

Annual Report 2023



**NEW ZEALAND
WORK RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

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Section 1: Introduction

The New Zealand Work Research Institute (NZWRI) provides multidisciplinary, inquiry-driven research with social impact. In 2023, NZWRI received around \$2m in external research funds and received numerous awards including three Aotearoa Business and Economics Research Translation Awards.

The broad goals of NZWRI, as well as current key strategic priorities are outlined below: ¹

Goals:

1. Our research will be recognised nationally and internationally for its excellence in our key research areas that concern people and work: future of work, labour market dynamics, and health and wellbeing.
2. Our researchers will produce knowledge that can inform the development of public policy and produce real-world outcomes.
3. We will be regarded as a hub for New Zealand research (regarding people and work) and associated engagement activity.
4. External stakeholders (both the private and public sector) will engage with us because they recognise our leadership in our key research areas (see page 3) and that we are responsive to their research needs in key work and employment issues.

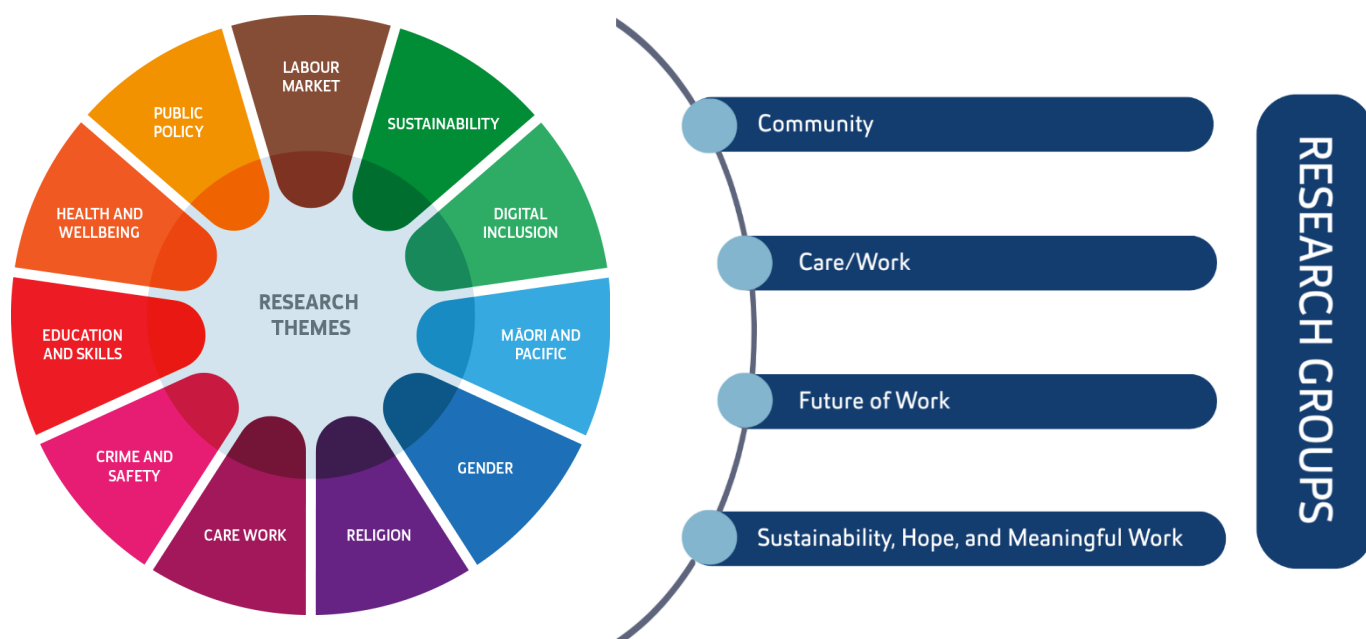
Key Strategic Priorities:

1. Connectivity and engagement with government, business and community. Strong emphasis on research translation, and dissemination of research findings to relevant external stakeholders.
2. The production of research that is of relevance to the government, business and community (at both the local and international level, with an emphasis on local NZ relevance).
3.
 - a) Engagement and active involvement of Faculty of Business, Economics and Law staff in the Institute and its associated research groups;
 - b) Engagement and active involvement of AUT staff outside of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law, (in addition to external stakeholders), in pursuit of a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach to our research agenda.
4. The development of external research income accompanied by building research capacity.

¹ For more information about the Institute, either visit the website at workresearch.aut.ac.nz or email workresearch@aut.ac.nz

Section 2: Research focus

We place emphasis on a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach and rank engagement with external stakeholders as a high priority. The broad nature of our research is visually represented by the **11 research themes** infographic below. Projects undertaken by our **four research groups** often overlap several of these research themes. For more information about each group's objectives, ongoing projects and members, see workresearch.aut.ac.nz.



Our research strengths

While our research streams take on a broad perspective, our research strengths have been narrowed down to two main areas of focus – Big Data and Primary Surveys. When used together, our [mixed methods](#) approach offers our research additional precision to help inform policy.

BIG DATA

We employ large administrative datasets which provides evidence-based research on a range of social issues to help inform policy direction. Our research is primarily NZ focused and utilises the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) – a large research database containing microdata about people and households in NZ.

PRIMARY SURVEYS

We conduct cross-sectional and longitudinal surveys at national, local and workplace levels. Our surveys encompass both qualitative and quantitative techniques, and cover a wide range of social issues related to people and work.

