

# Annual Report 2025



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

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## Section 1: Introduction

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The New Zealand Policy Research Institute (NZPRI) provides multidisciplinary, inquiry-driven research with social impact. In 2025, NZPRI received over \$2.6M 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, visit the website at [nzpri.aut.ac.nz](https://nzpri.aut.ac.nz) or email [policy.research@aut.ac.nz](mailto:policy.research@aut.ac.nz)

## Section 2: Research focus

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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.



### Our research strengths

While our research streams take on a broad perspective, we bring strong methodological expertise, including Big Data, Primary Surveys, and Qualitative Methods. Drawing on our diverse methodological expertise and [mixed methods](#) approaches, we tailor our study designs to address the research issues and 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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#### QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

We use qualitative research methodologies to explore lived experiences of people across various contexts. We use methods such as interviews, focus groups, and case studies to enable us to generate rich, meaningful insights that strengthen decision-making and policy impact.

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## Section 3: Leadership, governance and membership

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### Our core team

Lisa Meehan	Director
Nadia Charania	Deputy Director
Alexander Plum	Associate Director/Senior Research Fellow
Thomas Schober	Senior Research Fellow
Leon Iusitini	Senior Research Fellow
Sarah Jane Lipura	Research Fellow ( <i>from September 2025</i> )
Lee Zhuge	Research Fellow ( <i>until September 2025</i> )
Wei-Lin Chen	Research Fellow
Serene Chua	Research Officer ( <i>from March 2025</i> )
Alexandra Turcu	Research Officer ( <i>until August 2025</i> )
Linda Kirkpatrick	Research Officer, PhD student ( <i>until January 2025</i> )
Mary Hedges	Research Developer ( <i>until March 2025</i> )
Rebecca Benson	Research Development Manager
Tamara Tesolin	Institute Manager
Sarah Little	Institute Administrator ( <i>until January 2026</i> )
Cristóbal Castro Barrientos	PhD student
Oliver Vovchenko	PhD student

### International visitors

Giulia Caprari, University of Padova (Italy)	August 2025
Kabir Dasgupta, Federal Reserve (USA)	July/August 2025
Ayesha Scott, Griffith University (Australia)	October 2025
Eric Liberda, Toronto Metropolitan University (Canada)	November 2025
Fatima Ahmed, University of Toronto (Canada)	November 2025

### Research officers

Sarah Jane Lipura  
Hoy Neng Wong Soon

### Research assistants

Steven Conshue  
Miura Elikana  
Hang Liu  
Zam Suan Mung  
Kelly Nicholson  
Sei O'Brien  
Judy Park

## 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 have engaged with include:

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Borrin
- Business NZ
- NZ Council of Trade Unions
- Ministry of Social Development
- Te Ara Ahunga Ora Retirement Commission
- Te Puni Kōkiri
- Ministry for Pacific Peoples
- Ministry for Ethnic Communities
- NZ Council for Educational Research.



## Section 4: Commissioned reports and projects

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Following are key research projects that received external funding with their outputs.

### Health Research Council



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

*Team:* Gail Pacheco, 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 (Human Right Commission), Betty Ofe-Grant (AUT), Katherine Ravenswood (AUT), Leon Lusitini (AUT), Thomas Schober (AUT), Lisa Meehan (AUT), Matthew Roskrug (Massey), Nimbus Staniland (Auckland), Peer Skov, 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

## Enhancing Urban Regeneration

*Project:* Enhancing the impact of urban regeneration on community wellbeing



*Team:* Scott Duncan (AUT), Erica Hickson (AUT), Gail Pacheco (HRC) 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 2025



*Team:* Lisa Meehan (AUT) and Serene Chua (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:* July–December 2025

*Research output:*

- Chua, S. (2025). *2024/2025 New Zealand Women's Empowerment Principles Survey Report*. NZ Policy Research Institute. Auckland, NZ.  
[https://nzpri.aut.ac.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/1096778/WEPs-report-publish-2025.pdf](https://nzpri.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1096778/WEPs-report-publish-2025.pdf)
- Chua, S. (2025). *2024/2025 New Zealand Women's Empowerment Principles Survey Report – Summary sheet*. NZ Policy Research Institute. Auckland, NZ.  
[https://nzpri.aut.ac.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/1098516/WEPs-report-summary-publish-2025.pdf](https://nzpri.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1098516/WEPs-report-summary-publish-2025.pdf)

