

# Annual Report 2024



**NEW ZEALAND POLICY  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
TE KĀHUI RANGAHAU MANA TAURITE

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# Contents

Section 1: Introduction.....	2
Section 2: Research focus.....	3
Section 3: Leadership, governance and membership .....	4
Section 4: Commissioned reports and projects .....	6
Section 5: Other research projects.....	11
Section 6: Events and engagements .....	13
Section 7: In the media.....	16
Section 8: Awards, appointments and achievements.....	19

## Section 1: Introduction

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The New Zealand Policy Research Institute (NZPRI) provides multidisciplinary, inquiry-driven research with social impact. In 2024, NZPRI received over \$3.5M in external research funds.

The broad goals of NZPRI, as well as current key strategic priorities are outlined below:<sup>1</sup>

### 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:

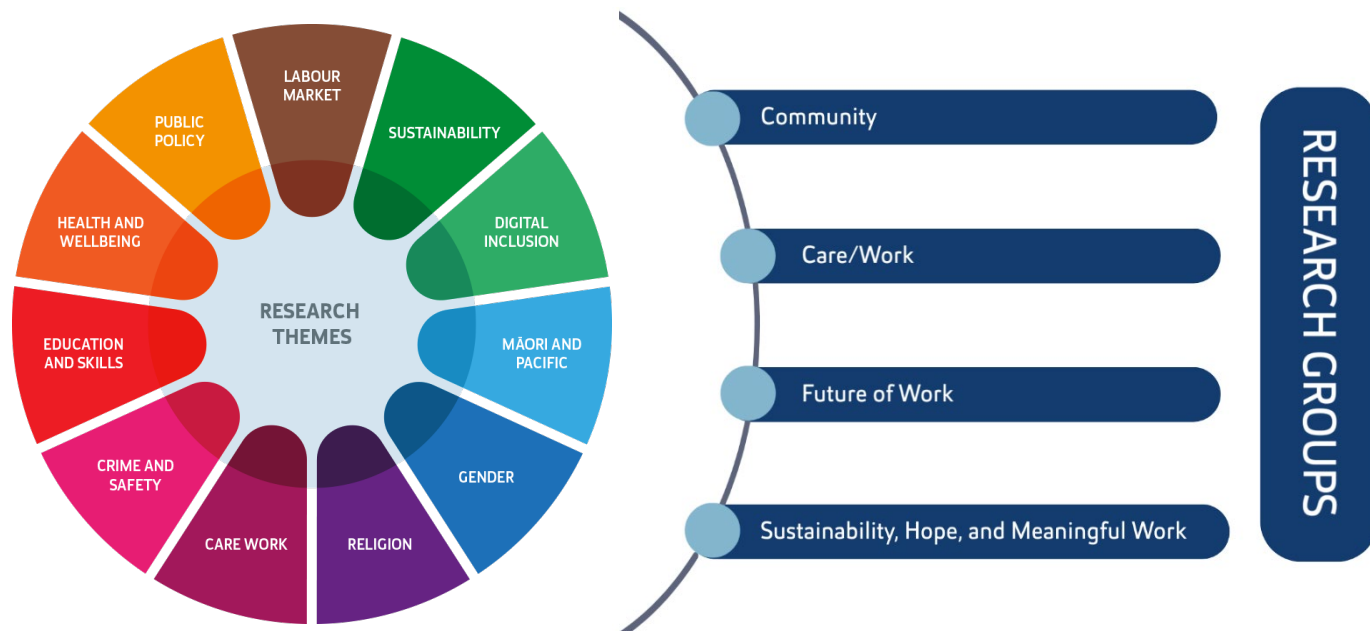
1. Connectivity and engagement with government, business and community. Strong emphasis on research translation, and dissemination of research findings to relevant external stakeholders.
2. The production of research that is of relevance to the government, business and community (at both the local and 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.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about the Institute, either visit the website at [www.policyresearch.aut.ac.nz](http://www.policyresearch.aut.ac.nz) or email [policyresearch@aut.ac.nz](mailto:policyresearch@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 our [webpage](#).



### 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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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.

