



Boards of Trustees Elections Analysis: 2004

**Glen Thickett
2004**

This report summarises information on the triennial board of trustees elections, focussing on the election of parent representatives to school boards of trustees, held between February and May 2004. There were 2550 state and state integrated schools as at March 2004. Returning officers completed survey forms (Appendix A – Summary Of Candidates) on the gender, ethnicity, and previous board experience of the candidates. A total of 90% of schools responded to the survey on candidates standing for election as parent representatives for the 2004 board of trustees elections. The total number of candidates for these schools was just under 14,000.

There were approximately 19,800 board of trustees members identified in the Ministry of Education database (summarised from Appendix F – Change of Board Membership), of whom 11,700 were parent elected representatives.

Number of candidates

A total of 13,879 people stood as candidates in the 2,207 schools included in these results. This represents an average of 6.3 candidates per school, compared with 6.8 in 2001 and 7.0 in 1998. The highest average number of candidates, by school type in 2004, was at secondary schools with 8.0 candidates per school. Rural schools averaged 5.5 candidates and schools in main urban areas averaged 6.7 candidates per school.¹ The Auckland region had the highest average number of candidates per school—7.1. The Tasman and Chatham Island regions had the lowest average for the 2004 election with 5.4 and 5.0 candidates per school respectively. There was little variation in the average number of candidates by decile.

Just over a quarter (27%) of schools had five candidates for the election, while 30% of schools had six or seven candidates. The highest number of candidates was 17.

Table 1: The proportion of schools by the number of candidates standing for election

Number of positions	<3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	>11
% of schools	1%	6%	12%	27%	16%	14%	9%	6%	4%	2%	3%

Over half (56%) of the 2,207 schools returning Appendix A had more candidates than positions available and therefore were required to hold a voting election. In 2001, 62% of schools were required to hold a voting election. If the number of candidates was equal to the number of positions available for parent elected representatives then a board of trustees could be formed without holding a voting election. If three or four candidates were nominated for a board with five positions, then a board could be formed and other members may be subsequently elected to the casual vacancies in a by-election, or appointed by the board. All schools included in this report had enough candidates standing for election as parent representatives to form a board as required under the Act.²

As shown in Table 2, secondary schools were most likely to have more candidates than positions and hold a voting election. Schools most likely to have more candidates than positions were in the Auckland (68%) and Bay of Plenty (71%) regions, in main urban areas (63%), and decile 10 schools (67%). Schools most likely to have fewer candidates than positions were in the Marlborough (20%), and Gisborne and Northland regions (both 17%), in rural areas (17%), and decile 3 schools (19%).

¹ Statistics New Zealand area type classification. Main urban area, population at least 30,000; secondary urban area, population between 10,000 and 29,999; minor urban area, population between 1,000 and 9,999; and rural area, population less than 1,000.

² If the result of an election of trustees is that the board has fewer than three trustees elected by parents, a board is not legally constituted and the board may be dissolved and a commissioner appointed by the Secretary of Education. These schools have been excluded from this report.

Table 2: The proportion of schools by positions available for candidates

	Fewer candidates than positions	Same candidates as positions	More candidates than positions	Number of schools
Primary	13%	34%	53%	1,846
Secondary	6%	18%	76%	271
Composite	16%	21%	63%	62
Special	25%	46%	29%	28
Total	12%	32%	56%	2,207

For 2,095 of the 2,207 schools returning Appendix A there was data available on the number of candidates who stood for the previous board elections in 2001. Almost one fifth of the 2,095 schools (19%) had the same number of candidates as they did in 2001, 31% of schools had more candidates and 50% had fewer candidates.

Number of trustees

As of October 2004, there were 19,821 board of trustees members – 1,020 fewer than after the 2001 triennial elections. The number of parent elected representatives also fell from 12,718 in 2001 to 11,700 in 2004. This decline is largely due to a reduction in the number of schools. This distorts any comparisons between the actual number of parent elected representatives (or overall trustees) between 2001 and 2004. As such, the following analysis compares the proportion of parent elected representatives (or all trustees) by gender or ethnicity in 2001 and 2004.

