

Election Access Fund
Te Tomokanga — Pūtea Whakatapoko Pōtitanga
Applications Panel Meeting

Date: 7 June 2023
Time: 10:30 am-11:30am
Location: Online via Zoom
Chair: Dianne Glenn
Members: Huhana Hickey
Robbie Watene
Jade Farrar
Leigh Deuchars, Electoral Commission
Other attendees: Charmaine James (Secretariat)
Apologies: Huhana Hickey

Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting started with a Karakia lead by Robbie. The minutes were adopted with no corrections (Dianne/Jade).

Action points completed:

- Charmaine investigated access to SharePoint site, invitations were sent to the panel members but with little to no success. The Electoral Commission IT team are further investigating access.

Matters arising:

- Purchasing or hiring of equipment came into discussion under the Applicant001 with no clear policy, and will be regarded on an individual application case by case basis until a policy has been drafted and accepted.
- Policy on the Equipment provided for the EAF applicants team sourced hiring alternatives for acquiring equipment. Leigh has been in contact with the team that was responsible for drafting the EAF policy documents and has included the new Manager for Strategy, Risk and Assurance (who is legally trained) to have a fresh look at the legislation and advise if we are interpreting the barriers this correctly. They have come back to say that there is a bit of inconsistency in how the legislation is drafted and could be interpreted in 2 ways. What will be needed is a set of principles or framework that help us work through the wording of legislation and how it is interpreted in individual situations. It would serve us well to ensure that the core interpretation of the legislation is correct before proceeding any further.
- Jade has requested that a few key documents be referenced around future principles, being the UNCRPD, Te Tiriti, and Enabling good lives.

Conflict of Interests

Nil

Identifiable information was still included in the application form for Applicant002. The EAF team is to look at a more thorough process of double-checking forms to ensure this is not missed for future applicants.

Applicant 001

An email was circulated on 19 May 2023 with the panel members to give their final recommendation to approve the access of equipment through the Electoral Commission with the option of purchasing of the laptop the end of the Election campaign for \$500.00. All members responded to support the recommendation made to acquire this laptop for the applicant.

Applicant 002 \$15,000.00 inc. GST

Discussion: Applicant has applied for a support administrator/person, where the request is above the considered payrate in the guidelines of the application. The amount of \$50p/hr for 300hrs was quoted on the budget. It was noted that while the payrate guidelines are there for a support assistant, we need to consider that this request is for a more admin intensive support role to assist in the administrative tasks that forms the barrier the applicant faces, not a support assistant that would aid you in your personal access needs to get through your day. Due to the fast pace and crucial role that the support administrator will play, one can understand the need for a more experienced and qualified person to help remove the barrier the applicant faces to perform at the same level of peers that do not face these barriers, resulting in a higher payrate. The panel discussed the need for more information on the hourly rate provided in the budget. Further information was received from the applicant after the meeting papers were distributed, surrounding the reason for the quoted rate. Noting that a contractor has to pay their own taxes and ACC levy, they are usually priced 25% higher priced, to cover these costs. It was also mentioned that other contractors within the public sector earn a higher hourly rate than what is being considered.

Applicant 003 \$10,000.00+GST

Discussion:

Applicant has applied for a support administrator/person, where the request is above the considered payrate in the guidelines of the application. The amount of \$40p/hr for 250hrs +gst was quoted on the budget. As discussed for applicant002, the needs for the support administrator are similar, but at a slightly lower cost than applicant002, where this would equate to \$46 p/hr inclusive of gst. This slight difference in the hours requested could be directly related to the extent of assistance that is required of the administrator.

It would make better sense to have consistency and equality in the payrate, where this would prove beneficial to the applicant's showing equality and dignity in the support they receive. We should look to build and enable the applicants to be as successful as they can be without the barriers that they face.

All members of the panel gave their recommendations to approve, Charmaine is to forward a summary to Huhana regarding the outcome of today's meeting for her comment.

Action:

- EAF team to investigate adding a category for those who help those with neurological/cognitive/neuro divergent conditions that do not fit in the current categories outlined for support workers, that will cover part of the review to look at how we can include the category.

Process improvements

The following process improvements were identified during discussion of Applicant 002 and 003:

- Payrate guidance for support assistants.
- To look into a SharePoint site where all application documentation relevant to panel meetings and applications may be reviewed online, to avoid sending documents via email.

Actions:

- Charmaine to investigate the radio buttons on page 2 of the Assessment form as they seem to be linked to the previous page, where selecting your response had resulted in removing the option selected in the prior question.

Update from Electoral Commission staff

Evaluation is underway together with the ministry review on how we get through lessons learnt and what changes can be made to better support the fund. No other updates noted for this meeting.

Any other business

Dianne requested EAF information, which she has circulated to Pauline [REDACTED] Senior Advisor - Policy, Strategy and Partnerships, Whaikaha who would be able to share this further through the disabled community.

Jade attended the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) conference in Sydney the previous week, where there were discussions on defining principles around the support for campaigning candidates and how that support is spent, with identifying a framework of what is reasonable and necessary. He spoke of an example of a candidate using his NDIS budget to campaign which helped him win and is now the disabled Green MP for his area. More information on the framework could be found on the internet, searching for NDIS.

Robbie closed off the meeting with the Karakia

Next meeting

Monday 19th June 2023, 1pm.