



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**THE
NEW ZEALAND
INITIATIVE**

www.nzinitiative.org.nz



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FOREWORD

In 2023, The New Zealand Initiative again played a significant role in shaping policy and promoting progress in New Zealand.

This Annual Report shows our dedication and impact over the past year, a period marked by political change and substantial policy development culminating in the formation of a new coalition government.

New governments always bring fresh opportunities for policy reform and innovation. The New Zealand Initiative has been at the forefront of this transformation, offering thorough analysis and advocating for policies that align with our principles of rigorous, evidence-based decision-making.

Our influence has been notable in several key areas. Education has been a primary focus area where our decade-long research and advocacy efforts have paid dividends. The government's initiatives to strengthen core skills and revise the curriculum are in line with

our recommendations, setting the stage for improved educational outcomes and better preparing our future generations.

In healthcare, our advocacy for faster access to safe medicines via the 'Rule of Two' policy will result in a significant shift in Medsafe's processes, exemplifying our commitment to efficient and responsive policymaking. This change is expected to have a lasting positive impact on the health and well-being of New Zealanders.

The government's approach to housing and foreign investment also reflects our recommendations. Policies that incentivise housing development and relax restrictions on foreign investment have the potential to stimulate significant economic growth and innovation.



Roger Partridge
Chairman



Dr Oliver Hartwich
Executive Director

Throughout the year, our work has been driven by a commitment to informed advocacy grounded in thorough research.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are optimistic about the potential of these new policy directions to create beneficial outcomes for all New Zealanders.

We thank our members and supporters for their contributions to our work. Your engagement and feedback are essential to our ongoing mission. As we embark on another year, we are inspired by the progress we have made and are eager to build on this momentum in creating a more prosperous country.

Handwritten signature of Roger Partridge in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Dr Oliver Hartwich in black ink.

2023



297

opinion articles
published
(including **136**
Insights pieces)



1,241

direct media
mentions



17

Initiative
events held



94 radio and
television
appearances



8,034

Insights readers

215

Executive Summary
recipients



26

research reports
(including 7 written
submissions)



124,802

Podcast plays



5,415

Facebook followers



3,863

Twitter followers

YouTube

19,898

YouTube video views

WHAT WE STAND FOR

Our vision is to contribute to a prosperous, free, fair society with a competitive, open and dynamic economy.



Affordable housing



An open economy



Sound fiscal oversight



A stable currency



A good education system



A sustainable natural environment



A free and democratic society



Equitable and accessible healthcare

We are a non-partisan think tank, we are an association of business leaders, we are an evidence-based research institute, and we are independent. We believe these are not contradictions.

What truly sets us apart is while most think tanks are only loosely affiliated with their donors, we take the opposite approach.

We are proud to have some of New Zealand's highest profile business leaders among our diverse membership. Our members bring a wide range of interests, experiences and ideas.

OUR PRINCIPLES

The challenge in public policy is often not to define what you want to achieve, but to find workable ways of achieving widely shared goals based on solid foundations. We pledge that:

We are credible.

Our research is based on a sound theoretical framework and is peer-reviewed.

We are non-partisan.

We engage with parties from across the political spectrum.

We are independent.

We promote good public policy, not the interests of individual businesses or industries.

We are committed.

Our members and the Initiative team share the vision to build a better New Zealand.

We are evidence-based.

Our recommendations are supported by empirical, and often international, evidence.