## Ministry of Social Development

*Project:* Prevalence study of abuse of older people (Stage 1)



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

## Ministry of Social Development

*Project:* Prevalence study of abuse of older people (Stages 2 and 3)

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

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

*Timeframe:* January–August 2025



## National Institutes of Health (NIH)

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

*Team:* Alexander Plum (AUT), Kitt Carpenter (Vanderbilt)

*Description:* This study examines the impact of Aotearoa New Zealand's 2013 policy reform legalising same-sex marriage on marriage uptake and mental health outcomes.

*Timeframe:* November 2024–October 2029



## Health Research Council

*Project:* Mental health service uptake by Aotearoa's Rainbow+ Youth

*Team:* Alexander Plum (AUT), Leon Iusitini (AUT), Kyle Tan, Gail Pacheco (HRC), Wei-Lin Chen (AUT)

*Description:* This research seeks to (1) quantify the mental health service uptake of Aotearoa's Rainbow+ youth, (2) understand the drivers and barriers of mental health service uptake for Rainbow+ youth, and (3) identify specific ways in which mental health services and policy can be modified to meet the needs of Rainbow+ youth better.

*Timeframe:* September 2025–August 2028



## Borrin Foundation

*Project:* Same crime—different outcomes: do court outcomes differ systematically between Māori and Pākehā?

*Team:* Alexander Plum (AUT)

*Description:* This study uses data from random breath testing to explore whether Māori and Pākehā are treated differently in Aotearoa's criminal justice system.

*Timeframe:* January–December 2025



## Ministry for Ethnic Communities

*Project:* Pay gaps in New Zealand

*Team:* Lisa Meehan (AUT), Leon Lusitini (AUT)

*Description:* The work explores in detail pay gaps experienced by people of Asian ethnicity in New Zealand, it also tests for the existence of pay gaps for people of Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) ethnicity and Continental European, providing greater understanding of the issue.

*Timeframe:* March–June 2025



## Retirement Commission

*Project:* Linking KiwiSaver contributions and firm level data

*Team:* Lisa Meehan (AUT), Linda Kirkpatrick (AUT)

*Description:* This work links IR KiwiSaver data with firm level data (in the longitudinal business database). It draws on earlier work by NZPRI on this dataset and provides additional information that will inform the recommendations in Te Ara Ahunga Ora Retirement Commission's 2025 Review of Retirement Income Policies.

*Timeframe:* January–March 2025



## Te Niwaha

*Project:* Improving pandemic plans to better address the needs of migrant and refugee background communities

*Team:* Nadia Charania (AUT)

*Description:* This work aims to inform future pandemic plans, so they are more inclusive of the needs of migrant and refugee background communities. The study involved generating narratives from multiple stakeholder groups, including community members, organisation leaders, and pandemic planners.

*Timeframe:* June 2024–December 2025



## World Internet Project



*Project:* The World Internet Project (New Zealand) (WIPNZ)

*Team:* Serene Chua, Lisa Meehan and Alexandra Turcu

*Research Output:* Chua, S., Meehan, L. & Turcu, A. (2025)

*Description:* The World Internet Project (New Zealand) (WIPNZ) is a longitudinal survey investigating New Zealanders' usage of, and attitudes towards the internet. It is part of an international project that compares the uptake and social impacts of ICT in more than 30 partner countries and tracks the trends that occur.

*Timeframe:* May 2024–March 2026

*Research outputs:*

- Chua, S., Meehan, L. & Turcu, A. (2025). *The World Internet Project in New Zealand 2025*. New Zealand Policy Research Institute, Auckland.  
[https://nzpri.aut.ac.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/1073906/WIP-NZ-Report-2025\\_InternetNZ.pdf](https://nzpri.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1073906/WIP-NZ-Report-2025_InternetNZ.pdf)

## Section 5: Other research projects

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This section outlines selected key research projects where outputs were published in 2025 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.).

