



# Guide to the Te Pai Ora SSPA National Executive

This guide is to assist those who are considering standing for the Te Pai Ora SSPA National Executive. It outlines the role of the National Executive, how it works, and what's expected of its members.

A 2025 Nomination Form can be found completed online [here](#).

## How to become a National Executive member

Anyone who is employed by a full, financial Te Pai Ora SSPA member, or who is in a governance role of such an organisation, may stand for the National Executive.

Full membership of Te Pai Ora SSPA is open to organisations with a government contract to deliver social services for children, young people, whānau and communities. Learn more about categories of membership [here](#).

There are currently six elected positions on the National Executive: three tangata whenua and three tauwiwi. Under Te Pai Ora SSPA's Rules, the Te Pai Ora SSPA National Executive shall comprise at least six and no more than nine voting members.

In 2025, the current term of one member of the National Executive will conclude. The member completing his term is Tuhi Leef (tangata whenua, current Treasurer). He is eligible for re-election and has indicated that he intends to stand again. The position is open to anyone eligible to be nominated for the vacancy.

Nominations are called for at least 28 days before the AGM (being held on 13 November 2025) and close 14 days before AGM (30 October 2025). Nominees are asked to provide a photo and a written statement of up to 250 words on their background and what they could contribute as a National Executive member. These statements are sent to all full-member organisations, each of which can vote for their preferred candidates for all vacancies, either at the AGM or by email vote beforehand.

National Executive members are elected for a three-year term and may stand for re-election for up to a total of three consecutive terms.

Note: The formation and functions of the National Executive are covered by Rule 11 of the Te Pai Ora SSPA Rules (revised 2023).

Nominations can be completed [here](#).

## The National Executive's role

The National Executive is Te Pai Ora SSPA's governance body. It provides leadership to ensure Te Pai Ora SSPA retains a clear view of its purpose, remains viable and thrives. It must ensure assets, including reputation, are protected, funds are used appropriately, and risk to the organisation is minimised. The National Executive's role includes:

- strategic and policy development
- oversight of the organisation's operations
- prudent management of finances
- employer of the national manager, including appointment and performance evaluation.

The management of Te Pai Ora SSPA and day-to-day operational decisions are the responsibility of the Chief Executive and staff. Organisational success is heavily dependent on a good working relationship between the governing body and management, one that is based on mutual respect and support for the separate but interdependent roles and responsibilities.

## National Executive Membership

The National Executive comprises at least six and no more than nine voting members:

- six members shall be elected at AGM: three tangata whenua and three tauwiwi members
- the Chief Executive Officer who is a non-voting member
- up to three additional members appointed by the National Executive with relevant skills and expertise and/or other characteristics sought by the National Executive.

The National Executive appoints its chairperson or co-chairs, and treasurer from within its membership.

Note: Current members of the National Executive are listed on the Te Pai Ora SSPA website [here](#).

The Te Pai Ora SSPA Rules provide a simple definition of tangata whenua members and tauwiwi members:

- A *Tangata Whenua Member* is a person elected to serve in a tangata whenua capacity on the National Executive; and
- A *Tauwiwi National Member* means a person elected to serve in a tauwiwi capacity on the National Executive.

The nomination forms require nominees to indicate which category they are seeking election for. When these Rules were adopted in 2018 (and then revised in 2023), it was left to individuals and their proposer to nominate in the appropriate category. All members can vote for nominees in both categories.

N.B. anyone who meets the eligibility criteria for nomination to the National Executive and who is of whakapapa Māori can be nominated to a tangata whenua position (i.e. you do not have to be working within an Iwi or kaupapa Māori organisation).

## Duties

Each National Executive member has a key role in ensuring Te Pai Ora SSPA is well governed and in good organisational health. National Executive members are expected to be actively engaged in the governance of Te Pai Ora SSPA. It is important to understand and support the purpose of the organisation and become familiar with how it works.

National Executive members are required to carry out their duties in line with the obligations and duties set out in the Te Pai Ora SSPA Rules clause 15. These include:

- acting in good faith and in the organisation's best interests
- taking all reasonable care in exercising duties
- supporting the collective decisions of the National Executive
- avoiding conflicts of interest
- respecting the confidentiality of information
- attending National Executive meetings with thorough preparation beforehand
- regularly reviewing the mission statement and strategic plan for ongoing relevance
- ensuring the organisation is well managed and compliant with its policies and purpose and its legal responsibilities
- asking questions and engaging in decision-making and planning
- taking responsibility for agreed areas of work.