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## Section 3: Leadership, governance and membership

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### Our team<sup>2</sup>

Gail Pacheo	Director (up to Nov 2024)
Lisa Meehan	Deputy Director/Director (from Nov 2024)
Katherine Ravenswood	Associate Director (Human Resource Management)
Alexander Plum	Senior Research Fellow, Leadership Team
Thomas Schober	Senior Research Fellow
Leon Lusitini	Senior Research Fellow
Lee Zhuge	Research Fellow
Wei-Lin Chen	Research Fellow
Alexandra Turcu	Research Officer
Linda Kirkpatrick	Research Officer, PhD Student
Marcus Ho	Leadership Team
Marjolein Lips-Wiersma	Leadership Team
Mary Hedges	Research Developer
Rebecca Benson	Research Development Manager (from Nov 2024)
Tamara Tesolin	Institute Manager
Patricia de la Cruz	Institute Administrator, Research Assistant (up to Sept 2024)
Sarah Little	Institute Administrator, Research Assistant (from Nov 2024)

### Visiting researchers

Tomaž Čater, University of Ljubljana	February 2024
Cristóbal Castro Barrientos	July 2024

### Research Officer

Daysha Tonumaipé'a

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

## 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: Alexander Plum and Kabir Dasgupta

## Project Engagement

We engage with several stakeholders across 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 NZPRI is undertaking research that is relevant to our stakeholders and well informed. Examples of key stakeholders we've engaged with include:

- 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

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The following examples are key 2024 research projects that received external funding.

### Health Research Council



*Project:* Beyond the pandemic: Applying complexity science in child immunisation services

*Team:* Gail Pacheco (AUT), Nadia Charania (AUT), Daysha Tonumaip'e'a (Synergia), Amber Young (Otago), Felicity Ware (Hapai Te Hauora Tapui), Leon Lusitini (AUT), Thomas Schober (AUT), Tony Dowell (Otago)

*Description:* Childhood immunisation rates have been low and worsened since COVID-19, deepening existing inequities by ethnicity and region. Increasing coverage is crucial, especially for Māori, Pacific, migrant, and refugee children. Using mātauranga Māori and complexity-informed approaches, this research will analyse the factors affecting immunisation uptake through both data and community insights. Understanding who is missing out and why will help shape equitable and resilient immunisation services.

*Timeframe:* September 2024–August 2027

### MBIE Research Programme Endeavour Fund



*Project:* Boosting productivity growth by creating equal workplace opportunities for all

*Team:* Gail Pacheco (AUT), Betty Ofe-Grant (AUT), Katherine Ravenswood (AUT), Leon Lusitini (AUT), Thomas Schober (AUT), Lisa Meehan (AUT), Matthew Roskrige (Massey), Nimbus Staniland (Auckland), Peer Skov (Rockwool), Juliane Hennecke, Michelle Evans (Melbourne)

*Description:* Workplace diversity significantly impacts productivity and economic growth. Better talent allocation could boost productivity and increase long-term output growth per person. In NZ, labour is highly segregated, with women and ethnic minorities concentrated in lower-paid industries, driving gender and ethnic pay gaps that affect financial, health, and wellbeing outcomes. This programme analyses how workplace diversity affects productivity and equity. Using various data sources, we will estimate NZ's productivity gains from diversity, assess workplace policies and leadership, and evaluate public policies. A key focus is Māori and Pacific businesses, exploring recruitment, pay transparency, and workplace culture. Māori and Pacific-led research will provide insights into workplace barriers, enablers, and values.

*Timeframe:* October 2024–September 2029

## MBIE Research Programme Endeavour Fund



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

*Team:* NZPRI 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.](#)

## 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

## NZ Women's Empowerment Principles



*Project:* NZ Women's Empowerment Principles Survey 2024

*Team:* Gail Pacheco (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 2024



## 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 Iusitini (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

*Research output:*

- Iusitini, L., Plum, A., Pacheco, G., Copeland, V., & Timmins, J. (2024). [Intergenerational transmission of human capital: what makes and breaks the cycle of advantage and disadvantage?](#). New Zealand Policy Research Institute, Auckland.

