

23 March 2026

John Luke

By email: fyi-request-33734-36060e1e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mr Luke,

Information request – JL260215

Thank you for your email dated 15 February 2026. We note that your request was originally due by 13 March 2026; however, on 9 March 2026 we extended the timeframe to 27 March 2026. Thank you for your patience.

You noted that we had advertised for expressions of interest to join the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB)'s pool of prescription and monitoring panellists. You asked:

May I ask how you called for public nomination and on what platform you have call for public nominations e.g. govt.jobs website. A copy of your ad and pay rate as well. Also, how many applications you have received for each of the role from the public and how many you have received from other nominating agencies such as TPK or Ministry of women etc for your role. How many you have shortlisted and how many you have interviewed. Also, can I request to view the appointment letter if there is one sent to the appointee. I am happy for you to remove all the personal information. How many vacancy you are looking to fill this round.

Please find our response to your questions below. First, we explain the context behind the SWRB's call for prescription and monitoring panellists.

Context

Under the Social Workers Registration Act 2003, the SWRB is responsible for regulating social workers in New Zealand. The SWRB's regulatory functions include:

- Setting standards for social work education and training in New Zealand (Section 99(1)(i)).
- Prescribing New Zealand educational qualifications (Sections 5B and 99(1)(f)).

These two functions are interlinked. When a tertiary education organisation (TEO) applies to the SWRB to prescribe its social work qualification, the SWRB considers whether the TEO's qualification complies with the SWRB Education Standards. Although the SWRB is not strictly

constrained by the SWRB Education Standards, compliance with these Standards is the main factor governing the SWRB's decision whether to prescribe any given qualification.

A copy of the SWRB's current Education Standards (which came into effect on 1 January 2026) is **attached**. These Standards are secondary legislation under Section 99(4)(a).

The SWRB's list of prescribed qualifications was published as a notice in the *New Zealand Gazette* under Section 5B(1), and can be found at <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2021-gs111>. This notice is secondary legislation under Section 5B(3).

Only people who have completed a prescribed qualification can apply for registration under Section 6 (the New Zealand-qualified pathway). Therefore, the list of prescribed qualifications serves a key role in regulating who is eligible for registration under Section 6.

The SWRB recognises that it is important to obtain objective and expert advice about whether to prescribe a new qualification. Therefore, the SWRB's Prescription and Monitoring Framework (**attached**) (at Pages 16, 17, and 20–21) provides for the SWRB to appoint prescription and monitoring panels (PMPs) to evaluate whether new qualifications comply with the Education Standards. PMP members are drawn from within social work sector as well as people experienced in regulation (e.g., other regulators). These positions are in addition to the inhouse SWRB secretariat. PMPs do not themselves decide whether to prescribe a new qualification, but report their findings and recommendations to the SWRB, which makes the final decision whether to prescribe a new qualification under Section 5B(1).

The SWRB does not appoint standing PMPs. Rather, it recruits people to join a pool of panellists, and then appoints PMPs as necessary from the members of that pool.

How the SWRB called for nominations to the PMPs

In December 2025, the SWRB called for expressions of interest to join its pool of PMP members. The SWRB advertised this role:

- On the “Jobs” webpage on the SWRB website.
- In the 3 December 2025 edition of *Onboard*, the SWRB's newsletter that it sends to stakeholders (including all practising certificate holders).
- On the SWRB's Facebook page on 15 December 2025, 6 January 2026, and 16 January 2026.
- By direct email to other regulatory and professional bodies. These were the:
 - Allied Health Aotearoa
 - Chinese Medicine Council
 - Dental Council
 - New Zealand Midwifery Council
 - Medical Council

- Nursing Council
- Osteopathic Council
- Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board
- Occupational Therapists Board
- Paramedic Council
- Psychotherapists Board
- Physiotherapy Board
- Pharmacy Council
- Podiatrists Board
- Psychologists Board

We did not advertise this role elsewhere (e.g., on Seek.co.nz or jobs.govt.nz) as our focus was on reaching social work-related applicants.

