



TITLE:	President’s Report to the AGM
AGM 2025	17 June 2025
<p>Whakatauki:</p> <p>Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe me he maunga teitei</p> <p>Pursue that which is precious, and do not be deterred by anything less than a high mountain</p> <p>The ACHSM - Aotearoa purpose:</p> <p>Together we advocate, grow, and inspire health leaders for better health outcomes for all in Aotearoa</p>	

It is my pleasure to present the President’s Report for the ACHSM – Aotearoa AGM 2025

National Council

The National Council has continued to meet monthly and held a planning day in November 2024. We confirmed that we would continue with the priorities set at the previous strategic planning day, consider what our value proposition to members was and how we could enhance the profile of the College across Aotearoa; what may be needed to retain members in the current health environment; and how we might develop emerging leaders. ACHSM have developed a discussion paper for the national councils to consider and we will work to implement many of the suggested approached over the next year.

Paula Murray resigned from the National Council earlier this year and we wish her well in her life in Australia. Tamzin Brott has replaced Paula Murray on the Council and brings a wealth of experience, particularly in allied health, which is very welcome.

Jacqueline Jeffs has become as Associate Fellow, and we have a gap for a student representative on Council
 Cathy Cooney has indicated her intention to resign from the National Council at the AGM. Cathy has made a significant contribution to both the ACHSM and the National Council during her nine-year tenure and we sincerely thank her for all her work. She has raised the profile of ACHSM, and ACHSM-Aotearoa during her time and is a highly respected leader in health in New Zealand. Nga mihi Cathy.

National Council members per region are as follows:

Northern: Tamzin Brott, Tamzin.Brott@waitematadhb.govt.nz
 Christine Clark, christine@kalandra.ac.nz

Te Manawa Taki: Jan Adams, President, jan.adams@pinnacle.health.nz
 Cathy Cooney, cathy@kowhaihealthassociates.co.nz

Thérèse Jeffs, Treasurer, therese.jeffs@gmail.com
Craig Tamblyn, craig.tamblyn@outlook.co.nz
Jacqueline Jeffs, jacqueline.jeffs@gmail.com

Central: Cathy Cummings, Secretary, cathy.cummings@daagroup.co.nz
Natalie Lindsay, natalie.lindsay@vuw.ac.nz

Te Waipounamu: Dave Nicholl, Dave.Nicholl@cdhb.health.nz

Fellowship Coordinator: Jagpal Benipal, jagpal.benipal@waikato.ac.nz (The Fellowship Coordinator became an ex-officio member of the Board from the June 2022 AGM)

With the resignation of Cathy Cooney, a vacancy exists on the National Council and nominations have been called for via the Secretary.

Key Achievements during 2024/25

- 1. Visit of Dr Neale Fong, ACHSM President:** We were delighted to host the ACHSM President, Dr Neale Fong during his two-day visit to Aotearoa in April 2025. Neale met with Dr. Lester Levy, Te Whatu Ora Commissioner; Dr. Corina Grey, Director of Public Health and Sir Colin Tukuitonga, President of The College of Public Health. All were interested in the work of the College and Dr Levy has accepted an invite to present a webinar to ACHSM members later this year. The National Council met with Neale where we discussed several issues including membership and raising the profile of ACHSM-Aotearoa. We have contacted the new Director General of Health, Ms. Audrey Sonerson who has agreed to meet with us at a date yet to be confirmed.



We held an evening session on leadership in health, with both Neale and Carolyn Cooper, Aged Care Commissioner, each sharing their five key tips for leadership during the session.

- 2. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**

ACHSM-Aotearoa signed an updated formal memorandum of understanding with ACHSM at the Brisbane conference. The MoU formalizes the way the two organisations work together.



