

## New Zealand Red Cross Members

1 March 2024

Tēnā koutou,

- Could you help us on our journey to becoming a more impactful, diverse, engaging New Zealand Red Cross and achieve our Strategy 2030 goals?
- Can you help us grow our youth members to 30% of our total membership? Or strengthen our relationships with Māori and with the communities we want to reach?
- Have you got the skills to help us focus on what we're great at and where we can make the most difference locally?

We're looking for Red Cross people to join our local leadership groups (Area Councils), to help guide our Red Cross people to achieve our Strategy 2030 goals. Nominations are now open, and this letter has all you need to know.

Our Area Councils lead, coordinate and nurture our organisation and our humanitarian activities across Aotearoa New Zealand. Area Councillors support Red Cross people in their Area, helping to motivate, inspire, and empower them to carry out their humanitarian work.

This year, we have opportunities in the following locations:

Area Council	Vacancies	Area Council	Vacancies
<b>Area 1:</b> Te Tai Tokerau   Northland; Tāmaki Makaurau   Auckland	9	<b>Area 5:</b> Te Tau Ihu   Tasman Marlborough; Te Tai o Poutini   West Coast	2
<b>Area 2:</b> Waikato; Te Moana a Toi-te-Huatahi   Bay of Plenty	6	<b>Area 6:</b> Waitaha   Canterbury	3
<b>Area 3:</b> Taranaki; Manawatū-Whanganui; Te Matau ā Māui   Hawke's Bay; Te Tairāwhiti   Gisborne	2	<b>Area 7:</b> Ōtākou   Otago; Murihiku   Southland	4
<b>Area 4:</b> Kāpiti; Pōneke   Wellington; Wairarapa	8		

The role is a chance to lead, and to grow. Area Councillors get to work with skilled people across a range of Red Cross activities. There are opportunities to learn about what Red Cross does, develop skills in governance and participate in shaping local activities. It is a chance to give back and may

even set you on a development path that includes work for the Movement on the global stage, as it did for our National President and National Youth Representative.

You'll need to be a positive person with the confidence to take initiative. We need a range of backgrounds, skills and experience, from leadership or governance, to lived experience of humanitarian work. We also strongly encourage young members (those under 30) with an interest in leadership to get involved. This year, every Area Council must have at least one youth member.

You must be able to attend monthly Area Council meetings (which are often on-line) and be active in supporting activities in your Area. This role requires a commitment of around 6-8 hours a month and occasional travel. The term of office is three years.

## **How to get involved**

Opportunities to join our Area Councils take place through an annual, two-step process. Step 1 is nominations. Step 2 is elections.

Nominations are now open. Nominations close 5.00pm on Sunday 31 March 2024.

### **Step 1**

To be elected, a New Zealand Red Cross member must first be nominated by two current members (members include anyone who volunteers their time, for example refugee support volunteers, Meals on Wheels Drivers). To do this you need to:

- a) Find two current members to support your nomination.
- b) Complete an Area Council Nomination form (found on our website and as an Appendix to this letter).
- c) Send the completed nomination form to [membership@redcross.org.nz](mailto:membership@redcross.org.nz) by Sunday 31 March 2024.

The Membership team will send your form to the Area Council Chair, who will ensure the nomination form is correct. The form is then sent to the Secretary General to proceed to Step 2.

### **Step 2**

Where there are more nominations received than there are vacancies, an election process will take place, with voting in May. If the number of nominations received either matches, or is less than, the number of vacancies in an area, those nominees are confirmed as elected unopposed.

After Sunday 31 March we will assess whether an election is needed in any of our Areas. Nominees and their Area Councils will be notified of the results, whether an election is needed and what happens next.

If we do need elections, voting papers will be sent out in the post, so we need up-to-date membership details, including postal addresses.

You can update your own details online through an easy form on our website in just two minutes, or by calling the Contact Centre on 0800 RED CROSS (0800 733 27677).

## What Area Councils do

Area Councils provide a vital connection between the National Board, National Council, and the New Zealand Red Cross people in their Area. Effective relationships between Red Cross people are a crucial means of our organisation working together as a team.

As well as leading activities in their own Area, every year each Area Council elects representatives to be members of the National Council, our highest governing body. This ensures all Areas have a voice in decisions which affect all of our members.