Section 3: Leadership, governance and membership

Our team²

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Gail Pacheco | Director |
| Lisa Meehan | Deputy Director |
| Katherine Ravenswood | Associate Director (Human Resource Management) |
| Jarrood Haar ³ | Associate Director (Human Resource Management) |
| Alexander Plum | Senior Research Fellow, Leadership Team |
| Thomas Schober | Senior Research Fellow |
| Leon Iusitini | Senior Research Fellow |
| Christopher Erwin | Research Fellow |
| Lee Zhuge | Research Fellow |
| Wei-Lin Chen | Research Fellow |
| Alexandra Turcu | Research Officer |
| Linda Kirkpatrick | Research Officer, PhD Student |
| Livvy Mitchell | Research Officer, PhD Student |
| Marcus Ho | Leadership Team |
| Antonio Díaz Andrade | Leadership Team |
| Marjolein Lips-Wiersma | Leadership Team |
| Mary Hedges | Research Developer |
| Tamara Tesolin | Institute Manager |
| Douglas Yee | Institute Administrator, Research Assistant |
| Patricia Dela Cruz | Institute Administrator, Research Assistant |

Visiting researchers

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Florian Fouquet, Nantes University | February–August 2023 |
| Niloofar Katiraei, University of Padova | April–May 2023 |
| Stephen Reder, Portland State University | March 2023 |

Research assistants

Daysha Tonumaipé'a
Miura Elikana
Losi Sa'uLilo
Seipua O'Brien

² In addition to those listed above, the Institute has more than 50 members and 90 external research associate/affiliates.

³ Jarrod left the team to join Massey University as Dean's Chair in Management and Māori Business in February 2023. He remains a research associate/affiliate.

Research groups

Care/Work Research Group

Lead researcher: Katherine Ravenswood

Future of Work Research Group

Lead researcher: Marcus Ho

Sustainability, Hope and Meaningful Work Research Group

Lead researcher: Marjo Lips-Wiersma

Community Research Group

Lead researchers: Kabir Dasgupta and Alexander Plum

Advisory

The advisory process is incorporated in all of our projects. Advisory project members comprise key leaders from government, business and the community. These members contribute informed comments on our activities and assist in ensuring NZWRI is undertaking research that is relevant to our stakeholders and well informed. A selection of project advisors is listed below.

Disparities in Healthcare Access

Ethnic differences in the uptake of healthcare services: A Microanalysis

This project uses Growing Up in New Zealand data and aims to quantify the contribution of different factors (accessibility, mobility, socio-economic, parental and child characteristics) to ethnic gaps in healthcare service uptake. The key goal is to provide potential policy drivers to assist in closing these gaps.

- Ministry of Health
- Oranga Tamariki – Research and Evaluation
- The Immunisation Advisory Centre
- Waikato DHB
- Auckland Regional Dental Service
- Alliance Health Plus PHO
- Manaia Health PHO.

Low Literacy and Numeracy

The expression, experience and transcendence of low skills in Aotearoa New Zealand

Using a range of empirical methods with PIAAC (Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies) data, as well as administrative data in the IDI (Integrated Data Infrastructure), this research programme will build a detailed, population-wide picture of those with low literacy and/or numeracy skills.

- Ministry of Education
- Literacy Aotearoa
- Business NZ
- NZ Council of Trade Unions
- Ministry of Social Development

- AKO Aotearoa
- Te Puni Kōkiri
- Ministry for Pacific Peoples
- Tertiary Education Commission
- NZ Council for Educational Research.

Section 4: Commissioned reports and projects

The following examples are key 2023 research projects that received external funding with their outputs.

MBIE Research Programme Endeavour Fund

Project: The expression, experience and transcendence of low-skills in Aotearoa New Zealand



Team: NZWRI members, a range of external researchers from the University of Waikato, Portland State University and the OECD

Description: The overarching goal of this project is to provide policy recommendations to improve life-course trajectories and socio-economic outcomes of adults living with low literacy and/or numeracy (L+N) skills. This research is aimed at shaping the ways in which we deal with literacy and numeracy issues in NZ with a focus on effective intervention.

Timeframe: October 2019–September 2024

Research output: [See the project webpage for the full list of project outputs.](#)

Health Research Council

Project: Ethnic differences in the uptake of healthcare services: A microanalysis



Team: Gail Pacheco (AUT), Nadia Charania (AUT), Alexander Plum (AUT), Dan Tautolo (AUT), Sonia Lewycka (Oxford University Clinical Research Unit) and Terryann Clark (University of Auckland)

Description: This research will add to the knowledge base regarding barriers and enablers to the uptake of healthcare services for preschool children. In particular, we will empirically analyse ethnic gaps using the Growing Up in New Zealand cohort and qualitatively explore the ‘why’ behind empirical patterns of life-course trajectories in ethnic differences in healthcare services.