### **Legal Status, Gendered Preferences, and Intra-Household Allocations: Evidence from a Restrictive Household Registration System**

*Team:* Liqun Zhuge, Kevin Lang

*Research output:* Zhuge, L. & Lang, K. (2025). This paper uses China's household registration system to study how legal status and gendered preferences shape intra-household allocations. *Review of Economics of the Household*. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11150-025-09770-9>

### **Financial Well-Being and Sexual Orientation in the U.S.**

*Team:* Alexander Plum, Kabir Dasgupta, Christopher Carpenter & Zofsha Merchant

*Research Output:* Carpenter, C. S., Dasgupta, K., Merchant, Z. & Plum, A. (2025) This report studies the relationship between financial well-being and sexual orientation using the Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking (SHED) data for 2019-2022.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167268125000873>

### **Returns to Testosterone Across Men's Earnings Distribution in the UK**

*Team:* Peter Eibich, Ricky Kanabar, Alexander T. Plum

*Research Output:* Eibich, P., Kanabar, R. & Plum, A. (2025) This report studies how population variation in testosterone levels impacts male labour market earnings using data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study between 2011 and 2013.

<https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/17699/returns-to-testosterone-across-mens-earnings-distribution-in-the-uk>

### **Economic Outcomes of Gender Diverse People: New Evidence from Linked Administrative Data in New Zealand**

*Team:* Christopher S. Carpenter, Linda Kirkpatrick, Maxine J. Lee & Alexander Plum

*Research Output:* Carpenter, C. S., Kirkpatrick, L., Lee, M. J. & Plum, A. (2025) This report provides new evidence on economic outcomes for gender minority people including transgender and gender diverse/nonbinary people. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165176524006396>

### **Child Penalties and Marriage Dissolution**

*Team:* Alexander Plum, Linda Kirkpatrick and Sara Ayllón

*Research Output:* Ayllón, S., Kirkpatrick, L. & Plum, A. (2025) This paper investigates how a change in marital status can influence labour market-related child penalties, by comparing married couples and those whose marriage is dissolved after the birth of their first child. <https://docs.iza.org/dp17658.pdf>

### **Social and Health Outcomes around Divorce: Evidence from New Zealand**

*Team:* Kabir Dasgupta, Andrew C. Johnston, Linda Kirkpatrick, Maxim N. Massenkoff and Alexander Plum

*Research Output:* Dasgupta, K., Johnston, A. C., Kirkpatrick, L., Massenkoff, M. N. & Plum, A. (2025) This study uses New Zealand data to show that family separation worsens parents' mental health, shifts employment and benefit use, increases crime involvement, and negatively impacts children's mental health, school attendance, and safety. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1475-4932.12891>

### **Skills, Economic Crises and the Labour Market**

*Team:* Kabir Dasgupta, Lisa Meehan and Alexander Plum

*Research Output:* Dasgupta, K., Meehan, L. & Plum, A. (2025) This paper investigates if having higher skillsets reduces the impact of economic shocks, using the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) of 2007-2009, and the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1475-4932.12891>

### **A Mixed-Methods Evaluation of the Afghan Evacuee Resettlement Programme in Aotearoa New Zealand**

*Team:* Nadia A. Charania, Irene Zeng, Priyanka Kumar, Claudia Gaylor and Eleanor Holroyd

*Research Output:* Charania, N., Zeng, I., Kumar, P., Gaylor, C. & Holroyd, E. (2025) This study assesses the New Settlers Family and Community Trust (NFACT) which was established to assist Afghan evacuees in settling into New Zealand after the Taliban's taking control of Afghanistan in 2021.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10903-025-01752-4>

### **Kiwi Dads at Play: What influences Fathers' Childcare Involvement in New Zealand?**

*Team:* Juliane Hennecke, Lisa Meehan, Gail Pacheco and Alexandra Turcu

*Research Output:* Hennecke, J., Meehan, L., Pacheco, G. & Turcu, A. (2025) This study uses data from *Growing Up in New Zealand* to uncover what drives fathers' involvement in early childcare—showing how work, income, and personality shape daily caregiving and leave-taking in different ways, with implications for families, employers, and policymakers.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00779954.2025.2556870>

## Section 6: Events and engagements

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To view all presentations from AUT events and external engagements, see [nzpri.aut.ac.nz](https://nzpri.aut.ac.nz).

