

National palliative care steering group member biographies, July 2024

Name	Short Description	Location
<p>Dr Amanda Landers</p>	<p>Amanda was born in the Waikato and raised in a small town on a horse farm. She attended University of Otago and completed a degree in Medical Laboratory Science and Medicine. Amanda developed a passion for palliative care in her junior years, and across her career she has worked in large urban areas and extremely remote environments in both Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. She enjoys talking with patients and families facing life-limiting illness, helping them to plan and prepare for the future and ensuring symptoms are well-managed.</p> <p>In 2023, Amanda completed her PhD investigating end-stage chronic lung disease and their health care network, with the long-term goal of evaluating a co-designed model of care. Amanda also leads the Aotearoa Australian Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy Research (ASPRT) Group who strive towards best practice for those with pancreatic cancer in Australasia.</p> <p>Dr Amanda Landers is now Head of Department of Medicine at the Otago Medical School in Christchurch.</p>	<p>Christchurch</p>
<p>Dr Emily Chang</p>	<p>Emily Chang is a 2nd generation Taiwanese New Zealander, born and raised in Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland. She is dual trained in General Paediatrics and Palliative Care and is the paediatric palliative care specialist at Starship Children’s Health, Auckland City Hospital.</p> <p>Emily has an interest in adolescents and young adults with palliative care needs and is a founding member of the Auckland Palliative Care Transition Network, an interdisciplinary collaboration between paediatric palliative care, hospice, hospital palliative care and primary care. Her ethnic background and experiences of death and dying in the Chinese community has given her an interest in cultural influences on communication, death and dying.</p> <p>She has presented at and being on the organising committees of international palliative care conferences, featured on a Doctors NOS podcast, and is the current Paediatric representative on the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Chapter of Palliative Medicine Committee.</p>	<p>Auckland</p>

<p>Emma Hedgecock</p>	<p>Emma is an experienced nurse across primary and tertiary healthcare settings, working primarily within Oncology and Palliative Care specialty services. She has worked for Hospice West Auckland Community Team and Waitematā DHB Hospital Palliative care team, developing and establishing supportive care/early palliative care clinic, also completing a Masters in Health Science and publishing several articles focusing on patient reported outcome measurement in palliative care.</p> <p>Now working as a Mātanga Tapuhi/Nurse Practitioner in Aged Residential Care (ARC) in the Waikato region covering both rural and urban populations, Emma carries a commitment to Te Tiriti principles and brings governance experience with Palliative Care Nurses New Zealand (previously) and Nurse Practitioners New Zealand (current).</p>	<p>Paeroa</p>
<p>Fraser Watson</p>	<p>Fraser is the Specialist Clinical Lead Extended Care Paramedic for Hato Hone St John and has a 30-year paramedic career with many roles, initially based in the Horowhenua. He has a Bachelor of Health Science in Paramedicine, Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management, Post Graduate Certificate in Advanced Resuscitation and Master of Philosophy with first class honours. He has increasingly focused on community models of paramedic care and has a particular interest in palliative care. He has partnered with traditional palliative care providers to develop clinical guidance and initiatives to support paramedics delivering palliative care in the community.</p> <p>A member of the Australasian Palliative Paramedicine Advisory Group and several Australasian College of Paramedicine committees, Fraser also sits on the Te Kaunihera Manapou Paramedic Council Professional Conduct Committee. Fraser lives in Otaki Beach with his wife and two daughters.</p>	<p>Otaki</p>
<p>Georgina Johnson</p>	<p>Ko Hikurangi te maunga, ko Waiapu te awa, ko Ngati Porou te iwi. Ko Georgina Johnson toku ingoa. No Te Tairawhiti ahau. Georgie is currently with Tairawhiti Toitu Te Ora Iwi Maori Partnership Board has a degree in business and not-for-profit management and brings significant governance experience across whanau, hapu, NGOs, and government. Her whakapapa connects to Ngati Porou, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Mutunga ki Wharekauri, Waikato-Tainui, Tūwharetoa, Maniapoto.</p> <p>A serving Justice of the Peace, Georgie is a passionate advocate for better health outcomes with a particular focus on Māori, currently advising in roles on the Te Whatu Ora Data & Digital Whanau, Consumer and Clinician Council, Medicines Management Digital Services Group, National Palliative Steering Group, SCENZ Group Member, RANZCOG He Hono Wahine, Pharmac Consumer Advisory Committee, and the Fire and Emergency Tairawhiti Maori Advisory Group & Local Advisory Committee as the Chair. She has worked previously as Project Manager</p>	<p>Gisborne</p>

