



Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe me he maunga teitei
Pursue that which is precious, and do not be deterred by anything less than a high mountain
 MESSAGE TO ACHSM – AOTEAROA MEMBERS

Spring 2025

Nau mai Haere mai - Welcome to the ACHSM - Aotearoa Spring 2025 newsletter.

I am delighted to share with you an update on the ACHSM 2025 Congress in Darwin, plans for the Aotearoa Branch Strategy Day in November and to give you early notice of the 13 March 2025 Conference to be held in Auckland, Cordis Hotel Conference Centre – please MARK your diaries for this important event – it will continue to be held 2-yearly if it is well supported.

ACHSM Board update

The Board met the day before Congress and reviewed key priorities from the strategic plan that would set the work programme for the year ahead. The 4 strategic objectives remain current, with a focus on promoting certification and fellowship, especially to employers. The new membership manager presented the refreshed website which will be rolled out in November.

Neale Fong has stepped down as President having completed his three, three-year terms and Elizabeth Koff AM, Vice President, was nominated as the incoming President. Neale was thanked for his exemplary service to ACHSM and will continue as Vice President. The Board considered the risk appetite statements, which were accepted, and will be reviewed quarterly.

ACHSM Annual AGM and Awards

The ACHSM AGM was held on Tuesday 21 October. A copy of the Annual Report is available via

<https://www.achsm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/ACHSM-2024-2025-Annual-Report.pdf>

Fellowship Award

Following the AGM we were delighted to celebrate three awards to Aotearoa members.

Firstly, a huge congratulations to Gillian Robinson who successfully completed her Fellowship studies this year. Becoming a Fellow is a significant achievement and we are all very proud of Gillian's success.



Jan Adams presenting Gillian Robinson with her Fellowship Award at the ACHSM AGM 2025

I was also delighted to be invited to give the citations for two long serving Aotearoa Fellows for service to the College and Health Leadership.

Life Member Award

An ACHSM Life Member Award went to Dr Jagpal Benipal PhD for his remarkable dedication to the role of Fellowship Coordinator for our Branch. Jagpal has been our Fellowship programme coordinator for the past 10 years and he puts many hours of work into this role.



Jagpal Benipal receiving his Life Membership Award from the incoming ACHSM President Elizabeth Koff AM

I am sure that all the Fellowship candidates whom Jagpal has supported will be aware of how much effort he makes to support their success. We are also very appreciative that Jagpal has agreed to continue as Fellowship Coordinator for the 2026 programme. Thanks also go to Janet Keys who has supported Jagpal over the past few years and who has recently stepped down

from that. If anyone is interested in assisting Jagpal with the Fellowship co-ordination, please feel free to contact me.

Silver Fern Award

The second Aotearoa Branch Award was to Cathy Cooney (Immediate past President) for her contribution to the College and New Zealand health leadership. Cathy is the Aotearoa Branch Fellowship Examiner and a member of the ACHSM Audit Committee. Cathy has been a member of ACHSM-Aotearoa for many years and is a highly respected healthcare leader. Her service to the College, to health in New Zealand and to her community is extensive. It was a great pleasure to celebrate her award in Darwin, with her two sisters present in support.



Cathy Cooney receiving the 2025 ACHSM – Aotearoa Silver Fern Award from Jan Adams, Aotearoa Branch President

Congress Darwin 22-24 October 2025

The 2025 Congress in Darwin was sold out 4 weeks prior to the event with 530 attendees. We had a smaller contingent of Aotearoa Branch members in Darwin than is usual for Congress – this is most likely indicative of the constraints the NZ health system is under and the fact it takes two flights to get to Darwin.

Some topics of the 2025 Congress were Climate change and sustainability, Indigenous health, inclusion and diversity, Workforce, Authentic leadership, Mental health and wellbeing. Riana Manuel (former CE, Te Aka Whai Ora) gave a powerful presentation on indigenous health and reminded us that

when we see inequities in health, leaders must be prepared to respond. The 2026 ACHSM AGM and Congress will be in Cairns for the first time in many years.

ACHSM – Aotearoa Branch Strategic Planning Day 12 November 2025, Wellington

The National Council will review our strategic plan, look at the roles of the office bearers and succession planning for key roles. It is vital that we have leaders who can contribute to our branch and take it into the future. New and emerging leaders are key and I would love to hear from College members who are curious about the work of our National Council, and keen to get involved.

Planning your Career Pathway

A reminder that the College core purpose is to support members with their career pathway and on-going professional development.

- Advancing your career pathway – Check out the Membership Advancement Scoring Tool to see if you qualify for Associate Fellow: <https://form.jotform.com/241988309568878>
- Competencies Self-assessment tool – identify your leadership and management strengths and areas for development https://www.achsm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2022_Competyency_Framework_online.pdf
- Certification – the foundation programme for Associate Fellows to become a Certified Health Manager and if you have 25 points on the Scoring tool then you become eligible for entry to the Fellowship programme
- Mentorship is offered as part of the Certification programme. <https://www.achsm.org.au/certification/undertaking-certification/>



Your Aotearoa Branch Council Members

Jan Adams, Branch President, ACHSM Board rep
Cathy Cummings, Secretary
Thérèse Jeffs, Treasurer, ACHSM Finance Committee rep
Dave Nicholls, Te Wai Pounamu
Jalal Mohammed, Te Wai Pounamu
Natalie Lindsay, Central
Jacqueline Jeffs, Te Manawa Taki
Craig Tamblyn, Central
Tamzin Brott, North
Christine Clark, North
Naomi Jeffs, Student rep

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL ACHSM – AOTEAROA MEMBERS

The Aotearoa Branch Hosted One-day Conference, Auckland, 13 March 2026:

Planning is progressing for the programme for the 2026 conference in Auckland to be held at The Cordis Hotel. For the first time this will be a joint conference of ACHSM and RACMA (Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators).

The one-day Conference is a terrific opportunity for both our members and non-members to hear from a mix of NZ and international speakers on the latest plans and thinking about health and social services leadership and management. Give that the 2024 Conference was sold out we have booked a larger venue for 2026 - so please spread the word about the value of this Aotearoa based conference.

Keeping in Touch

We are always keen to hear from our members, in terms of what you may like more of, which can be discussed at the National Council monthly meeting. Please feel free to approach any of the National Council members directly.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou
Jan Adams FCHSM CHE
President, ACHSM – Aotearoa
aotearoa@achsm.co.au