Auckland District Health Board Election 2013

The next Auckland District Health Board (Auckland DHB) election will be held in October 2013, in conjunction with the local authority elections, with Election Day being Saturday, 12 October 2013.

Auckland DHB consists of up to 11 members, with seven elected by the public at large within the Auckland DHB area every three years and up to four appointed by the Minister of Health.

The elections will be conducted under the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (with amendments passed July 2013), the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 and the New Zealand Health and Disability Act, 2000. Auckland Council is legally required to conduct the Auckland District Health Board election on its behalf and will be doing so in 2013.

Key dates

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>19 July 2013</td>
<td>Candidate nominations open</td>
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<td>16 August 2013</td>
<td>Candidate nominations close at noon</td>
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<td>16 August 2013</td>
<td>Final day to enrol for postal voting</td>
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<td>21 August 2013</td>
<td>Candidates announced</td>
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<td>20 - 25 September 2013</td>
<td>Voting documents delivered</td>
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<td>9 October 2013</td>
<td>Final date to post your votes to guarantee delivery</td>
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<td>12 October 2013</td>
<td>Election day - voting closes noon</td>
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<td>17 - 23 October 2013</td>
<td>Declaration of results</td>
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Single Transferable Voting (STV)

STV is the voting system used by the district health boards. Instead of ticking the candidates you want to vote for, voters number the candidates in order of preference. You put a '1' beside the candidate you like best, then a '2' beside your second choice, '3' by your third choice, and so on. You can vote for as many or as few candidates as you like. For more information, go to the STV website.

Thinking of standing?

Board members are responsible for the governance of the DHB. That means maintaining oversight of the DHB to ensure its management implements the strategic vision developed by the board. Members must do this in a financially responsible way and in the best interests of the health of the whole population served by the DHB. Board members do not manage the DHB. That is the responsibility of the Chief Executive (CE) - who is appointed by the board - and the staff who report to the CE. Other than appointing the CE, the board plays no role in staff appointments.

Each DHB is also required to have three advisory committees. They are the:

- Community and public health advisory committee
Disability support advisory committee
Hospital advisory committee

The DHB may also establish other committees (e.g., audit, risk and finance committees). The DHB appoints members to these advisory committees from amongst the board. Other committee members may be co-opted from outside the board.

The Auckland District Health Board holds all meetings on various Wednesdays scheduled throughout the month. Intending candidates must be able to commit to being available during the day for these meetings.

All DHB members are directly responsible and accountable to the Minister of Health. This is because DHBs are owned and funded by the Government, using taxpayer money. The elected members also have an important role in ensuring the community’s voice is heard.

What qualities and skills do board members need?

The personal qualities demanded of board members are honesty, integrity, high ethical standards and diligence. The board as a whole is required to perform its functions efficiently and effectively and in a manner consistent with the spirit of service to the public. It must operate in a financially responsible manner, prudently managing its assets and liabilities to ensure the DHB’s long-term financial viability as a successful going concern.

For this, board members need the skills to:

- provide positive leadership to the DHB (e.g., understanding the role of governance, thinking strategically)
- bring insightful contributions to the board table (e.g., understanding performance measures, being a ‘critical friend’ to management)
- understand how the business of the DHB works (e.g., ensuring the DHB responsibly meets its service and financial obligations)
- engage with colleagues, communities and the wider health sector (e.g., understanding the DHB’s relationships, working constructively with fellow board members).
- People with different backgrounds, skills, expertise and qualifications are welcomed and, in fact, desired since they can ensure more informed decision-making. 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.
Nomination Process
Nominations open on Friday 19 July 2013 and close at noon on Friday 16 August 2013.

Nomination forms will be available during this period from:

- the electoral office (Independent Election Services Ltd, Level 10, 45 Queen Street, Auckland);
- Auckland DHB (Corporate Business Manager, Level 2, Building 16, Greenlane Clinical Centre, Greenlane, Auckland);
- by telephoning 09 973 5212 or 0800 922 822 to request that a nomination form be posted to you.

Eligibility
To be eligible to stand for election, you must be:

- enrolled as a parliamentary elector anywhere in New Zealand
- a New Zealand citizen.

District Health Board election
If you would like to stand for election to the Auckland District Health Board, in addition to the above eligibility factors, you must not be disqualified by either, clause 17, Schedule 2 of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000, or section 30(2)(a) to (f) of the Crown Entities Act 2004.

You cannot be a:

- candidate for more than one district health board;
- person who is an un-discharged bankrupt;
- 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;
- person who is subject to a property order under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988;
- 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;
- 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;

- 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;
- person who has failed to declare a material conflict of interest before accepting nomination as a candidate at the last DHB election

Recent changes to the election laws that you should be aware of

A number of changes have recently been made to local electoral laws. Candidates should be particularly aware of the following.

- All nomination material must be lodged together with the electoral officer before the close of nominations (ie, the nomination paper, consent to nomination, deposit, candidate profile statement, conflict of interest statement, photo, etc, must be all lodged at the same time and before 12 noon on Friday 16 August).
- The candidate profile statement must include whether or not the candidate's principal place of residence is in the DHB’s district, and whether the candidate is seeking election to any other positions (these statements do not count towards the candidate profile statement word limit).
- Candidate profile statements can now be published following the close of nominations.
- Candidates can no longer voluntarily retire from the election after the close of nominations, except for those who are deemed incapacitated (where withdrawal after the close of nominations, but before the close of voting, is permitted).
- Changes to the donations regime: the size of an anonymous donation that a recipient can retain is a maximum of $1,500, with any extra over that limit being paid to the DHB; increased disclosure, reporting and recording obligations; penalties introduced for non-compliance with obligations.
- All candidate election expenditure and donations returns will be made available electronically and in hard copy if requested.

Conflict of interest

Many people in the community who have an interest in health services are already engaged in some way in health services or organisations which may do business with DHBs. Every person who stands as a candidate for election to a DHB is required to make a declaration as to conflicts of interest. The conflict of interest statements are included in the material made available to electors. All conflicts of interest declared by successful candidates will be included in the DHB’s interests register (to which all members, elected and appointed, contribute) and members are obligated to keep this up to date. Members cannot be involved in any DHB decisions where they have a conflict of interest.
A member who has failed to declare an interest may be removed from office. For more information on conflict of interest as it applies to DHBs, see the [Ministry of Health’s Conflict of Interest Guidelines for District Health Boards](https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/district-health-boards-conflict-of-interest-guidelines.pdf).

**Election signs and hoardings**

For rules around election campaign signs or hoardings, see the Elections signs and hoardings section on the [Auckland Council website](https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/).  

**Recommended reading**

We encourage candidates to find out as much as they can about the Auckland DHB and the responsibility that they are taking on.

Below is list of available research and information you may find useful.

- **Meetings and committees information** - contains the schedule of meetings of the Board and advisory committees. We recommend you attend at least one public meeting to get a sense of how the Board works.
- **General information** - regarding the district health board election processes.
- **Communications in a pre-election period** - see the website for the Report of the Controller and Auditor-General – Good Practice for Managing Public Communications by Local Authorities.
- **Ministry of Health 2013 DHB Election Handbook** - further information for candidates on the role of a DHB and a board member is available to candidates from 26 July 2013.
- **Download a copy of the Auckland District Health Board boundaries**.
- **State of Auckland** - the 2012 report cards give you up-to-date information on the state of Auckland’s freshwater, marine, air and terrestrial environments, as well as reporting on the region's demographics and quality of life.