

## Electoral Education Roadshow '08

Kia ora, It's election year and you've probably been wondering what that means for you and the people you work with and help every day. You probably believe that being politically active, even if only to vote on election day, is important. But how can you help make politics relevant to others that don't think this way? How can you get them thinking about enrolling, voting, and being politically active in other ways?

The Electoral Commission is part of the Elections NZ team, which also includes the Electoral Enrolment Centre and the Chief Electoral Office. We're reaching out to community influencers in areas of lower voter turnout. From May to July, we'll be travelling New Zealand to present lively and interactive workshops to high-value influencers like you – people who work with communities and whanau, including youth and younger adults, migrants and established ethnic communities, the disabled (including those with learning difficulties), elderly, and others more likely to be uncertain and uncomfortable and so unlikely to take part.

So, the Electoral Education Roadshow '08 is coming your way and it wants to help by giving you knowledge, tools and tips to help others see taking part in the election as easy, interesting and worth doing. We want to give this to you because you know and relate to your audiences way better than we ever could.

Workshop modules examine the broad concept of political participation, and why reversing declining voter turnout is important for a healthy democracy. At a practical level they give key electoral agency messages related to enrolling and voting with MMP. There'll be handy tools and tips for getting target communities and audiences engaged in the election, plus useful facts and figures for 'trainers' to feel confident in their knowledge of MMP, Election Day, and the electoral system itself. There'll also be election resources for teachers and other educators to use. The delivery will be fun, interactive, and tailored to the audience.

The roadshow will have a two person team in a region for three days during a week. Here's the plan:

Week One (5 May)	– New Plymouth and Wanganui
Week Two (12 May)	– South Auckland
Week Three (19 May)	– Christchurch
Week Four (26 May)	– Whangarei and Kaitia
Week Five (9 June)	– Waikato / Bay of Plenty
Week Six (16 June)	– East Coast
Week Seven (23 June)	– West and Central Auckland
Week Eight (30 June)	– Contingency week

But first, we need invitations and opportunities to meet with groups of people like you (hint, hint!). We need a willing host and ideally 15-30 or more participants. Perhaps there are colleague organisations or other service providers you could invite to join in?

If this might be of interest to you then please get in touch to talk over the possibilities. Please contact the Electoral Commission and speak with Kirsten Chambers (04) 4740672, email [kirsten@elections.govt.nz](mailto:kirsten@elections.govt.nz). or Peter Northcote (04) 4740671, email [peter@elections.govt.nz](mailto:peter@elections.govt.nz).

Thanks for giving this some thought. We hope we have the opportunity to work together.

***Kirsten, Helena, Peter***

The Electoral Education Roadshow '08 team