### Events hosted by AUT

#### **AUT Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences Research Roadshow, 16 September 2025**

Lisa Meehan was an invited panellist on Leveraging an Alternative Funding Landscape.

#### **Seminar: Pay gaps among ethnic communities in Aotearoa New Zealand, 16 October 2025**

NZPRI Director Lisa Meehan presented key findings from this paper which investigates the pay differences between NZ Europeans and ethnic communities including Asian, Continental European, Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African groups.

#### **New Zealand Organisational Psychology and Organisational Behaviour Conference, 20-21 November 2025**

NZPRI supported the 14th annual New Zealand Organisational Psychology and Organisational Behaviour Conference at the AUT City Campus

#### **Migrant and Refugee Health Symposium, 21 November 2025**

AUT's Migrant and Refugee Health Research Centre (MRHRC) and the New Zealand Policy Research Institute (NZPRI) co-hosted a symposium focused on migrant and refugee health and wellbeing at AUT North Campus.



Attendees at the Advancing Equity: Social Determinants in Migrant and Refugee Health Research Symposium, 21 November 2025 - co-hosted by AUT's Migrant and Refugee Health Research Centre and the New Zealand Policy Research Institute.

### Engagements external to AUT

#### **5th interRAI Research Network Knowledge Exchange Programme, 10 February 2025**

The theme was Mental Health and Wellbeing. Wei-Lin Chen presented his paper "Unpacking Health Trajectories in Aged Care: The Role of Initial Health and Financial Pressure".

#### **34th Australia New Zealand Econometric Study Group Meeting, 14 February 2025**

Wei-Lin Chen present is paper "The Impact of Partisan Politics on Personnel Composition: Evidence from North Carolina's Sheriff's Offices".

#### **WHO-IOM-EU EU4Health Joint Action Intercountry Technical Workshop, 19 February 2025**

Nadia Charania facilitated a session "Immunisation services and vaccine uptake".

#### **RSV Symposium at Auckland City Hospital, 12 March 2025**

Nadia Charania presented "Exploring RSV prevention among pregnant people and healthcare professionals" at the RSV Symposium as part of the New Zealand General Paediatric Forum at Auckland City Hospital.

### Public Health Association of New Zealand Global Public Health Week Virtual Summit, 9 April 2025

Nadia Charania presented “Reducing immunisation inequities among migrant and refugee populations: A spotlight on Aotearoa New Zealand”.

### Public Health Association Australia Communicable Disease and Immunisation Conference 2025, 13 June 2025

Nadia Charania delivered a keynote during a plenary on health equity. She also presented findings from some qualitative research “Preferences of RSV preventative options among pregnant people and healthcare professionals in Aotearoa New Zealand”.

### NZ Association of Economists conference in Wellington, 24–27 June 2025

- Leon Iusitini presented “Pay gaps among Ethnic Communities in New Zealand”.
- Thomas Schober presented “Birth order, maternal immunisations and infant infections”.
- Alexander Plum presented “Child Penalties and Marriage Dissolution”. Alex also presented “Social and Health Outcomes around Divorce: Evidence from New Zealand” and “Economic Outcomes of Gender Diverse People: New Evidence from Linked Administrative Data in New Zealand”.
- Wei-Lin Chen presented “Residential Care Subsidy and Mortality among Aged Care Facility Residents”
- Alexandra Turcu presented a poster called “Same Crime: Different Outcome”.
- Cristóbal Castro Barrientos presented “Do Tertiary Education Studies Still Pay Off in New Zealand? Gender and Sectoral Dynamics”.



Guanyu Zheng, Thomas Schober, Wei-Lin Chen, Leon Iusitini, Lisa Meehan, Sean Kimpton, Niven Winchester and Cristóbal Castro Barrientos.

### The World Internet Project Meeting 2025 in Berlin, 5–15 July 2025

Alexandra Turcu presented preliminary findings from the WIP-NZ 2025 Survey.

