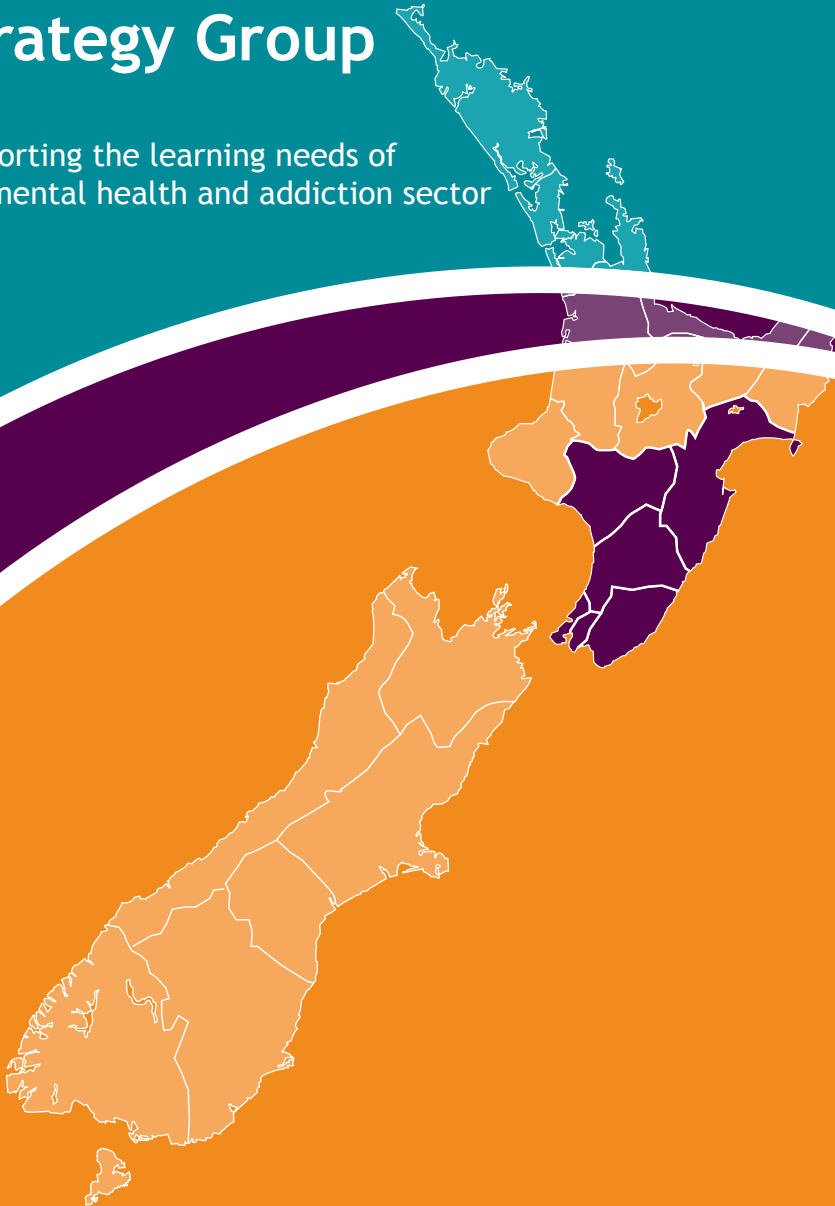


The Central Region Mental Health and Addiction Workforce Development Strategy Group

Supporting the learning needs of
the mental health and addiction sector



What is the Central Region Mental Health and Addiction Workforce Development Strategy Group (CRWDSG)?

The CRWDSG was one of the recommendations from the *Central Region Workforce Development Plan 2008*. This plan was completed by the regional workforce development coordinator at the request of the central region mental health and addiction portfolio managers.

The CRWDSG was established through an expression of interest process in late 2008.

Our purpose

The CRWDSG provides regional leadership for workforce development planning, implementation and evaluation.

The CRWDSG aims to:

- co-ordinate and align workforce development initiatives (current and potential) with national, regional and local activities
- identify accountability and equity issues
- prioritise and recommend projects that add value to workforce development and planning, and ensure workforce development outcomes are met
- approve workforce development initiatives for funding consideration
- co-ordinate relationships with key stakeholders
- provide a forum to discuss local workforce development issues
- undertake appropriate consultation and communication with the mental health and addiction sector regarding workforce development issues
- look for effective and efficient training initiatives that add value through information sharing along with a consistent delivery approach.

- develop processes to monitor and review training effectiveness
- identify and promote appropriate research projects.

Group members have a commitment to health workforce development. They represent and promote stakeholders at a systemic level rather than individual organisations, and use communication pathways to gather and disseminate information within the central region.