Timeframe: July 2019–June 2023

Research outputs:

- Dasgupta, K., Pacheco, G., & Plum, A. (2023). [State Dependence in Immunization and the Role of Discouragement](#). *Economics & Human Biology*, 101313.
- Plum, A. (2022) [State Dependence in Immunization and the Role of Discouraging Information](#) [PDF slides]. NZ Work Research Institute. Auckland, NZ.
- Dasgupta, K., Pacheco, G., & Plum, A. (2022) [State Dependence in Immunization and the Role of Discouraging Information](#). NZ Work Research Institute. Auckland, NZ.
- Lewycka, S., Dasgupta, K., Plum, A., Clark, T., Hedges, M., Pacheco, G. (2021) [Determinants of Ethnic Differences in the Uptake of Child Healthcare Services in New Zealand: A Decomposition Analysis](#). NZ Work Research Institute. Auckland, NZ.
- Clark, T., Dasgupta, K., Lewycka, S., Pacheco, G. & Plum, A. (2020). *Ethnic differences in the use and experience of child healthcare services in NZ: An empirical examination*. NZ Work Research Institute. Auckland, NZ.

[For other outputs and related media, see the project webpage.](#)

Enhancing Urban Regeneration



Project: Enhancing the impact of urban regeneration on community wellbeing

Team: Scott Duncan (AUT), Erica Hickson (AUT), Gail Pacheco (AUT) Thomas Schober (AUT) and Linda Kirkpatrick (AUT)

Description: The purpose of this project is to enhance the impact of urban regeneration on community wellbeing. This multi-layered research programme will directly impact priority indicators of individual and collective wellbeing, by employing innovative measurement approaches, including data from the Integrated Data Infrastructure, interactive mapping system, and a custom smartphone app.

Timeframe: January 2021–December 2025

InternetNZ



Project: World Internet Project 2023

Team: Antonio Díaz Andrade (AUT), Mary Hedges (AUT), Gail Pacheco (AUT) and Alexandra Turcu (AUT)

Description: The eighth iteration of the World Internet Project New Zealand (WIP-NZ) focuses on internet users, the quality and accessibility of internet connections across NZ, New Zealanders' understanding of the environmental impacts of internet use, and the impact and prevalence of remote working.

Timeframe: September 2022–March 2024

Research output:

- Hedges, M., Pacheco, G. & Turcu, A. (2023). [The World Internet Project](#). 2023. New Zealand Work Research Institute, Auckland.

NZ Women's Empowerment Principles



Project: NZ Women's Empowerment Principles Survey 2023

Team: Gail Pacheco (AUT), Douglas Yee (AUT) and Patricia Dela Cruz (AUT)

Description: The aim of this survey is to uncover policies and practices within New Zealand's largest organisations on behalf of the United Nations Women, with a specific focus on Women's Empowerment Policies.

Timeframe: March–October 2023

Research output:

- Dela Cruz, P., Pacheco, G. & Yee, D. (2023). [2023 New Zealand Women's Empowerment Principles Survey Report](#). NZ Work Research Institute. Auckland, NZ.
- Dela Cruz, P., Pacheco, G. & Yee, D. (2023). [2023 New Zealand Women's Empowerment Principles Survey Report – Summary sheet](#). NZ Work Research Institute. Auckland, NZ.
- Dela Cruz, P., Pacheco, G. & Yee, D. (2023). [2023 New Zealand Women's Empowerment Principles Brown Bag Seminar \[PowerPoint slides\]](#). NZ Work Research Institute. Auckland, NZ.

Ministry of Health – Covid 19: Childhood immunisations

Project: Impact of COVID-19 on childhood vaccine uptake and ways forward for equitable immunisation services

Team: Gail Pacheco (AUT), Thomas Schober (AUT) and Leon Lusitini (AUT)

Description: The purpose of this project is to analyse the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on routine childhood immunisation uptake to understand which children are missing out and make recommendations for equitable routine immunisation services.

Timeframe: September 2022–September 2023

Research output:

- Lusitini, L., Pacheco, G. & Schober, T. (2023). [*Assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on childhood vaccine uptake with integrated administrative data*](#). New Zealand Work Research Institute, Auckland.



Ministry of Health – COVID-19: Mandates

Project: The role of vaccine mandates in New Zealand's COVID-19 response

Team: Lisa Meehan (AUT), Gail Pacheco (AUT), Livvy Mitchell (AUT), Denise Wilson (AUT) and Jan Dewar (AUT)

Description: The aim of this research is to provide insights into potential consequences of mandates with respect to vaccination uptake and health workforce turnover. Findings from this research can inform the government's ongoing Covid-19 response (e.g. in the face of new variants) as well as its policy response to future pandemics.

Timeframe: September 2022–September 2023



Ministry of Women – Gender and Ethnic Pay Gaps

Project: Gender and Ethnic Pay Gaps

Team: Gail Pacheco (AUT), Lisa Meehan (AUT) and Leon Lusitini (AUT)

Description: The aim of this project is to monitor and report gender and ethnic pay gaps, and identify structural issues, particularly within industries, in order to inform activities to close pay gaps, using the IDI.

Timeframe: July 2022–June 2023



Ministry of Social Development – Children and Families Research Fund

Project: Intergenerational transmission of human capital: What makes and breaks the cycle of advantage and disadvantage?

Team: Leon Lusitini (AUT), Alexander Plum (AUT), Gail Pacheco (AUT), Valmai Copeland (Oranga Tamariki) and Jason Timmins (New Zealand Productivity Commission)



Description: The aim of this study is to investigate how the human capital of mothers and their children are related, how differences in maternal and child characteristics contribute to inequalities in human capital, and how human capital is transmitted across generations in order to understand how to break the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage.