Composition of school boards of trustees

Over half of all board of trustees members were parent elected representatives (59%), 13% were principals (or acting principals), and 12% were staff representatives. In total, 52% of all board members were female, while 49% of parent elected representatives were female (accordingly, 48% of all board members and 51% of parent elected representatives were male). The three main outliers in terms of representation were principals, proprietors' representatives, and staff representatives. Forty-two percent of principals and 41% of proprietors' representatives were female while 80% of staff representatives were female. The 'other members' classification includes trustees appointed by the Secretary or specified organisations.

Table 3: Type of representative

	Male	Female	Total	Percent
Parent elected representative	5,958	5,742	11,700	59%
Appointed representative	218	219	437	2%
Co-opted member	628	780	1,408	7%
Principal / acting principal	1,461	1,045	2,506	13%
Staff representative ³	449	1,821	2,270	12%
Student representative	149	218	367	2%
Ministerial appointed member	47	41	88	0%
Proprietor's representative	613	425	1,038	5%
Other members	5	2	7	0%
Total	9,528	10,293	19,821	100%

The proportion of trustees who are female was largely unchanged from previous years. In 1997, 51% of all trustees were female while 47% of parent elected representatives were female; in 1999 51% of trustees and 48% of parent elected representatives were

³ Not all schools have supplied information on their staff representative.

female and in 2001 51% of trustees and 48% of parent elected representatives were female.

Table 4 below shows the positions that board members held. A total of 90% of board chairs were parent elected representatives and 41% of board chairs were female (59% of board chairs were male). The number of board chairs was comparable with the number of schools (less schools with commissioners or combined boards). The data show that 177 boards had a designated deputy chair position.

Table 4: Position of representatives

Board position ⁴	Parent elected representatives		All trustees	
	% Female	Elected	% Female	Total
Chairperson / acting chairperson	41%	2,221	41%	2,475
Deputy chairperson	43%	150	42%	177
Member	49%	8,089	53%	15,383
Secretary	83%	500	78%	833
Treasurer	47%	740	48%	951
Total	49%	11,700	52%	19,821

Gender

Exactly half the candidates standing for election as parent representatives for the 2004 board elections were female. In the previous two elections 49% (2001) and 47% (1998) of candidates were female. In both 2004 and 2001, the proportion of parent elected representatives who were female was slightly lower than the proportion of candidates (49% and 48% respectively). The proportion of all trustees who were female was slightly higher than the proportion of parent elected representatives. This was largely attributable to the high proportion of staff representatives who were female.

By and large, Table 5 shows a higher proportion of females across school type after the 2004 elections than after the 2001 elections. A notable exception to this is at secondary schools where despite an increase in the proportion of female candidates, there has been a fall in the proportion of females who were elected, though the overall proportion of female trustees at secondary schools remained unchanged.

At composite schools there was an increase in the percentage of female candidates, parent elected representatives and overall trustees. In particular, the data show a notable increase in the proportion of female parent elected representatives (from 41% to 51% between 2001 and 2004). Special schools also had more female than male candidates, parent elected representatives and overall trustees. Primary schools had slightly more female than male candidates and total trustees.

Across candidates, parent elected representatives and all trustees, the proportion of females decreased as the socio-economic decile rating of the school increased. In 2004, females comprised 64% of candidates at decile 1 schools and 41% of candidates at decile 10 schools; 62% of parent elected trustees at decile 1 schools and 40% at decile 10; and 61% of all trustees at decile 1 and 45% at decile 10 schools.