A copy of the SWRB’s advertisement for PMP pool members

I have **attached** a PDF copy of the SWRB’s 3 December 2025 edition of *Onboard* to the cover email. Below, I have copied out the text of the advertisement:

Applications open for education panellists

We’re inviting applications to be a part of our education prescription and monitoring panels’ pool of monitors.

From January 2026 the new Education Standards take effect. This requires that we assess each tertiary education organisation’s (TEO) delivery of its social work education against those standards. This assessment will be done by a rotating pool of panellists. Being a panellist is a contract role that involves the assessment of social work programmes either currently being delivered by TEOs or in the planning stages. Some travel for site visits may be required.

We need panellists with experience in a variety of areas


On each panel we need people with experience in social work education, social work practice, te ao Māori, and regulation or quality assurance. We also want to hear from people with other experience, such as in non-social work tertiary education and in employing social workers. If you have experience in any these areas, we’d love to hear from you.

Read about the panellist role on the SWRB website

Applications close on Friday, 30 January 2026.

Below, I have copied screenshots of the Facebook advertisements:

15 December 2025




Social Workers Registration Board
Published by Andrea Coulston · December 15, 2025

Applications Open for Education Panellists
We are inviting applications to be part of our education prescription and monitoring panel. Panellists need experience in a variety of areas (view link for more info). Applications close 30 January 2026.

**Expression of interest – panel member
for prescription and monitoring
framework**

6 January 2026




Social Workers Registration Board
Published by Andrea Coulston · January 6

Applications Open for Education Panellists
We are inviting applications to be part of our education prescription and monitoring panel. Panellists need experience in a variety of areas (view link for more info). Applications close 30 January 2026.
<https://swrb.govt.nz/about-us/jobs/>

**Expression of interest – panel member
for prescription and monitoring
framework**

16 January 2026



Social Workers Registration Board
Published by Andrea Coulston · January 16 ·

Join an Education Panel
We are inviting applications to be part of our education prescription and monitoring panel. Panellists need experience in a variety of areas (view link for more info). Applications extended until 20 February 2026.
<https://swrb.govt.nz/about-us/jobs/>

Expression of interest – panel member for prescription and monitoring framework

Pay rate for PMP members

The SWRB will pay PMP members \$124 per hour worked. There is no guarantee as to the number of hours that any individual member of the PMP pool will be asked to work.

Number of applications received from the public

The SWRB received 29 applications to join the pool of PMP members.

Number of applications received from “nominating agencies”

The SWRB did not receive, nor seek, applications from nominating agencies such as Te Puni Kōkiri or the Ministry for Women.

Number of applicants shortlisted

The SWRB shortlisted 15 applicants.

Number of applicants interviewed

The SWRB interviewed 15 applicants.

Copy of the appointment letter

The SWRB has not yet appointed any members to the Pool. However, we have sent the following email to people who passed the interview stage:

Kia ora [Candidate's Name],

Thank you again for your interest in becoming part of our pool of Prescription panellists and taking the time to meet with us during the interview process. We really appreciated the opportunity to speak with you.

We are pleased to let you know that we would like to progress you to the next stage of the process.

This includes completing several standard pre-engagement checks, including references, a declaration of interest form, and a Ministry of Justice check. Please reply to this email confirming you are happy for us to proceed with these checks.

In your response, could you also please provide:

- *Contact details for two referees*
- *Documentation confirming your right to work in New Zealand (e.g. NZ/Australian passport, or passport and visa showing working rights)*

Once we receive your confirmation and the above information, we will begin the next steps and keep you updated on progress.

Ngā mihi

Number of vacancies the SWRB is seeking to fill

The SWRB hopes to recruit 10–12 applicants to join its pool of PMP members.

Further information

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss the matter further, please contact the SWRB by email at office@swrb.govt.nz, or by post at Social Workers Registration Board, PO Box 3452, Wellington 6140 (attention Legal Team).

You have the right to seek a review of our response by the Ombudsman. Information about the Ombudsman can be found at <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz>.

Ngā mihi nui,



Lucas Davies
Legal Services Manager
Social Workers Registration Board