National President Kerry Nickels began her work with us as part of an Area Council. For her it was the beginning of a journey that now includes work on the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Governing Board as the New Zealand Red Cross representative from the Asia Pacific Region.

*“Area Councils are essential to making Red Cross a power in our communities. They bring our people, and our work together and set local visions for how we can make a difference. They’re also a chance to meet wonderful, like-minded people, learn from others and can be the start of a much wider role in the humanitarian space.”*

National Youth Representative Sarita Love has held many New Zealand Red Cross roles, from a Disaster Welfare Support Team member to Branch member to Area Council member. For her the Area Council was a way to drive forward the mission of the Red Cross.

*“My time on the Area Council really opened my eyes to the opportunities, and challenges ahead of us. Volunteering, and people power, are at the centre of our work – both here and overseas – and the Area Council is where that feels most true. Hearing the voices round the table, setting plans and goals for local impact and bringing different skills and strengths together to make a difference.”*

Our Area Councils:

- work to develop and retain a strong membership base in their Area
- should be as representative of their Area as possible
- support branches, groups, and individual members, as well as local New Zealand Red Cross employees
- enhance the profile of New Zealand Red Cross in their Area
- along with local Red Cross people, lead the planning of New Zealand Red Cross activities in their Area
- protect the integrity of New Zealand Red Cross in their Area by ensuring members follow the Fundamental Principles, New Zealand Red Cross Values, Code of Conduct and relevant policies and procedures.

More information about Area Councils is on our website and greater detail of the role of the Area Council is in Section 3 of our Members Handbook, found on our website.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the process, please contact your local Area Support Team of employees. A list of their contact information is below.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Stuart-Black', written in a cursive style.

**Sarah (Norm) Stuart-Black**

Secretary General

### **Appendices:**

- Appendix 1: Nomination form
- Appendix 2: Area Support Team contact list
- Appendix 3: Diagram showing our Areas and number of opportunities
- Appendix 4: Useful website links

## Appendix 1: Nomination form for Area Councillors

This nomination must be returned to [membership@redcross.org.nz](mailto:membership@redcross.org.nz) by Sunday 31 March 2024.

To be completed by a Member of New Zealand Red Cross who is nominating another Member.

Name of person nominated \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Member in \_\_\_\_\_ Area

Number of years with New Zealand Red Cross \_\_\_\_\_

Experience and skills relevant to an Area Council (to be circulated with voting papers to help voters choose their preferred candidates – 200 word maximum):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(attach separate page if needed)*

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

Member in \_\_\_\_\_ Area

Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

Member in \_\_\_\_\_ Area

The signing of this form signifies consent to the publication of name, address, and telephone number for New Zealand Red Cross purposes.

