



NEW ZEALAND
RED CROSS
RIPEKA WHERO AOTEAROA

2026 Area Council Elections

Nomination guidelines for candidates

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the area councillor role at New Zealand Red Cross.

As an area councillor, you'll have the chance to make a meaningful impact. This is a vital and rewarding position, and in it you will play a key role in our governance and decision-making processes.

This is also a three-year elected role that requires dedication, time, and commitment. It comes with important responsibilities, including supporting the National Board in fulfilling its role, and being a Red Cross leader in your area.

This guide will help you through the nomination process for this role.

Need support?

If you need help at any stage in the nomination or election processes, our Membership and Volunteering team is here to assist you.

Email membership@redcross.org.nz
or call 0800 RED CROSS (0800 733 27677) and select option 4.

Key dates for 2026

Monday, 2 March 2026

Candidate nominations open

Thursday, 2 April 2026

Nominations close

Monday, 31 April 2026

All candidate nominations processing complete.

Final confirmation of which areas have more candidates than vacancies, and will therefore progress to elections.

May 2026

Voter notification and voting processes for any areas having an election.

In areas going to election, we may request you join a 'meet the candidates' style online forum during this month (*to be confirmed - subject to candidates' availability*).

June 2026

Results for all areas announced. Induction for new area councillors.

July 2026

New area councillors term begins 1 July.

First area council meetings held by 15 July.

Preparing to submit your nomination

Step 1: Make sure you're eligible

You can stand as a candidate if:

- **You are over 18 years old.**
- **You are a registered member of New Zealand Red Cross.** All our current volunteers will already also be registered as members. Not sure if you're a member? Ask our team (*details on page 2*).
- **You're a member in good standing.** This means there are no internal disciplinary matters that might affect your candidacy, and you will be able to pass formal vetting checks with the Ministry of Justice.
- **You don't hold other roles or have conflicts of interest that affect your candidacy.** Current employees of New Zealand Red Cross and people who have been employed with us in the last six months are not eligible to stand in these elections. Elected officials of our branches (i.e. branch presidents, treasurers, or secretaries) can stand as candidates, but if elected cannot hold both roles at the same time. Please also consider if there's any other personal or professional conflicts of interest you may have with this role.

Step 2: Self-reflection

Before you decide to put yourself forward for nomination, we encourage you to reflect on whether this opportunity aligns with your personal and professional strengths, and your own longterm goals and motivation.

Completing the self-assessment (*see Annex 1*) will help you reflect on your readiness and identify your next steps.

Please also take the time to go through the area councillor role description and area roles and responsibilities page on our website. (*see Annex 2*).

Step 3: Talk with your National Board liaison

Use the map (*see Annex 3*) to find the National Board liaison for your area (or, if you're between 18 and 30 years old, find our National Youth Representative's details). Send them an email asking to set up a time for a brief conversation.

Please also share the results of your completed self-assessment form with the National Board Liaison.

Our area councils work under the direction of the National Board. This conversation is a chance for personal connection, helping us get a sense of you as a candidate, and giving you a chance to ask any questions you may have about the role.

Step 4: Identify and contact two Red Cross members to support your nomination

You'll need the support of two current Red Cross members for your nomination. These might be:

- Fellow volunteers on your current volunteer team,
- Other Red Cross volunteers you know,
- Fellow members of your local Red Cross branch, or
- Someone on your current area council,
- The National Board liaison who you have talked to in Step 3.

Please touch base with these nominators to confirm they're happy to vouch for you and support your candidacy. You'll need their first and last names, role at Red Cross, and contact details (phone, email, or both) for the next step.

Important note: Red Cross employees can't participate in our elections processes, and therefore cannot serve as nominators.

New to Red Cross? In a role where you don't often meet other members and volunteers? Need help contacting a fellow member you've met before? Our team (*details on page 2*) can connect you with other members who may support your candidacy.

Step 5: Fill in our online nomination form

With all the steps above completed, proceed to filling in our online nomination form. This form will ask you for your details and to confirm information from the steps above, and to answer questions about your experience and motivation for this role.

[Link to our 2026 Area Council Elections online nomination form](#)

Step 6: Email us supplemental information

Please email the following items to membership@redcross.org.nz.

a. A headshot-style photograph of you that is:

- Taken in landscape view (i.e. taken horizontally, so the picture is wider than it is tall)
- Has a light or white background
- Is from approximately the mid-chest up and includes some space above your head
- Is of high resolution (a minimum of 300 DPI – pictures taken on most current generation cell phones and attached directly to an email will be usable.)