Table 5: Proportion of females by school type 2001 and 2004

	2001	2004
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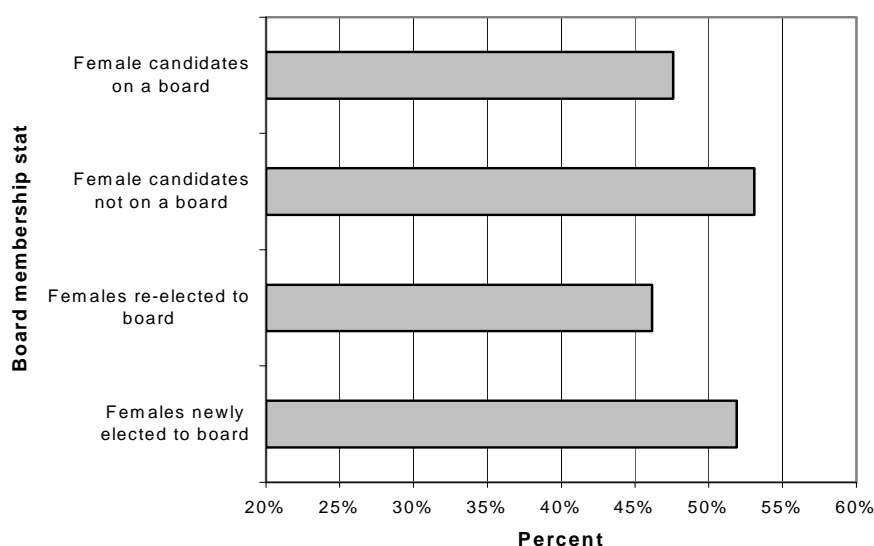
⁴ The position of secretary, treasurer, deputy chair and acting chair are internal operational issues for the board. In the case of board secretary, we are potentially counting the school administration person. To ensure accuracy, these positions are no longer recorded in Ministry databases.

Type	Candidates	Parent elected reps	All trustees	Candidates	Parent elected reps	All trustees
Primary	50%	49%	53%	51%	50%	54%
Secondary	42%	49%	43%	45%	42%	43%
Composite	49%	41%	48%	51%	51%	51%
Special	56%	57%	57%	56%	58%	58%
Decile						
1	60%	58%	59%	64%	62%	61%
2	56%	55%	56%	59%	57%	58%
3	52%	51%	53%	55%	54%	56%
4	50%	48%	51%	49%	48%	51%
5	48%	48%	50%	52%	50%	52%
6	47%	46%	49%	48%	48%	51%
7	48%	48%	50%	47%	47%	50%
8	42%	42%	47%	46%	43%	48%
9	44%	43%	47%	41%	43%	48%
10	40%	42%	47%	41%	40%	45%
Total	49%	48%	51%	50%	49%	52%

In rural areas there were more female than male candidates (53%), parent elected representatives (51%), and all trustees (57%). In main urban areas 49% of candidates, 48% of parent elected trustees, and 50% of all trustees were female. The Gisborne region had the highest percentage of female candidates (58%), parent elected representatives (56%), and all trustees (58%). The Nelson region had the lowest percentage of female candidates (45%), parent elected representatives (44%), and all trustees (43%).⁵

Gender by experience

Figure 1: Female candidates and parent elected representatives by board membership status



While overall, 50% of candidates were female, Figure 1 shows that female candidates accounted for 48% of candidates already on a board and 53% of candidates with no previous board experience. The proportion of females elected to a board of trustees

⁵ See Table 10 in the Appendix for further details.

was similar to the proportion of female candidates standing for election. Females accounted for 52% of board members who were newly elected and 46% of those who were re-elected.