Janet Edmond - Current Chairperson

Janet holds the position of regional workforce development co-ordinator for the central region, based within Te Pou. She is a registered occupational therapist with over 20 years' experience working in the mental health field. She has held various occupational therapy positions in district health board (DHB) services in Dunedin, Auckland and Wellington. She has experience across a wide spectrum of mental health services including acute inpatient, inpatient rehabilitation, extended rehabilitation, community, day service and forensic. Over the years she has held both clinical and leadership roles and tutored the National Certificate in Mental Health Support Work.

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Richard Atkinson

Richard came to New Zealand with his wife and four children in 1988. He has worked in various leadership roles in a variety of mental health settings in a career spanning 35 years so far. He is currently employed at MidCentral Health as the service manager for both addiction and child, adolescent and family mental health services. He also has responsibility for training and development. Prior to taking up his present role, he worked for the Wanganui CAFs service for over 10 years and was a member of the Advisory Board to The Werry Centre.

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Frank Bristol

Frank is from Wanganui and is the current manager of Balance Whanganui, a service user governed and run trust providing peer support, education and advocacy services with the Whanganui DHB area. He also works part-time as manager for Balance NZ and is a partner in a horticulture business “Bristol Plants & Seeds”. Frank is presently New Zealand’s only Copeland Center certified Wellness Recovery Action Planning advanced facilitator and has delivered keynote speeches at Mental Health Recovery and Self Management and Australasian Society for Bipolar Disorders conferences internationally. He has a thorough understanding of mood disorders, mental health service users’ issues and mental health services through experiential wisdom gained in his earlier years, when he was a user of secondary mental health services. His areas of interests include peer support, psychoeducation, self determination, self management and mental health recovery processes. From these interests he has developed a passion for service users as providers of services and support for people with psychiatric illness.

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David Croft

David has held various general and psychiatric nursing roles both in New Zealand and Australia including staff and senior clinical nurse roles in various DHBs, alcohol and drug residential roles and alcohol health promotion in the community. For several years he was also manager of the community probation service in the West Coast and Buller region. In addition he was the quality manager for Coast Health Care Ltd and a client services manager with Quality Health NZ, assisting many DHBs and larger NGOs through accreditation and the initial round of certification. David also has experience in working with community and not-for-profit organisations. Since being with Central TAS David has worked as



Back row, L-R: Gary Platz, Richard Atkinson, Mark Gingell, David Croft, Raewyn Hall, Ray Gorin.

Front row, L-R: Debbie Eggo, Leonie Johnson-Hetet, Denise Kingi, Jan Yaxley, Christine Zander, Helma Van Der Lans, Frank Bristol, Mary Wills.

Photographer: Janet Edmond.

a lead auditor working primarily with mental health NGOs and is currently in the role of programme manager, regional mental health.

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Debbie Eggo

Debbie is a forensic mental health nurse (Whakatohea/Ngati Porou), based at Te Korowai-Whariki as part of the mental health intellectual disability consult liaison team, Capital and Coast District Health Board. Debbie has a Postgraduate Certificate in Forensic Psychiatric Care and a Master of Arts (Applied) in Nursing, which complements her other academic achievements, all of which support her nursing practice. She has a passion for workforce development and sees strengthening the identity of nursing as a profession and growing the nursing workforce as two of the biggest tasks ahead. She has a particular interest in promoting nursing amongst Maori as a career option.

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Mark Gingell

Mark is an adopted Kiwi, having lived here for 20 years. He originally trained as a mental health nurse in the United Kingdom and has extensive experience in community health care. He has worked principally in the Wellington region and loves the contrasts offered by a coastal capital surrounded by beautiful bushland. Mark currently works for Compass Health as the clinical leader for primary mental health and has a responsibility for developing the skills and abilities of practitioners in primary care. His professional interests include adult ADHD and male mental health issues. Mark is currently working towards nurse practitioner endorsement and is looking forward to the day he can put the textbooks away and head for the backroads on his motorcycle.

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Ray Gorin

Ray has worked within mental health services since moving into the public sector in the early 1990s. Based within the National Health Service (NHS) in the South-East of England, Ray was initially involved in the closure of long stay hospitals which saw him working closely with relatives and community organisations. In 2001 Ray moved into one of the government's newly developed roles leading a multi-agency drug action team. Ray also worked in other areas of the NHS including the National Primary Care Development Team and as business manager within a specialist addiction treatment unit. In 2006 Ray moved to New Zealand with his family settling in the Hutt Valley and working as the regional mental health and addictions contracts manager across the central region DHBs.

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Raewyn Hall

Raewyn has been team leader of the alcohol and other drug (AOD) service at Wanganui DHB since 1996. Previous work experience includes interim team leader of the community mental health team, co-ordination of the general health social work service, establishing the mental health promotion position, Child Youth and Family residential and community social worker and active participation in community action development and voluntary service agencies. In her role as team leader Raewyn participates in local, regional and national initiatives. This includes being on the AOD service and mental health management and quality and risk teams, the National AOD Sector Standards review, ALAC competency review and pilot, Central Regional TAS AOD Treatment review, external advisor for the South Island review of Opioid Substitution Provision (Methadone) and NAOTP representative on the AOD Technical Advisory Group for the National Services Framework review. Raewyn brings a wealth of experience from NGO and DHB environments. She holds a commitment to collaboration, building inter-sectorial relationships and a passion for workforce development.