### Virtual Health Information Network (VHIN) webinar, 9 July 2025

Oliver Vovchenko presented his research examining the wellbeing of children born into families supported by New Zealand’s housing allowance, the Accommodation Supplement (AS), comparing health, criminal justice, and education outcomes of these children to children raised in similarly situated households.

### Science in Australia Gender Equity 2025 Conference, 27 August 2025

The conference theme was “Breaking silos: Working together for equity”. Lisa Meehan presented “Segregated work: Who does what work now?”.

### Aotearoa New Zealand Immunisation Conference, 3–5 September 2025

Nadia Charania presented “Enhancing Immunisation Coverage: A Spotlight on Migrant and Refugee Background Communities” and “Preferences of RSV preventative options among pregnant people and healthcare professionals in Aotearoa New Zealand”.

### Australasian Research Management Society Conference, 10–12 September, 2025

Rebecca Benson, attended the conference in Melbourne.

**Health of migrants and refugees: Catalysing research evidence exchange between Chile and New Zealand, 17 September 2025**

Nadia Charania presented “Drivers of vaccine access and acceptance among migrant and refugee populations in Aotearoa New Zealand”.

**UNWEP Brown Bag seminar, 23 September 2025**

Lisa Meehan presented findings from the UN Women’s Empowerment Principles Survey at the seminar: Women’s Empowerment Principles - Measure, Reflect, Act 2025. The event was hosted by UN Women Aotearoa NZ.

**Annual Conference of the Austrian Economic Association, 24 September 2025**

Thomas Schober presented “Birth order and infant health: Evidence from maternal immunisation in New Zealand.”

**Public Health Agency of New Zealand’s Vax Chats, 8 October 2025**

Nadia Charania presented a session “Strategies to support vaccine decision-making and uptake among migrant and refugee background communities”.

**Asian Academics in Aotearoa Association (A4) symposium, 15 October 2025**

Lisa Meehan presented research commissioned by the Ministry for Ethnic Communities and co-authored with Leon Lusitini. The findings raise tough questions about why higher education is not delivering fair returns for Asian communities in NZ.

**Ministry for Ethnic Communities, 16 October 2025**

Lisa Meehan presented NZPRI research “Pay gaps among ethnic communities in Aotearoa New Zealand”.

**Aotearoa New Zealand Infectious Disease & Pandemic Preparedness Summit, 10–13 November 2025**

Nadia Charania presented “Inclusive preparedness: Strengthening pandemic plans for migrant and refugee background communities”.

**Ethnic Xchange Symposium, 14 November 2025**

Lisa Meehan facilitated a panel discussion on “Ethnic Evidence: Unlocking the potential of ethnic businesses”.

**The World Internet Project InternetNZ’s End of Year Stakeholder Event, 19 November 2025**

Lisa Meehan presented the highlight of findings from the WIP-NZ 2025 Survey.

**Latin American Studies Association/Oceania-Asia 2025 Congress in Melbourne, 19–21 November 2025**

Cristóbal Castro Barrientos presented a Chile–New Zealand comparison showing that tertiary education still pays in both countries.

**Advancing Equity: Social Determinants in Migrant and Refuge Health Symposium, 21 November 2025**

Nadia Charania co-presented “A mixed-methods evaluation of the Afghan evacuee resettlement programme in Aotearoa New Zealand”.

**New Zealand Association of Gerontology 2025 Annual Conference, 3–5 December 2025**

Rebecca Benson presented “The social and economic costs of abuse of older people in Aotearoa New Zealand”. The conference was held in Dunedin.

**Hitotsubashi University and Tohoku University visits, Japan, 15–19 December 2025**

Wei-Lin Chen presented academic seminars on “Political Party Affiliation of Leaders and Traffic Stop Policing: Evidence from North Carolina”.

**Taiwan visit, December 2025–January 2026**

Wei-Lin Chen visited Taiwan to work with coauthors on two projects that study social workers’ decision in providing follow-up services in two settings: domestic violence and older people abuse reports.

## 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.

We saw a 25.8% increase in LinkedIn followers from 2902 to 3651. Our 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.

