

● ● ● Bylaw Change

Amendments to Bylaws can be made by the Rural Women New Zealand Board and are effective immediately but must be ratified by the Organisation's Members at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) if they are to continue to have effect. Changes made since the last AGM are listed below with the rationale for the change and the new proposed wording. A marked up copy of the full Bylaws with the existing wording is available on the Member's section of the Rural Women New Zealand website or upon request from the National Office.

Bylaw Four: Membership

The Board reviewed the wording for Bylaw 4 in relation to Regional Committees and Regional Leaders to reflect the Regional Elections Policy adopted, after discussion with Regional Leaders, in April 2022.

This required updating of the wording in *4.10 Regional Committees* and *4.11 Regional Leaders*. The Board has also made minor changes to wording in 4.11 and 4.12 to reflect updated terminology.

Rationale: This approach ensures consistency as the by-laws reflect recent changes in policy that bring regional election practice in line with national election practice. The terminology changes ensure consistency of description and help avoid confusion.

Resolution to be ratified:

THAT Rural Women New Zealand ratifies the Board Resolution and that the wording of Bylaw 4.10, 4.11 and 4.12 be changed to:

4.10 Regional Committees

- a. The Members in each Area shall, with assistance from the National Office, if needed, elect a committee of six Members (a Regional Committee), which shall operate in accordance with the terms of reference set by the Board for Regional Committees from time to time.
- b. The Members of a Regional Committee may choose to appoint up to two additional Members to their Region Committee to ensure that any expertise gaps are met.
- c. Each Regional Committee shall elect a chairperson from time to time.
- d. Regional Committees are not committees established by the Board under Rule 6.6e and the Board may not delegate any of its powers, duties or responsibilities to a Regional Committee.
- e. Regional Committees may work collaboratively with other Regional Committees to achieve common goals
- f. The roles and responsibilities of Regional Committees will include:
 1. encouraging Members to participate actively in the Organisation;
 2. the management of Regional, including charitable, disbursements within a budget allocated to the Region by the Board;
 3. working in consultation with its Regional Leader to develop a workplan to achieve the Organisation's objectives within the Region.

4.11 Regional Leaders

- a. A Regional Leader will be elected by the Region's members in an election process held alongside but separate to the Regional Committee election process.
- b. Regional Leaders should have an interest in developing their leadership skills and have participated in recognised leadership training courses

4.12 National Leadership Team

1. All Regional Leaders shall make up the National Leadership Team.
2. The purpose of the National Leadership Team is to assist the Board in attaining the Organisation's objectives and to provide a vehicle for future Board members to develop their leadership skills.

3. The Board may approve, appoint up to three additional Regional Leaders at any one time to ensure that any expertise gaps are met.
4. A Member who accepts appointment as a Regional Leader must commit to the Terms of Reference for the role.

Moved: Gill Naylor, National President

Seconded: Sharron Davie-Martin

● ● ● **Board Resolution: Annual Membership Fee**

Bylaw 4.3d states that the Board will review the Membership Fee annually and submit its resolution to the Members for ratification at the following Annual General Meeting (AGM). Any changes to the Membership fee that are ratified will not apply until the commencement of the following Financial Year.

The Board has reviewed the Membership fee and is proposing an increase from \$50 inclusive of GST (\$43.48 excl) to \$60 inclusive of GST (\$52.17 excl) to take effect from 1 July 2023 noting our organisation is GST registered.

Rationale:

In 2021 The Board reviewed the Membership fee and proposed an increase from \$50 inclusive of GST (\$43.48 excl) to \$60 inclusive of GST (\$52.17 excl) to take effect from 1 July 2022 noting our organisation is GST registered. This resolution was not passed by members at the 2021 AGM.

When reviewing the Membership fee in 2022, the Board considered the inflation rate (total percentage change of 20% since 2013). The Board also considered the GST component alongside the cumulative impact from our last increase in 2013.

Given that the organisation has absorbed the increased costs of providing membership support and services over the last 9 years the Board considers it is reasonable that the membership fee is adjusted to reflect this.

Resolution to be ratified:

THAT Rural Women New Zealand ratifies the following Board resolution:

That the Annual Membership Fee for membership of Rural Women New Zealand increase to \$60 including GST from the beginning of the next financial year i.e. 1 July 2023.

Moved: Sandra Matthews, National Chair

Seconded: Gill Naylor, National President