

# **Pathway to Parliament: a handbook for Cook Islands Women**

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## **Extract: Section 1**

*English*

### **So you're thinking of becoming a politician.... what does that mean?**

*A dictionary will tell you that a politician is a lawmaker, an official, a representative, a policy-maker or legislator.*

*Choosing to become a politician is no different than looking for a change of career or employment, although it is job with a lot of responsibility because you represent a constituency of **people**. It's like taking on a job in the service industry. The people choose you and you serve in the best interests of the people.*

*What it will mean for you is that there is a pathway ahead that you will need to follow to bring you into the doors of parliament and onto a seat representing your constituency. Being a politician involves a lot of thinking and consulting before making the right decisions for the country.*

### **Step 1 Make the decision**

*Taking the first step on the pathway to parliament is the hardest step of all. As women we have to think of our families, homes and working commitments as well as the many other duties that we take on, from volunteer work to school or church and sports. Women are amazing at multi-tasking and handling multiple responsibilities. But, sometimes we defeat ourselves before we begin by thinking that we won't be able to handle the job.*

*Before you think that you **can't** add such a big responsibility, it's a good idea to think about your own achievements over the years and the best skills that you will bring to the job. Talk to your family and friends, they are your best support network for the road ahead and they will tell you honestly if they think you can do it. They'll share their concerns with you **and** they will also commit to help you when you make the decision to become a candidate. You will have to overcome your own doubts and fears to make this decision as you will need to show a confident and capable person to the constituency that you want to represent.*

*All of the people who have already been in parliament started as ordinary Cook Islands citizens with extraordinary drive to win their campaigns and do the best for their country. They came from different backgrounds, education, jobs and careers and family situations. Don't forget that it is the mixture of people in the parliament, bringing their points of view, their mixture of skills and qualities and their ideas that make the parliament interesting, constructive and sometimes even argumentative...debate is a positive thing not a negative one, so bear in mind that you will get to enter each and every debate as a member of parliament.*

*You also need to be aware that there are still discriminatory attitudes towards women in our community. Despite some progress towards gender equality, there are still some people who believe that women should only support men to be leaders or think that women can't cope with the hard world of politics and that the parliament is a place for men.*

*You will also hear that women don't support other women and may try to work against you. Winning at election is a competition between candidates. If you decide to become a candidate it is good for you to be aware of the range of community attitudes so that you can respond in a positive way, without letting these issues become obstacles.*

*You may be the first woman candidate to stand in your constituency and that alone may be very confronting for the people that you want to vote for you. Change can be a difficult situation to manage, but the better prepared you are, the better chance you will have of succeeding. Quiet determination and maintaining your calm in these situations is essential.*

*What we already know is that other Cook Islands women have stepped up to the challenge and been successful in becoming elected. We have had women in the parliament before, we have them now and we will have more in the future. Perhaps you will be one of them. We also have women as leaders of government ministries and agencies, women in business and professional occupations and young women successfully fulfilling higher education qualifications and stepping out in previously male dominated professions.*

## **So why not you?**

*You will have your own reasons for wanting to go in to politics. Perhaps you are fed up with the way things are going now. Perhaps you don't think your current representative is doing a good job or being effective for your constituency. Maybe you have some very strong policy ideas that you want to make sure get on the government agenda and you are the best person to drive them. Or you may be feeling very passionate about something that is having a bad effect on your constituency, your island or the whole of the Cook Islands and you want to be at the forefront of changing that.*

*Being in parliament is not only about speaking; it is also about listening and gathering information. Understanding what is being debated is the most important factor to being able to enter the debate and speak effectively and convincingly. Setting aside your personal interests and conflicts is also important to you being open and objective when decisions are to be made: what is best for the country may not, at times, be best for you personally, or for your constituency. These qualities are critical if you plan to become a member of parliament and to be recognised as a quality leader.*