Ethnicity

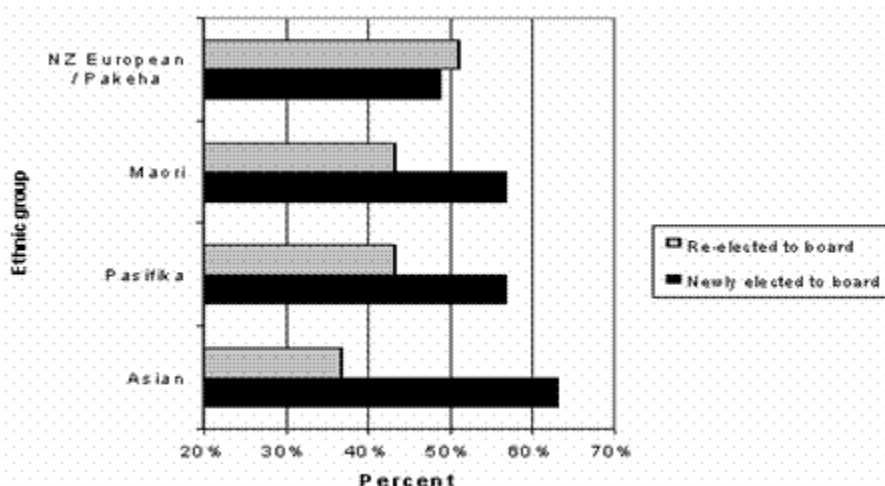
The ethnicity of those elected onto boards of trustees as parent representatives by and large reflects the ethnicity of those standing for election as candidates (Table 6). The percentage of those elected onto boards in 2004 identified as NZ European/Pakeha (76.1%) was slightly higher than the percentage standing for election (74.1%). Maori made up 17.6% of those elected as parent representatives and 18.8% of candidates, Pasifika people 3.8% of those elected and 5.0% of candidates, and people of Asian ethnicity accounted for 0.8% of elected representatives and 1.5% of candidates. The final 1.7% of elected parent representatives and 0.6% of candidates identified with another ethnicity (such as South American or African).

Table 6: Prioritised ethnicity for 2001 and 2004⁶

Ethnic Group	2001			2004		
	Candidates	Parent elected reps	All trustees	Candidates	Parent elected reps	All trustees
NZ European / Pakeha	75.7%	78.4%	80.1%	74.1%	76.1%	78.3%
Maori	17.6%	16.5%	15.2%	18.8%	17.6%	16.0%
Pasifika	4.8%	3.3%	2.9%	5.0%	3.8%	3.1%
Asian	1.3%	0.7%	0.7%	1.5%	0.8%	0.8%
Other	0.6%	1.1%	1.1%	0.6%	1.7%	1.8%

The data show a decrease in the proportion of NZ European / Pakeha candidates, parent elected representatives and all trustees between 2001 and 2004, and a corresponding increase in the proportion of Maori candidates, parent elected representatives, and all trustees. The data also show a discernable increase in the proportion of Pasifika candidates, parent elected representatives and all trustees.

Figure 2: Ethnic group by elected status for 2004



After the 1998 triennial board elections 80% of parent elected representatives identified as NZ European/Pakeha as did 76% of candidates. Fourteen percent of parent elected

⁶ The ethnicity data has been prioritised (only one ethnicity has been recorded for each candidate, parent elected representative and trustee). See Table 11 in the Appendix for non-prioritised ethnicity statistics and an explanation of how prioritised ethnicity is classified.

representatives were Maori as were 15% of candidates and 3% of parent elected representatives and 4% of candidates were of Pasifika ethnicity.

Slightly over half (51%) of NZ European / Pakeha parent elected representatives on boards were re-elected—that is they were current board members at the time of the 2004 elections. For the other main ethnic groups a greater proportion of trustees were newly elected to boards rather than re-elected.

