



La Leche  
League **NZ**

*Supporting your breastfeeding journey*

*E tautoko ana i tō ara whāngote*

# A New Constitution for La Leche League New Zealand

June 2019

# A new Constitution for La Leche League NZ

## What is new in the constitution?

- Board members elected by Leaders, fewer, not all Leaders, appointments possible
- Management structure not specified – flexible, can be changed as needed
- National Coordinator position created to manage the operations of LLLNZ
- Voting rights for Honorary members who are no longer Leaders
- Prepared for new Incorporated Societies act

# A new Constitution for La Leche League NZ

## Why do we need a new constitution?

- The old one is out of date – last revised in 2008 – not being followed exactly eg CST, LA membership category
- The Incorporated Societies Act 1908 is under review
- To allow the separation of governance and management.

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## What you said in the April consultation

- Don't remove "mother" from Purpose
- LLLNZ is too small to separate governance and management
- Proposed election of Honorary members at AGMs is not appropriate

# A new Constitution for La Leche League NZ

## Final draft – June

- “mother” has been added back to purpose
- The condition that Administrators are not eligible for the Board has been retained (reasons on next slide)
- Election of Honorary members at the AGM has been retained (reasons follow next slide)

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## Administrators are not eligible for the Board because:

- Board members and Administrators are all in paid employment, and not willing to do a combined role
- A combined role leaves no time to step back and think of new approaches – only time and energy to keep doing the same thing
- New ideas are needed to take LLLNZ forward
- Can't keep going as we are – we have limited time left
- We have to try something new

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Honorary members to be elected at the AGM because:

- Best practice as per the Incorporated Societies template
- More of an honour to be elected by members
- Outcomes will be the same

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## Final draft for voting presented in June

- Reviewed by LLLI ED, as required

*“The changes you’ve described sound very good. I agree that the constitution, like bylaws in the U.S., should focus on governance and not management of the organization. I especially like that your board will be a mix of elected and appointed members and not all Leaders. I assume this is intended to provide you with access to expertise that may not exist among your volunteers.”*

Lee Claassen, LLLI Executive Director



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## Next Steps

- Voting – approved by members
- Approval by Registrar of Incorporated Societies
- Implementation at AGM, 21 September
- First Board election – process starts next week
- Rowena to stay on the Board for continuity
- First task of new Board to appoint a National Coordinator

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Let's vote – see link in email

THANK YOU

