MEDIA RELEASE

English version of Te Reo Maori media release 27 July 2010

Electoral Enrolment Centre

CALL MADE TO MĀORI TO GET CORRECTLY ENROLLED TO VOTE

lwi, hapu, whanau and individuals are being called on to ensure Māori are enrolled to vote in time for this year's local council and district health board elections.

The plea comes from the Electoral Enrolment Centre as part of its support of Māori Language Week this week, and as the cut off date to enrol for the local elections gets closer.

New enrolment figures show 397,200 people who have declared themselves as Māori are enrolled to vote.

"There are around 400,000 who have identified themselves as Māori who are enrolled to vote," says Murray Wicks, National Manager of the Electoral Enrolment Centre. "But in the last three weeks alone we have taken around 8,000 Māori off the electoral roll because they have shifted house, and their enrolment update packs have been returned as undeliverable.

"Whenever someone moves house they need to update their enrolment details or they may be removed from the electoral roll.

"Anyone who hasn't got an enrolment update pack in the mail, isn't correctly enrolled and needs to enrol now.

Enrolment forms are available from the elections website www.elections.org.nz, by freetexting your name and address to 3676, from any PostShop or by calling 0800 ENROL NOW (0800 36 76 56). You can also check your details and enrol online at the website.

"We are working hard in local communities to ensure people know about the need to be correctly enrolled to get their voting papers for the local elections in the mail. We always look to the community to help spread the enrolment message and to ensure their people are enrolled."

An age breakdown of those enrolled on the Maori Electoral Roll is available here http://www.elections.org.nz/councils/ages/district_all.html

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For further information please contact Murray Wicks, National Manager, Electoral Enrolment Centre on 04 801 0701 or 027 249 4508 or Anna Hughes Communications Advisor 027 28 28 827.