

ACP Clinical and Technical Advisory Group

Members

Alex Psirides

Alex is the co-director of Wellington ICU and medical director of the Wellington Aeromedical Retrieval Service. He has worked on national quality improvement around patient deterioration for the HQSC and currently chairs the ICU Advisory Group to the Ministry of Health and Te Whatu Ora.

Carlton Irving

Tēnā Koutou Katoa, Ko Carlton Irving tōku ingoa, He uri au o Te Whakatōhea, Ko Ngati Ira me Ngai Tama ōku hapū

Carlton is chair of Kaunihera Manapou (Paramedic Council) and a paramedic of nearly two decades, 10 years as a flight paramedic. As well as New Zealand, he has worked in Papua New Guinea, Australia and the Solomon Islands. He has worked in Māori health and governance roles within government primarily focused on equitable health access and outcomes for patients, cultural safety and diversity and inclusion for workforce.

Dr Christopher Denny

Christopher serves as the Medical Director for Northern Rescue Helicopter Limited. He works as a Senior Medical Officer in Emergency Medicine at the Auckland City Hospital and as a member of the New Zealand Medical Assistance Team.

Germaine Sandford

Germaine is a registered nurse of 30 years, with 20 years' experience in Critical Care and Aeromedical environments. She has had flight nursing roles with Pacific Air Ambulance (formerly part of the Auckland Rescue Helicopter trust) undertaking national, pacific and international retrievals (800+ missions) and the Canterbury Air Retrieval Service (CDHB). She has also worked with University life link (Colorado, USA) and AirMedCare (Hawaii). She is a former Chairperson of New Zealand Flight Nurses Association (now COASTN).

Izaak Bates

Izaak is a Critical Care Paramedic with St John and currently the Acting Clinical Team Manager for the National Air Desk. He has four years' experience with the clinical tasking and coordination of rotary wing aircraft in New Zealand, joining the team shortly after the initial pilot. He also volunteers for Coastguard New Zealand and Surf Life Saving New Zealand.

Jim Higgins

Jim is the Managing Director, Consulting with PwC, Australia. He had a distinguished public sector career where he held a number of high-profile leadership roles across several jurisdictions. He has been a former Commissioner of the Queensland Ambulance Service and has extensive experience in the aeromedical services environment. He has worked closely with clinical and operational stakeholders to develop integrated and coordinated approaches to the delivery of these services.

Dr Mariska Lambert

Mariska is an Emergency Medicine Specialist and Clinical Lead for Taupo Hospital. She is also the St John Inter-Hospital Transfer liaison for Taupo Hospital. She is a passionate advocate for rural hospitals and equitable care for rural communities.

Pauline McGrath

Pauline is Chief Executive Officer at Counties Manukau Health. She has held previous roles as COO and Deputy CEO at Mater Misericordiae Academic Teaching Hospital Dublin and Director Pathology Services Eastern Health Melbourne. She is a strong advocate for the delivery of equitable, quality and safe healthcare supported by operational performance and improvement and innovation through collaboration, teamwork and co-design.

Philip Hogan

Philip is an aviation consultant at Heliport Design Group. He has previously worked in pre-hospital care as a paramedic and now advises on helicopter contracts, heliports and aeromedical system design.

Stephanie Valent

Stephanie is an Emergency Medicine Specialist at Whangarei Hospital, where part of her non-clinical role is to encourage collaboration between different parts of the aeromedical sector. She has previously worked as a pre-hospital and Retrieval Medicine Doctor with NRHL.