## Ministry of Social Development



*Project:* Prevalence study of abuse of older people

*Team:* Gail Pacheco (AUT), Denise Wilson (AUT), Corina Naughton (University College Cork), Marama Muru-Lanning (University of Auckland), Alayne Mikahere Hall (AUT), Ayesha Scott (AUT), Katherine Ravenswood (AUT), El-Shadan Tautolo (AUT), Leon Iusitini (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.

## 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

*Research output:*

- Kirkpatrick, L., Meehan, L., & Pacheco, G. (2024). [\*Distributional analysis of KiwiSaver contributions\*](#). New Zealand Policy Research Institute, Auckland.
- Kirkpatrick, L., Meehan, L., & Pacheco, G. (2024). [\*KiwiSaver contributions by gender, ethnicity & age\*](#). New Zealand Policy Research Institute, Auckland.

## Ministry of Justice

*Project:* The consequences of victimisation: Evidence from linked survey and administrative data



*Team:* Lisa Meehan (AUT) and Thomas Schober (AUT)

*Description:* This study analyses data from the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey, combined with administrative records, to explore how victimisation impacts employment, earnings, and health. Results show that victims, particularly of interpersonal violence and serious offences, experience significant declines in both employment and earnings, with these effects lasting for up to three years. Victims also see an increase in benefit receipt, and while injury claims rise, the impact tends to be short-lived.

*Timeframe:* January 2024–October 2024

## Ministry of Justice

*Project:* The burden of crime victimization among the LGBT+ population in Aotearoa



*Team:* Alexander Plum (AUT), Liqun Zhuge (AUT) and Tabby Besley (InsideOUT)

*Description:* This study compares crime victimisation rates between LGBTQ+ individuals and the general population in Aotearoa New Zealand, using data from the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey (NZCVS). LGBTQ+ individuals report substantially higher rates of victimisation and are likelier to attribute their victimisation to their sexual orientation or gender identity and report more severe impacts, such as physical injuries and work absences.

*Timeframe:* January 2024–October 2024

## National Institutes of Health

*Project:* Mental Health Effects of Legal Access to Same-Sex Marriage: Evidence from Linked Administrative Data in New Zealand

*Team:* Alexander Plum (AUT)

*Description:* This study will provide new evidence on the effects of legal same-sex relationship recognition on the health of sexual and gender minority populations using comprehensive, high-quality linked administrative data from New Zealand residents and rigorous difference-in-differences methods that use partnered and non-partnered cisgender heterosexual individuals as controls.

*Timeframe:* November 2024 – October 2029



## Section 5: Other research projects

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This section outlines selected key research projects where outputs were published in 2024 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.).

### **Sexual orientation and earnings in New Zealand**

*Team:* Kitt Carpenter, Kabir Dasgupta and Alexander Plum

*Research output:* Carpenter, C., Dasgupta, K. & Plum, A. (2024). [Sexual orientation and earnings in New Zealand. \*Economics Letters\*](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econlet.2023.111493). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econlet.2023.111493>

### **Exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on perceptions of national scheduled childhood vaccines among Māori and Pacific caregivers, whānau, and healthcare professionals in Aotearoa New Zealand.**

*Team:* Nadia A. Charania, Daysha Tonumaipē'a, Te Wai Barbarich-Unasa, Leon Iusitini, Georgina Davis, Gail Pacheco and Denise Wilson

*Research output:* Charania, N. A., Tonumaipē'a, D., Barbarich-Unasa, T. W., Iusitini, L., Davis, G., Pacheco, G., & Wilson, D. (2024). [Exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on perceptions of national scheduled childhood vaccines among Māori and Pacific caregivers, whānau, and healthcare professionals in Aotearoa New Zealand. \*Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics\*](https://doi.org/10.1080/21645515.2023.2301626), 20(1), 2301626. doi:10.1080/21645515.2023.2301626

### **Workforce vaccine mandates: The effect on vaccine uptake and healthcare workers' labour market outcomes**

*Team:* Lisa Meehan, Livvy Mitchell and Gail Pacheco

*Research output:* Meehan, L., Mitchell, L., & Pacheco, G. (2024). [Workforce vaccine mandates: The effect on vaccine uptake and healthcare workers' labour market outcomes](https://www.nzworkresearchinstitute.org.nz/research/workforce-vaccine-mandates-the-effect-on-vaccine-uptake-and-healthcare-workers-labour-market-outcomes). New Zealand Work Research Institute, Auckland.