*Whatever the reasons for your decision to enter politics, **you** will need to be your own strongest asset so assessing your own capabilities and strengths and understanding your weaknesses is the right place to begin. Knowing where you will need support, will help you plan for how you will overcome obstacles in the future. For example, knowing where and how to obtain information that will help you will turn a weakness into a strength.*

*Campaigning is intensive work and you will need to be confident that you will be able to handle the long hours, meetings and public gatherings. It is not possible to run a good campaign single-handed, you will need to have supporters working on your campaign in the lead up to Election Day.*

*If you believe that you have the qualities for leadership and a good support network that is willing and able to help you get to your goal, then you are already on the pathway that could lead you to parliament.*

## **Maori**

### **No reira te mānako nei koe kia riro mai koe `e tangata-porotiki... `ea`a i reira tērā `aite`anga?**

*Ka `akakite mai te tikitinare kia koe `ē ko te tangata-poritiki , `e tangata-ma`ani ture `aia,`e tangata-ngāteitei,`e kauono, `e tangata-`anga kaveinga mē kore `e mema-pārimani.*

*Ko te `iki`anga ē,`e kia riro mai koe `ei tangata-porotiki kāre te reira i tūkē mei te tau`anga rāi ō tā`au `anga`anga noātu te ma`ata o te `apainga kā rave`ia nō te mea, ko koe te mono i tō`ou tapere me kore i tō`ou `iti-tangata. Kua `āite atu rāi tēia mei tēta`i `anga`anga tuati rāi.*

Kua `iki`ia koe ē te `iti-tangata, no reira, ka tuati me kore ka tāvini koe no te au anoano o te `iti-tangata.

Ko te `aite`anga i reira i konei, nō`ou, koia `oki ko te āru i te mataara tei `akataka`ia nō`ou, `ēi `apai atu `iākoe ki roto i ngā ngutupa o te pārimani, ki runga i tēta`i no`o`anga no te mono atu i tō`ou tapere tangata. Ko te tūranga o te mena-pārimani, `e ma`at te au kimikimi`anga manako `ē te au `uri`uri`anga manako i mua ake kā tuku ei i te tika no te ipukarea.

### **Takainga 1 Tuku`angā tika**

Ko te rave`anga i te taka`inga mua no te āru atu i te mataara ki te pārimani, ko te taka`inga ngatā rava atu tēia. Nō tātou, te au va`ine-tini, kā `oki rāi tātou i te `akamanakonako i tō tātou kōpū-tangata, te ngutu`are `ē te au `anga`anga tā tātou i mātau i te rave `ē pērā katoa tēta`i atu au `anga`anga tā tātou e rave ana, mei te `anga`anga tauturu, te `āpi`i, te pure `ē te tipōti. Ko ngā va`ine-tini `e mea ūmere tikāi me rave mai rātou i ngā `anga`anga tūkēkē `ē pērā katoa i te māro`iro`i i te `apai i tētai atu au `apainga. Inārā, i tēta`i au taime kua `autū rāi tātou i mua ake ka `akamata ei nā roto i manako`anga ē, `e kāre e rauka `iā tātou i te rave i te `anga`anga.

I mua ake ka manako ei koe `e **kare** e rauka `iā koe teia apainga teima`a, pēnei, `e mea tau kia `akamanako koe i tā`au au tītau`anga ka rauka nā roto i te au mata`iti, `ē pērā katoa te au kite pakari tā`au ka `apai mai ki tēia `anga`anga. Komakoma atu ki tō`ou kōpū-tangata `ē pērā katoa ki tō`ou au taeake, no te mea, ko rātou tō`ou au turuturu meitaki rava atu no te mata ara `ē te kaveinga e tū mai nei. Ko rātou katoa `oki te ka `akakite tikatikāi atu kia koe, me kua manako rātou ē ka maranga `iā koe tēia `anga`anga. Kua pāpū `oki `e kā `ora`ora mai rātou i tō rātou au mānokonako`anga kia koe i te tauturu mai no te tuātau ka anoano ei koe kia riro mai koe kia o`atu ki roto i te `iki`anga. Ka anoano`ia `oki koe kia rauka`iā koe i te kōpae ke atu i te tū-mataku `ē te au tīmata`anga tāmanamanatā kia `autū koe ma te `akaari mai ē, `e ko koe te tangata kā tau`e te tūkatau kia `iki`ia no tō`ou tu`anga`iki`anga me kore no tō`ou `iti-tangata.