Timeframe: February 2023–March 2024

Ministry of Social Development

Project: Prevalence study of abuse of older people

Team: Gail Pacheco (AUT), Denise Wilson (AUT), Corina Naughton (University College Dublin), Marama Muru-Lanning (University of Auckland), Alayne Mikahere Hall (AUT), Ayesha Scott (AUT), Katherine Ravenswood (AUT), El-Shadan Tautolo (AUT), Leon Lusitini (AUT), Lisa Meehan (AUT), Andrew Balemi (University of Auckland)

Description: The purpose of this project is to undertake the first national prevalence of elder abuse in New Zealand.

Timeframe: December 2023–January 2025



Workforce Development Council

Project: Labour-market and well-being outcomes for learners post-qualification

Team: Alexander Plum (AUT), Alexandra Turcu (AUT) and Gail Pacheco (AUT)

Description: This project follows a cohort of learners engaged in vocational education and industry qualifications relevant to WDC sectors. The aim of this project is to provide insights into labour-market and well-being outcomes for learners post-qualification for the respective WDCs.

Timeframe: March 2023–June 2024

Research output: Provided six in-house trainings on the Integrated Data Infrastructure.



Manawanui

Project: The role of individualised disability funding in NZ: Evidence using administrative data

Team: Lisa Meehan (AUT), Gail Pacheco (AUT) and Linda Kirkpatrick (AUT)

Description: The purpose of this project is to examine the wellbeing outcomes of those who receive individualised disability funding, relative to mainstream funding sources, using Stat NZ's Integrated Data Infrastructure.

Timeframe: January 2023–January 2024



Te Ara Ahunga Ora Retirement Commission



Project: Distributional analysis of KiwiSaver contributions

Team: Gail Pacheco (AUT), Lisa Meehan (AUT) and Linda Kirkpatrick (AUT)

Description: This project aims to examine KiwiSaver contribution rates and KiwiSaver contributions/non-contributions and saving suspensions over time by demographic and socioeconomic characteristics using Stat NZ's Integrated Data Infrastructure.

Timeframe: July 2023–February 2024

Section 5: Other research projects

This section outlines selected key research projects where outputs were published in 2023 across the leadership team, specialist research groups, and postdoctoral research fellows within the Institute. Unlike Section 4, these have not received external income, but have in numerous cases benefited from contributions from stakeholders in kind (e.g. via support, input, data, etc.).

Human capital formation and changes in low pay persistence

Team: Kabir Dasgupta (Federal Reserve Board of Governors, United States) and Alexander Plum (AUT)

Research output: Dasgupta, K. & Plum, A. (2023). [Human capital formation and changes in low pay persistence](https://doi.org/10.1080/00036846.2022.2161989). *Applied Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00036846.2022.2161989>

Determinants of ethnic differences in the uptake of child healthcare services in New Zealand: a decomposition analysis

Team: Sonia Lewycka (Oxford University Clinical Research Unit), Kabir Dasgupta (Federal Reserve Board of Governors, United States), Alexander Plum (AUT), Terryann Clark (University of Auckland), Mary Hedges (AUT) and Gail Pacheco (AUT)

Research output: Lewycka, S., Dasgupta, K., Plum, A., Clark, T., Hedges, M., & Pacheco, G. (2023). [Determinants of ethnic differences in the uptake of child healthcare services in New Zealand: a decomposition analysis](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-022-01812-3). *International Journal for Equity in Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-022-01812-3>

Mild traumatic brain injury increases engagement in criminal behaviour 10 years later: a case-control study

Team: Alice Theadom (AUT), Lisa Meehan (AUT), Sandra McCallum (AUT) and Gail Pacheco (AUT)

Research output: Theadom, A., Meehan, L., McCallum, S., & Pacheco, G. [Mild traumatic brain injury increases engagement in criminal behaviour 10 years later: A case-control study](#). *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 14, 724.

‘Try, Learn, Adjust’: it’s time to bring workers into disability support policy.

Team: Katherine Ravenswood (AUT)

Research output: Ravenswood, K. (2023). [‘Try, Learn, Adjust’: it’s time to bring workers into disability support policy](#). *Policy Quarterly*, 19(1), 27-34.

Childhood vaccination uptake among children born in Aotearoa New Zealand based on parental nationality

Team: Nadia Charania (AUT), Linda Kirkpatrick (AUT), Janine Paynter (University of Auckland) and Nikki Turner (University of Auckland)

Research output: Charania, N., Kirkpatrick, L., Paynter, J. & Turner, N. (2023) [Childhood vaccination uptake among children born in Aotearoa New Zealand based on parental nationality](https://doi.org/10.1080/21645515.2023.2240688). *Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics*, 19(2). <https://doi.org/10.1080/21645515.2023.2240688>

Paediatric COVID-19 vaccination coverage and associated factors among migrant and non-migrant children aged 5-11 years in Aotearoa New Zealand: A Population-level retrospective cohort study.