We'll create a short candidate introduction for Red Cross members voting in this year's Area Council Elections that uses this photo, along with information from your nomination form about experience and motivation. If you're elected unopposed, we will use this to introduce you as a new area councillor. These bios and photos will appear on our communications channels such as our website.

b. A completed Ministry of Justice form

You will need to fill this out if you haven't completed one of these (or New Zealand Police vetting) for us in the last three years.

[Link to the Ministry of Justice form](#)

Unsure if your vetting is current? Contact our team (*details on page 2*)

Checklist

I have:

- Read the eligibility criteria and confirmed I'm eligible for the area councillor role.
- Reflected on my own strengths and goals, and how these relate to the role of area councillor.
- Set up and had a conversation with the National Board Liaison for my area, and discussed my self-assessment with them.
- Confirmed that two other Red Cross members are happy to vouch for me and be listed as supporting my nomination.
- Filled in the online nomination form.
- Emailed in a photograph and (if required) a Ministry of Justice vetting form.

What happens next

Once you submit your nomination form and email us your photo and vetting information, we will assign a designated case manager from our Area Support Team to review your nomination. They will check to make sure we have all the information required, and will reach out to you if we need to clarify details or ask for anything else.

After all nominations are processed, there are two possible outcomes:

- **If the area has more valid candidate nominations than vacancies**, the area will progress to an election in May.
- **If the number of valid candidate nominations in an area equals or is less than the number of vacancies**, all candidates in the area will be confirmed as elected unopposed.

Your case manager will then be in touch to let you know what is happening in your specific area, and outline any next steps.

Annex 1

Self assessment

This will help you assess your personal and professional suitability for the role of area councillor.

Under each of the headings below please select the number that most accurately describes where you currently see yourself. When choosing a number, consider your skills and capability in the skillset area described.

- 1 represents no confidence or capability,
- 3 represents some confidence or capability, and
- 5 represents high confidence or capability.

After completing the self-assessment checklist, calculate your final score and refer to the table below for the recommended next steps.

Between 18 and 30 years old? We don't expect you to have a lot of formal experience, and we're excited to support your learning and development! Reach out to youth@redcross.org.nz - we're happy to answer questions and help you decide if this role is a good fit for you.

Section 1: Motivation, which includes:

- Desire and ability to make contributions to the mission of New Zealand Red Cross.
- Broaden skills and experience.
- Develop networks and personal relationships.

1	2	3	4	5
Not at all motivated				Highly motivated

Section 2: Necessary skills and experience, which includes:

- Ability to work with others including, including with difficult or complex matters.
- Awareness, understanding and ability to help others understand the New Zealand Red Cross Constitution and Regulations.

1	2	3	4	5
Low skill level				High skill level

Section 3: Capability to commit sufficient time to the role, which includes:

- Attend scheduled meetings and events, including ability to travel to meet with New Zealand Red Cross people.
- Time for preparation for meetings and events.
- Ability to lead on building and maintaining relationships with others in the Area.

1	2	3	4	5
Unlikely to be impartial				Very likely to be impartial

Section 4: Ability to access and use IT, which includes:

- Ability to participate in online meetings (video calls).
- Access to IT/ ability to use IT to access our materials.

1	2	3	4	5
Low level of IT skills				High level of IT skills

Section 5: New Zealand Red Cross strategy, which includes:

- Ability to support and assist others understand and follow our strategy and processes.
- Understanding of the role of Area Council in governance and responsibilities for Branches and local groups.

1	2	3	4	5
Low understanding of strategy				High understanding of strategy

Self-Assessment Scoring

Score	Recommended next steps	Actions
6 - 12	Consider focusing on these areas for growth and development, with the aim of applying at a later point in the future when you're ready.	Take some time for further growth and preparation and revisit candidacy at a future time.
13 - 23	Think about your aptitudes and competencies before exploring this opportunity further. Take a thoughtful approach before making your decision to put your nomination forward.	Have a conversation with the Board Liaison to learn more about the role and how it might align with your strengths and goals.
24 - 30	Feel confident in putting your nomination forward/ accepting the opportunity to be considered for co-option.	Connect with the Board Liaison to discuss potential growth opportunities and areas where you'd like to learn as an Area Councillor.

Annex 2

Role description

As an area councillor, you'll contribute to the work of the area council to deliver positive and stable leadership that strengthens and protects New Zealand Red Cross in the area.

Providing support to the area chair, the area councillor acts as a key connector to empower branches, groups, members and volunteers, to help plan and deliver activities in alignment with our strategic priorities.

Modelling our values and the Fundamental Principles, the area councillor plays a pivotal role in fostering collaborative relationships with key stakeholders, taking the initiative to drive a one-team culture that encourages inclusion, connectedness and diverse member participation that fulfils the mission of New Zealand Red Cross.

