



## Congress 101

### **What congress is and how does it fit into the PSA's overall structure?**

Congress is the PSA's highest governing body, and it's where many of the major decisions of the PSA as an organisation get made.

Congress happens every two years. It is responsible for overseeing any rule changes, determining policy, electing the president and receiving the annual and financial reports of the PSA. We are structured in this way in order to encourage free and transparent debate.

### **Who attends congress and how are they chosen?**

The executive board attends and every sector has a delegation made up to proportionally represent their sector, while Te Rūnanga o Ngā Toa Āwhina has three representatives per sector.

Official PSA networks have three representatives per network. Delegates are welcome to put in expressions of interest to attend congress. Each sector committee, Rūnanga komiti or network then selects who will attend on behalf of the sector or network.

### **What is your responsibility as a part of a delegation?**

As a part of a delegation, you are there to represent the members from your sector or region. When it comes to voting you should think about yourself as a representative, and not just vote according to what the sector or network wants or your own personal beliefs.

### **What to expect from the two days**

While a lot of important decisions get made at congress about the direction of the PSA, the event is designed to help facilitate connection and building of relationships across the union. We work in different sectors, different jobs and in different parts of the country, but we all stand together in solidarity.

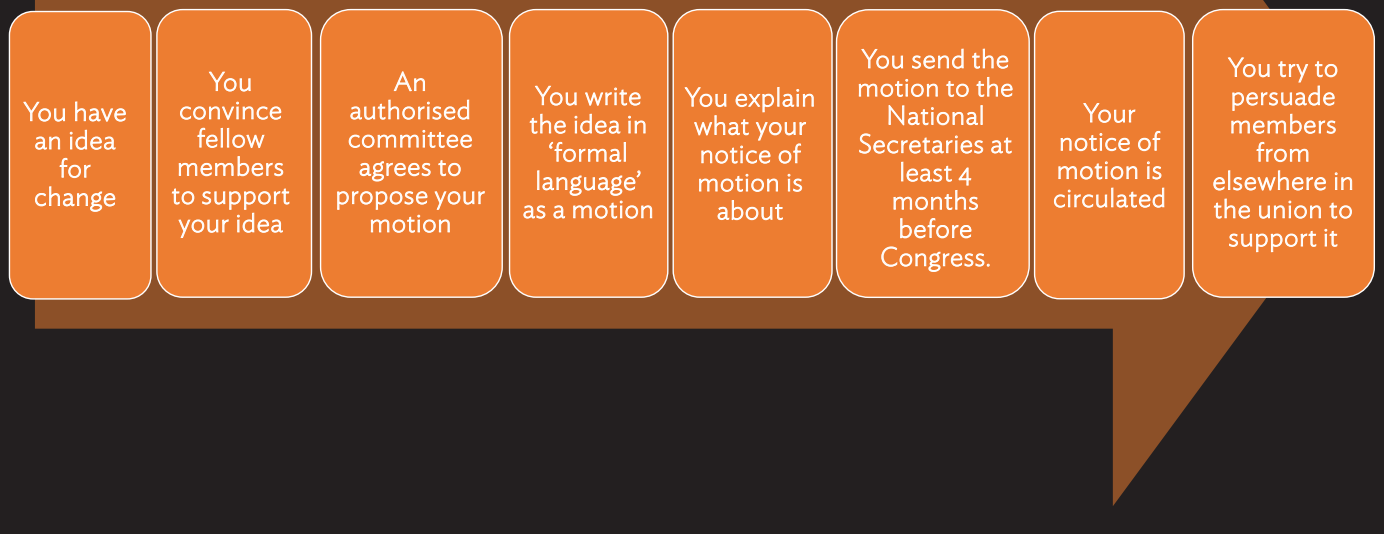
Make sure you take the opportunity to attend workshops, listen to speakers, seek each other out, and bring your best discussions to the table. The PSA is driven by you, and we can only drive forward if everyone is passionate about making these calls.

### **How the more technical parts of Congress work (motions, voting, standing orders, etc)**

If a group wants to make a change to something in the rules of the PSA, they have to submit a motion to be read and voted on at congress.

These must be written in a certain format and provided by a date in advance of Congress. The Board then reads over all the motions and discusses them. Sometimes changes are requested to bring the motion more into line with the overall direction of the union.

## 8 steps to the process



### How to 'get the most' from the experience

As with all union events, the most important part of congress is connecting with people. To get the most from congress, make sure you come with the goal to meet new people, share your experiences and learn about the experiences of others.

### What to take back to your members

After congress you may have certain things you'll want to update the members who you were there on behalf of. As the PSA we will be sending out communication to members, including an issue of Working Life, but you might prefer to feed back something more specific, especially if the members you were representing had specific issues they were wanting addressed at congress.

Your feedback doesn't need to be long or formal, but think about what your membership might like to know and how to share that with them.

### Beginning discussion of the themes of this year's congress

The future of unions and the future of work has to centre the working lives of young people now, as well as people who will be entering work in the next 20 years.

- What is important for us to learn from others? What is important for us to remember?
- As the reality of work changes, what do we as a union need to be aware of?
- How is insecure work affecting people's lives?