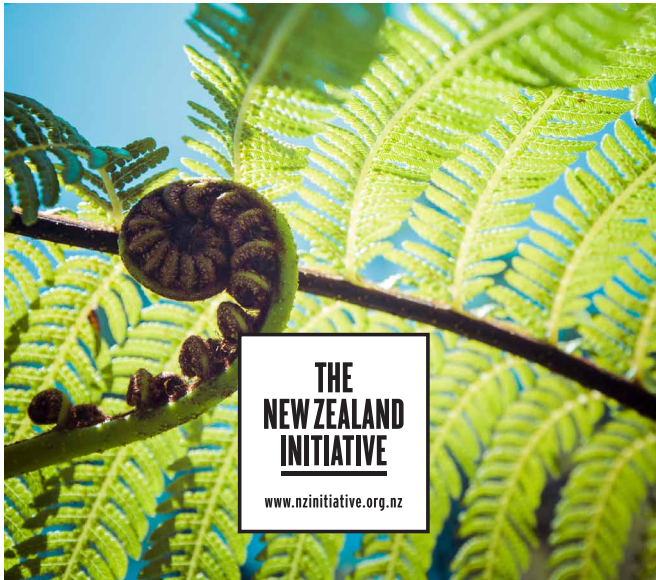
OUR RESEARCH & SUBMISSIONS

FEATURED REPORT

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

PRESCRIPTION FOR PROSPERITY

2023 Briefing to the Incoming Government



Prescription For Prosperity: 2023 Briefing to the Incoming Government

Multiple authors

Research Report

August 2023

Drawing on more than a decade of research, this report acts as a roadmap for the incoming government. It provides practical, evidence-based proposals that cover immediate priority areas such as inflation control, and fundamental fields for reform, including education, health, and housing.

The report contains dozens of detailed recommendations for positive change across 21 policy areas (including fiscal policy, climate, monetary policy, education, health, transport, housing, and local government).

Dr Hartwich emphasises:

“Our recommendations address New Zealand’s current problems, but they go well beyond. We aim to pave the way for a New Zealand where everyone can enjoy the fruits of prosperity. And we are committed to working with all political parties to make these changes reality.”



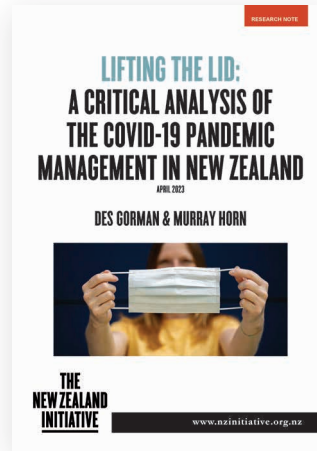
Made by Government: New Zealand's Monetary Policy Mess

Dr Bryce Wilkinson

Research Note

March 2023

This research note suggests that the poor governance arrangements, conflicting goals, grandiose aspirations, and distractions, along with the excessive budget and lack of core expertise in key appointments, have created the current mess in the RBNZ. The current Governor's "extra-curricular" enthusiasms have heightened concerns about the Bank's focus and capabilities.



Lifting the Lid: A Critical Analysis of the Covid-19 Pandemic Management in New Zealand

Des Gorman and Dr Murray Horn

Research Note

April 2023

This research note offers recommendations on how to improve future pandemic responses.

Professor Gorman states, "New Zealand's pandemic management was marred by political considerations, which compromised the effectiveness and efficiency of our response." He adds, "Transparency and collaboration are crucial in managing crises, but unfortunately, these values took a back seat during the pandemic."



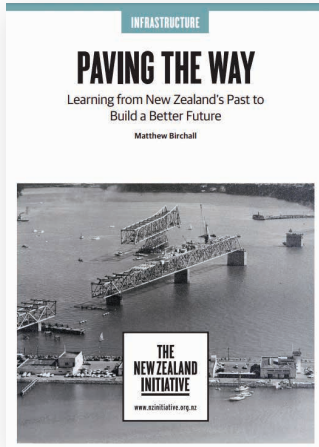
Save our Schools: Solutions for New Zealand's Education Crisis

Dr Michael Johnston

Research Report

April 2023

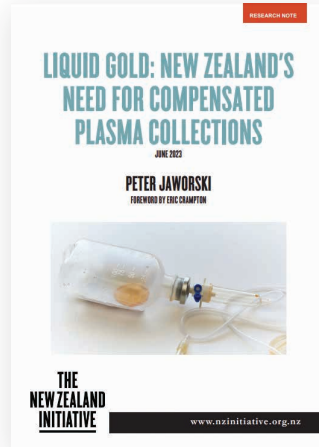
This manifesto draws on the body of research compiled at The New Zealand Initiative over the past decade to bring together a coherent plan to improve our education system, and to restore it to a place of international pre-eminence.