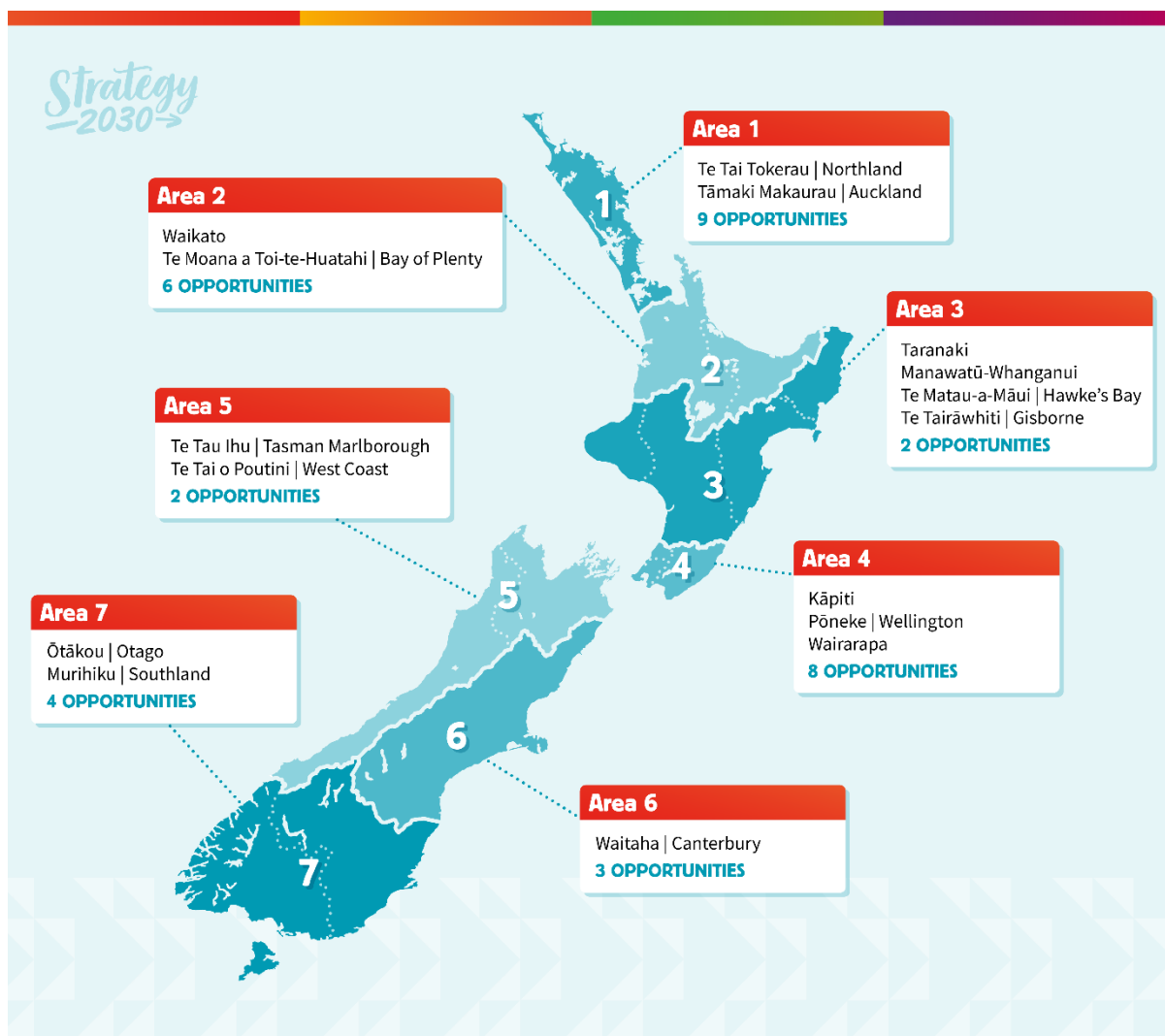
Signature of person nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 2: Area Support Team contact list