Team: Nadia Charania (AUT), Linda Kirkpatrick (AUT), Janine Paynter (University of Auckland) and Nikki Turner (University of Auckland)

Research output: Charania, N., Kirkpatrick, L., Paynter, J. & Turner, N. (2023) Paediatric COVID-19 vaccination coverage and associated factors among migrant and non-migrant children aged 5-11 years in Aotearoa New Zealand: A population-level retrospective cohort study. *Australia and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 47(5). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anzjph.2023.100086>

Basic Reading and Mathematics Skills and the Labour Market Outcomes of Young People: Evidence from PISA and Linked Administrative Data

Team: Lisa Meehan (AUT), Gail Pacheco (AUT) and Thomas Schober (AUT)

Research output: Meehan, L., Pacheco, G., & Schober, T. (2023). [Basic Reading and Mathematics Skills and the Labour Market Outcomes of Young People: Evidence from PISA and Linked Administrative Data](https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-4932.12755). *Economic Record*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-4932.12755>

Risk-Taking Behaviour and Fatherhood

Team: Douglas Yee (AUT), Alexander Plum (AUT), Gail Pacheco (AUT) and Kabir Dasgupta (Federal Reserve Board of Governors, United States)

Research output: Yee, D. (2023). [Risk-Taking Behaviour and Fatherhood](#).

Insights on New Zealand Sustainability Professionals

Team: Sarah Holden (Oxygen Consulting), Kelly Flatz (Oxygen Consulting), Megan Dunnion (Oxygen Consulting), Marjo Lips-Wiersma (AUT), Peter McGhee (AUT), Beck Lay (AUT), Jarrod Haar (AUT), Mike Burrell (Sustainable Business Council), Rebecca Lowe (Sustainable Business Council), Nicole Schlichting (Sustainable Business Council), Rachel Brown (Sustainable Business Network), Tori Calver (Sustainable Business Network) and Fiona Stephenson (Sustainable Business Network).

Research output: Holden, S., Flatz, K., Dunnion, M., Lips-Wiersma, M., McGhee, Lay., B., Haar, J., Burrell, M., Lowe, R., Schlichting, N., Brown, R., Calver, T. & Stephenson, F. (2023). [Insights on New Zealand Sustainability Professionals: 2023 Report](#).

Workplace health and safety and the future of work: Evidence from linked-unit record data

Team: Juliane Hennecke (University Magdeburg), Lisa Meehan (AUT) and Gail Pacheco (AUT)

Research output: Hennecke, J., Meehan, L., & Pacheco, G. (2023). [Workplace health and safety and the future of work: Evidence from linked-unit record data](#). (AUT School of Economics Working Paper Series No. 23/04). https://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/817450/working-paper-23_04.pdf

Sexual Orientation and Earnings in New Zealand

Team: Christopher S. Carpenter (Vanderbilt University), Kabir Dasgupta (Federal Reserve Board of Governors, United States) and Alexander Plum (AUT)

Research output: Carpenter, C. S., Dasgupta, K., & Plum, A. (2023). [Sexual Orientation and Earnings in New Zealand](#). (AUT School of Economics Working Paper Series No. 23/05). https://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/824930/working-paper-23_05.pdf

The effect of a minor health shock on labour market outcomes: The case of concussions

Team: Florian Fouquet (AUT), Lisa Meehan (AUT), Gail Pacheco (AUT) and Alice Theadom (AUT)

Research output: Fouquet, F., Meehan, L., Pacheco, G., & Theadom, A. (2023). [The effect of a minor health shock on labour market outcomes: The case of concussions](#). (AUT School of Economics Working Paper Series No. 23/06). https://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/829495/working-paper-23_06.pdf

Toward a Contextualized Understanding of Well-being in the Midwifery Profession: An Integrative Review

Team: Tago L. Mharapara (AUT), Janine H Clemons (AUT), James Greenslade-Yeats (AUT), Tanya Ewertowska (AUT), Nimbus Awhina Staniland (AUT) and Katherine Ravenswood (AUT)

Research output: Mharapara, T. L., Clemons, J. H., Greenslade-Yeats, J., Ewertowska, T., Staniland, N. A., & Ravenswood, K. (2023). Toward a contextualized understanding of well-being in the midwifery profession: An integrative review. *Journal of Professions and Organization*, 9(3), 348-363.

Section 6: Events and engagements⁴

To view all presentations from AUT events and external engagements, see workresearch.aut.ac.nz

Events at AUT

[Practice Engagement Theory \(PET\): Skills, practice and reciprocity – New Zealand Evidence](#), 8 March 2023

Visiting Researcher, Steven Reder discussed the effects of practice engagement on earnings, health, social trust, political efficacy and civic participation in New Zealand. Practice engagement has statistically significant and substantial positive effects on each of these outcomes after controlling for the effects of proficiency, education and other important variables. The results have important implications for policy and practice in adult education as well as for future research about the role of practice engagement in overall wellbeing.

[Local labour markets the spatial determinants of overeducation](#), 31 March 2023

Visiting Researcher, Florian Fouquet presented findings from his paper, which investigates the spatial dimension of overeducation and its incidence on local labour markets in France, at a NZWRI and AUT School of Economics joint seminar.

[A new methodological approach for considering workers' diversity in assembly system design \(by taking into account the European MAIA project\)](#), 24 April 2023

Visiting Researcher, Niloofar Katiraei presented findings from her MAIA project research, which investigates workers' diversity in production systems to understand how differences among workers affect production systems, with a particular focus on assembly systems, at a NZWRI and AUT Business Information Systems joint seminar.