Paving the Way: Learning from New Zealand's Past to Build a Better Future

Dr Matthew Birchall
Research Report
June 2023

This report reframes New Zealand's infrastructure debate, using history to offer insights and guidance. It highlights key infrastructure success stories, from the laying of toll roads in the Taranaki in the 19th century to the broadband rollout in the 21st century. It also explores a number of cautionary tales to help us avoid past mistakes.



Liquid Gold: New Zealand's need for compensated plasma collections

Peter Jaworski
Research Note
June 2023

Without more donors, the New Zealand Blood Service warns we will rely more heavily on imported plasma products. They're right. And Alberta, Canada, shows a better way. Compensating donors results in more donations.

Professor Peter Jaworski is a Georgetown University expert in the economics and ethics of blood and plasma donation. His report on blood plasma donation for the Macdonald-Laurier Institute was co-released by the New Zealand Initiative.

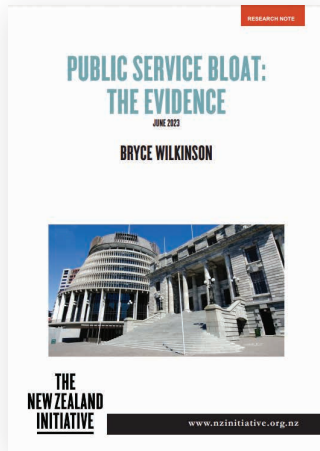


Victoria and Otago Universities employ more non-academic than academic staff

Dr Michael Johnston, Dr James Kierstead
and Dr Dennis Wesselbaum
Policy Point
June 2023

New Zealand's universities face financial crises, leading to significant staff cuts across several institutions, including AUT, Massey, Otago, and Victoria University of Wellington.

Our understanding from a member of Victoria's academic staff was that Vice-Chancellor Nic Smith was working with figures that had academic employees outnumbering non-academics at Vic. We felt it was vital to point out that those figures were inaccurate.



Public Service Bloat: The Evidence

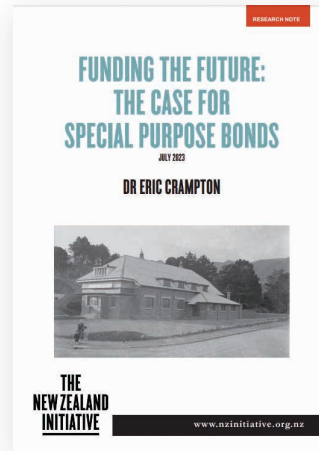
Dr Bryce Wilkinson

Research Note

June 2023

This research note looks at public service performance overall. It is not about public servants as individuals.

Is New Zealand's public service bloated, as many have claimed and others have disputed? What is the yardstick, anyway? How competent is it, and in what respects? Is it focused on serving the elected government and the public interest, impartially? To what extent does it now have an agenda of its own, preoccupied with ethnicity, inequality, diversity, gender and 'the Treaty'?



Funding the Future: The case for special purpose bonds

Dr Eric Crampton

Research Note

July 2023

This research note suggests better tools for infrastructure funding and financing.

Infrastructure funding and financing are a root cause of New Zealand's housing shortage. Better debt funding would let those benefitting from new and renewed infrastructure cover its cost over the long term. And it would give communities more options to come together to support necessary projects.