Area	Position	Name	Location	Email	Phone number
Area 1	Area Lead	Rajitha Ratwatte	Auckland	<a href="mailto:rajitha.ratwatte@redcross.org.nz">rajitha.ratwatte@redcross.org.nz</a>	0273821858
	Senior Area Partner	Malia Tuai	Auckland	<a href="mailto:malia.tuai@redcross.org.nz">malia.tuai@redcross.org.nz</a>	0274047239
	Advisor	Brigitte Rive	Auckland	<a href="mailto:brigitte.rive@redcross.org.nz">brigitte.rive@redcross.org.nz</a>	0273126552
	Administrator	Agnes Ishak	Auckland	<a href="mailto:agnes.ishak@redcross.org.nz">agnes.ishak@redcross.org.nz</a>	0272170361
Area 2	Area Lead	Anna Wylie	Rotorua	<a href="mailto:anna.wylie@redcross.org.nz">anna.wylie@redcross.org.nz</a>	021534892
	Senior Area Partner	Vibha Shinde	Hamilton	<a href="mailto:vibha.shinde@redcross.org.nz">vibha.shinde@redcross.org.nz</a>	0272825732
	Advisor	Cameron Wright	Tauranga	<a href="mailto:cameron.wright@redcross.org.nz">cameron.wright@redcross.org.nz</a>	0212435432
	Administrator	Esraa Abdelmaksoud	Hamilton	<a href="mailto:esraa.abdelmaksoud@redcross.org.nz">esraa.abdelmaksoud@redcross.org.nz</a>	0272143061
Area 3	Area Lead	David Negrette	Napier	<a href="mailto:david.negrette@redcross.org.nz">david.negrette@redcross.org.nz</a>	021684672
	Senior Area Partner	Diana Shafieva	Palmerston North	<a href="mailto:diana.shafieva@redcross.org.nz">diana.shafieva@redcross.org.nz</a>	0272659170
	Advisor	Rebekah Cole	Palmerston North	<a href="mailto:rebekah.cole@redcross.org.nz">rebekah.cole@redcross.org.nz</a>	0272457743
	Administrator	Anne Fabish	New Plymouth	<a href="mailto:anne.fabish@redcross.org.nz">anne.fabish@redcross.org.nz</a>	0274209348
Area 4	Area Lead	Peter Saba	Palmerston North	<a href="mailto:peter.saba@redcross.org.nz">peter.saba@redcross.org.nz</a>	0274045882
	Senior Area Partner	David Priore	Wairarapa	<a href="mailto:david.priore@redcross.org.nz">david.priore@redcross.org.nz</a>	0212434772
	Advisor	Sujith Arachchige	Wellington	<a href="mailto:sujith.arachchige@redcross.org.nz">sujith.arachchige@redcross.org.nz</a>	0212430446
	Administrator	Alexandra Kurmen	Wellington	<a href="mailto:alexandra.kurmen@redcross.org.nz">alexandra.kurmen@redcross.org.nz</a>	0212436741
Area 5	Area Lead	David Oakes	Nelson	<a href="mailto:david.oakes@redcross.org.nz">david.oakes@redcross.org.nz</a>	0211926913
	Senior Area Partner	Mandy Steele	Greymouth	<a href="mailto:mandy.steele@redcross.org.nz">mandy.steele@redcross.org.nz</a>	0276062984
	Advisor	Anju Bathla	Nelson	<a href="mailto:anju.bathla@redcross.org.nz">anju.bathla@redcross.org.nz</a>	021754580
	Administrator	Meenu Rani	Nelson	<a href="mailto:meenu.rani@redcross.org.nz">meenu.rani@redcross.org.nz</a>	0272187736
Area 6	Area Lead	Carol Ball	Christchurch	<a href="mailto:carol.ball@redcross.org.nz">carol.ball@redcross.org.nz</a>	0274415776
	Senior Area Partner	Jacky Martin	Christchurch	<a href="mailto:jacky.martin@redcross.org.nz">jacky.martin@redcross.org.nz</a>	0278647745
	Advisor	Kathy O'Neil	Timaru	<a href="mailto:kathy.oneill@redcross.org.nz">kathy.oneill@redcross.org.nz</a>	0272721983
	Administrator	Natalia Sokolova	Christchurch	<a href="mailto:natalia.sokolova">natalia.sokolova</a>	0273541642
Area 7	Area Lead	Steve King	Dunedin	<a href="mailto:steve.king@redcross.org.nz">steve.king@redcross.org.nz</a>	0272672872
	Senior Area Partner	Callum Clark	Invercargill	<a href="mailto:callum.clark@redcross.org.nz">callum.clark@redcross.org.nz</a>	0272146219
	Advisor	Phoebe Neo	Dunedin	<a href="mailto:phoebe.neo@redcross.org.nz">phoebe.neo@redcross.org.nz</a>	0272268746
	Administrator	Daniele Graunke Gemelli	Invercargill	<a href="mailto:daniele.graunkegemelli@redcross.org.nz">daniele.graunkegemelli@redcross.org.nz</a>	0272142082

## Appendix 3: Diagram showing our Areas and the number of opportunities in each Area



## Appendix 4: Useful website links

- About Area Councils is <https://www.redcross.org.nz/membership/about-membership/area-councils/>
- Members Handbook, [2023-09-04-OSG-Members-Handbook-Sept-2023-updated-code-of-conduct-link-and-date.pdf](https://www.redcross.org.nz/membership/news-and-updates/area-council-nominations/) (redcross.org.nz)
- Locations of our Service Centres <https://www.redcross.org.nz/about-us/contact-us/map-of-new-zealand-red-cross-locations/>
- Website information about Area Council Elections, including nomination form and toolkit of elections resources <https://www.redcross.org.nz/membership/news-and-updates/area-council-nominations/>