### **Parental Employment at the Onset of the Pandemic: Effects of Lockdowns and Government Policies**

*Team:* Kabir Dasgupta, Linda Kirkpatrick and Alexander Plum

*Research output:* Dasgupta, Kabir, Linda Kirkpatrick, and Alexander Plum (2024). "Parental Employment at the Onset of the Pandemic: Effects of Lockdowns and Government Policies," Finance and Economics Discussion Series 2024-012. Washington: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, <https://doi.org/10.17016/FEDS.2024.012>.

### **Assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on childhood vaccine uptake with administrative data**

*Team:* Leon Iusitini, Gail Pacheco and Thomas Schober

*Research output:* Iusitini, L., Pacheco, G., & Schober, T. (2024). [Assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on childhood vaccine uptake with administrative data. \*SSM-Population Health\*](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2024.101657), 101657.

## **Partisanship, elections and lockdowns: Evidence from US states**

*Team:* Gail Pacheco and Dennis Wesselbaum

*Research output:* Pacheco, G., & Wesselbaum, D. (2024). [Partisanship, elections and lockdowns: Evidence from US states](#). *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*.

## **Sexual Orientation and Financial Well-Being in the United States**

*Team:* Christopher S. Carpenter, Kabir Dasgupta, Zofsha Merchant, and Alexander Plum

*Research output:* Carpenter, Christopher S., Kabir Dasgupta, Zofsha Merchant, and Alexander Plum (2024). "Sexual Orientation and Financial Well-Being in the United States," Finance and Economics Discussion Series 2024-048. Washington: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, <https://doi.org/10.17016/FEDS.2024.048>.

## **Chinese and Indian migrant mothers' perceptions and experiences of utilising maternal and early childhood healthcare services in Aotearoa New Zealand: a qualitative descriptive study**

*Team:* Anjali Bhatia, Hongxia Qi & Nadia A. Charania

*Research output:* Bhatia, A., Qi, H., & Charania, N. A. (2024). Chinese and Indian migrant mothers' perceptions and experiences of utilising maternal and early childhood healthcare services in Aotearoa New Zealand: a qualitative descriptive study. *Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online*, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1177083X.2024.2370415>

## **Reframing approaches to workplace violence towards Pacific homecare workers in New Zealand and Australia**

*Team:* Maulupeivao Betty Ofe-Grant, Katherine Ravenswood & Fiona Macdonald

*Research output:* Ofe-Grant, M. B., Ravenswood, K., & Macdonald, F. (2024). Reframing approaches to workplace violence towards Pacific homecare workers in New Zealand and Australia. *Journal of Industrial Relations, 0(0)*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00221856241270989>

## **Underemployment and wage growth during COVID-19**

*Team:* Lisa Meehan, Gail Pacheco & Alexandra Turcu

*Research output:* Meehan, L., Pacheco, G., & Turcu, A. (2024). Underemployment and wage growth during COVID-19. *New Zealand Economic Papers*, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00779954.2024.2394669>

## **The effect of a concussions on labour market outcomes**

*Team:* Florian Fouquet, Gail Pacheco, Lisa Meehan & Alice Theadom

*Research output:* Fouquet, F., Pacheco, G., Meehan, L. & Theadom, A. (2024). The effect of a minor health shock on labor market outcomes: The case of concussions. *Health Economics*, online.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/hec.4897>

## Section 6: Events and engagements<sup>3</sup>

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To view all presentations from AUT events and external engagements, see our [website](#).

### Events hosted by AUT

#### [Seminar: Sustainability Business Index in Slovenia: Development, Verification and the Initial Empirical Findings](#), 5 February 2024

Visiting Researcher, Tomaž Čater, presented key findings from his paper, which investigates the sustainability practices reported by companies in Slovenia, at a seminar hosted by NZPRI and AUT's Marketing and International Business Department.

#### [New Zealand Policy Research Institute Launch](#), 13 March 2024

We celebrated the launch of our new name: the New Zealand Policy Research Institute, Te Kāhui Rangahau Mana Taurite. Director Gail Pacheco spoke at the event and reflected on NZPRI's history and direction for the future.