Blessing or Bloat? Non-academic staffing in New Zealand universities in comparative perspective

Dr James Kierstead and

Dr Michael Johnston

Research Report

August 2023

This is the first report to date on non-academic employees at New Zealand universities. It presents and analyses a range of data from the Ministry of Education and from universities themselves to build up an accurate and granular picture of the scale and composition of New Zealand universities' administrative staffing.



Pharmac should not be criticised simply for being selective and slow about the medicines it funds
Dr Bryce Wilkinson
Policy Point
August 2023

Pharmac is often criticised for not funding enough new medicines and for being too slow to determine which ones it will fund. However, being slow and focused is not proof of being too slow or too focused. Evidence from Germany reinforces this point.



Lifeline for Health: Meeting New Zealand's need for General Practitioners
Des Gorman and Dr Murray Horn
Research Report
August 2023

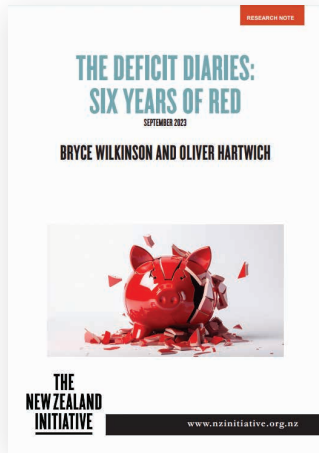
This report advocates for new investment in innovative community healthcare practices, individual budget holdings, and social investment approaches, and it underlines the urgent nature of this crisis, indicating an increasing demand for GPs in the future.



Who Teaches the Teachers?
Dr Michael Johnston and Stephanie Martin
Research Report
September 2023

The report highlights major flaws in teacher education, including an over-emphasis on sociocultural teaching philosophy, insufficient classroom experience, and a near absence of the science of learning.

We recommend allowing for multiple professional bodies for teachers, each with its own professional standards. We further recommend that the effectiveness of teachers registered with each body be regularly measured and published.



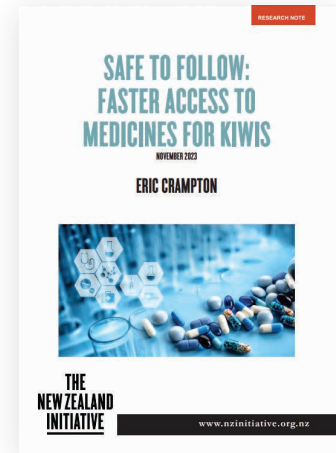
The Deficit Diaries: Six years of red
Dr Bryce Wilkinson and Dr Oliver Hartwich
Research Note
September 2023

In this short research note, we focus on the fiscal performance of the Sixth Labour-led Government. We point out that much of our current predicament comes down to unrealistic plans, lack of commitment to stated intentions, and not enough rigour in fiscal management.



A historical perspective on the 2017-2023 Government's spending spree
Dr Bryce Wilkinson
Research Note
October 2023

In this research note, we analyse the six-year spending spree of the Sixth Labour government in the context of historical precedents. Elected on the back of an ambitious policy agenda, the Ardern government quickly found itself struggling to balance the books.

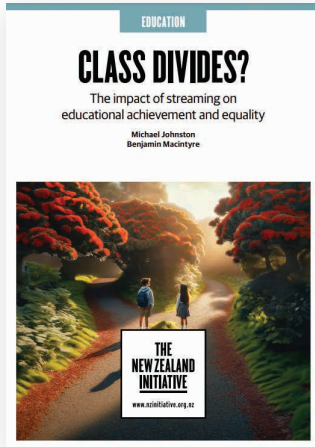


Safe to follow: Faster access to medicines for Kiwis
Dr Eric Crampton
Research Note
November 2023

This research note draws on indicative work by two teams of Canterbury students.

It proposes the Rule of Two. Drugs approved by at least two trustworthy overseas agencies would automatically be approved here. Medsafe could block automatic approval in extraordinary circumstances.

