



Blind Citizens NZ

FOCUS

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Informed Voting

Editorial from Carolyn Weston

Over the past three months I have been very busy. My husband Tony and I had to spend six weeks in Wellington, caring for our new baby granddaughter, as her mother was in hospital. In early August, days before returning home to Invercargill, I fell and broke my wrist. I had to rest and take it easy whilst this fracture heals.

After the initial shock of falling and once again, fracturing a bone, I try and do as much as I can for myself. However, one-handed typing is slow and tedious, when used to touch typing. I'm looking forward to touch typing again. In the meantime, I've had to hand-write this editorial, and have it scanned so some kind person at our national office, can type this out.

My accident has put paid to the topic I was going to ask people to contribute and write about, so I'll work on that for our December Focus. I'll give you heads-up on that later. Now for this editorial.

A year ago, Blind Citizens NZ was advocating to local bodies to participate in the electronic voting trial, enabling blind voters in eight councils/regions the opportunity to cast their vote online, without sighted assistance. Unfortunately, Government decided not to go ahead with the trial as some people were concerned about voter's and system security. It is disappointing that New Zealand's Government lags behind other countries in not bringing our electoral system into the 21st century. We remain in the dark ages, where blind and vision impaired people must rely on the assistance of sighted family or friends, to cast a vote.

For some of us, we still have to ask staff at the polling booth to assist us. All very fine if one votes at a polling booth, but local body elections are conducted via post. Voters cast their vote at home.

We blind people don't even have the benefit of telephone voting which some of us used when voting in the General Elections and the Flag referenda. Put it this way, if we do have telephone voting, it hasn't been advertised and it would be lots of work for the people reading out all the candidate's names in all the different council areas. One call would take many minutes, and voters have to vote for local council, regional council, a DHB and possibly other local authorities or trusts in one region. There may be a way to do this by phone one day, but it will probably be administered at a local site.

Casting a vote is a right everyone over 18 in New Zealand has, and people like Kate Shepherd fought for women to have a vote. But it's not much use having the right to cast a vote if you don't know what candidates are standing for, or who they even are.

If you require medical treatment such as a cataract operation, you must give your informed consent before the surgeon can operate. It is up to medical staff to ensure that you have read or had read the information to you about your operation and that you understand what will happen. Patients have to sign a form saying they understand the procedure. This is called informed consent. When casting a vote, we are given a list of names and a small printed booklet with a summary about each candidate. There are often candidate's meetings, newspaper, and possibly radio information about candidates, but as the media becomes more and more nationalised, only voters living in main cities will have some information about people standing for Mayor or Council in formats other than print.

I used to listen to our local television candidate's discussions before our local body elections, but Cue Television stopped broadcasting due to lack of funds. I cannot read the information in the information booklet that goes out with our voting papers so how will I, and thousands of other blind and vision impaired voters make an informed choice when casting our vote this year?

Researching my city and what information will be available about each candidate, I discover that there is less opportunity to obtain a candidate's curriculum vitae, and information other than in print. Due to the number of people standing for council, two organisations have decided only to hold candidate meetings for those standing for Mayor. There is no radio or television interviews. How can blind and vision impaired people obtain information about local candidates? There are some solutions but the point is who is responsible for funding and setting these up?

Suggestions are:

- Telephone Information Service: The Blind Foundation operates this for its clients. People who have access to this service find it beneficial. People can choose when to listen and take breaks, coming back to the part they were listening to.
- On-line Information: There should already be information about candidates on-line, but we need to be able to access it in an accessible format and we need to know where to find it. Marketing this information is essential.

Printed candidate's booklet should also be available in an electronic form such as an accessible file people can request from their local Returning Officer. This booklet could also be read onto a CD and be available at public libraries and council offices. People who are unable to get into town should be able to ring and request a CD containing this information to be sent to them.