	for Te Whatu Ora Tairāwhiti within Tui Te Ora Long Term Conditions and Digi Hauora (Telehealth projects). In her spare time volunteers with Coastguard Tairāwhiti.	
Kim Fuller	<p>Kim is the Clinical Nurse Consultant for IDEA Services/IHC on the organisation’s National Clinical team. She has more than 30 years of experience working in a variety of settings and for a variety of organisations both in New Zealand and overseas.</p> <p>Kim leads a Community of Practice for IDEA Services, with a focus on increasing health literacy for staff and improving wellbeing for people who access services from IHC. She is passionate about advocating for people who live with intellectual and learning disabilities to have the same opportunities as everyone else and to have equitable access to health services.</p> <p>Kim lives in semi- rural Northland on the Tutukaka coast. Her mother’s family are from Hikurangi, Northland via Nova Scotia and her father’s family are from Scotland via the Hawkes Bay.</p>	Whangarei
Margaret Tuala	<p>Margaret Tuala is a palliative care nurse, originally from Leauva’a - Samoa. Coming to Wellington for education as a teenager, Margaret graduated from Massey University with a Bachelor of Nursing degree in 2006 before moving to South Auckland to work at Middlemore Hospital.</p> <p>Since then, she has completed a Post Graduate Certificate, Diploma and Masters of Practice (Leadership) from Whitireia Polytechnic Wellington, focused on Pacific Health, and has worked as a registered nurse in Residential Aged Care, adult rehabilitation, acute orthopaedics, acute combined surgery, and Charge Nurse Manager in acute respiratory and now as a Palliative Care Clinical Speciality Nurse since 2019.</p> <p>Working as a Charge Nurse Manager in a Respiratory ward she experienced and observed the many challenges and barriers for Pasefika patients/family to accept and access palliative care services within the hospital and especially in the transition to home for end-of-life care. She is passionate about making a difference in equitable care delivery for minority groups and she considers it a privilege to provide education to non-Pasefika health care colleagues in hospital and community from her Pacific worldview perspective. This passion for education extends to helping her Pasefika community (church based) to promote, enhance understanding and awareness of how valuable palliative/hospice care services are for patients and family which helps with increased uptake/access of palliative care services.</p>	South Auckland
Maryellen Mitchell	Maryellen is a nurse originally from Glasgow, Scotland who was drawn to palliative early on in her career.	Auckland

	<p>Together with her husband and son, Maryellen came to New Zealand in 2004, living in Gisborne and working in palliative care there for 5 years. She then took up an opportunity to move to Australia, where she was involved in setting up a brand-new palliative care unit with 20 in-patient beds.</p> <p>After two years Maryellen came back to New Zealand, where she has worked as a Team Leader, Clinical Nurse Specialist, In-patient Manager and Service Lead Clinician in hospice and hospital palliative care teams across the country from Southland to Auckland's North Shore. With her current role as Service Lead Clinician for the Auckland Hospital Palliative Care Team, it's safe to say she loves working in palliative care.</p>	
Dr Sara Simmons	<p>Tēnā koutou katoa, Ko Tākitimu te maunga, Ōreti te awa, Tākitimu me Uruao ngā waka, Ngāi Tahu te iwi, Ngāti Huirapa te hapū, Omaka te marae, Nō Waiharakeke ahau, Ko Sara Simmons tōku ingoa.</p> <p>Sara is a GP with a special interest in palliative care living in sunny Wairau / Blenheim with her husband Simon and their two tamariki on their family farm.</p> <p>She is a director and GP at Manu Ora, a non-profit kaupapa Māori primary care clinic with a model of care centred in te ao Māori, focused on removing the barriers and inequities that exist for Māori in the primary health care system to improve health outcomes for Māori.</p> <p>Sara has almost 10 years' experience at Hospice Marlborough as a palliative care doctor, sits as Chair of the Marlborough After Hours GP Service and serves on the Board of Marlborough Urgent Care Centre.</p>	Wairau/Blenheim
Dr Tess Moeke-Maxwell	<p>Dr Tess Moeke-Maxwell (Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki & Ngāti Porou) is a Senior Research Fellow and co-director of the Te Ārai Palliative Care and End of Life Research Group at the School of Nursing, University of Auckland. Tess leads Kaupapa Māori Research (KMR) projects on behalf of the Te Ārai Kāhui Kaumātua to improve the end of life for kaumātua and their whānau caregivers. Tess and her team created the first dedicated Māori palliative care and end of life website to support whānau caregivers and New Zealand health professionals: www.teipuaronui.co.nz</p> <p>In 2022, The Royal Society of NZ awarded Tess and the Te Ārai team the NZ Health Research Council's Te Tohu Rapuora Medal for research excellence with Māori communities. Tess has been selected as one of New Zealand's 100 Māori Leaders as part of the Henry Rongomau Bennett Foundation Leadership Strategy based on her contributions to Indigenous end of life care research: 100maorileaders.com</p>	Rotorua

