Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor Workshop

Connecting Researchers and Policymakers

Tuesday 20 February 2024

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

This session is about meeting people who can help you create pathways for evidence-based policy.

Unless speakers have signalled a specific interest, this isn't a place to pitch for research funding or press for specific policy changes.

Use this opportunity to discover how to craft effective researcher-policymaker relationships and connect with others who want to do the same.

Speaker Index

Juliet Gerrard

Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor
Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor | Kaitohutohu Mātanga Pūtaiao Matua ki te Pirimia
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How can we help you understand how government works?
- Have you encountered barriers engaging across the research-to-policy interface?
- What do you think are the most pressing real-world challenges that require evidence-based solutions in Aotearoa?

Juliet's career has included roles in both Crown Research Institutes and universities. Juliet's research background is broad and interdisciplinary, with particular interests in fundamental and applied protein science. She has held an industry and outreach fellowship with Callaghan Innovation, founded a start-up company, chaired the Marsden Council, served on the Board of Directors of Plant and Food Research, and is currently on the Board of Te Papa.

Since Juliet's appointment in 2018 as the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, Kaitohutohu Mātanga Pūtaiao Matua ki te Pirimia, she has worked from a base of four founding principles: rigour, inclusivity, transparency, and accessibility. She aims to create a trusted bridge between science, society, and government.

She has supported the science and science advisor community to provide advice to the PMs, ministers, and the public on a wide range of topics.

Campbell Birch

Chief Advisor
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Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- What are your current processes and channels for sharing your research and insights with policy makers, and what opportunities have you observed for improvements?
- What do you see as the most important challenges to education in Aotearoa New Zealand, and what do we need to do differently as a system to meet them?
- What do you think are the key areas of learning that children need in order to flourish and succeed in the 21st Century?

Campbell works within Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre at the Ministry of Education, where he was recently appointed Chief Adviser to the General Manager – New Zealand Curriculum & Te Whāriki, and provides strategic and policy advice. He has worked at the Ministry for the past three years, supporting initiatives to strengthen curriculum and assessment settings and lift outcomes for New Zealand learners.

Prior to joining the Ministry, he completed a PhD in English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University

Ashley Bloomfield

Professor
School of Public Health
Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- What do you think is vital for leaders in the public and research sectors to be thinking about?
- How can I help you develop or strengthen networks and relationships with policy makers?
- Is there anything about how government works that you would like to understand better?

Ashley studied medicine at Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland and specialised in public health medicine. Since 2012, Ashley has worked in various executive health leadership roles in New Zealand, including as Chief Executive at Hutt Valley District Health Board (2015-2018) and Director-General of Health (2018-2022). He led New Zealand's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic and was appointed a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2023 New Year's Honours for services to public health.

In 2023, Ashley joined the University of Auckland as a Professor in the School of Public Health and is working with the Vice-Chancellors Office to strengthen and enhance the public impact of the University's research and wider work in Auckland, New Zealand, the Pacific and globally. This will involve working with a range of groups and partners, including communities, industry and private sector, local and central government, philanthropic organisations, and other academic institutions.

Jared Carpendale

Senior Lecturer
Te Kunenga Ki Pūrehuroa |
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- In your assessment, what are the biggest education policy challenges facing New Zealand?
- How do we ensure research and policy enables and supports teachers and students?
- How do you think your research could inform thinking about science education and education more broadly in New Zealand?

Jared is a Senior Lecturer in Teacher Education at the Institute of Education, Massey University. He works predominately with pre-service and in-service secondary science teachers. His research includes understanding teachers' pedagogical content knowledge for teaching science and how such knowledge develops; effective professional learning and development teachers; supporting out-of-field teachers in science; how schools are effectively doing STEM; the issues and contentions in physics and chemistry education; teachers recognising and noticing student learning; and, representing complex scientific phenomena to students.

Jared teaches in the Physics, Chemistry, and Science Education courses while also supporting professional practice as part of the Initial Teacher Education programmes at Massey University. Before joining Massey University, he was a Lecturer in STEM Education at Monash University, Melbourne, after a career teaching Science, Physics, Chemistry, and Electronics at all levels of secondary school in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Alison Collins

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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How can we help you understand how government works?
- Have you encountered barriers engaging across the research-to-policy interface?
- What do you think are the most pressing real-world challenges that require evidence-based solutions in Aotearoa?

Alison spent 12 years working for Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, leading a science portfolio around ecosystems, soils, land use and informatics. She worked closely with regional councils and central government agencies in understanding and prioritising their science needs and working with the science community to find ways to facilitate better uptake and use of science. In this capacity, she established and became director of a centre for integrating data and science-based tools, facilitating clear and engaging communication.