[Barriers and enablers to literacy and numeracy: insights from the Pacific people](#), 27 April 2023

Maulupeivao Dr Betty Ofe-Grant presented findings utilising qualitative focus group discussions founded on Teu le va (relational spaces) and semi-structured Talanoa (storytelling) from 230 Pacific participants, findings show that multiple barriers exist at the macro (societal), meso (organisational, schools and training institutions) and micro (individual) levels alongside cultural and familial factors that perpetuated and sustained low literacy and numeracy skills.

[Women in Economics Network NZ panel discussion](#), 9 August 2023

Gail Pacheco was a panel member at this WENZ event to discuss gender and ethnic pay gaps at the industry level. These results are from commissioned work by the Ministry for Women and was co-authored by Leon Lusitini and Lisa Meehan.

[Bringing Vision Mātauranga to Life \(2023 AUT Wiki Rangahau\)](#), 4 September 2023

Gail Pacheco was a part of an expert panel discussion providing an opportunity for researchers with an interest in applying for research funding to learn from colleagues with practical experiences of working with Māori communities and businesses to engage with Māori aspirations, expertise, knowledge and philosophies within their particular fields and projects.

[2023 AUT Wiki Rangahau \(Research Week\)](#), 8 September 2023

Linda Kirkpatrick presented her poster, titled *What's good in the (neighbour)hood?* at 2023 AUT Research Week. AUT's inaugural Wiki Rangahau (Research Week) is an opportunity for staff, postgraduate research

⁴ Note that the list of events and engagements are not fully exhaustive. Please check the website for details of events and presentations not listed in this report. Slides are available for many of these presentations.

students, and community members to celebrate AUT's research, connect researchers together, and create space for research discussions and skill-building.

Engagements external to AUT

[ASSA 2022 Virtual Annual Meeting](#), 7–9 January 2022

NZWRI Research Fellow, Christopher Erwin presented at the 2022 Allied Social Sciences Associations (ASSA), Virtual Annual Meeting. He presented findings on the victim/offender overlap in New Zealand and the dynamic relationship between criminal offending and victimisation.

[Metrics with Meaning](#), 22 February 2023

NZWRI Director, Gail Pacheco was a panel speaker for a Diversity Works session *Metrics with Meaning* hosted in Wellington.

[Oranga Tamariki Evidence Centre Seminar](#), 22 February 2023

Gail Pacheco and Nadia Charania presented key findings from quantitative and qualitative work funded by the Health Research Council, the Children and Families Research Fund, MSD, and Te Hiringa Hauora/Health Promotion Agency, which analyses ethnic differences in the utilisation of child healthcare services in Aotearoa New Zealand.

[Seminar: Transcending low levels of literacy and numeracy: Narratives from the Pacific people](#), 16 March 2023

Maulupeivao Dr Betty Ofe-Grant spoke about the barriers and enablers to transcend low levels of literacy and numeracy for Pacific people at a University of Otago seminar. Her research is part of our project: *The expression, experience and transcendence of low skills in Aotearoa New Zealand*.

[Western Economic Association International Conference](#), 12–15 April 2023

Gail Pacheco and Thomas Schober attended the 17th International WEAI Conference in Melbourne. Gail presented findings from the MBIE *expression, experience and transcendence of low skills in Aotearoa New Zealand* project which looks at the relationship between young people's literacy and numeracy skills and their life-course outcomes. Thomas presented findings from research looking at the effect of literacy and numeracy programmes on labour market outcomes.

[MAIA Project mid-term meeting](#), 8 June 2023

Gail Pacheco attended the MAIA mid-term meeting at the University of Padova, Italy to present findings from the report *Workplace safety and the future of work in New Zealand*, co-authored by Juliane Hennecke and Lisa Meehan.

[12th Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists](#), 11 – 14 June 2023

Kabir Dasgupta attended the 2023 ASHEcon Conference in St Louis, Missouri to present preliminary findings from a forthcoming working paper *Parental well-being gap during the pandemic: Evidence from administrative data*, co-authored by Alexander Plum and Linda Kirkpatrick. Kabir also presented key findings from a second paper *Drink Driving and Labor Market Repercussions: Evidence from New Zealand Administrative Data*, co-authored by Marco Francesconi, Jonathan James and Alexander Plum.

[Communicable Diseases & Immunisation Conference 2023](#), 19 – 21 June 2023

Linda Kirkpatrick attended the Public Health Association Australia 2023 CDIC Conference, in Perth, Western Australia to present findings from the *Childhood vaccination uptake among children born in Aotearoa New Zealand based on parental nationality & Exploring paediatric COVID-19 outcomes among migrant and refugee children in New Zealand* journal articles.

[2023 World Internet Project Annual Conference](#), 26 June 2023

Alexandra Turcu attended the 2023 WIP Annual Conference hosted by the University of Zurich, Switzerland to showcase preliminary findings from the 2023 iteration of WIP New Zealand. In particular, Alexandra discussed the implications of COVID-19 on remote working in New Zealand.

