

# On board

Newsletter of the Ministry of Women's Affairs Nominations Service

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September 2005

Welcome to the first newsletter for women who use the Ministry of Women's Affairs' Nominations Service.

We will regularly update you on:

- progress toward our target of 50% women on government statutory bodies by 2010
- information on governance education and training courses
- news on recent appointments

## **Annual appointments and reappointments of women rising steadily**

There has been a steady improvement in these statistics over the last decade.

In 1993, 25% of the annual appointments and reappointments to government boards and committees were women. Last year that figure rose to 43%.

This year, for the first time, we have been able to isolate the 'new' appointments figures from the reappointments. The 'new' appointments show that in the last calendar year (2004), there were 683 'new' appointees (excluding reappointments) to statutory bodies, and of those appointments 308 (45%) were women.

## **Women recently appointed to government statutory bodies**

In the last three months appointments have been announced to over 90 boards - too many to publish here, so we have listed just a few to illustrate the range of boards, and the women appointees.

A list of boards with women appointees, announced between May and August, is on the MWA website. Just follow this link [http://www.mwa.govt.nz/nomination\\_service.html](http://www.mwa.govt.nz/nomination_service.html)

So congratulations to all recent appointees including:

### **Charities Commission**

Judith Timpany appointed as deputy chair  
Amohaere Houkamau appointed  
Pat Webster appointed

### **Ethics Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology**

Philippa Cunningham appointed as chair  
Dr Christine Forster appointed  
Sharron Cole appointed

### **Advisory Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology**

Prof Sylvia Rumball appointed as chair  
Prof Cynthia Farquhar appointed

Philippa McDonald appointed  
Christine Rogan appointed

**Fiordland Marine Guardians**  
Laurel Tierney appointed

**Recreational Fishing Ministerial Advisory Committee**  
Sheryl Hart appointed  
Lorraine Hill appointed

**Auckland Conservation Board**  
Denise Yates reappointed

## **Nominations Service Website Information**

There is a range of useful governance information up on the MWA website. For example there are frequently asked questions (FAQ's) about governance, an updated CV template, and a *Self-Evaluation Check* which enables people to assess whether they are potential candidates for nomination, and much more besides.

Just follow this link [http://www.mwa.govt.nz/nomination\\_service.html](http://www.mwa.govt.nz/nomination_service.html)

## **The appointments process**

The appointments process is a very competitive one. Agencies wanting to fill statutory board vacancies run a full recruitment process to identify suitable candidates. In the recruitment process they identify the specific skills, competencies, and professional background or community experience they require.

They not only consult a range of database providers such as ours, they often publicly advertise to ensure the appointments process is open. This means that at times there can be up to one hundred candidates for any given vacancy.

## **The Election brings a pause in board appointments**

Appointments to state boards are almost at a stand-still right now. That is because of the convention that governments do not make significant board appointments in the three months prior to a general election.

We anticipate that appointments and nominations activity will start again around November or December. In the meantime, we are getting ready for what we believe will be a flood of requests for nominees once the process starts up again.

## **Governance Training Course – October**

The University of Otago and the Boardroom Practice have combined forces to put together a five day governance training course in Auckland in October.

Further information is available on the university's website

[http://www.commerce.otago.ac.nz/com/usergroups/execprogrammes/exceducation/open\\_courses.html](http://www.commerce.otago.ac.nz/com/usergroups/execprogrammes/exceducation/open_courses.html)

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If you have any queries about the information in this newsletter, or the Nominations Service in general, please contact one of the team.

If you do not wish to receive *On board* in future please email [molloy@mwa.govt.nz](mailto:molloy@mwa.govt.nz) with '*No thanks*' in the subject line and we will take you off our mailing list.

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