Admittedly there will still be some blind and vision impaired people unable to access candidate information but these suggestions are a starting point. One solution which could help older people and those with a vision impairment is to have available, large print copies of the candidate's information booklet. A simple solution but no doubt money for the use of extra paper and printing would need to be found.

As you can see, there is no reason blind and vision impaired voters can't cast an informed vote now. We just need people to consider our needs talk with us about solutions and work to break down barriers preventing us from making an informed choice during a local body election.

Since producing my editorial, I have learnt that the Blind Foundation and Auckland Council have worked together to make information about candidate's standing for election to Auckland Council, accessible for Auckland's blind and vision impaired voters. We welcome anyone using the accessible service, sending an explanation about how this worked and whether you found the service helpful when casting your vote. The approach taken by Auckland Council may help other cities and regions to provide more accessible information on their local authority elections and candidates, in the future.

December Editorial Topic - Parenting and Grand-parenting: My recent experiences of caring for a new baby brought back memories of being a young blind mother. Some things have changed but there are still negative attitudes towards blind people having, and caring for children. I would like any blind or vision impaired parent or grandparent to write a short passage about an experience you have had. You may wish to share a positive experience, or a negative one telling us how you overcame the issue. This could help other blind parents or grandparents and change attitudes towards blind people caring for others.

Please write to Focus (contact details are at the end of this issue) by 15 November 2016.

From the President - Clive Lansink

Greetings again from the National Office of Blind Citizens NZ. We have actually had two Board meetings since I last wrote to you so there is quite a lot to tell you about.

Plans are taking shape now for our national Conference to be held in Wellington from Friday 7 to Sunday 9 October. Yes, it is nearly upon us. The theme for this year is "My Life, My Choice – Self Determination Starts with Us". It is a reminder that to us the term self-determination means taking charge of our own lives as disabled people, individually and collectively. One way we do this is through organisations like our own Blind Citizens NZ, referred to as Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs). We will be exploring what it means to be a DPO and how we can best use our limited resources to be an effective voice that is driven directly by and speaks on behalf of our members. Of course there will be a lot more than this so I urge you to do everything you can to get there to be part of the action.

Our Board received a substantial series of reports and recommendations from an international forum held in April this year looking at access by blind and vision impaired people to transport and the environment. The forum was hosted jointly by Blind Citizens NZ and the World Blind Union, with support from Auckland Council and the Blind Foundation's Guide Dog Services. Recommendations were made to the World Blind Union's General Assembly which has already taken place. But regarding New Zealand, the main outcome of the forum is that Blind Citizens NZ and the Blind Foundation will work together to lobby the New Zealand Government and local authorities for improvements in various areas including shared spaces (where pedestrians and vehicles can use the same space), regulations concerning quiet vehicles, issues relevant to international travel (particularly with a guide dog), and universal design.

One issue we are always close to is education and the need for blind and vision impaired children to get the best education they can, not just in the usual skills everyone needs, but also the special skills we need because of our disability. We uphold the principle which is already enshrined in our law that a disabled child has the right to attend and receive an education at their local school. We continue to see a role for specialist schools such as BLENNZ and do not see this as conflicting with or undermining this fundamental right. To explain this, we have prepared and are now looking for funding to officially launch a new briefing document called "Learning the Hard Way", which clearly but concisely explains our views on this most important issue.

Back in our March issue I mentioned that the Government is now reviewing its Disability Strategy, which will guide disability-related planning at least for the next ten years. Blind Citizens NZ has played our part alongside other Disabled People's Organisations in telling the Government what we are looking for in this next strategy. We made two written submissions and I know a number of you also made submissions as individuals which is really fantastic. We don't actually know what the final strategy will be like. It is now in its final stages of drafting by the Government, and the Government hopes to adopt it before the end of this year. Obviously we await the outcome with interest.

We have also been busy lobbying the Government on Other important issues. One is the need for New Zealand to adopt the Marrakesh Treaty that will make it easier for countries to exchange materials such as talking and braille books. We are reasonably confident New Zealand will eventually ratify the Treaty, but we are concerned that the Government is not giving this a high priority.