[63rd Annual Conference of the New Zealand Association of Economists](#), 28–30 June 2023

Ten staff, students and visiting researchers presented at the 2023 NZAE conference:

- COVID vaccine mandates: The effect on vaccination uptake and healthcare workers' labour market outcomes – Lisa Meehan
- [Poster: What's good in the \(neighbour\)hood? Examining the wellbeing impacts of urban regeneration using administrative data](#) – Linda Kirkpatrick
- [Exploring paediatric COVID-19 outcomes among migrant and refugee children in New Zealand](#) – Linda Kirkpatrick
- [Adult skills proficiency and migrant/native wage assimilation](#) – Christopher Erwin
- [Risk-taking behaviour and fatherhood](#) – Douglas Yee
- [Parental well-being gap during the pandemic: Evidence from administrative data](#) – Alexander Plum
- [Gender and ethnic pay gaps by industry in New Zealand](#) – Leon Lusitini
- The economic consequences of a health shock: the labour market outcomes after a road accident – Sandra McCallum
- [Basic reading and mathematics skills and labour market outcomes of young people: Evidence from PISA](#) – Gail Pacheco
- The effect of literacy and numeracy programmes on labour market outcomes – Thomas Schober
- [Drink Driving and Labor Market Repercussions: Evidence from New Zealand Administrative Data](#) – Alexander Plum
- Spatial mobility and overeducation of young workers: New evidence from France – Florian Fouquet

[Nuremberg Research Seminar in Economics](#), 12 July 2023

Thomas Schober attended a University of Erlangen hosted event to present preliminary results from his research on the effects of literacy and numeracy programmes on labour market outcomes, co-authored by Lisa Meehan and Gail Pacheco.

[Workshop: Social policy and the labour market in turbulent times: \(no\) need for change?](#), 19 July 2023

Thomas Schober attended a workshop hosted by Federal Employment Agency in Germany to present results from his research on the effects of literacy and numeracy programmes on labour market outcomes, co-authored by Lisa Meehan and Gail Pacheco.

[Philanthropy and Government Forum](#), 25 August 2023

Gail Pacheco attended the Philanthropy and Government Forum to discuss the link between reading and maths skills and the future life-course outcomes of young people in New Zealand.

[Virtual Health Information Network Webinar](#), 13 September 2023

Thomas Schober presented key findings from the paper 'Assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on childhood vaccine uptake with integrated administrative data'. This paper was co-authored by Leon Lusitini and Gail Pacheco.

[New Zealand College of Midwives Conference](#), 4 November 2023

Talei Jackson presented findings from the paper *Am I typhoid Mary? Midwives experiences of work-home tensions and family support during the COVID-19 pandemic*, co-authored by research member Tago Mharapara, James Greenslade-Yeats and Janine Clemons.

[Women in Public Service Summit](#), 16 November 2023

Gail Pacheco was a panel member at the 'Why Auckland Matters? The Role of Economic Development' session. She spoke about Auckland's role in the development of skills and the skills pipeline in New Zealand.

[2023 Aotearoa New Zealand Immunisation Conference](#), 15–17 November 2023

Leon Lusitini and Daysha Tonumaipē'a presented findings from two studies from the project: 'Impact of COVID-19 on childhood vaccine uptake and ways forward for equitable immunisation services'. Leon discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on routine childhood immunisation coverage in Aotearoa. Daysha spoke about the perceptions of national scheduled childhood vaccines among Māori and Pacific caregivers and healthcare professionals in Aotearoa.

[The International Industrial Relations Agencies Meeting](#), 29 November 2023

Gail Pacheco presented findings from the eight iteration of the World Internet Project in New Zealand survey and discussed the potential of using administrative data to evaluate pay gaps and pay equity claims.

[The World Internet Project in NZ 2023 Launch](#), 5 December 2023

Alexandra Turcu, in collaboration with Internet NZ, launched the report of the eighth iteration of the World Internet Project in NZ. Her presentation discussed key findings from the report, with a focus on remote work.

[2023 Asian & Australian Society of Labour Economics Conference](#), 7–9 December 2023

Linda Kirkpatrick presented findings in Taipei, from a forthcoming working paper with Alexander Plum and Kabir Dasgupta looking at parental labour supply during the COVID-19 pandemic using administrative data.

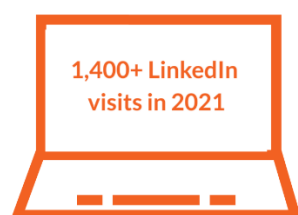
Section 7: In the media

Social media

The Institute has maintained a strong social media presence in the past few years. In 2023, we continued a social media campaign called “**Q + A with...**”, where various members of the Institute answered five questions related to their academic career, a recent research project, and their life outside work.

This year’s “Q + A with...” series included:

- [Q + A with Lee Zhuge](#)
- [Q + A with Wei-Lin Chen](#)



This year, we adjusted our focus away from Twitter and more towards LinkedIn. We saw a 32.2% increase in LinkedIn followers, from 1,535 to 2,030. Our main focus is LinkedIn as a platform due to our specialisation in research and academia.



