

Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-Ō-Ngāpuhi representation model Information for whānau

What is a representation model?

A representation model sets out who can run for elections to the governance Board, and how iwi members can vote to choose their representatives.

Under the Rūnanga's current representation model, each iwi member is affiliated with a Takiwā. The members of each Takiwā may nominate and vote to elect a Trustee to represent them and broader Ngāpuhi interests on the Rūnanga Board, for three-year terms.

Independent review of our representation model

An independent review of the Rūnanga's governance found that the current representation model has contributed to many of the governance challenges at the Rūnanga, and severely limits the pool of candidates who can be elected as Trustees.

An independent survey of 648 uri o Ngāpuhi showed that most people:

- either didn't believe that the election process was fair and transparent, or didn't understand it, and
- either didn't understand, or understood but didn't agree with, the Takiwā and Board Chair election processes.

Overall, survey responses highlighted that our people want:

- accountability and transparency from those in leadership positions to build trust among those who they represent,
- unity, positive behaviour and skills-based appointments to the Rūnanga Board, and

- improved communications with, and inclusion of, iwi members to enhance the collective understanding of governance processes and procedures.

The Rūnanga trustees are implementing all recommendations that came out of the independent review, including recommendations that:

- the Rūnanga's representation model and electoral processes be redesigned to ensure the best possible candidates are eligible for election, and
- the redesign of the Rūnanga's representation model incorporates hapū rangatiratanga as the primary organising principle.

Have your say

We wish to encourage any and all uri o Ngāpuhi to share with us what you would like to see in the representation model.

Ways to connect with us include coming along to hui, speaking with your Takiwā's Trustee, sending your feedback through a form on our website, or filling out an upcoming survey.

Process

Ultimately, it is for uri o Ngāpuhi to decide how they wish to appoint representatives to the Rūnanga Board. There will be many views on this, so finding out what proposed changes to the representation model a significant majority of Ngāpuhi people might agree on is a challenge that shouldn't be rushed. We aim to have a proposal for any changes to the representation model ready for the members of Ngāpuhi to consider and vote on as part of the 2024 AGM.