Figure 3: Female candidates and parent elected representatives by ethnic group

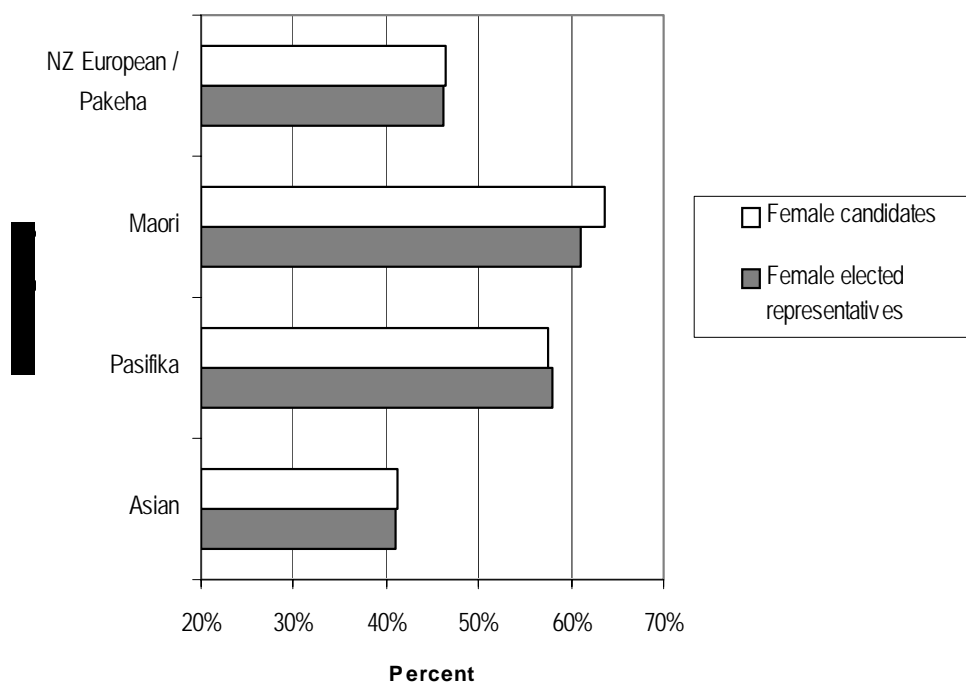


Figure 3 shows that NZ European/Pakeha and Asian ethnic groups had fewer female than male candidates and parent elected representatives, whilst Maori and Pasifika ethnic groups had more female than male candidates and parent elected representatives (i.e. greater than 50% female).

Comparing the proportion of parent elected representatives to students by ethnicity

Table 7 compares the ethnicity of parent elected representatives with the ethnicity of students on the school rolls to ascertain whether there are proportionally more, the same, or fewer parent elected representatives than students of each ethnicity on a school-by-school basis. The proportion of parent elected representatives has been compared to the proportion of students, with a tolerance of one parent elected representative. For example, consider a school with five parent elected representatives and a student population consisting of 65% NZ European / Pakeha, 30% Maori and 5% Pasifika students. Fewer than three NZ European / Pakeha parent elected representatives would be recorded as *fewer parent elected representatives than students*, three or four would be *same proportion of parent elected representatives and students*, and five would be *more parent elected representatives than students*. If the school had no Maori parent elected representatives it would be recorded as *fewer parent elected representatives than students*, one to two would be *same proportion of parent elected representatives and students*, and three or more would be *more parent elected representatives than students*. Similarly, none or one Pasifika representatives would be recorded as *same proportion of parent elected representatives and students*,

and more than one would be recorded as *more parent elected representatives than students*. The ethnicity of the student population has been calculated from each schools July 2004 total funding roll.⁷

Table 7: Proportion of parent elected representatives to students by ethnicity for 2004

	More		Same		Fewer	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
NZ European / Pakeha	778	32%	1,615	65%	79	3%
Maori	52	2%	1,972	80%	448	18%
Pasifika	11	0%	2,368	96%	93	4%
Other	55	2%	2,281	92%	136	6%

The data show that at 778 (32%) schools there were proportionally more parent elected representatives of NZ European / Pakeha ethnicity than students, while at the same time 448 (18%) schools had fewer Maori parent elected representatives than students.

These results should be interpreted with care. The proportion of the school-age population who are Maori is twice that of the population aged 25 to 50. Likewise, the proportion of school-aged Pasifika people is twice that of the adult age group. This is a result of the higher birth rate of Maori and Pasifika groups over the last 15 years compared to NZ European/Pakeha. Consequently, the proportion of the school-age population who are NZ European/Pakeha is lower than the proportion of their parents' age who are NZ European/Pakeha. Therefore, we should not interpret these results as under-representation of Maori or Pasifika trustees and over-representation of NZ European/Pakeha trustees. We would expect NZ European/Pakeha trustees to be over represented in this comparison with the ethnicity of school rolls.