The area councillor nurtures and sustains strong membership, provides sound advice, identifies ideas for improvement to support the development of members and services across the area.

The area councillor strives to champion the youth voice through inspiring leadership that supports and develops young humanitarians, ensuring that New Zealand Red Cross is well placed and strengthened for the future.

Location

There are seven area councils. Each governs an area consisting of one or more New Zealand regions. The role is a hybrid role, with virtual elements (e.g. meetings on Microsoft Teams) and in-person elements (e.g. visiting Red Cross activities in the community).

Volunteer requirements and training

- This is a three-year elected role.
- All candidates for area councils are asked to undergo a due diligence process, with formal Ministry of Justice vetting (*see page 6*).
- We provide an induction for all new area councillors, and there are some professional development opportunities available.

Your tasks

Leadership, planning and governance

Leadership

- Provide strategic guidance, and regular communication for branches or groups as appointed by the area council.
- Support branches and groups with risk management for member-led activities in the area.
- Encourage members to follow New Zealand Red Cross Fundamental Principles, strategy, policies and procedures.
- Promote an awareness of the values, principles, and history of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and New Zealand Red Cross.
- Lead by example, modelling and encouraging member adherence to the Fundamental Principles that displays our expectations on behaviour (e.g.: Code of Conduct) and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Actively support our commitment to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi | The Treaty of Waitangi and our humanitarian mission to improve the lives of vulnerable people.

Annual area planning

- Contribute to the preparation, review and approval of the draft area plan.
- Assess suitability and alignment for any new initiatives that sit outside of the approved list of programmes and activities.
- Evaluate and review the data of the area's member-led activities, contributing to the report for the National Board on performance, risk management, profile raising and fundraising revenue for the area.

Governance

- Participate in area council nominations and election processes, including appointing a chair, deputy chair and secretary.
- Actively participate and contribute to decision making at area council meetings that leads to positive outcomes for the area's membership.

Partnerships and relationships

External

- Participate in planning how we manage our partnerships and relationships, including different businesses and organisations, groups, communities, iwi and hapū.
- Represent New Zealand Red Cross to build and maintain relationships in the area, attending gatherings, meetings, and events as needed.
- Champion the voices of the diverse communities and members in your area.

Fundraising

- As delegated by the area chair, collaborate with branches, groups, members, volunteers, and area staff to ensure the coordination and effective delivery of our activities, programmes and services.
- Champion the voices of the diverse communities and members in your area.

Service delivery and design

Area communication distribution

- Support the area chair to model effective communication from the area council to the wider membership through proactively contacting and engaging with branches, groups and individual members with updates on activities, volunteer needs and organisation initiatives via effective and secure platforms (e.g.: social media, email, meetings, phone).

Budgets and finances

- Liaise with the branch or group point of contact to establish that all programmes and activities are being delivered within budget and resources as agreed in the annual plan and are meeting the needs of the community.

Emergency management (reduction, readiness, response, recovery)

- If required, assist the area chair to support any New Zealand Red Cross coordinated response (e.g.: communicating with members, connecting with local communities or groups in workforce management (members & volunteers)).

Workforce management (members and volunteers)

Recruiting, training and development

- Support area chair as required for recruiting and exiting process.
- Understand and identify member development needs in the area.
- Promote and encourage member participation in training opportunities in the area.
- Participate in induction and training opportunities as needed.

Dispute and complaint management

- Support the area chair to effectively manage and resolve any member disputes (e.g.: issues of unacceptable behaviour, discrimination, bullying or harassment) in a timely and unbiased manner (assisted by the area support team).

Recognition

- Encourage and promote regular recognition of members in the area through recognition events (e.g.: morning teas, end of year celebrations).
- Actively contribute to the nomination approval process for the honours and awards, as outlined in the regulations.

Health, safety, and wellbeing

Area councillors have an important part to play in supporting a positive health, safety and wellbeing (HSW) culture across New Zealand Red Cross.

Activities include:

- Promote a focus on health, safety, and wellbeing (e.g.: raising awareness about the wellbeing resources and support that is available).
- In support of the area chair, encourage adherence to New Zealand Red Cross' health, safety and well-being procedures related to member-led facilities and activities.
- Attend and participate in HSW governance and due diligence training.
- Understand, prioritise and ensure the management of critical risks in accordance with risk appetite and tolerances (for member-led activities in your area).