[Current Ipsos Surveys in Field](#) – Ipsos, 3 February 2025

[Economic 'green shoots' and lower interest rates disguise worrying trends in NZ's job market](#) – The Conversation, 19 February 2025

[Trans and non-binary New Zealanders earn less and are more likely to be unemployed – new study](#) – The Conversation, 13 March 2025

[Trans and non-binary New Zealanders earn less and are more likely to be unemployed – new study](#) – Daily Bulletin, 17 March 2025

[This NZ law aims to give people with criminal convictions a 'clean slate'. It's not working](#) – The Conversation, 2 May 2025

[Pay Equity Rollback Puts Young Women at Risk, Says YWCA Aotearoa New Zealand](#) – YWCA, 8 May 2025

[Are clean slates for criminals working? Are clean slates for criminals working?](#) – AUT News, 28 May 2025

[No country for the over 50s?](#) – The Post, 30 August 2025

[Reflections from the Aotearoa New Zealand Immunisation Conference](#) – Public Health Association NZ, 18 September 2025

[We must not restrict university access](#) – AUT News, 24 September 2025

[Living wage vs minimum wage: what employers and workers need to know](#) – Acuity, 29 September 2025

[Preparing for avian influenza](#) – Newstalk ZB, 13 October 2025

[New Zealand's low birth rate isn't just about maths – it's about fairness](#) – The Spinoff, 3 November 2025

[Tense, Sceptical, Aware: NZers Increasingly Cautious About Internet](#) – Scoop, 12 November 2025

[Radio Mention](#) – The Breeze, 13 November 2025

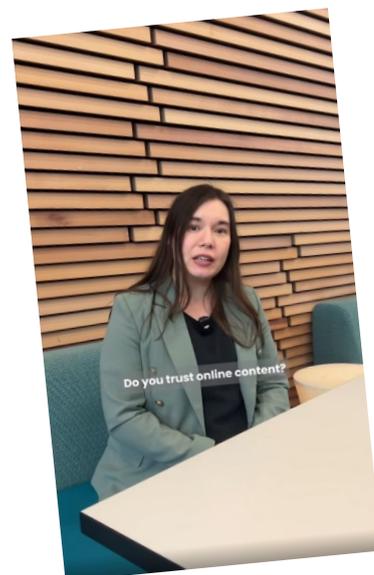
[NZ's growing exodus is prompting a call for a rethink on population](#) – The Spinoff, 14 November 2025

[Radio Mention](#) – NewstalkZB, 15 November 2025

[New research from the 2025 World Internet Project](#) – Waatea, 20 November 2025

[NZers more cautious about Internet](#) – AUT News, 21 November 2025

[Māori face harsher sentences than NZ Europeans for similar drink driving offences](#) – Big Hairy Network, 28 November 2025



Dr Lisa Meehan gives a rundown of some key results from the 2025 World Internet Project in a fun video for AUT News.

## Section 8: Awards, appointments and achievements

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### PhD completion

Linda Kirkpatrick was awarded her PhD and took a new job as a Research Fellow at Queen's University in Belfast.

### interRAI Emerging Researcher Award

Wei-Lin Chen was the recipient of the interRAI Emerging Researcher Award which recognised his use of interRAI data in his work.



2025 Emerging Researcher Wei-Lin Chen (second from L) with Margaret Milne – GM interRAI Services (L) and Dr Gary Cheung – Chair interRAI Research Network (R)

### New role

Lee Zhuge took a new role as Associate Professor at Soochow University.

### Te Niwaha Fellowship

Nadia Charania completed her fellowship placement at The Migrant Health Research Group, Institute for Infection and Immunity at St George's University of London.

### NZAE Life Membership

Our former Director Gail Pacheco was elected a New Zealand Association of Economists Life Member.

### Masters completion

Serene Chua completed her Master of Analytics.

### Research Funding

Alexander Plum was awarded funding of \$1.2m from the Health Research Council to conduct a study which will examine how Aotearoa New Zealand's Rainbow+ youth are accessing and using mental health services.

### Promotion

Alexander Plum was promoted to Associate Professor.

## Aotearoa Business Economics Research Translation Competition

Maulupeivao Dr Betty Ofe-Grant was the winner of the 2025 Māori or Pasifika Researcher category.



Maulupeivao Dr Betty Ofe-Grant (L) with her husband, Ross Grant.