There was a lower proportion of Maori parent elected representatives than students at 448 (18%) schools. However, at 35 of these schools, 50% or more of both parent elected representatives and students were Maori. These schools have, for example, three out of five Maori parent elected representatives and 95% Maori students. Of more importance, 295 schools had no Maori parent elected representatives when the business rule suggested that to attain "same" they should have at least one. Schools most likely to have fewer Maori parent elected representatives than students were located in the central North Island (Waikato 28%, Bay of Plenty 30%, Gisborne 29% Hawkes Bay 34% and Manuwatu / Wanganui 28%). Schools in the Otago region were most likely to have the same proportion of Maori parent elected trustees as students (95%); many schools in Auckland and Wellington also had the same proportion of Maori parent elected trustees as students (86% and 85% respectively).

There were proportionally more Pasifika parent elected representatives than students at 11 (0%) schools and fewer at 93 (4%) schools. This is, however, somewhat misleading as the schools with a high proportion of Pasifika students also had a high proportion of Pasifika trustees—just not as high as the proportion of students. For example, Auckland and Wellington schools were most likely to have proportionally fewer Pasifika parent elected representatives than students. Yet these two centres have the highest percentage of both Pasifika students and parent elected representatives.⁸

Experience

⁷ Foreign fee paying students have been excluded. The July total funding roll has been used as the March roll data does not include ethnicity.

⁸ In Auckland approximately 19% of students and 12% of parent elected representatives were of Pasifika ethnicity, and in Wellington approximately 10% of students and 7% of parent elected representatives were of Pasifika ethnicity.

The data in Table 8 show that in 2004 over half of parent representatives were newly elected. That is, they were not a current representative standing for re-election, nor were they co-opted or appointed members of any school board standing for election. Virtually all of those elected in 2004 were elected during the triennial elections (between February and May) with less than one percent being elected outside this timeframe. Further, the data show small peaks in the proportion of parents elected in earlier triennial election years – 20% were elected in 2001 and 6% have been on a school board since 1998.

Table 8: Start date – percent of parent elected representatives⁹

	Pre 1998	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Primary	4%	5%	2%	3%	21%	7%	7%	51%
Secondary	4%	7%	2%	3%	21%	6%	6%	51%
Composite	4%	5%	5%	3%	19%	9%	8%	47%
Special	19%	9%	1%	4%	13%	3%	6%	45%
Total	4%	6%	2%	3%	20%	7%	7%	51%

There were proportionally fewer newly elected parent representatives in special and composite schools. In addition, there were fewer new elected representatives in the South Island (46%), while the Bay of Plenty had the highest proportion of new elected representatives (58%). Board experience does not appear to vary by decile.

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6 December 2004

⁹ Note that some board chairs have recorded the date they became the board chair, rather than the date they were elected as a trustee. This is likely to bias the start date towards the more recent years.

Appendix

Table 9: Number of trustees by school type for 2004¹⁰

		Primary	Secondary	Composite	Special	Total
<4	Candidates	132	4	5	2	143
	Parent elected reps	212	24	8	7	251
	Trustees	16	0	1	0	17
4 – 5	Candidates	765	57	19	18	859
	Parent elected reps	1,612	217	62	23	1,914
	Trustees	51	3	1	1	56
6 – 7	Candidates	561	77	21	5	664
	Parent elected reps	207	68	12	3	290
	Trustees	1,169	10	22	23	1,224
8 – 9	Candidates	264	55	12	1	332
	Parent elected reps	8	6	1	0	15
	Trustees	604	148	39	16	807
10 – 11	Candidates	92	40	3	2	137
	Parent elected reps	1	0	1	0	2
	Trustees	208	131	24	4	368
12+	Candidates	32	38	2	0	72
	Parent elected reps	0	0	0	0	0
	Trustees	13	23	2	0	38
Total	Candidates	11,171	2,157	402	149	13,879
	Parent elected reps	9,560	1,588	402	150	11,700
	Trustees	15,628	3,078	766	338	19,821

