

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

MP for Kelston

Minister for Social Development and Employment

Minister for ACC

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Minister for Disability Issues



- 9 FEB 2022

Nic Lane

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Tēnā koe Nic

I refer to your request received on 17 December 2021, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), for the following information:

"In Toi Aotearoa's Diversity Report 2019/20 it states, "Council members are overwhelmingly in the 50–59-year age range".

- *Are you supply your current member selection process.*
- *How is the diverse representation for all New Zealanders taken into account.*
- *Are you able to supply the age of the youngest board member selected in Toi Aotearoa's history."*

Please find a response to your questions in turn below.

[Can] you supply your current member selection process.

Manatū Taonga receives many nominations for the Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa throughout the year. When a position on the Council becomes available, the list of current nominations undergoes a short-listing process with Manatū Taonga and the Arts Council's Chairperson. If the nominees do not possess the specific skills or experience required, Manatū Taonga will advertise for the position publicly, and shortlist from there.

Shortlisted candidates are then put through a due diligence process, which includes an interview (the panel for which includes Manatū Taonga officials and the Chairperson of the Arts Council), background checks and reference checks.

Following the due diligence process, advice will be provided to the responsible Minister. The Minister will then recommend a proposed appointee(s) to the Appointments and Honours Cabinet committee.

In accordance with Section 10(1) of the *Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa Act (2014)*, when appointing members, the Minister must recognise the need for members to have among them a broad knowledge of arts practices, including knowledge of professional and community arts. The Minister must also, following consultation with the Minister for Māori Development, ensure at least four of the persons appointed have sufficient knowledge of te ao Māori, tikanga Māori, and Māori arts.

More information relating to Membership of Arts Council and committee of the Arts Council can be found at

www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2014/0001/latest/DLM3007308.html

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How is the diverse representation for all New Zealanders taken into account.

As stated in the *Crown Entities Act (2004)*, a responsible Minister recommending an appointment must take into account the desirability of promoting diversity in the membership of Crown entities.

Diversity is taken into account when assessing a board's make-up, to ensure there is a wide range. When there is a vacancy, the Ministry will seek names from departments such as Te Pūni Kōkiri, Manatū Wāhine, Ministry for Pacific Peoples and Office for Disability Issues; as well as taking into account names received from the public throughout the year. It is important for a board to ensure there is appropriate diversity to reflect the people and cultures of New Zealand.

Are you able to supply the age of the youngest board member selected in Toi Aotearoa's history.

I have been informed that there is no mandatory requirement for applicants to state their age at any stage of the application process and, as such, the Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa does not hold this information.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Sepuloni', written in a cursive style.

Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Arts Culture and Heritage