Signing the Memorandum of Understanding with ACHSM

3. **Membership:** The growth in membership following the Auckland one day conference was very welcome, and a further small number of members joined over the year. However, a number of those who joined in April 2024 have decided to not renew their membership and at the time of writing, we have 115 members. Personal reminders have been sent out to those who have not yet re-joined.
4. **ACHSM – Aotearoa Kaumātua:** Brian Emery was appointed to the role of Kaumātua in 2023 and has continued to give significant support to the National Council. He provided cultural support to Cathy Cooney who presented at the 2024 Brisbane Congress, with her presentation followed by a waiata from the New Zealand members in attendance. Brian will provide cultural support to the organising committee for the 2026 one day conference to be held in Auckland in March 2026, and on the day itself. Nga mihi, Brian.
5. **March 2026 one day Conference:** Planning is underway for ACHSM-Aotearoa to host a one-day conference in March 2026. It will be held in Auckland and a save the date notice will be e mailed out to members later this year. The organising committee have some early plans for topics and speakers and with the support of the ACHSM CEO and staff plus Dr. Neale Fong, the College president we anticipate an excellent day.
6. **Journal Club:** The journal club has continued to offer a monthly online interactive Journal Club free to Aotearoa members. Veronique Gibbons works tirelessly to host a wide array of speakers, supported by the Journal Club Working Group and Erica Jones from ACHSM. Together they ensure the event runs smoothly every month and we sincerely thank them for all their work. With the sessions being recorded, several members use the option where they cannot attend in person, with an average of 30 plus members attending online. Journal Club is held each month between February – November, last Wednesday of the month, 4.30-5.30pm and attendance at attracts 1 CPD point each time.

ACHSM – Aotearoa journal club 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

Date	Title
31 July, 2024 Dr Richard Hamblin , Director of Health Quality Intelligence, Health Quality and Safety Commission	<i>Richard Hamblin and Geoff Plimmer, 2023, Instability in New Zealand's Public Sector. Policy Quarterly: Vol 19, Issue 4, p95 – 105.</i>
28 August, 2024 Mara Andrews , Director and Senior Consultant for Kāhui Tautoko Consulting Ltd	Iwi-Māori Partnership Boards - legally mandated partnerships with Te Whatu Ora - the importance of their role in the sector moving forward.
25 September, 2024 Hayden Wano , former Chair of both the National Health Board and Taranaki District Health Board	Engaging with Māori Service Providers
30 October, 2024 James Oughton , Chief Advisor of precision health, Ministry of Health	Capturing the benefits of AI in healthcare for Aotearoa New Zealand
27 November, 2024 Dr Ruth Large , Chief Clinical Officer for Whakarongorau Aotearoa (NZ telehealth services), Rural Hospital Medicine and Emergency Specialist	Telehealth – successes/failures/future
26 February, 2025 Gillian Robinson , Managing Director of Healthcare Compliance Solutions Ltd, supplier of NZ designed Aged Care Software and Community Nursing Software	Digital Transformation: Nurse led co-designed aged-care software to improve health outcomes
26 March, 2025 Terry Taylor , specialist medical laboratory scientist, Dunedin hospital laboratory	The NZ Pathology Conundrum - The Path Forward
30 April, 2025 Dr Martin Chadwick , Chief Allied Health Officer, MoH	Chadwick et al. (2024) Leading innovation in transdisciplinary care. <i>Australian Health Review</i> 48 , 682-687.
28 May, 2025 Dr Lillian Ng , Senior Lecturer/Forensic Psychiatrist, Department of Psychological Medicine, University of Auckland	Emotional after-effects of the NZ Whakaari eruption on burns and theatre healthcare workers. <i>NZMJ</i> 2025 Feb 14; 138(1609). ISSN 1175-8716
25 June, 2025 Dr Oonagh Wesley Smith , doctor and public health registrar, Te Kura Tātai Hauora, Te Herenga Waka, Victoria University of Wellington.	Adolescent exposure to social media/government ban, implications for hospital settings

In addition to the journal club, we have hosted one webinar this year with Riana Manuel (ex-CEO Te Aka Whai Ora) presenting and a further webinar is in the planning for August 2025.