#### [Treasury Guest Lecture Series: Special Auckland Seminar with Rui C. Mano](#), 2 May 2024

We co-hosted this seminar with the Treasury New Zealand. Rui C. Mano shared insights from the International Monetary Fund's April 2024 World Economic Outlook, giving an overview of key global economic trends and highlighting the role of housing and mortgage markets in monetary policy transmission.

#### [Seminar: Organisational Culture in the Finance Industry of New Zealand and its Impact on Wellbeing](#), 17 July 2024

We co-hosted this seminar with the Department of Management, Technology and Organisation. The seminar presented research findings from an interview-based study conducted at AUT, three case studies, and strategies for embedding wellbeing into organisational culture.

#### [NZPRI Wellington Symposium](#), 7 November 2024

Approximately 100 guests registered from seven different government departments, as well as universities, NGO's and private-sector firms. Presentations were given on education and skills, the labour market, health, and crime and justice.

### Engagements external to AUT

#### [Lecture for the Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota](#), 3 January 2024

Director Gail Pacheco presented a lecture titled "Pay gaps and the NZ labour market", in Wellington, to visiting students from the University of Minnesota.

#### [Seminar at Victoria University of Wellington](#), 22 February 2024

Wei-Lin Chen presented findings from his paper, *The Impact of Partisan Politics on Policing Practices: Evidence from North Carolina's Sheriff's Offices*, to students from the School of Economics and Finance, Victoria University of Wellington.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

### [Super Summit, 21 March 2024](#)

Gail Pacheco was a panel member of the "Superannuation – a fiscal challenge or opportunity?" session, along with Max Rashbrooke, Susan St John, and Bryce Wilkinson. The panel delved into the present and future fiscal realities and challenges of NZ Super.

### [Looking Ahead Infrastructure Symposium 2024 Building Smarter, 9 May 2024](#)

Gail Pacheco, along with Andrew Sweet and Geoff Cooper, was part of a panel discussion about how we pay for the infrastructure we need. This symposium was hosted by the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission.

### [Webinar: We need to talk about the gender pay gap, 23 May 2024](#)

Gail Pacheco, along with Justine Cooper and Kylie Dunn, were part of a panel discussion about identifying strategies to reduce the gender pay gap and the role of laws and regulations in promoting workplace fairness. Gail emphasised the importance of benchmarking firms against industry pay gaps to highlight disparities and advocate for improvements. This webinar was hosted by the Women in Business Committee at CPA Australia.

### [64<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the New Zealand Association of Economists, 3-5 July 2024](#)

Seven staff presented at the 2024 NZAE conference:

- [Poster: Maybe in my backyard \(M.I.M.B.Y\)](#) – Linda Kirkpatrick
- Poster: Crime, Victims & Mental Health – Alexandra Turcu
- [Examining the wellbeing impacts of urban regeneration using administrative data](#) - Linda Kirkpatrick
- [The burden of crime victimisation among the LGBTQ+ population in Aotearoa/New Zealand](#) – Lee Zhuge & Alexander Plum
- Childcare and child development across early childhood years in Aotearoa New Zealand – Leon Iusitini
- The Impact of Partisan Politics on Policing Practices: Evidence from North Carolina's Sheriff's Offices – Wei-Lin Chen
- [The effect of a minor health shock on labour market outcomes: The case of concussions](#) – Lisa Meehan
- Denderization and Collective Labor Supply in Same-sex Couples – Lee Zhuge

### [Western Economic Association International Conference, 29 June-3 July 2024](#)

Gail Pacheco attended the WEAI Annual Conference in Seattle. Gail presented findings from two papers: *COVID vaccine mandates: The effect on vaccination uptake and healthcare workers' labour market outcomes* and *The effect of a minor health shock on labour market outcomes: The case of concussions*.

### [European Health Economics Association Conference, 1 July 2024](#)

Thomas Schober presented the results of a research project on the costs of crime victimisation in Aotearoa. The study uses the NZ Crime and Victims Survey linked to administrative data to examine the effects of victimisation on labour market outcomes and health.

