



*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

Autumn 2025

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

It has been a very productive start to the year for your National Council and we welcome this opportunity to update you.

Visit by the College President Dr Neale Fong, 8-10 April.

We were delighted to have Neale visit our Branch for some critical meetings as we continue to seek to raise the profile of the College in Aotearoa and the opportunities to contribute to the growth and development of our members and our Branch.



President Neale Fong (3rd from left) with Aotearoa Council members both in person and online.

During his 2 days in Auckland Neale met in person with Health NZ Commissioner Dr Lester Levy and newly appointed Director of Public Health Dr Corina Grey. There was also an online conversation with Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Chair of the College of Public Health Physicians, and a very influential health leader for the Pacific region. Contact was also made

with the office of the new DG Manatū Hauora - Ministry of Health, Audrey Sonerson, this followed our Branch sending a letter of congratulations on her appointment. She has indicated she is willing to meet with us once she has settled into her new role. Also present at the three key meetings was Aotearoa Branch Chair, Jan Adams and National Council member Tamzin Brott. Some key messages from each engagement follows:

Dr Lester Levy meeting: Lester was very generous with his time, with the meeting going for 1.5 hours. Lester was very encouraged by the role that ACHSM has in supporting the development of management competencies and leadership knowledge and skills. He was particularly interested in how managers at all levels can advance their financial management skill set and acumen. He was also very interested in the Certification, Mentorship and Fellowship programmes and how they form a structured career framework for sector leaders. Lester has agreed to doing an ACHSM webinar so notification of the date and time to follow soon.

Dr Corina Grey meeting: We were very appreciative that this meeting was able to happen as the request to meet was short notice because Corina has only just been appointed to the Public Health Director position. She was particularly

interested in how the College could support Public Health physicians with their leadership and management skills development. Dr Grey also expressed interest in being a speaker at the March 2026 ACHSM one-day conference to be hosted by our Aotearoa Branch in Auckland.

Dr Colin Tukuitonga: Neale had a brief conversation with Colin due to Colin's other commitments but there was genuine interest in what the College has to offer for both the Public Health physicians' college and the Pacific region. ACHSM has members from Fiji and some other Pacific nations and is currently launching a branch in Papua New Guinea.

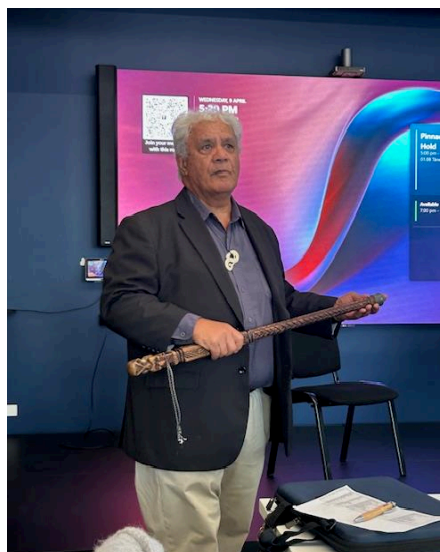
Meeting with the ACHSM National Council:

It was excellent to have time for a face-to-face session with Neale the afternoon of 9 April with all but two Council members able to be present in person. The two who couldn't be present in person were able to join online. Neale spoke about a recently produced ACHSM paper for Branch Councils to consider as we seek to continuously improve our value to members. A focus is how we grow the regional offerings to support members. We welcome your thoughts about what would work for you locally. He was complimentary about the Journal Club and how that has developed

and the quality of presenters. This is a unique offering to Aotearoa Branch members and has been going for 3 years now. Journal Club Convenor Veronique Gibbons was acknowledged for the excellent work she does organising and hosting the Journal Club with the support of the JC Working Group.



President Neale (3rd from left) with Aotearoa Council members both in person and online.



'Kaumātua, Brian Emery welcomed participants to the Northern Region event on the evening of 9 April, Ventia Offices, Auckland

Our sincere thanks to Ventia for sponsoring the conversations with both Neale and Carolyn at a Northern Region event the evening of 9 April.

The evening event was opened by ACHSM – Aotearoa kaumātua Brian Emery.

Neale and Carolyn both shared their leadership journeys and wisdom, and it was great to have some of our newer members and Associate Fellows at the event.



Neale being interviewed by Cathy Cummings - ACHSM – Aotearoa Council Secretary

Neale had "5 attributes of the High Performing Leader:

- Articulate the Vision - do this at every opportunity so everyone knows 'why we are here and doing what we do' – a vision to inspire
- Create and reinforce a positive culture in the organisation and consistently behave in a way that reinforces the culture (living the values)
- Allocate resources effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate consistently - at the individual, team and organisation levels
- Say thank you - affirm the good work done.

Carolyn Cooper Gems:



Carolyn Cooper, Aged Care Commissioner being interviewed by Aotearoa President Jan Adams

- Be authentic
- Have role models - then become a role model yourself
- Take the time to learn and gather the required skills (ACHSM can help you - Carolyn did her Fellowship in 2010)
- Take an interest in people - ask what they aspire to
- Don't let 'imposter syndrome' limit your potential - change the story in your head to the positive.

From these 'fireside chats' it was patently clear that effective leadership requires commitment, passion and a dedication to ongoing professional development and quality improvement. Both conversations were encouraging and inspirational.

Aotearoa Branch AGM - June 2025

A heads up to watch out for information about this year's Branch AGM in June - a request for nominations for Council will also be made as at least one position on Council is becoming available.

<https://www.achsm.org.au/branch-councils/>

Mentorship

Are you keen to have or be a mentor? If so, then please go to the Mentorship section on the website. Mentorship is offered free for those embarking on the Certification and Fellowship programmes.

<https://www.achsm.org.au/mentoring/>

Annual College Congress scheduled for Darwin, 22-24 October, 2025

<https://www.achsm.org.au/events/2025-congress-darwin/>

Conference March 2026:

Date to be confirmed. We had an excellent discussion about the 2026 one-day conference and recognised how much has changed in the NZ health and social care system since the 2024 conference. Work will begin in earnest with the planning and a larger venue is being sought given the excellent response to the last conference with 250 attendees.



Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou

Jan Adams FCHSM CHE

President, ACHSM – Aotearoa
aotearoa@achsm.co.au