## Time Commitment

The National Executive determines meeting agendas. Currently, there are up to three kanohi-ki-te-kanohi hui – usually one two-day meeting and two one-day meetings – plus shorter Zoom hui in the intervening months. The kanohi-ki-te-kanohi hui are usually held in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, as this is the place where Te Pai Ora SSPA has its office presence.

National Executive members should expect to spend several hours a month on meeting preparation and tasks, and to respond to requests for feedback on pieces of work or approvals needed outside of the usual National Executive meeting cycle.

Te Pai Ora SSPA does not pay an attendance allowance/meeting fee to National Executive Members but does meet the costs of travel and accommodation to attend meetings. National Executive members have an active presence at Whakamanawa our annual conference and have registration, accommodation and travel expenses covered.

## Te Pai Ora SSPA officers

### Co-chairs or chairperson

At the first National Executive meeting following each Annual General Meeting, the National Executive Members shall elect a Chairperson or Co-Chairs for a term of up

to three years. The returning Chairperson or Co-Chair/s may be re-elected provided that no Chairperson or Co-Chair/s serves more than two consecutive three-year terms.

- The role of the Chairperson or Co-Chair is to chair meetings of the National Executive and General Meetings, and to represent the National Executive. The Chairperson or Co-Chair, or their nominee, shall have the right to attend any meeting of any National Executive committee, advisory or other group (including consultative groups) or forum.
- The duties of the Chairperson or Co-Chair also include:
  - (a) providing leadership in strategy, goals and plans for the Association;
  - (b) ensuring all fiscal responsibilities are undertaken;
  - (c) working with the Chief Executive Officer to plan and organise the National Executive meetings;
  - (d) ensuring the National Executive decisions are implemented.

## **The Treasurer**

The treasurer is appointed by the National Executive at the first meeting after the AGM and is responsible for the financial oversight of the Association, including:

- ensuring finances are managed appropriately;
- having an overview of the CEO's financial reports to the National Executive;
- ensuring the annual audit is carried out in line with good practice and legal requirements;
- working with staff to prepare the annual report;
- presenting the annual financial statement to the Annual General Meeting.

## **The Te Pai Ora SSPA Team**

Te Pai Ora SSPA has a small, talented team based in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. The team comprises:

**Kaiwhakahaere Matua Chief Executive Officer:** Belinda Himiona

Phone 021 02301029, email [ceo@sspa.org.nz](mailto:ceo@sspa.org.nz)

This is a full-time position. The CEO is responsible for Te Pai Ora SSPA's operations and day-to-day mahi. The CEO works closely with the National Executive to ensure decisions are based on a sound body of information. Key responsibilities include:

- providing leadership in the allocation and management of resources;
- supporting and connecting with Te Pai Ora SSPA members so as to be attuned to their needs and interests;
- building relationships with the stakeholders, including government ministers and officials, to extend influence and promote the interests of Te Pai Ora SSPA members;
- ensuring the work of the organisation is in line with its purpose and strategy,

and that Te Pai Ora SSPA is meeting its legal, financial and contractual obligations;

- being the public face of Te Pai Ora SSPA.

**Policy Advisor:** Johnny Crawford

[policy@sspa.org.nz](mailto:policy@sspa.org.nz)

cell: 0276968236

This is a part-time position of 32 hours per week, responsible for Te Pai Ora SSPA's policy mahi.

**Office Co-ordinator:** Ada Tangiora

[office@sspa.org.nz](mailto:office@sspa.org.nz)

cell: 0272990200

This is a part-time position of 25 to 30 hours per week, responsible for Te Pai Ora SSPA's office and administration, including services to support the National Executive meetings.

**Communications Advisor:** Charlotte Lee-Smith

[communications@sspa.org.nz](mailto:communications@sspa.org.nz)

cell: 0220156419

This is a full-time position of 40 hours per week, responsible for Te Pai Ora SSPA's communications.

**Learning and Development Advisor:** Clare Docherty

[learning@sspa.org.nz](mailto:learning@sspa.org.nz)

cell: 0274520931

This is a part-time position of 20 hours per week, responsible for Te Pai Ora SSPA's Learning and Development mahi.

**Key documents**

The following key documents that provide further background are available at

[www.sspa.org.nz/about-sspa](http://www.sspa.org.nz/about-sspa)

- Te Pai Ora SSPA Rules
- Te Pai Ora SSPA Strategic Plan 2023-26 (includes Te Pai Ora SSPA's purpose, vision, mission and values)