We also encouraged New Zealand to adopt the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We are pleased to tell you the Government has in fact adopted this. This is an important development because it allows people to take complaints against the New Zealand Government right to the United Nations.

Coming to the top of our list now is the bill that is now before the House that will make significant changes to our taxi services. We will definitely be making our voice heard on this bill and we urge you to do the same. We argue that disabled people rely on urban transport to get around our towns and cities and integrate into mainstream society. We believe there are many opportunities for people with an entrepreneurial spirit to get involved and deliver world class urban transport. But we also believe there must be clear regulation to ensure that our ability to get around our town or city as transport disadvantaged people is not left entirely to free market forces. Urban transport needs to be seen as an essential service that should be readily available to us all. There must be clear rules and obligations on all service providers, competition in the industry must be on a level playing field, and these services must be fully accessible to all blind and vision impaired people, even those who don't have modern smart phones.

Finally, I want to pay a special tribute to someone who we have sadly lost from our blind community. Lisette Wesseling was totally blind and a wonderfully talented classically trained singer. After studying music first in New Zealand, her studies then took her to Melbourne and then to London. But her real passion was to encourage and inspire younger students, including blind and vision impaired, to also excel in music. She actively performed in choirs in the Wellington area, and was very active in regular music education camps and events for blind and vision impaired students held here and in Australia.

She relied heavily on braille music and was a staunch advocate for and promoter of braille generally. Her spirit remained strong and clear even while she battled the cancer for several years that finally took her at just forty-four years of age. She has been an inspiration to many people both here and overseas in her relatively short life.

And one more thing before I go. This could be the last time I write this column because I have put my name forward in the coming Blind Foundation Board election. Last year I did say that this would definitely be my final term as National President of Blind Citizens NZ, and under normal circumstances I would be finishing up around October next year. However, I think now is the right time to make this move, and if I am elected, I will quickly resign as National President and from our Board, so I can focus fully on the new role. I have learned a tremendous amount from nearly forty years of work in one position or another with Blind Citizens NZ, and I truly believe I can make a positive difference to the Blind Foundation by bringing that experience to its Board table if I am elected.

And that brings you up to date. To keep right up to date, you can stay in touch with your branch, and you can check out our Feedback Line each week on the Foundation's Telephone Information Service; just take option 5 1 1 from the main menu. Also if you are on email, why not join our blind discussion email list. Just send a blank email message to abcnz-blinddiscuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Or how about finding us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BlindCitizensNZ>.

Audio Description

Published on behalf of Able

Note to readers: Blind Citizens NZ has been at the heart of the promotion and introduction of all forms of audio description into New Zealand for many, many years. The following article from Able, the producers of audio described television programme content (and captioning for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing) has two components. If you are yet to experience audio described television programmes, then we encourage you to read on, to contact Able, and to also take part in the survey... If you are a regular viewer of audio description, then the survey should be of interest to you.

Have you tried audio description? Audio description is a free service that can help blind and vision impaired people get more enjoyment from television. AD is an audio track that provides a narrator description of the on-screen action. For instance, 'A man walks into the room and collects his coat.' The descriptions play in between the programme dialogue. All televisions can access audio description – you just need to select audio description or Italian in your TV audio settings. You can find out how to access audio description by visiting <http://able.co.nz/audio-description/how-to-access-audio-descriptions> or by calling the friendly team at Able on 09 950 5172, and we'll talk you through it.

Contact Able if you would like a copy of the instructions to access audio description posted to you – large print, braille and small print available. You can join Able's weekly newsletter which provides a list of audio described programmes by signing up on our website, or by emailing hello@able.co.nz.

Research / Survey: Would you like to be involved in a survey about television and audio description usage? Are you blind or vision impaired?

Email or call Able with your phone number to take part in this research. hello@able.co.nz or 09 950 5172”

Note to readers: Able is particularly interested in hearing from everyone i.e. from those of you who watch audio described television programmes, and those who do not.