7. **Te Whatu Ora Leadership Development Institute:** Despite significant work by ACHSM, Cathy Cooney, Jan Adams and cultural input by an external New Zealand organisation, we were disappointed to finally receive notice that Te Whatu Ora were not proceeding with the original development of a leadership institute. We await further information on what may be planned by Te Whatu Ora.
8. **Certification and Mentorship:** The certification and mentoring programmes have continued with ACHSM providing administrative support to our Branch. We are keen to encourage people to enroll in the certification programme as a key foundation step for on the membership pathway. Certification provides an excellent opportunity to become familiar with the College Competency Framework.
9. **College Career Pathway:** a reminder that the ACHSM-Aotearoa “Career Pathway” graphic can be found on the Aotearoa section of the College website and is now often used in ACHSM wide presentations.
10. **ACHSM – Aotearoa Silver Fern Award:** Dr. Jalal Mohammed was the 2024 recipient of the Silver Fern Award and attended the Brisbane Conference to receive his award. Jalal has made a significant contribution to health leadership over many years both overseas and in New Zealand and is a respected academic. The Silver Fern Award criteria recognises outstanding contribution and nominations have been received for the 2025 award.



Dr Jalal Mohammed with his Silver Fern award

11. **Aotearoa Section of the Website:** We have an ACHSM (Aotearoa Branch section). The video to reflect our brand story is at link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0I8lmAQ_AY&ab_channel=AustralasianCollegeofHealthServiceManagement%28ACHSM%29
12. **Communication to Members:** The National Council has continued to publish quarterly e newsletters which are mailed out to all members. These are available in the Aotearoa section of the website and very capably compiled by Cathy Cooney. All new members are sent a welcome message, along with a copy of the latest newsletter.
13. **Incorporated Societies Act 2022:** The revised ACHSM – Aotearoa Constitution has been lodged to meet the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 which required our Branch to re-register as in Incorporated Society.
14. **Fellowship**
We had two successful fellowship candidates in 2024 (another 100% success result) plus one candidate who became a Fellow via the alternate pathway. In 2025 we have one Fellowship candidate with the oral

examination to be held virtually prior to the Darwin Congress, being held from 22 to 24 October 2025.

We sincerely appreciate the time, support, and guidance our Fellowship Coordinator, Dr Jagpal Benipal gives to Fellowship candidates with 2-4 weekly study group sessions across a 6+ month period. Thank you also to Janet Keys, for assisting Jagpal with the 2024 cohort. Cathy Cooney serves as an examiner for the fellowship and will continue in that role.



Katie Latimer (left) and Esthe Davis (right) receiving their Fellowships in Brisbane, with Jan Adams

15. Regional Groups

National Council has developed a network in each of the four regions and planned to have some face-to-face networking sessions over the twelve-month period. The Te Manawa Taki (Midland) Region network has held a couple of networking events and sincere thanks go to Marion Dixon, Regional Coordinator, for facilitating a mix of regional events. Christine Clark has established a Northern network with one event held, plus the leadership evening held in April. The Central region is yet to hold a networking event, with Te Wai Pounamu (Southern) planning an event soon. Please contact a Council member in your region if you would be interested in being involved in Coordinating/supporting a network in your region.

16. Working Groups

The ACHSM – Aotearoa Branch has six working groups with the goal of leading progress on key College activity and our strategic plan. Thank you to all involved in a working group and please contact us via aotearoa@achsm.co.au if you are interested in participating in, or supporting, a Working Group.

Strategic Influence and Membership: Cathy Cooney (Convenor), Christine Clark, Tamzin Brott

Core Function: Promote the contribution and value of the College with the policy and decision makers; seek opportunities for involvement in key developments, advocate for investment in the development of current and future health and disability leaders and managers; promote growth of ACHSM – Aotearoa membership through making information about the College more accessible and relevant to aspiring and current sector leaders/managers.

Fellowship and Certification: Jagpal Benipal (Fellowship Coordinator), Janet Keys

Core Function: To encourage and support Members and Associate Fellows to participate in the certification and fellowship programmes as they progress with their leadership and management competency development. Facilitation of the formal Fellowship programme and supporting candidates as they prepare for examination.

Wellbeing and Mentorship: Dave Nicholl (Convenor), Craig Tamblyn, Jan Adams

Core Function: Support provided for members who have indicated they have workplace pressures and act as trusted colleagues to help them work through issues and to care for their personal wellbeing.

Mentoring is a key priority for as we seek to support new and existing members undertaking certification leading to fellowship of the College.

