every meeting:

- The safeguarding and harm prevention lens — looking at the applicant's character, fitness, and history through the eyes of a child who could be affected by the Panel's decision, and recognising that registration is often the first, and sometimes the only, formal opportunity to prevent an unsafe adult from being placed in a position of trust with children and young people.
- The public assurance lens — testing whether the Panel's reasoning and decision are consistent, credible, evidence-based, and able to withstand appeal to the District Court and to media, ministerial, professional, and public scrutiny.
- The participant experience lens — keeping the experience of the applicant, referrers, previous employers, and (where relevant) complainants and whānau visible in deliberation and in written reasons.

About you

We are looking for people with:

- a demonstrated commitment to child safety, harm prevention, and public protection;

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- experience of decision-making in settings where evidence, fairness, and integrity matter — for example complaints, investigations, governance, justice, statutory tribunals, social-sector, health, or community leadership;
 - working knowledge of natural justice and of Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
 - the ability to read and synthesise application material — including qualification assessments, Police vetting information, referee information, and applicant submissions — and to contribute to clear, defensible written reasons;
 - the resilience to engage with confronting safeguarding material over a sustained period; and
 - the independence and courage to respectfully challenge Panel consensus where the evidence requires it.

You are not eligible if you are a teacher, an employer of teachers, or a member of an employing body of teachers.

The detail

Appointments are made by the Governing Council under rule 60A of the Teaching Council Rules 2016 for a term of up to three years and may be reappointed for a maximum of three consecutive terms (rule 61). Meetings are scheduled through the year, typically by video conference, with some in-person meetings. A typical meeting requires preparation time to read and analyse the application bundle, meeting time, and contribution to the written decision. Fees are paid in accordance with the Council's published fee schedule. Structured induction is provided, with explicit modules on safeguarding and harm dynamics, the statutory tests in Schedule 3, the Council's Registration Policy, natural justice, decision-writing, conflicts, confidentiality, and Te Tiriti capability in a Registration Panel setting. All recommended candidates are subject to referee checks, open-source screening, and a Ministry of Justice criminal history check.

How to apply

Please email governance@teachingcouncil.nz to request the full application pack and application forms. Applications must include a covering letter, a curriculum vitae, a completed application form and capability statement, a signed section 505 eligibility declaration, and a signed conflict-of-interest declaration. Applications close on Friday 4 September 2026.

Matatū Aotearoa welcomes applications from people with a range of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives, including those with knowledge of safeguarding, victim advocacy, child protection, community leadership, or public-interest decision-making. The Council is committed to appointment processes that are fair, transparent, and support public confidence in the regulation of teaching.