<p>Vanessa Eldridge</p>	<p>Vanessa is Director Health Equity at Mary Potter Hospice in Wellington. She has a background in nursing and has led and developed several programmes relating to loss and grief for Māori, compassionate communities and leads a team focussed on the provision of equitable service for all.</p> <p>Vanessa has contributed to national research, publications and professional development material regarding palliative care and she is a qualified bi-cultural supervisor. She contributed to Whenua ki te Whenua the Advance Care Planning conversation guide for Māori with the Health Quality and Safety Commission. She hosted the first National Symposium on Palliative Care for Māori in 2021 and contributes to project work with Hospice New Zealand and Te Whatu Ora.</p> <p>Vanessa was a contributor to the Palliative Care Reference Group for Mauri Mate; a Māori Palliative Care Framework for Hospices.</p> <p>Vanessa is Wellington born and of Rongomaiwahine and Ngāti Kahungūnu descent. She has two sons and lives in Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand.</p>	<p>Wellington</p>
<p>Verbena Harawira</p>	<p>Iwi: Ngāti Awa (Whakatāne) me Ngai Te Rangī (Tauranga). Verbena was born and raised in Whakatāne where she still lives and works. She has been widowed twice, with five adult children and four mokopuna.</p> <p>Verbena has worked in the Secondary School space as a Teacher and also in the Tertiary space at Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi as Senior Administrator in the School of Indigenous Graduate Studies.</p> <p>She resigned this role in December 2021 to care for her husband. six months later he passed away in July 2022. He spent the last six weeks of his life in Whakatāne Hospital.</p> <p>She comes with no formal health background, but her interest in joining this roopu was to bring a whānau and community perspective, having been in the palliative care space and working with Hospice for other whanau members both in the Hospital environment as well as in the home.</p> <p>Currently Verbena’s place of mahi is Eastern Bay Primary Health Alliance (Whakatāne) where she is Rautaki Māori (Strategy and Networking). She ensures cultural safety in the organisational environment and in initiating engagement with organisations and communities outside the organisation.</p>	<p>Whakatāne</p>

<p>Dr Warrick Jones</p>	<p>Warrick is a Palliative Care Specialist with deep roots in Te Tai Tokerau, as he was born and educated in Kaitiaki. During his undergraduate years in Otago, his father died in a motor vehicle accident, an event that has significantly shaped his view on the use of medical knowledge and skill. While completing his FRNZCGP in Invercargill, he worked at Hospice Southland, initially as a Medical Officer, then as Medical Director, eventually moving into the newly established Northland Palliative Medicine Specialist role in 2003.</p> <p>Warrick has worked alongside Primary Care, Age Residential Care facilities and hospital teams in order to increase their capacity and ability to care for the dying. He and the Northland Hospice team led the development and use of PalCare, a web-based patient management system that allows everyone involved in the care of a patient to have access to and participate in their care information.</p> <p>Over the years Warrick has been involved in numerous national committees and working, all with the purpose of making patients and family central to their care choices at the end of life.</p>	<p>Whangarei</p>
<p>Wayne Naylor</p>	<p>Wayne grew up on the West Coast of the South Island before training as a Registered Nurse in Dunedin and then working in Auckland, Wellington, and Hamilton, as well as London. He has spent most of his 30-year nursing career working in oncology, haematology, and palliative care, with some time also spent in general surgery, plastics and burns, and forensic psychiatry.</p> <p>In August 2022, Wayne was appointed Chief Executive of Hospice New Zealand, after joining Hospice NZ as Clinical Programmes Manager in January 2021. Prior to joining Hospice NZ, Wayne was Director of Nursing at Hospice Waikato, and before that spent 3 years as Senior Analyst for the Palliative Care Council of NZ where he undertook the first national study into palliative care need in New Zealand. Along with his Nursing Diploma from Otago Polytechnic, Wayne completed a Bachelor of Science honours degree at The Royal Marsden NHS Trust in London in 2000, and after returning to New Zealand undertook post graduate qualifications in palliative care and statistics.</p>	<p>Wellington</p>