Pouroa te au tangata tei o`atu ana ki roto i te pārimani, kua `akamata mai rāi rātou mei iā koe rāi, koia, e tangata Kūki Airani `ua nei `e tangata noa, inārā, `e tangata tautā pakari `ē te umuumu kia manuia i roto i tāna `oro`anga nō tōna `enua.

Ko tēia au tangata, no roto mai rātou i ngā tu`anga tūkēkē, mei te tūranga `āpi`i, `anga`anga, umuumu`anga `ē to rātou rai `irinaki`anga kōpū-tangata Auraka e ngaropoina, kua kā`iro `ua te tu tangata i roto i te pārimani, `ē te `apai mai nei rātou i tō rātou au manako, tō rātou au kite-karape, tā rātou au umuumu`anga i roto ei te pārimani ei pūnanga ūmeremere`ia, ngā`i `anga `ē te ma`ani`anga `ē pērā katoa `e ngā`i taumārō`anga...ko te `uri`uri`anga manako `e tu`anga tau `ē te pu`apinga te reira, kāre i te tu`anga pāto`ito`i `ē te `ēkōkō. No reira, e`akama`ara`anga tēia, mē riro mai koe `e mema-pārimani, ko tēia te ara tā`au ka nā roto.

Ka anoano katoa `ia koe kia mārama `ē te vai nei rāi te tūranga `āriki-kore i te `iti-va`ine i roto i tō tātou matakeinanga. Noātu ra `oki te tūranga `aiteite `ē te maranga mai ki runga o te va`ine-tini, te vai nei rāi tō tēta`i pae irinaki`anga ē `e ko tā te va`ine-tini `anga`anga e turuturu i te tāne-tini kia riro mai rātou (tāne) ei au `aka`aere. Ko te irinaki`anga `oki, `e

teima`a roa te `apainga porotiki ki te au va`ine, `ē ko te pārimani `e ngā`i te reira no te tāne-tini.

Ka `akarongo katoa `oki koe,ē kāre tēta`i au va`ine e turu ana i tēta`i au va`ine-tini, `ē ka tītau rātou i te tāmanamanatā `iā koe. Ko te `autu`anga mai i roto i te `iki`anga,`e `emo`anga tēia i rotopū i te au tangata e `oro nei. No reira, mē ka inangaro koe kia riro mai koe e mema-pārimani, `e mea tau ki mārama koe i te au tū `akaparuparu`anga`ē te kōto`e`anga a te `iti-tangata. Kia rauka i reira `iā koe i te pa`u atu ma te tūkatau tikāi kia kore te reira `e riro `ei taitaiā`anga nō`ou.

Pēnei kā riro mai ē ko koe te va`ine mua te kā tū no tō`ou tu`anga-`iki`anga, kā riro te reira `ēi `aka`ārāvei`anga `iā koe ki te au tangata tā`au ka `inangaro i te `iki `iā koe. Pēnei katoa kā ngatā te au tau`anga no te `akateretere, `inārā, mē vai te`ate`amamao koe, ka māmā `ua i reira tō`ou `akakoro`anga. `E pu`apinga tō te `aere marū ma te `akakoromaki i roto i tēia `oro`anga.