Alison joined the Ministry for the Environment in August 2017 as the Departmental Chief Science Advisor. Still passionate about enabling wise use of science, her role focuses on ensuring 'valued and trusted science for environmental stewardship'. On a day-to-day basis, this means translating complex science, navigating the science system so decision-makers can better access and use excellent research, and building capability at the science-policy interface. Her passion for building confidence, competence and capability at the science-policy interface will be the focus of a collaboration with the University of Auckland's Faculty of Sciences and School of Environment and will be recognised through an honorary academic position.

Gill Jolly

Chief Science Advisor
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- Where have you experienced barriers for researchers engaging with policy makers and vice versa?
- What is the most important thing that you think policy makers need to know about research and vice versa?
- How can I help you connect with researchers/policy makers?

Gill is the newly appointed Chief Science Advisor to MBIE. Gill completed her undergraduate degree in Geological Sciences at the University of Cambridge and then went on to do a PhD in physical volcanology from Lancaster University. She worked for the British Geological Survey from 1992 to 2006 on a diverse range of projects including mineral exploration, environmental geochemistry and 3D modelling of Earth structure. Between 1996 and 2005, she periodically spent time on Montserrat, West Indies monitoring the active Soufriere Hills Volcano through a range of eruptions.

She then moved to Aotearoa to take up a volcanologist role at GNS Science in 2006. In New Zealand, Gill has had various people and science leadership roles and has been involved in several collaborative research programmes including the Natural Hazards Research Platform – a precursor to the NSCs. She was previously the Natural Hazards and Risks Theme Leader at GNS Science, responsible for developing the agency's strategic direction for research on volcanoes, tsunami, landslides, and earthquakes and acting as a conduit between the research community and decision-makers.

Ian Lambie

Chief Science Advisor
Justice Sector
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How can I help you?
- What are the most pressing real-world challenges that require science-based solutions in Aotearoa New Zealand?
- What do you think is vital for leaders in the public and research sectors to be thinking about?

Ian is the Chief Science Advisor for the Justice Sector (this role spans the Ministry of Justice, Police and Department of Corrections) and advises the government on ways to improve the justice and social system.

Ian is a Professor of Clinical Psychology at Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland. He teaches clinical, forensic, child and adolescent psychology. His interests are in child and adolescent mental health, childhood trauma and youth justice. Ian was a general and psychiatric nurse, then a specialist clinical psychologist. He has worked with children and adolescents with severe conduct problems and trauma, those with harmful sexual behaviour, and children who deliberately light fires. In his academic position, he helps build knowledge for training new forensic and clinical psychologists and advising Fire & Emergency on child firelighters and Oranga Tamariki on child offenders. In 2018, Ian was made an Honorary Fellow of the New Zealand Psychological Society. He works across the justice system and maintains links with the broader social sector, including Oranga Tamariki and the Ministry of Health. In 2020, Ian was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit. His recent study looked at risk and protective factors for children (under age 14 years) who offend and how to improve early identification and intervention efforts and protect such children from potentially lifelong criminality.

Tracey McIntosh

Chief Science Advisor
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How can we help you understand how government works?
- Have you encountered barriers engaging across the research-to-policy interface?
- What do you think are the most pressing real-world challenges that require evidence-based solutions in Aotearoa?

Tracey is of Ngāi Tūhoe descent and is a Professor of Indigenous Studies and co-head of Te Wānanga o Waipapa (School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies) at the University of Auckland. She was the former co-director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga – New Zealand's Māori CoRE. She previously taught in the sociology and criminology programme at the University of Auckland. She was a Fulbright visiting lecturer in New Zealand Studies at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. and lectured at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji. She has sat on several assessment panels, including PBRF panels (Māori Knowledge and Development and Social Sciences), the Marsden Social Science panel, Rutherford Discovery, James Cook Fellowship and HRC panels. In 2012, she served as the co-chair of the Children's Commissioner's Expert Advisory Group on Solutions to Child Poverty. In 2018–2019, she was a member of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group and Te Uepū Hapai i te Ora- The Safe and Effective Justice Advisory Group.

Her recent research focused on incarceration (particularly of Māori and Indigenous peoples), gang whānau issues and issues about poverty, inequality, and social justice.

Stuart McNaughton

Chief Education Scientific Advisor
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- How can we help you understand how government works?
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Stuart is the science leader for the *Developing in Digital Worlds* project and the University of Auckland's Woolf Fisher Research Centre director. Previously, he was a senior researcher in the Ministry of Education's *Starpath* and *Learning and Change Networks* projects.

Stuart is an officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit and a member of several national and international committees including The New Zealand Association for Research in Education and the American Psychological Association. He was appointed a Distinguished International Professor at East China Normal University (Shanghai) and inducted into the International Reading Hall of Fame.

