

## Call for Applications for Membership of the Ako Aotearoa Board

### 30 June 2009

Applications are invited to fill four positions on the Board of Ako Aotearoa. New Zealand's National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence.

#### **Ako Aotearoa: its mission, structure and activities**

Ako Aotearoa was established in 2007 with the mission of enhancing teaching and learning practices across the whole New Zealand tertiary education sector. It has enjoyed two exciting start-up years under the leadership of an enthusiastic Board and National Director. A National Centre has been established in Wellington and smaller, Regional Hubs set up in Auckland, Palmerston North and Christchurch. Ako Aotearoa is rapidly becoming recognised as the champion of excellence in tertiary teaching and learning. Early achievements include: the establishment of several research and development funding rounds in support of effective teaching and learning; joint projects with a number of other agencies; taking over the management and direction of New Zealand's Tertiary Teaching Award scheme from NZQA; sponsoring and running a variety of opportunities for professional development for tertiary teachers; and establishing a comprehensive collection of resources to assist tertiary teachers develop their practice.

The best source of information on Ako Aotearoa is the centre's new website:

[www.akooteaoroa.ac.nz](http://www.akooteaoroa.ac.nz)

Information on the governance and management structure of Ako Aotearoa may be accessed from the 'Ako Aotearoa' page: [www.akooteaoroa.ac.nz/ako-aoteaoroa](http://www.akooteaoroa.ac.nz/ako-aoteaoroa) .

The '[Governance and Management](#)' page includes:

- a [list of the current Board membership](#)
- the [Constitution of the Board](#)
- information about [Ako Aotearoa's Māori Caucus](#)
- the [Reference Group](#) and management positions.

Information on Ako Aotearoa's current activities and plans may be obtained from the various pages of the 'Resource Centre' accessible from the homepage.

#### **The Board and its work**

The purpose of the Board is to provide governance for the Centre in accordance with the Board's objectives as set out in its Strategic Plan. The Board meets approximately six times each year for a day-long meeting, normally in Wellington but occasionally at one of Ako Aotearoa's Hubs (Auckland, Palmerston North, Christchurch). Sometimes additional meetings may be held by teleconference or by email exchange. The role and duties of Board members are specified in the Constitution and are consistent with normal requirements of sound governance.

Generally, the qualifications for Board membership are experience and demonstrated ability in governance and standing in their respective community. This experience should bring with it intelligence to make sensible business decisions and recommendations, an entrepreneurial talent for contributing to the creation of stakeholder value, the ability to see the wider picture, the ability to ask the hard questions, high ethical standards, sound practical sense, understanding of the tertiary sector, and a total commitment to furthering the interests of stakeholders and the achievement of the Centre goals.

An honorarium is payable to members for attendance at the bi-monthly meetings. This is currently set at \$500 for a full-day meeting plus reasonable travel expenses.

### **The current Board vacancies**

The Constitution of the Board of Ako Aotearoa specifies a membership of ten to twelve appointed from a number of constituencies. Normally, Board membership will be for an initial term of three years with the opportunity to re-appoint for a further three year term. When the inaugural Board was convened in mid-2007, four members were given two-year terms to ensure some overlap of membership terms in future years. These four members were selected from the **'tertiary education'** sector constituency (See Board Constitution Section 3.6.3.3), the **'community'** sector (Section 3.6.6.4) and the **'wānanga and Māori'** sectors (Section 3.6.6.5) respectively. These initial, two-year terms are now expiring. While all four incumbent members are entitled to reapply for a further term, an invitation is extended to other applicants from any of these three constituencies.

Written applications for a position on the Board must be received in writing or by email attachment at the following address by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009**. Applicants should indicate which category of membership ('Tertiary Education', 'Wānanga and Māori', 'Community') the application is being made under, including a short curriculum vitae and the names and contact details of two referees.

Any inquiries concerning the application process or the work of the Board should also be addressed in the first instance to the address below.

### **Applications should be submitted to:**

The Business Manager, Ako Aotearoa National Office

P.O. Box 756,

Wellington, 6140

Phone: 04 803 0105

Fax: 04 801 2682

[H.M.Dobson@massey.ac.nz](mailto:H.M.Dobson@massey.ac.nz)