Making Democracy Work

Letter to the Editor, from Don McKenzie

The idea of democracy, began in ancient monasteries, craft guilds and early tribes whose survival depended on collective decision-making and group wisdom. Genuine democracy is a tough call and is at its best when most people are actively involved, are well informed and able to have their say in a safe and respectful setting.

Elections for RNZFB Directors is an opportunity to act as a responsible stakeholder and to vote for what you think the Foundation should be doing now and in the future.

Late in October Governing Members of the RNZFB have their annual chance to elect Directors whose responsibility is to ensure the overall running of our Foundation, its performance, for raising money in the name of the blind, for fulfilling the RNZFB’s constitutional mission, for the organisation’s human face, and the Foundation’s future.

Each election is a time to ask ourselves whether democracy is working the way it was intended to work following the 2003 governance reforms based on self-determination.

Every election is a time to ask whether the Foundation is reflecting our identity, our values, our priorities and our preferred ways of working. Elections are a time to assess whether blind New Zealanders are getting what they need. At the time of writing it's not known who might stand for election. Every candidate who offers themselves certainly deserves our thanks, it is not an easy task.

Here are some things to think about before casting your precious vote.

My reading of the 2005 and 2015 accounts show that grants to consumer groups have gone down by more than \$320,000 over the last decade and that investment in governance has gone up by only \$154,000 over the same period. Meanwhile, the Foundation's income has increased by \$9 million, while membership has remained fairly static. That is, there has been a proportional drop in seeking out the range of independent consumer voices and a minimal investment in overall governance.

Once candidates are announced it could be useful to ask them how they interpret the "nothing about us without us" principle, aspects of which have recently been challenged by the Board. It is worth gauging what value candidates place on accountability, real information sharing and listening respectfully to the collective authentic voice of consumers before making major decisions.

Biases do exist against groups such as Blind Citizens who dare to "speak and act for themselves" in the traditions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons and the WBU. There appear to be few mechanisms for open dialogue on resolving differences that arise. Students of Foundation history will recognise this historic pattern, despite that it is in the name of the blind that money is raised. Running the business of the Foundation has to be balanced against its core mission.

When voting for or against any candidate, voters must make sure that the 2003 platform of self-determination is made real by insisting on good relationships, openness, a spirit of partnership, measurable performance that shows the quality of life of blind people is being improved by service programmes. It is not outputs that count, it is their effect that matters.

The job of responsible Governing Members is to nurture what is already ours by talking to candidates, selecting those you trust, to remain actively engaged and unafraid to ask the obvious questions when things don't seem right.

To be a stakeholder is to claim the right to be treated as a partner in our own enterprise.

**Notice of Extra Ordinary Election to fill the Vacancy for
World Blind Union Representative
From Rose Wilkinson, Returning Officer**

At the close of nominations for the election of World Blind Union Representative, at 4 pm Thursday 18 August, one nomination only, was received. Martine Abel-Williamson was the only candidate nominated. However, following the close of nominations for this position, she chose to withdraw her nomination. This creates a vacancy for which an extra-ordinary election to fill this position, is required.

The Board has confirmed procedures to conduct an extra-ordinary election to fill the World Blind Union Representative vacancy. Voting members should note that timelines for an extra-ordinary election vary to those for annual, scheduled elections. They are set by the Board. The timeframes for this extra-ordinary election are stringent.