### [Women's Empowerment Principles - Measure, Reflect, Act, 6 August 2024](#)

Gail Pacheco was a panel member at this webinar hosted by the UN Women Aotearoa New Zealand. She spoke about the importance of participating in the Women's Empowerment Principles survey.

### [Virtual Health Information Network Webinar, 14 August 2024](#)

Linda Kirkpatrick presented her research on 'Examining the wellbeing impacts of urban regeneration using administrative data.'

### [Taiwan Economics Research 2024, 13-15 August 2024](#)

Wei-Lin Chen presented the results of a research project on the impacts of partisan leaders on the makeup of law enforcement in the US. This study uses elected sheriffs in North Carolina as a case study.

### [Australian Health Economics Society \(AHES\) Conference, 19 September 2024](#)

Thomas Schober presented work which linked the New Zealand Crime and Victimization Survey to NZ's Integrated Data Infrastructure, finding significant effects on labour market outcomes and benefit uptake for victims.

[Te Hotonga Hapori Stakeholder Research Roadshow](#), 3 December 2024

Lisa Meehan presented research by Linda Kirkpatrick on the short-run wellbeing impacts of urban regeneration.

[Econometric Society Australasian Meetings](#), 4 December 2024

Wei-Lin Chen presented the results of a research project on the impacts of partisan leaders on the makeup of law enforcement in the US. This study uses elected sheriffs in North Carolina as a case study.

[Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics Conference](#), 12-14 December

Lee Zhuge presented a paper exploring how gender roles influence labour supply at household and societal levels.

Linda Kirkpatrick presented a paper exploring how marital status impacts child penalties, defined as the negative labour market outcomes experienced by mothers following the birth of their first child.



## Section 7: In the media

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### Social media

The Institute has maintained a strong social media presence in the past few years. In 2024, 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](#)

We saw a 42.6% increase in LinkedIn followers, from 2030 to 2,902. 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 2024 media contributions and citations, titles are hyperlinked with the full news item or radio interview:

[Mind the gap: gender pay reporting likely to fall through the cracks](#) – NewstalkZB, 24 January 2024

[Unintended consequences of NZ’s COVID vaccine mandates must inform future pandemic policy – new research](#) – The Conversation, 28 February 2024

[Opinion: We need to talk about the gender pay gap and motherhood penalty](#) – NZ Herald, 11 March 2024

[Who pays for Super: how does NZ bridge the generation gap?](#) – The Post, 25 March 2024

[Who pays for Super: how does NZ bridge the generation gap?](#) – Waikato Times, 26 March 2024

[8000 unvaccinated or partly vaccinated health workers were allowed to keep working](#) – RNZ, 3 April 2024

[Māori and Pacific people have less in KiwiSaver research shows](#) – RNZ, 3 April 2024

[KiwiSaver contributions: Big gap between men and women](#) – RNZ, 3 April 2024

[KiwiSaver contributions: Big gap between men and women](#) – NZ Herald, 3 April 2024

[KiwiSaver magnifies gender pay gap: Retirement Commission](#) – The Post, 3 April 2024

[Gender pay gap and not contribution rates disadvantage women on KiwiSaver](#) – Good Returns, 3 April 2024

[KiwiSaver gender gap wider than thought](#) – National Business Review, 3 April 2024

[Mind the gap: New research identifies gender pay inequality as primary cause behind 36% difference in KiwiSaver contributions for men and women](#) – Interest, 3 April 2024

[Why there's a 36% gap between what women and men put in KiwiSaver](#) – 1News, 3 April 2024

[KiwiSaver contributions: Big gap between men and women](#) – MSN, 4 April 2024

[The 36% gap between men and women's KiwiSaver balances](#) – TVNZ Breakfast, 4 April 2024

[KiwiSaver gender gap unveiled in new study](#) – NZ Advisor, 5 April 2024

[KiwiSaver 36% gender gap: caregiver cites low pay](#) – Otago Daily Times, 5 April 2024

[Pacific Mornings 05/04/24](#) – 531pi, 5 April 2024

[KiwiSaver balance inequalities outpacing gender pay gap, research reveals](#) – Pacific Media Network, 8 April 2024

