

Nau mai, haere mai ki ngā Pātai Auau – these FAQs are here to support you and your whānau to feel confident about registering, voting, and taking part in the life of our hapū. We hope these answers give clarity, warmth, and reassurance as we move through the elections process.

Membership Types Overview / Ngā Momo Rēhita

Whānau can register under several categories with Te Piringa Hapū Authority Trust. Each type of membership recognises different connections and roles within the hapū, ensuring whakapapa, community contribution, and intergenerational voices are represented.

- Uri Register – For those who whakapapa to Ngāti Hinemanu, Ngāi Te Upokoiri, Ngāti Mahuika, or Honomōkai. Uri may register from birth, and once 18 years old become Adult Uri with full voting rights.
- Ahikaa Register – For uri who have lived in takiwā for at least three years and are active in our community (he kanohi kitea), maintaining the ahi kaa and supporting hapū integrity.
- Rangatahi – Adult uri aged 18–35 years, represented through the Pōkai Rangatahi (Rangatahi Council), that appoints one trustee to bring rangatahi perspectives to governance.
- Kaumātua – Adult uri aged 50 years and older, represented through the Kāhui Kaumātua (Kaumātua Council), that appoints a trustee to provide wisdom, experience, and intergenerational guidance.

Together, these categories ensure that whakapapa, community contribution, and intergenerational voices are all reflected in the Trust's decision-making and leadership.

Hapū Registration Form

Some of our hapū already keep their own uri registers — and that's important for whakapapa, marae responsibilities, and local planning. But registering with the Ngāti Hinemanu, Ngāi Te Upokoiri me ōna Piringa Hapū Authority Trust (the Trust) is also important.

The Trust register brings all our hapū together under one umbrella for the purposes stated in the Trust Deed. It gives you the right to vote in trustee elections, be counted in collective decision-making, and ensures the Trust can represent our people with a strong, united voice when dealing with government, funders, and partners. It also supports the fair management of shared assets and investments on behalf of all uri.

By registering with both your hapū and the Trust, you help strengthen local connections *and* our wider collective influence. Together, these registrations make sure your whānau are recognised, resourced, and represented at every level.

- **Who can register?**
Individuals who whakapapa to Ngāti Hinemanu, Ngāti Te Upokoiri, Ngāti Māhuika, and Ngāti Honomōkai hapū are eligible to register. Ahikaa who live in the rohe and support our marae and kaupapa may also register.
- **What information is required for registration?**
Basic details including your full name, date of birth, address, and whakapapa information. Ahikaa may also provide optional details about their community contributions.

- **Why do I need to provide whakapapa details?**
Whakapapa information confirms your affiliation with one of our hapū and ensures accurate validation of your registration.
- **How long does the validation process take?**
The validation process involves Te Komiti Whakahonohono reviewing your registration details which will take up to 20 days. If your application is not accepted, you may request a review. All complete registrations received by 1 November will be processed prior to the voting closing date.
- **Can I register my children?**
Yes, however children over the age of 18 should complete their own individual registration forms.

Ahikaa Registration Form

Ahikaa members are those who live within the rohe and help keep the home fires burning, even if they do not whakapapa to Ngāti Hinemanu, Ngāi Te Upokoiri or ōna piringa hapū. They may be whānau who have married into the hapū, long-time residents, or community members — including non-Māori — who support our marae, events, and local kaupapa.

Registering Ahikaa with Te Piringa Hapū Trust ensures their contributions are acknowledged and their voices included in community engagement. While they do not hold the same whakapapa-based rights as uri, they play an important role in strengthening the everyday life of our whānau, hapū, marae and community.

- **Why should I register if I don't whakapapa to one of the hapū?**
Registering helps you stay informed about local events, opportunities, and community initiatives. It also strengthens your connection to the community, allowing you to contribute to its development and future planning.
- **Who is eligible to register?**
Anyone living in the community of Ōmāhu, Te Āwhina, and/or Rūnanga, regardless of whether they whakapapa to Ngāti Hinemanu, Ngāti Te Upokoiri, Ngāti Māhuika, or Ngāti Honomōkai.

Personal Information and Privacy | Te Mana o ō Mōhiohio

- **Who sees my information?**
Only authorised kaimahi and members of Te Komiti Whakahonohono will see your information, and only for the purpose of processing your registration. All have clear responsibilities to keep your details confidential.
- **What is Te Komiti Whakahonohono?**
Te Komiti was formed to review and validate registration applications. There are three members, each appointed by the three marae based on their knowledge of whakapapa and engagement with their whānau, hapū and marae.
- **What happens if my registration form is incomplete?**
If your form is missing information, we'll get in touch to let you know what's needed. Please note that registrations pause between 1 November and 1 December while we prepare for elections. Forms received during this time will be processed in December.
- **How will my personal information be used?**
Your information will only be used for membership administration, communication, and ensuring uri and ahikaa rights are upheld. Where information is shared, it will be aggregated and anonymous (e.g. overall numbers of registered members). Identifiable details will only be released if required by law.

