

I am writing to express my interest in the position of a general board member at Volunteering New Zealand. With many years of experience in volunteer management, governance in not-for-profit organizations, and a commitment to fostering community engagement, I believe I can contribute meaningfully to your mission of promoting and supporting volunteerism across the country.

I have dedicated many years to volunteering and Leadership through many different organisations over the years. Over the past 10 plus years participating in the New Zealand Hospitals Leaders of Volunteers Group, and am an active member of the LOVHE network (Volunteer Leaders in Australian Health Care). This experience has deepened my understanding of the critical role that volunteer programs play in enhancing patient care and supporting healthcare professionals while also engaging with many different stakeholders and other organisations. I am passionate about connecting and engaging with volunteers, inspiring them to make a positive impact in their communities.

Throughout my career, I have successfully scoped, created and managed diverse volunteer programs at Christchurch Hospital, where I have not only grown these initiatives but also significantly increased funding for patient care. Through my leadership and wonderful volunteers within the incorporated society, we have raised over \$2 million for comfort items and essential patient services, including approximately \$200,000 in the past year alone. This funding has directly benefited countless patients, providing them with comfort and support during their hospital stays.

My previous experience in hotel and event management, encompassing HR, marketing, has equipped me with essential skills in project management and strategic resource allocation. I have effectively overseen the delivery of comfort items and projects to ensure the best use of funds, all while adhering to strong governance practices. These experiences have reinforced my belief in the power of volunteers to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

As the volunteering landscape evolves, organizations face new challenges, particularly with recent law changes such as the Charities Act and the Incorporated Societies Act. I am keen to engage with these issues, working collaboratively with fellow board members to navigate the changing regulatory environment. Together, we can inspire organizations to adapt and thrive in this new landscape, ensuring that volunteering remains a vibrant and impactful force in our communities.

I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to Volunteering New Zealand's vision and would be honored to bring my expertise in governance, volunteer management, and community engagement to your esteemed board. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of discussing my candidacy further.

Warm regards,

Lou Hoban-Watson