- 1. Term of Office for this Vacancy:** the successful candidate will commence in the position immediately following the conclusion of the election procedure. Their term of office will conclude at the end of Blind Citizens NZ's 2018 Annual General Meeting and Conference. Guidelines that outline duties and responsibilities of the World Blind Union Representative, and of Board Members in general, are available from the National Office upon request.
- 2. Who can participate in the extra-ordinary election process?**
You are eligible to participate if you are recorded as a financial Ordinary member on the member database held by National Office of Blind Citizens NZ, by **4pm, Monday 17 October 2016**. This is the closing date for nominations. If you are standing for election to this position, you must also live in New Zealand. Associate members are not eligible to participate in Blind Citizens NZ's election processes.
- 3. About the nomination process:** Nominations must be endorsed by the nominee (the person standing for election), the person proposing the nomination and the seconder. Nomination forms require the signature of each of these three individuals. Email procedures similarly require each of the three individuals to actively confirm their role in the nomination process. Candidates choosing the email procedure, are required to contact the Returning Officer to notify their intent to initiate their nomination using the email option, prior to this occurring. Instructions for the email nomination procedure will be provided. Candidates are responsible for submitting their CV with their completed nomination.

All requirements for the process must be concluded and completed nominations in the hands of the Returning Officer by the close of nominations at **4pm, Monday 17 October 2016**.

- 4. Conducting the election:** After nominations close, and in the event that more than one nomination is received to fill the World Blind Union Representative vacancy, ballot material will be prepared and provided to everyone who is eligible to vote i.e. Ordinary Members recorded as financial on the member database at National Office as at **4pm, 17 October 2016**. Ballot material will be distributed in the member's preferred format no later than Thursday 27 October 2016.

Completed ballots (votes cast) must be received at the National Office no later than **4.00 pm, Friday 18 November 2016**. The counting of votes will take place the afternoon of Monday 21 November 2016.

- 5. Choose how you receive ballot material and vote:** There are several options for receiving election material, and three options for casting your vote in this extra-ordinary election. To receive information, you have the choice of: large print, CD (audio), electronically (email), braille, or utilising Blind Citizens NZ National Feedback Line bulletin on the Blind Foundation's Telephone Information Service (TIS). Options for casting your vote are using a paper-embossed ballot paper, braille, or TIS. If you are yet to experience TIS as an option to independently access information about candidates standing for election, and to cast your vote, then we encourage you to give this empowering option a go. A definite advantage using TIS these days, is that you avoid the hassles of having to fill out your ballot paper and posting it back.

If you are standing for election for the World Blind Union Representative position, and you prefer to use the print nomination form, this is included with the print version of Focus. The form is located at the end of this Focus issue.

If you require more information, whether needing a print nomination form, finding out more about use of the email option, checking if you are financial, using TIS, checking that we have your preferred format correctly listed, or any other aspect of the election procedure, you should contact our National Office on any of the following options: Phone 0800-222-6940 or 04-389-0033; post to PO Box 7144, Newtown, Wellington 6242; Fax: 04-389-0030; or email election@abcnz.org.nz

Volunteers for Pilot to assess Survey Questions

In our previous Focus issue, we called for expressions of interest from readers, to participate in a pilot of survey questions. The lateness of this being distributed, impacted on people submitting expressions of interest within the timeframe available. For this reason, we are refreshing our request, and we recap on the purpose of the survey questions... If you are interested in finding out a little more about this pilot, and what is involved, contact the Executive Officer Rose Wilkinson at your earliest opportunity and ideally by 14 October 2016, via any of the following options:

- Email: rwilkinson@abcnz.org.nz
- Phone: 04-389-0033 // Freephone: 0800-222-694
- Fax: 04-389-0030

The Board of Blind Citizens NZ is considering ways our brief “The Blind Foundation as We See It: A Summary of Our Key Expectations of the Blind Foundation”, can inform Blind Citizens NZ in our work.

The brief was adopted at Blind Citizens NZ’s 2015 Annual General Meeting and Conference. the brief sets out expectations members have about services delivered by the Blind Foundation, and as such, is a tool to engage with members to obtain views and experiences. A set of open-ended survey questions that considers each of the six areas identified in the brief have been developed.

A pilot involving volunteers who will assess the questions, is to take place. To get this off the ground Blind Citizens NZ is calling for additional expressions of interest from amongst our members to respond to the survey-questions and provide us with feedback. The pilot will assist Blind Citizens NZ to gauge the success of feedback, and to benefit from any lessons that may be learnt about how to improve the survey questions.