His research includes developing a psychological model of socialisation, which provides a means of analysing development within and across settings. Contributing solutions to a long-standing difficulty in developmental and educational psychology, Stuart's research helps explain the role of culture in teaching and learning. The programme also contributes to the development of more effective and equitable education. It includes assessment tools for language and literacy applicable to both English medium and Māori medium instruction in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Julia Novak

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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- What can be done to improve trust and cooperation between researchers and ministry officials?
- How can we ensure that we are seeing/hearing the latest research?
- How can we ensure that we are best managing conflicts of interest and biases (we all have them)?

Julia Novak is the General Manager - New Zealand Curriculum & Te Whāriki (NZC&TW) in Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre at The Ministry of Education. The NZC&TW Group is responsible for curriculum and assessment design and implementation across the New Zealand Curriculum and Te Whāriki and for the design and delivery of teaching, curriculum and assessment products and services to achieve the Government's objectives for the education system.

Before moving to the Ministry of Education in 2022, Julia spent 15 years at Waipapa Taumata Rau | The University of Auckland. She taught mathematics and computer science for several years, often to very large cohorts. She worked as the Associate Dean Learning and Teaching for the Faculty of Science and led a central team (Ranga Auaha Ako), supporting learning and teaching design across the University. Julia has a PhD in pure mathematics (specialising in cryptography) from Royal Holloway, University of London.

Emily Parker

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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How do we have policy settings that help foster thriving careers in Aotearoa?
- How can we better support our providers to work better together?
- How do we ensure policy enables our ambitions of important research for our country?

Emily is a newly appointed departmental science advisor to MBIE. Emily's background includes being a Synthetic and Chemical Biology professor at the Ferrier Research Institute and holding the position of Associate Dean of Science – Research at Victoria University of Wellington. She has a Bachelor of Science (Honours) from the University of Canterbury and earned her PhD in Biological Chemistry from the University of Cambridge. Emily was elected a fellow of the Royal Society Te Apārangi in 2019.

Emily contributes significantly to various research initiatives and organisations. She has served on the board of Manaaki Whenua and chairs AgResearch's Science Advisory Panel. Additionally, she has been involved in the governance of the Biological Heritage NSC. She is deputy director of the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery, a CoRE focusing on collaboration among scientists from different disciplines and research institutions to combat severe human diseases.

Kate Parkes

Manager
Gangs Harm Insights Centre
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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- What is your experience of working with government?
- How do we ensure policy paves the way for an Aotearoa free from gang-related harm?
- Is there any evidence on the effectiveness of gang harm reduction approaches that you think we should know about?

Kate heads up the Gang Harm Insights Centre (GHIC), a multi-agency insights* team hosted by New Zealand Police. The GHICs purpose is to deliver holistic, actionable, and timely insights, enabling agencies to empower communities in making a difference to gang-related harm caused by, to, and within the New Zealand Adult Gang (NZAG) community.

The GHIC strives to highlight the voices and experiences of our gang communities to strengthen our understanding of the harm occurring within the community and ensure we can support and enable gang communities to implement and create lasting positive outcomes for whānau.

Kate has over 10 years of experience in intelligence, having previously worked in numerous roles across NZ Police Intelligence within crime and crash, organised crime, national security, and major events.

*12 agencies involved: New Zealand Police, Oranga Tamariki, Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga, Ministry of Social Development, Manatū Hauora, New Zealand Customs Service, Kāinga Ora, Accident Compensation Coorporation, Ara Poutama Aotearoa, Te Tari Taiwhenua, Inland Revenue, Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment.

George Slim

Consultant

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Three things they would like to learn from the attendees:

- How do you think research can make an impact through policy?
- What is stopping it?
- How can I help you?

George provides policy advice to the PMCSA and maintains a presence in Wellington for the office. He also works with Science New Zealand and the Crown Research Association.

George is a consultant working with organisations to provide policy advice, access to science knowledge, assist with funding sources, and consulting on strategy in managing research and intellectual property. He has over 30 years of experience in the science system in Aotearoa and offshore. He has worked in research, the private sector and government.

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Melinda Webber

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Melinda (Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Hau, Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whakaue) is Te Tumu, Deputy Dean at the University of Auckland's Faculty of Education and Social Work. Her research examines how race, ethnicity, culture and identity impact the lives of young people, particularly Māori students. In 2016, Melinda was awarded a prestigious Marsden Fast-Start grant to undertake a research project examining the distinctive identity traits of Ngāpuhi, New Zealand's largest iwi. In 2017, Melinda was awarded an esteemed Rutherford Discovery Fellowship to tackle an important question facing educators – 'How can we foster cultural pride and academic aspiration among Māori students?'

In 2017, Melinda was Director for Phase Three of The Starpath Project and is currently the University of Auckland Co-Director for the Atlantic Fellowship for Social Equity programme and Associate Director of the Woolf Fisher Research Centre. She also spent six years as a co-principal Investigator on the Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga funded project 'Ka Awatea', which examined the nature of teaching, learning and home socialisation patterns that support high-achieving Māori students in New Zealand.

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Notes