

10 November 2022



John Luke

By email: fyi-request-20801-137fd926@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mr Luke,

Information request – John Luke

Thank you for your email dated 17 October 2022. In your email, you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982 concerning the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB)'s current round of recruitment for people to join the pool of Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) members. In particular, you asked the following questions:

- How many applications has SWRB received?
- How many vacancies is SWRB recruiting for?
- Apart from the SWRB website, where else has the opportunity been advertised?
- Of the applications received:
 - How many came from “the general public”?
 - How many came from “current sitting members”?
 - How many came from “other nominating government agencies, such as TPK”?

It may be useful to set out the context in which we operate. The SWRB is a Crown Entity regulator, and is governed by a Board of seven members, who are appointed by the Minister for Social Development and Employment. The Board also has responsibility for referring complaints that are deemed serious to a Professional Conduct Committee.

PCCs are a regulatory function established under the Social Workers Registration Act 2003. They are independent statutory bodies to the SWRB, and they investigate complaints and/or convictions concerning registered social workers. They are composed of 2 registered social workers and 1 lay person.

We have now prepared our response to your request; please find our responses below:

How many applications has SWRB received?

The SWRB received 43 applications to be part of the pool of PCC members who are contracted for service, before it closed applications. It received a further 4 applications after this date. 10 applications were for positions as a “lay-member” of PCCs while 37 applications were for positions as a “RSW member” of PCCs. The appointment process is still in progress. Applications are closed.

How many vacancies is SWRB recruiting for?

These are not vacancies in the employment sense; rather contracts for service. SWRB is expecting to recruit approximately 15 members (5 lay people and 10 registered social workers), depending on the quality of the applicants.

Apart from the SWRB website, where else has the opportunity been advertised?

The opportunity was published on the SWRB website, Govt Jobs, and Mahi (in English and translated into Te Reo Māori). The opportunity was also published by Indeed.com, without the permission of SWRB. It was also promoted on the SWRB Facebook page, the SWRB “Onboard” newsletter and the Social Services Providers Aotearoa Network. The SWRB also notified the current pool of PCC members and the SWRB secretariat with the intention they circulate it with their wider networks.

How many of the applications came from the “general public”, “current sitting members”, and “other nominating government agencies” respectively?

All applicants applied directly to the SWRB without any endorsement from a nominating agency or the backing of any organization. PCCs under the Social Workers Registration Act 2003 are not a statutory body for which the Department of Internal Affairs administers appointment. Therefore, the process of registering with a nominating agency is not appropriate.

All applicants were members of the public. None of the current PCC membership pool reapplied as active PCC members still have current contracts.

We hope that these answers adequately address your questions. Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss the matter further, please contact SWRB’s legal team by email at legal@swrb.govt.nz, or by post at Social Workers Registration Board, PO Box 3452, Wellington 6140 (attention Legal Team).

You have the right to complain about our response to the Ombudsman. Information about the Ombudsman can be found at ombudsman@parliament.nz.

Ngā mihi nui



Jack Adcock

Legal Advisor - PCC

Social Workers Registration Board