If you are interested in participating in the pilot, and are yet to let us know, there is still time...

Blind Citizens NZ - World Blind Union Committee Member's Expression of Interest is Invited

If you are interested in international blindness matters, and you have a yearning to put this to good use, then please do read on...

Blind Citizens NZ has a World Blind Union (WBU) Committee which exists to support the role of the World Blind Union Representative.

This committee comprises up to four financial Ordinary (voting) Members of Blind Citizens NZ, plus the World Blind Union Representative.

The term of office for all four positions is two years, and runs concurrently with the term of office for the World Blind Union Representative. You will have read already, that an extra-ordinary election to fill the position is underway also. In preparation of the outcome of the election, it is now time to garner interest in the WBU Committee from amongst financial Ordinary (voting) members. In brief, nominations and expressions of interest to fill these four positions are now called for.

If you meet the criteria and you are interested in filling one of these positions, please submit an expression of interest along with a CV that reflects your involvement in, and interest of Blind Citizens NZ and blindness issues internationally. Please be aware there is a 1,000 word-limit.

The closing date by which expressions of interest must be received is **4pm, Wednesday 16 November 2016**. These can be provided via any of the following options:

- Post: PO Box 7144, Newtown, Wellington 6242;
- Email: rwilkinson@abcnz.org.nz;
- Fax: 04-389-0030

Membership Renewal Reminder

Membership renewal for Ordinary (voting) and Associate (sighted family and friends), falls due on 1 July annually. This reminder is a general one, for members yet to renew their membership to 30 June 2017. If you are unsure of your financial status, it is best to check by contacting our national office, or your local branch treasurer.

Renewal notices for some parts of the country are still being issued. If you feel you have been overlooked, or you have a query about your membership, do not hesitate to contact our national office. We can then respond to your query, and assist with your membership renewal i.e. we can either send you a renewal form, or provide an on-line option for you to renew your Blind Citizens NZ membership.

Letters to the Editor

Articles that can potentially be published in Focus are encouraged. When writing your article, you are encouraged to take into consideration that limited resources coupled with space constraints leads to a limit of 400 words i.e. approximately one page.

When you submit an article, please bear in mind our word-limitation.

Your article can be posted to our mailing address PO Box 7144, Newtown, Wellington 6242, or emailed to: focus@abcnz.org.nz

Support Our Income Generation Efforts

For the past few years, readers have been informed of revenue generation work which is now a key component of operational activities. Income received through donations, bequests and payroll giving for example, go a long way towards supporting the many facets of our work such as our advocacy campaigns, marketing and promotional campaigns, communications and community education. Blind Citizens NZ has both Charitable and Donee status which is important for anyone thinking about the mutually beneficial outcomes of payroll giving and making us your charity of choice. Making us the recipient of a bequest is another way you can support us. Information about each of these options is provided.

Payroll Giving: this is a simple way for employees to make donations to a charity of their choice, such as Blind Citizens NZ.

When an employee makes a donation straight to a charity through their payroll, they receive a tax refund immediately. For any other kind of donations, the donor must wait until the end of the tax year to receive their tax refund. One of the key benefits of donating through your wages is that you may decide to donate your refund to the charity as well.

Charitable Payroll Giving is purely optional and not all employers will participate. Only employers who file their payroll electronically can offer the scheme. Blind Citizens NZ has Donee Status, and is eligible to receive payroll gifts. There are five simple steps to making a payroll giving donation...

1. Ask your employer if payroll giving is an employee benefit. Advocate for Blind Citizens NZ, and outline why you are passionate about the organisation. Some employers match payroll gifts with a contribution of their own.
2. If payroll giving is available, provide your employer with the bank account details for Blind Citizens NZ. Your HR Manager may seek verification. If necessary, provide the contact details for the Executive Officer Rose Wilkinson.
3. Decide how much you can afford, considering the immediate tax benefit. Decide how frequently you will make payments. It is easier for your payroll staff if you make the same donation on a regular basis.
4. Notify Blind Citizens NZ that you are making a payroll gift. Your employer may simply transfer the money into Blind Citizens NZ's bank account without any notification.
5. Tell all your friends and colleagues about how the good work of Blind Citizens NZ supports you. Encourage your work colleagues to support us.