- **How is my personal information stored and protected?**
The Trust uses secure, password-protected databases and limits access to authorised personnel. All Komiti members sign confidentiality agreements.
- **Can I update my registration information?**
Yes, you can view and correct your personal information by contacting the Registrar at Te Piringa.
- **What happens if there's a privacy breach?**
The Trust will act immediately to contain the breach, notify affected whānau, report to the Privacy Commissioner if necessary, and review systems to prevent future issues.

Elections and Voting | Ngā Pōti me Ngā Kōwhiringa

- **Who is eligible to vote?**
All adult uri (18 years and older) who are registered with the Trust are eligible to vote.
- **Can whānau living overseas vote?**
Yes, uri overseas may register and vote, but to stand as a trustee you must be resident in Aotearoa.
- **How will I receive my voting pack?**
Voting packs are posted to the address held on our membership register. Please update your address if you have moved or changed postal details.
- **What if my voting pack does not arrive?**
Contact the Registrar at register@piringahapu.com to request a replacement pack.

Trustee Nominations and Governance | Te Tukanga me ngā Kaitiaki

- **Can I nominate myself as a trustee candidate?**
No, you must be nominated by another registered uri. However, you must also sign the nomination form to confirm your eligibility.
- **What information must a candidate provide?**
Candidates must submit a nomination form, CV (up to four pages), a short biography (max 300 words), and a recent photo.
- **What training or support is provided to trustees?**
All trustees complete governance training and are supported with resources such as secretariat services, legal advice, and wānanga on kaupapa tuku iho.
- **Do trustees get paid?**
Trustees are not paid for their time, but approved travel costs are reimbursed.

Data and Privacy Policy

Our data and privacy policy protects the personal and whakapapa information of uri and ahikaa; it ensures the Trust complies with the Privacy Act and builds trust by showing members their details will be kept safe and only used appropriately. It also provides clarity about how information is collected, stored, and shared, and reduces risks of misuse or breaches, safeguarding both whānau and the Trust.

- **What personal information will be collected?**

The Trust collects details such as member registration information, contact details (email, phone number, address), iwi and hapū affiliations, and whakapapa information.

- **How will my personal information be used?**

Your personal information will only be used for purposes such as membership administration, communication, delivery of services, legal compliance, and protection of hapū rights.

- **Will my information be shared with others?**

We will not share your personal information in a way that identifies you. Where information is shared, it will only be in aggregated and anonymous form (for example, overall participation numbers). Your identifiable information will only be disclosed if required by law.

- **How is my personal information stored and protected?**

The Trust uses secure storage systems, including password-protected databases, and limits access to authorised personnel only to safeguard your data.

- **Can I access and update my personal information?**

Yes, you have the right to request access to your information and request corrections if needed. You can contact the Trust by email or phone for updates or removal of your data.

- **What should I do if I have concerns about how my data is managed?**

If you believe your information has been unlawfully accessed or used, you can lodge a formal complaint with the Trust. If unsatisfied with the response, you can escalate the matter to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner.

- **What happens if there's a privacy breach involving my data?**

The Trust will take immediate action to contain the breach, notify affected individuals, report to the Privacy Commissioner if necessary, and investigate to prevent future breaches.

Te Komiti Whakahonohono (Validations Committee)

Te Komiti Whakahonohono was formed to review and validate registration applications. There are three members, each appointed by the three marae based on their knowledge of whakapapa and engagement with their hapū and marae.

- **What is the purpose of Te Komiti Whakahonohono?**

Te Komiti Whakahonohono ensures fair and transparent registration for Hapū/Marae and Ahikaa membership applications by verifying whakapapa or living status.

- **Who oversees the validation process?**

Te Komiti Whakahonohono with oversight from the Te Piringa Hapū Board oversees the process.

- **What types of applications does the Komiti review?**

The Komiti reviews applications for Hapū and Ahikaa registrations based on whakapapa or community living status.

- **How long does the validation process take?**

The validation process must be completed within 20 working days after receiving an application.

- **What if my application is unsuccessful?**

You will receive a written explanation of the decision, and you have the right to challenge it by providing additional information.

- **Can I challenge a decision if my application is rejected?**

You can submit a formal dispute in writing, providing new information or documents for reassessment.

- **Who makes the final decision if there is a dispute?**

The Trust Board makes the final decision after considering the recommendations of the Komiti and any additional information.

- **What personal data protection measures are in place?**

Personal data is securely stored, and all Komiti members sign Non-Disclosure Agreements to ensure confidentiality.

- **How often does the Komiti meet to review applications?**

The Komiti meets monthly.