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Leonie Johnson-Hetet

Tena Koutou, nga mihi nui ki a koutou. Ko rangitoto me tongariro nga maunga, ko taupo nui a tia te moana, ko mangokewa me rangitikei nga awa, ko tainui me te arawa oku waka, ko maniapoto me tuwharetoa oku iwi, ko ngatirora me ngati wae wae oku hapu, ko tokanganui me te tikanga oku marae. No Tekuiti toku papa Ko Wiritemo Hetet tona ingoa, No Taumarunui toku mama ko Anita Paurini-Johnson tona ingoa. Ko Leonie Johnson- Hetet toku ingoa. No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa.

Leonie has been with Te Whanau Manaaki O Manawatu Trust since 2002, working as part of an awesome team that holds a wealth of experience-based knowledge on drug and alcohol abuse. Her passion is peer support and advocacy for Kaupapa Whanau. A former team leader of the service, Leonie is a whanau, hapu, and iwi practitioner utilising Maori models of healing both personally and professionally. She is currently the regional Te Punawai Whanuitanga network co-ordinator (AOD consumer network) within the Midcentral region. Leonie is passionate about Kaupapa Whanau growing (establishing??) their own regional services and she actively promotes good relationship building with service providers.

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Denise Kingi-‘Ulu’ave

Denise is of Tongan/Palangi descent, born in Rotorua, New Zealand. She is currently employed as a senior clinical psychologist with the adult community mental health service, Palmerston North. She has previously worked as a psychologist for Department of Corrections New Zealand and The Child and Adolescent Service, Australia. Denise is currently a member of Hawakiinui - the Central Region Pacific Mental Health and Addictions Expert Advisory Group, MidCentral Pasifika Health Development Group, the Depression Management Group, the National Standing Committee on Bicultural Issues in Psychology, and the Mental Health and Addictions Local Advisory Group (LAG) to MidCentral Health. Denise also provides clinical input into major DHB projects, Pacific health and mental health plans and has been published in the New Zealand Medical Journal and the Professional Practice of Psychology in Aotearoa New Zealand edited book. Denise holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology, MA, BA (Hons).

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Gary Platz

Gary has been working in the mental health sector as a disclosed service user since 1993. He has been an educator, workshop developer and support worker and has been involved in setting up service user networks. Currently he is chairperson of Oasis Network and the Hutt Valley District Health Board Local Leadership Advisory Group. He is also on the leadership group of the Journey Forward of Capital and Coast District Health Board. Currently he is strategic advisor for Wellink Trust, and has been responsible for setting up several peer services. He has published several articles on recovery of well-being and has spoken and run workshops internationally on this subject.

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Helma van der Lans

Helma has held senior health service management positions and served on a wide range of committees and working parties for many years in the public, private and NGO sectors. She has developed an enduring passion for mental health service management and models of care that enhance recovery across the spectrum of clinical interventions and non-clinical support options. Through her previous position as a board member for Platform, and as current board director for CareerForce (Community Support Services ITO), she is familiar with the development of NZQA qualifications that enable people to progress a career pathway and as such build a sustainable career as a mental health professional or support worker. Helma is committed to the development of strong and skilled leadership and supports the executive leadership course as a means of building capacity for the immediate and long-term future. She is employed by the Wairarapa DHB as manager, mental health services, and has a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Service Management and a Masters Degree in Business Studies: Health Service Management.

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Mary Wills

Mary has 15 years experience in purchasing health services in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. She believes in service user participation and a community development approach to service development. Her expertise is in working with non-government organisations (NGOs) and volunteer organisations and promoting public health approaches to care across the continuum. Mary is the planning and funding portfolio manager for mental health and addiction services, health of older people and disability with the Hawke's Bay District Health Board.

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Jan Yaxley

Jan has worked as a mental health nurse for over 30 years. At present she is the clinical advisor for Dalcam HealthCare which provides residential care to long-term clients , including services for the older adult with mental health and complex health needs. She has been involved in training support staff. Staff retention is a problem at times and the lack of suitable training is an issue especially with support workers. Supporting mental health clients in the community to stay well and to live within their potential is very meaningful but requires staff with special knowledge and the skills to provide this support.

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Christine Zander

Christine has been working in mental health for the past 11 years as manager of Manawatu Supporting Families who are affected by mental illness. Fighting for the rights of families affected by all forms of disability is Christine's passion. Her involvement with this sector spans over 20 years at a local level, as well as national and governmental levels. She enjoys a good wine and in the last few years has become an artist. She has three amazing adult children, one of whom has a disability. Her daughter's life journey has been a challenge as well as a joy.

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Contact us

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