Making a Bequest: Through our efforts and your financial support, we are working on the removal of the barriers we face so we can make our mark in the world. We are not an organisation helping blind people. We are blind people ourselves putting our own personal time and energy into pursuing our vision of a world in which we can be fully independent and able to contribute to our full potential.

Your Will can make a lasting gift and Blind Citizens NZ would be extremely grateful for any contribution. If you choose to leave a gift to Blind Citizens NZ, suggested wording for your will is:

I give and bequeath (_____) percent of my estate to the **Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated** to be applied for general purposes. A receipt taken by my trustee as being given on behalf of Blind Citizens NZ will be a complete discharge to my trustee for the legacy.

To find out how we inform those who have pledged their support to us, for questions or to make a contribution, contact:

- Rose Wilkinson 04-389-0039
- **Email:** bequests@abcnz.org.nz

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Inc
Extra Ordinary Election 2016
Nomination Form – World Blind Union Representative

We the undersigned, being financial Ordinary Members as at 4pm, 17 October 2016, of the Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand (refer Constitutional Rulings 5 and 10) hereby nominate:

Nominee's name in full: _____

Proposed by (signature): _____

Seconded by (signature): _____

I the undersigned, accept this nomination for the World Blind Union Representative vacancy. I declare that as at 4pm, 17 October 2016, I am a financial Ordinary Member of the Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Inc, and that I have been a financial Ordinary Member for no less than 24 full months measured cumulatively during the period of five consecutive years ending on said date. I acknowledge that:

- my CV is required to be circulated with the Ballot Papers (refer to Constitutional Ruling 10); and
- The term of office for this position concludes at the end of the 2018 Annual General Meeting and Conference.

Nominee's signature of acceptance: _____

Reminder

- a) Fully completed nominations (includes CV), must be received by the Returning Officer by 4pm, Monday 17 October 2016, at:
 - **Post:** PO Box 7144, Newtown, Wellington 6242; or by
 - **Email** (once instructions from the Returning Officer have been obtained): election2016@abcnz.org.nz;
 - **Fax:** 04-389-0030.
- b) The nominee's CV, not exceeding one thousand [1,000] words, must accompany the nomination.

Personnel - Blind Citizens NZ Board

- **National President:** Clive Lansink, clive@lansink.co.nz
(Management Committee)
- **Vice President:** Jonathan Godfrey (Member-at-Large /
Management Committee) jonathan@tactileimpressionz.co.nz
- Martine Abel-Williamson (World Blind Union Representative):
martine.the1@xtra.co.nz
- Andrea Courtney (Member-at-Large / Management Committee):
andycoute@xtra.co.nz
- Geraldine Glanville (Member-at-Large / Management Committee):
gbglanville@xtra.co.nz
- Shaun Johnson (Member-at-Large): shaun.zdots@xtra.co.nz
- Murray Peat (Member-at-Large): phone 021 081 66126;
murraytp@xtra.co.nz
- Amanda Stevens (Member-at-Large):
amanda.stevens824@gmail.com
- Paula Waby (Member-at-Large): paula.waby4@gmail.com

Focus Editor

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National Office

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Phone: 04-389-0033; 0800-ABCNZ-INC (0800-222-694)

Fax: 04-389-0030; Internet: <http://www.abcnz.org.nz>

Email: enquiries@abcnz.org.nz or admin@abcnz.org.nz

Executive Officer, Rose Wilkinson: rwilkinson@abcnz.org.nz

Blind Citizens NZ is appreciative of donations received from our members, for funding from the Lotteries Grants Board, Internet NZ, Think Differently, and the Blind Foundation.