Media articles

In addition to our social channels, the Institute has regularly featured in news articles. For all 2023 media contributions and citations, titles are hyperlinked with the full news item or radio interview:

[Summer reads: Workplace revolution – the year everything changed for Kiwi employers](#) – NZ Herald, 7 January 2023

[Experts offer advice on how to beat post-holiday back to work blues](#) – NZ Herald, 8 January 2023

[Experts weigh in on ‘burnout’ after Ardern resignation](#) – 1 News, 21 January 2023

[Will ‘unlimited leave’ become the new normal at Kiwi workplaces?](#) – 1 News, 24 January 2023

[How businesses are making the back to work blues a little easier](#) – Stuff, 25 January 2023

[2023 NZ sustainability survey launches](#) – AUT News, 7 February 2023

[Celebrating Success: Maulupeivao Dr Betty Ofe-Grant](#) – AUT Comms, 9 February 2023

[Health leaders hail “impactful” study](#) – AUT News, 15 February 2023

[Stocktake of the workforce: Gender diversity getting worse across many professions](#) – NZ Herald, 8 March 2023

[Professor Gail Pacheco speaks on the gender pay gap for International Women's Day 2023](#) – 1 News, 8 March 2023

[Maulupeivao Dr Betty Ofe-Grant speaks to Pacific Mornings for International Womens Day 2023](#) – 531pi, 8 March 2023

['Terrifying' mortgage hikes and food costs force people into second jobs](#) – Stuff, 14 March 2023

[Cost of living: Workers taking on extra jobs just to make ends meet a 'sign of the times' - expert](#) – The Project, 14 March 2023

[For some workers, low-paying jobs might be more of a dead end than a stepping stone](#) – The Conversation, 26 April 2023

[Concussions increase chance of violent behaviour – study](#) – Radio New Zealand 3 May 2023

[Research shows just one concussion can cause someone to go on and commit a violent crime](#) – NewstalkZB, 4 May 2023

[Professor of Clinical Sciences at AUT on research finding head injuries can lead to violent behaviour](#) – NewstalkZB, 4 May 2023

["The Expression, Experiences & Transcendence of Low Skill for Aotearoa New Zealand" Research now complete.](#) – 531pi, 4 May 2023

[Just one mild concussion can increase your risk of violent behaviour – study](#) – Stuff, 6 May 2023

[NZ Work Research Institute director argues there's evidence sexism may be lowering teacher pay](#) – NewstalkZB, 9 May 2023

[Has sexism suppressed teachers' pay? Education ministry launches investigation](#) – RNZ, 9 May 2023

[Talanoa: Adult literacy and numeracy services failing Pasifika](#) – Tagata Pasifika, 11 June 2023

[We know ethnic pay gaps exist, so let's do something about them](#) – The Post, 18 July 2023

[Curriculum changes must tackle the lifelong consequences of NZ's alarming literacy and numeracy declines](#) – The Conversation, 20 July 2023

[Low literacy and numeracy rates could impact NZ kids for life – so what needs to change?](#) – New Zealand Herald, 20 July 2023

Life impacts of low literacy, numeracy – Radio One 91FM, 24 July 2023

[Ethnic pay gap needs action now](#) – AUT News, 27 July 2023

[Strategies for Empowering Pasifika with Better Literacy and Numeracy – with Dr Betty Ofe-Grant](#) - Zeducation: Unleash Your Greatness Podcast, 2 August 2023

[Asians more educated but earning less in New Zealand](#) – RNZ, 18 August 2023

[Issue of equity should include ethnicity, says academic](#) – Human Resources Director, 18 August 2023

[Time to address NZ's ethnic pay gap](#) – AUT News, 28 August 2023

[NZX gender diversity report missing in action](#) – NBR, 7 September 2023

[Australian Pasifika youth literacy issues reflected in New Zealand research](#) – ABC Pacific Beat, 11 September 2023

[Explainer: Part 1 – it's raining economic cats and dogs, but what does it all mean?](#) – Stuff, 30 September 2023

[*Explainer: Part 2 – on screaming hot QE, economic pain, and the price of kūmara*](#) – Stuff, 1 October 2023

[*Gender pay gap explained: What is it and why does it still exist?*](#) – NZ Herald, 27 November 2023

[*Kiwis spending 5 hours a day online*](#) – The Press, 6 December 2023

[*Sexual orientation and earnings appear to be linked – but patterns differ for NZ men and women*](#) – The Conversation, 7 December 2023

[*Newsable: The LGBTQI+ pay gap you should be aware of*](#) – Stuff, 12 December 2023

[*Never Again – Tangiwai: A Forgotten History*](#) – NZ Herald (podcast), 19 December 2023

Section 8: Awards and appointments

NZAE Conference 2023 Poster Prizes

NZWRI Research Officer, Linda Kirkpatrick, had resounding success with her poster 'What's Good in the (Neighbour)hood?'. She was awarded the NZIER prize in the Open and Student categories along with the People's Choice prize.

Aotearoa Business and Economics Research Translation Awards 2023

Six NZWRI staff, students and associates placed 1st in three out of the four award categories at this year's Business and Economics Research Translation Awards:

- Betty Ofe-Grant: 1st equal in the Māori or Pacific Research Category [*Seven Strategies for Recruiting Pacific People as Research Participants in a post-COVID World*]
- Alexander Plum: 1st in the Early Career Research Category [*Youth Crime, Fatherhood and the Role of Ethnicity*]
- Gail Pacheco, Lisa Meehan, Sandra McCallum and Alice Theadom: 1st equal in the Established Researcher Category [*Can a single concussion increase the risk of criminal behaviour?*]

Tertiary Education Commission Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) Quality Evaluation 2026

Gail Pacheco has been appointed Co-Chair (Business and Economics) on the peer-review panel to assess all research Evaluation Portfolios submitted to the PBRF Quality Evaluation by the Tertiary Education Commission.



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