[Youth bearing the brunt of rising unemployment](#) – RNZ, 6 May 2024

[NZ needs a 300% increase in qualified midwives – and those working need more support and recognition](#) – RNZ, 6 May 2024

[Sinking lids and rising profits: The problem with pokies](#) – The Spinoff, 25 June 2024

[KiwiSaver's legal fishhooks and the Retirement Commission report – Sasha Borissenko](#) - NZ Herald, 30 June 2024

[Youth bearing the brunt of post-pandemic employment decline](#) – The Press, 8 July 2024

[Youth bearing the brunt of post-pandemic employment decline](#) – Waikato Times, 8 July 2024

[Advancing equity together: Welcoming in a new chapter with the Human Rights Commission](#) – Global Women, 22 August 2024

[Health Delivery Activation Grant Success](#) – AUT, 4 September 2024

[AUT research receives \\$7m boost](#) – AUT, 18 September 2024

[High cost of living hits incomes, with more households falling into 'in-work' poverty](#) – Stuff, 21 September 2024

[The long & winding road to gender equality at work](#) – The Post Weekend, 21 September 2024

[The long & winding road to gender equality at work](#) – The Press NZ, 21 September 2024

[The long & winding road to gender equality at work](#) – Waikato Times, 21 September 2024

[The long and winding road to gender equality at work](#) – Sunday Star Times, 22 September 2024

[Co-creating inclusion in research practices in the South Pacific](#) – PMN Cook Islands, 29 September 2024

[Study sheds light on how concussion can affect income, employment](#) – 1News, 30 September 2024

[Concussion has massive impact on jobs](#) – AUT, 1 October 2024

[Why Many Kiwis Are Not Saving Enough for Retirement](#) – InvestNow, 8 October 2024

[Research shows how vocational education impacts wellbeing outcomes and the labour market](#) – Muku Tangata, 14 October 2024

[New data on violence against LGBTQ+ people makes 'grim reading' - and undermines NZ's inclusive reputation](#) – The Conversation, 1 November 2024

[New Zealand Crime and Victims Research: The burden of crime victimisation among the LGBTQ+ population in Aotearoa](#) – NZFVC Quick Reads, 14 November 2024

[New data on violence against LGBTQ+ people makes 'grim reading' - and undermines NZ's inclusive reputation](#) – NZFVC Quick Reads, 14 November 2024

[The Panel with Anna Deal & Ed McKnight \(Part 1\)](#) – The Panel RNZ, 28 November 2024

[Time plus savings = golden retirement](#) – Informed Investor, 12 December 2024

## Section 8: Awards, appointments and achievements

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### **Ethnic Research Aotearoa**

Gail Pacheco has been appointed as a trustee in Ethnic Research Aotearoa's board. Her role as a trustee is to establish/maintain relationships with Māori and ethnic communities and improve the visibility of Ethnic Research Aotearoa.

### **Faculty of Business, Economics and Law Excellence Awards**

Katherine Ravenswood received the Research Excellence Award and Tamara Tesolin received the Professional Innovation Award at the 2024 Faculty of Business, Economics and Law Excellence Awards.

### **AUT Research Translation Competition**

Alexander Plum received the AUT Research Translation Competition award for the article "Sexual Orientation and Earnings in New Zealand"

Paul Woodfield (Marketing and International Business) received an honourable mention for the article "Preparing Early Career Researchers for Success."

### **New Zealand Association of Economists**

Gail Pacheco served as President of NZAE up to July 2024. She is currently immediate Past President.

### **Government Economics Network**

Lisa Meehan served on the GEN board in 2024. GEN is led by a voluntary board which is made up of individuals from across the public sector. It is responsible for developing the network and running its activities. Lisa also served on the Mentoring and Professionalisation Subcommittees.

### **Research Activation Grant**

Tago Mharapara, James Greenslade-Yeats, Helena Cooper-Thomas, Verity Todd, Sarah Penney and Andrew Swain received the Research Activation Grant from the Health Research Council of New Zealand.

### **Te Niwha Kia Niwha Leader Fellowship**

Nadia Charania was awarded a fellowship to work with the Te Niwha team.

### **Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioner**

Gail Pacheco was appointed to the role of EEO Commissioner at Te Kāhui Tika Tangata Human Rights Commission and started in November 2024.