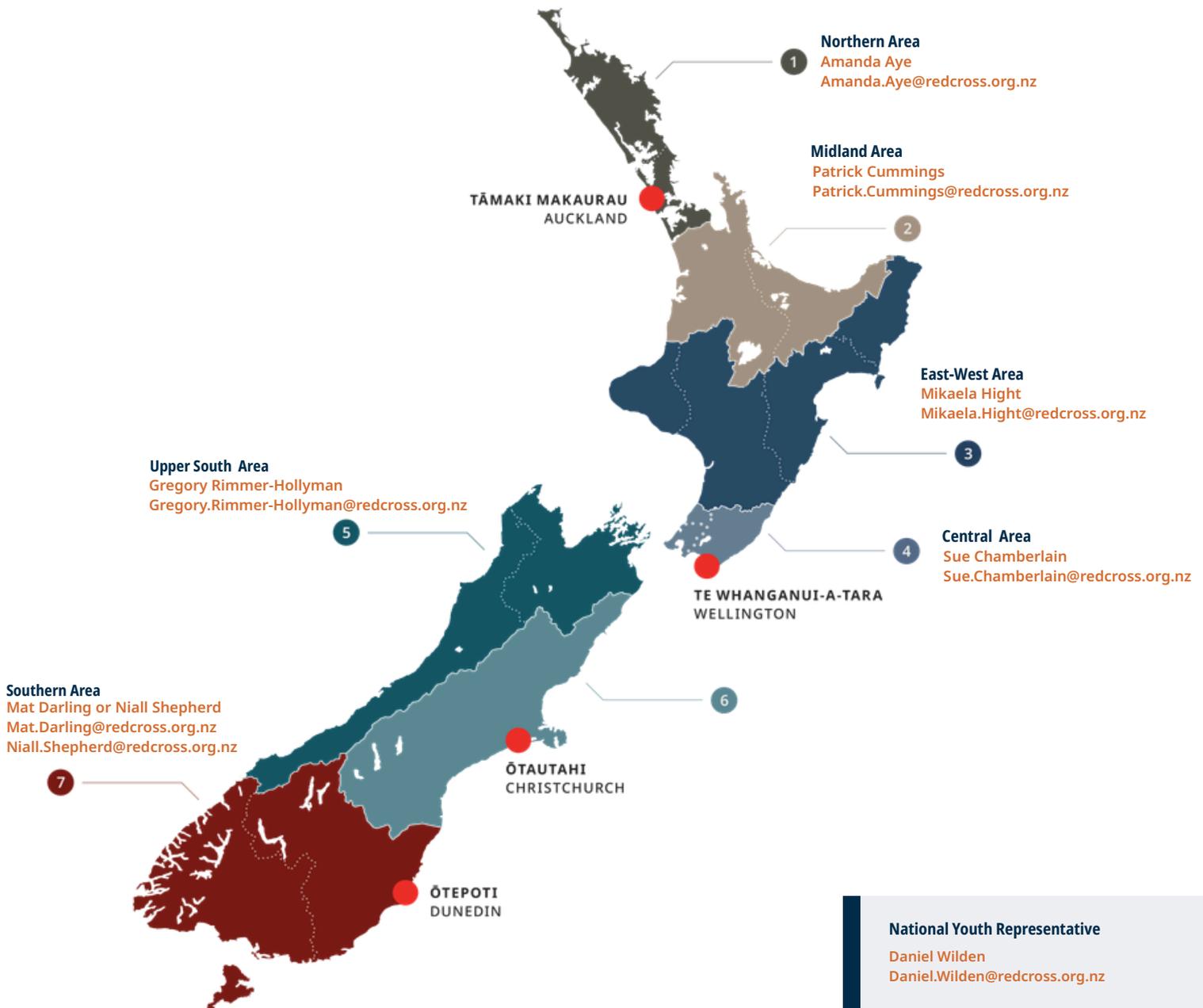
- Provide leadership in HSW and lead by example.
- Champion and promote member participation in HSW.
- Enable two-way communication of HSW information between the wider organisation and members.
- Work with the wider organisation to develop and implement appropriate HSW tools and resources.
- Promote reporting and monitoring of HSW hazards/risks, incidents and near misses.
- Support and promote a focus on HSW for Red Cross people.
- Proactively ensure your actions or omissions do not adversely affect the HSW of yourself or others.
- Participate in HSW induction, training, programmes and activities.
- Follow all reasonable instructions to comply with HSW legislation and regulations.
- Follow HSW policies, standards and procedures.
- Do not undertake any activities you are not adequately trained for.
- Report hazards/risks, incidents and near misses as soon as possible after the event.

Read more Learn about roles and responsibilities in our seven Red Cross areas on our website.

[Area roles and responsibilities](#)

Annex 3

Our National Board liaisons



National Youth Representative

Daniel Wilden
Daniel.Wilden@redcross.org.nz

Daniel is the National Board Liaison for all candidates around the country who are between 18 and 30 years of age.

Having trouble getting in touch? Let our team know (*contact details on page 2*)