Table 10: Proportion of females by region and area type 2001 and 2004

	2001			2004		
	Candidates	Parent elected reps	All trustees	Candidates	Parent elected reps	All trustees
Northland	55%	54%	55%	56%	52%	54%
Auckland	49%	47%	50%	49%	49%	51%
Waikato	49%	48%	52%	51%	49%	53%
Bay of Plenty	51%	51%	51%	52%	50%	52%
Gisborne	54%	53%	55%	58%	56%	58%
Hawkes Bay	50%	48%	50%	53%	49%	51%
Taranaki	45%	48%	52%	53%	54%	57%
Manawatu-Wanganui	48%	47%	51%	50%	49%	52%
Wellington	48%	49%	51%	47%	48%	50%
West Coast	53%	52%	54%	52%	51%	56%
Canterbury	47%	48%	50%	49%	48%	50%
Otago	46%	45%	49%	46%	45%	50%
Southland	47%	45%	52%	47%	45%	52%
Tasman	46%	46%	47%	56%	55%	55%
Nelson	51%	44%	42%	43%	44%	43%
Marlborough	54%	53%	52%	49%	51%	54%
Chatham Is.	59%	60%	65%	60%	55%	67%
Main urban	48%	47%	49%	49%	48%	50%
Sec. urban	45%	46%	47%	48%	46%	49%
Minor urban	50%	48%	50%	49%	49%	50%
Rural	52%	51%	56%	53%	51%	57%
Total	49%	48%	51%	50%	49%	52%

¹⁰ Note, all trustees includes all trustees at all schools (including the Correspondence School and excluding schools with commissioners), while parent elected reps only includes parent elected representatives. The candidates information is recorded from the 90% of school returning officers that returned Appendix A.

Table 11: Parent elected representatives and trustees non-prioritised ethnicity by type, region, and area type for 2004¹¹

	NZ European / Pakeha		Maori		Pasifika		Asian	
	Parent elected reps	All trustees	Parent elected reps	All trustees	Parent elected reps	All trustees	Parent elected reps	All trustees
Primary	78%	81%	17%	15%	4%	3%	1%	1%
Secondary	80%	80%	14%	14%	5%	5%	1%	1%
Composite	56%	57%	43%	40%	0%	0%	2%	2%
Special	87%	86%	9%	10%	4%	2%	0%	0%
Northland	60%	65%	42%	36%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Auckland	72%	75%	13%	12%	13%	10%	2%	2%
Waikato	77%	79%	21%	20%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Bay of Plenty	61%	64%	38%	36%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Gisborne	42%	46%	56%	52%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Hawkes Bay	71%	72%	27%	27%	2%	2%	0%	0%
Taranaki	86%	87%	13%	12%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Manawatu-Wanganui	79%	80%	20%	19%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Wellington	78%	81%	14%	12%	7%	6%	2%	1%
West Coast	89%	90%	6%	7%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Canterbury	92%	93%	5%	5%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Otago	93%	94%	6%	5%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Southland	92%	92%	7%	6%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Tasman	91%	92%	6%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Nelson	94%	91%	5%	7%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Marlborough	95%	93%	4%	7%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Chatham Is.	50%	59%	30%	35%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Main urban	77%	80%	15%	13%	7%	6%	2%	1%
Sec. urban	84%	86%	14%	12%	2%	2%	1%	0%
Minor urban	76%	78%	23%	21%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Rural	79%	79%	21%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	78%	80%	18%	16%	4%	3%	1%	1%

Contact Glen Thickett, glen.thickett@minedu.govt.nz for more information.

¹¹ The data in Table 11 is non-prioritised, meaning that it counts people with multiple ethnicities according to every ethnicity that they identify with. Prioritised ethnicity assigns each person with one ethnicity in a hierarchical method. If someone has responded that they are Maori and any other ethnicity they are classified as Maori, if they have responded that they are Pasifika and any ethnicity except Maori they are classified as Pasifika, if they have responded that they are Asian and any other ethnicity except Maori or Pasifika they are classified as Asian. People of NZ European / Pakeha ethnicity are classified last in the prioritised method. Non responses are excluded from all ethnicity statistics.