Webinars: Cathy Cummings, Thérèse Jeffs

Core Function: To plan and coordinate the annual Webinar programme with topics of relevance and interest to members - webinars are open and free to all ACHSM members. Three Aotearoa Branch Webinars are planned for the 2024 – 25 year.

Communication, Awards & Marketing: Jacqueline Jeffs (Convenor), Natalie Lindsay, Kathy Davenport, Jayanthi Mohanakrishnan

Core Function: To plan and coordinate activities that promote the College including the Website and LinkedIn; development of materials/information that encourages new members to join and to understand what the College has to offer and how they can contribute; leads the Awards programme in recognition of excellence and achievement.

Journal Club: Veronique Gibbons, (Convenor), Lesley Middleton, Craig Tamblyn, Jan Adams,

Core Function: The Journal Club is an interactive monthly opportunity for ACHSM – Aotearoa members to meet virtually and discuss either a research or non-research article/publication of interest.

identify key areas of interest re topics/speakers for the journal club; organise 1 x speaker per month topics which highlight topical healthcare issues and/or health leadership; maximise attendance through promotion and networking.

The Journal Club Working Group welcome and encourage members to present at Journal Club. It is also an excellent opportunity for Post graduate students to present their material in a supportive network environment.

Please contact (Veronique Gibbons: Veronique.Gibbons@pinnacle.health.nz) if you wish to present or if you would like to recommend a topic or speaker.

FOR YOUR 2026 DIARY

In March 2026 the one-day Conference will be held in Auckland.

At the 2024 Auckland Conference ACHSM President Neale Fong made the announcement that the 2026 March conference will again be in NZ. After deliberation regarding location, flights and ease of access, the decision has been made to once again hold the conference in Auckland. The plan is that NZ will alternate year about with Melbourne (Victoria Branch) for the annual March ACHSM one-day conference event.

ACHSM Support

During the year ACHSM has continued to provide us with excellent guidance and back-office support including the circulation of information to members. This includes maintenance of the Aotearoa section of the ACHSM Website <https://www.achsm.org.au/about-us/branch-councils/achsm-aotearoa>

Other ACHSM Developments: A membership survey was conducted by ACHSM, with 640 individual responses from a membership base of circa 2500. Key areas highlighted included more access to on-line education, a stronger advocacy focus with Governments, and a heightened focus on health systems reform. An action plan has been developed and the areas for focus are slowly being worked through. A membership manager has recently been appointed with their sole focus on growing the membership of ACHSM across all states and territories.

ACHSM held a three-day conference in Brisbane in October 2024, with record attendance and the annual conference for 2025 will be held in Darwin, Northern Territory.

A one-day conference was held in March 2025 in Melbourne, which will run alternate years with an ACHSM-Aotearoa conference.

Summary

My first year as President has been one of huge learning and I sincerely thank Cathy Cooney for her guidance and ongoing support. My colleagues on National Council have been very supportive and continued to focus on serving and supporting our members and it has been a great privilege to serve as your President. Our goal remains to continue to make sure the ACHSM – Aotearoa Branch is sustainable, relevant, and is adding value for you, the members. This is whether you are an aspiring leader; a mid-career manager considering 'where to next'; an executive level leader who values belonging to a professional network with a focus on continuous learning and development; and/or if you are an experienced practitioner who is looking to support and mentor the next generation. Please get in touch, ACHSM – Aotearoa is a member organisation and so the National Council would love to hear from you.

The year has presented many challenges to the health sector, and we are particularly mindful of the impact of the changes and redundancies felt, particularly to our colleagues in Te Whatu Ora. The National Council remain committed to supporting you and your colleagues as you traverse these difficult times.

My sincerest thanks to members of the National Council for your leadership contribution and commitment over the past year – we are all volunteers wanting to do the best we can for those we respect from the past, walk alongside in the present, and wish to encourage and support for the future. Special thanks to Thérèse Jeffs for her work as our Treasurer and to Cathy Cummings our Branch Secretary.

Ngā mihi nui ki a tatou katoa

Kia hora te marino

Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana

Kia tere te karohiohi I mua I tou huarahi

May the calm be widespread

May the ocean glisten as greenstone

May the shimmer of light ever dance across your pathway

Jan Adams, President, FCHSM, CHE,

ACHSM – Aotearoa