Kua kite `oki tātou `e kua piri atu tēta`i au va`ine Kūki`Airani ki roto i tēia tū `oro`anga `ē kua manuia. Kua ō katoa atu ana tētai au va`ine ki roto i te pārimani, `ē tei roto rai tētai pae i teia nei, `ē ka ma`ata atu tō teia ngā rā ki mua.Pēnei ka riro mai ē ko koe. Tē riro katoa mai nei tō tātou au va`ine-tini i te `akatere i tēta`i au minītiri kavamani, tēta`i au kamupani, au va`ine tei roto i te au pītini`ē pērā katoa i roto i te tūranga teitei. Te ō katoa nei rātou ki roto i te `āpi`i-tuatoru ma te taka`i atu ki roto i te tu`anga `anga`anga ā tei mātau `ia ē nā te tāne.

### ***Nō reira, `ea`a ē kore ei ē ko koe?***

Te vai nei rāi tā`au ē tō`ou au`akakoro`anga i `inangaro ei koe i te piri atu ki roto i te porotiki. Pēnei tē `iu nei `ē tē ro`i nei koe i te au `anga`anga e tupu nei. Pēnei, tē manako nei koe e kāre tō`ou mema-pārimani e māro`iro`i ana i roto i tō`ou tu`anga-`iki`anga. Pēnei, `e au mānako`anga pu`apinga tō`ou e anoano nei kia tukuna `ia ki roto i te au papa-`uri`uri`anga a te kavamani ma tō`ou irinaki `ē ko koe te tangata tano no te `ōpara i te reira. Pēnei katoa, te kite atu nei koe i tēta`i au tu`anga taukore i roto i tō`ou tu`anga -`iki`anga, i runga i tō`ou `enua, i te Kūki`Airani nei, `ē te anoano nei koe i te tū ki runga, ki mua i te ma`ani me kore i te tau`i atu i te reira.

Ko te ō atu ki roto i te pārimani, kāre `e no te tuatua `ua; māri ra no te `akarongo `ē te ko`i mai i te au manako ka `uri`uri `ia. Ko te piri atu ki roto i te au `uri`uri`anga manako (debate), kia mārama koe `ea`a te `uri`uri `iāra, kia rauka `iā koe i te `o`ora i tō`ou manako ma te pāpū tikāi.Ko tēta`i mea pu`apinga kia vai`o koe ki te pae, tēta`i atu au manako takakē ō `ou uā`orāi kia mātaratara tō`ou au manako no runga i te tāpura e anoano `ia nei: i tēta`i au taime, ko te kā tau no te ipukarea kāre pa`a te reira e tau ki tō`ou anoano mē kore ki tō`ou vaka. No reira ko tēia au tū-vaerua `e tūranga pu`apinga tēia me tē anoano nei koe kia riro mai koe `ei mema pārimani `ē pērā katoa `e `akaaere tūkatau.

Nō reira, noātu `ea`a tō`ou `akakoro`anga kia piri atu ki roto i te `anga`anga porotiki, ka anoano `ia rāi koe kia `akamāro`iro`i i tō`ou uā`orāi tūranga tūkatau, tō`ou māro`iro`i `ē pērā katoa kia mārama rāi koe i tō`ou tūranga paruparu i te `akamata`anga. Kia kite katoa koe ē ka `aere koe ki `ea kimi tauturu ei kia rauka iā koe i te parāni nō te kōpae atu i te au tā`i`i`anga āpōpō, kia ngōie `ua `iā koe i te tau`i i te tū-paruparu ki te tū-mātūtū. Ko te

tu`anga `anga`anga “campaign” tā`au ka rave, kāre te reira i te mea māmā, ka inangaro `ia koe kia nākirokiro kia rauka `iā koe i te `apai i te au ora roa, te au `uipā`anga `ē tēta`i atu au tu-tā`okota`i`anga. Kāre oki e rauka `iā koe `okota`i i te rave i tēta`i `anga`anga “campaign” pu`apinga tikāi me ko koe `ua, māri ra, ka `inangaro koe i tēta`i au turuturu no te rave i tēia tu `anga`anga e tae `ua atu ki te RA `IKI`ANGA.

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