Dr Eric Crampton says: "The Rule of Two would hasten access to safe medicines while imposing little risk."

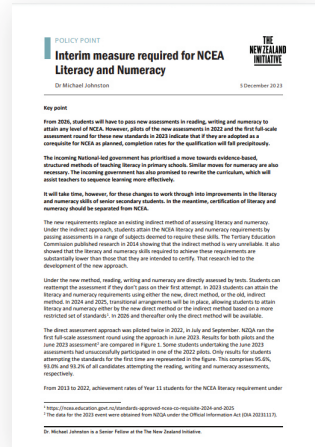


Class Divides?: The impact of streaming on educational achievement and equality

Dr Michael Johnston and Benjamin Macintyre
Research Report
November 2023

There have been calls to ban streaming in New Zealand schools. This report explores the evidence on streaming from local and international research. They note that there has never been a systematic study on the effects of streaming in New Zealand.

The authors recommend that, rather than banning streaming, the Ministry of Education should commission a study of its effects in New Zealand schools.



Interim measure required for NCEA Literacy and Numeracy

Dr Michael Johnston
Policy Point
December 2023

The incoming National-led government has prioritised a move towards evidence-based, structured methods of teaching literacy in primary schools. Similar moves for numeracy are also necessary. The incoming government has also promised to rewrite the curriculum, which will assist teachers to sequence learning more effectively.

It will take time, however, for these changes to work through into improvements in the literacy and numeracy skills of senior secondary students. In the meantime, certification of literacy and numeracy should be separated from NCEA.

SUBMISSIONS

In 2023, the Initiative made submissions to:

- The Grocery Industry Competition Bill
- The Natural and Built Environment Bill and Spatial Planning Bill
- The Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Bill
- Consultation on New Zealand Grocery Supply Code of Conduct
- Auckland Future Development Strategy
- ETS Review and Permanent Forestry
- The Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport

OUR ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT WITH MEMBERS

We held four members' dinners and lunches and four member-exclusive events which included an international delegation trip. We are proud to have hosted several high-level speakers in 2023. These meetings allowed members to hear from and engage with politicians, industry experts, and international speakers on a wide range of topics.



Members' delegation to Ireland, June 2023

MEMBER EVENTS

Members' Pre-Budget Lunch with Nicola Willis (April) Wellington & Auckland

We held a Members' lunch at KPMG Wellington on April 18 and KPMG Auckland on April 21 with the Deputy Leader of the National Party, **Nicola Willis**. Nicola spoke to about 60 of our members and discussed what National expects from the Government's 2023 Budget.



Members' Retreat (May) Auckland

Our tenth annual Members' Retreat was held at Park Hyatt in Auckland and attended by around 80 members. At the retreat, members heard from leading figures across the media, academia, and policymakers.

Dr **Oliver Hartwich** gave our members an overview of New Zealand in 2023 and The New Zealand Initiative's thinking on big issues facing the country.

New Zealand's infrastructure deficit is a big topic of conversation, but few people know how good and innovative New Zealand used to be when it came to delivering big-ticket times like rails, roads and bridges. The Initiative's historian in residence, Dr **Matthew Birchall**, spoke about some of New Zealand's most iconic infrastructure projects and some lessons that should not be forgotten.

Policymakers need good, reliable and up-to-date data. The Initiative's adjunct fellow Dr **Christoph Schumacher** explained how his project GDP Live can help inform economic policy in New Zealand. In a world first, GDP Live tells us in real-time how the economy is doing and has current estimates of both GDP and inflation figures.

Leader of the NZ National Party **Christopher Luxon** and ACT Party Leader **David Seymour** both led sessions and spoke to members.

New Zealand's education system is in crisis. With attendance rates tumbling, international benchmarks slipping and literacy in freefall, our schools need a reboot. Dr **Michael Johnston** and educationalist Professor **Elizabeth Rata** explained what needs to be done to halt the decline and restore New Zealand's education system to world class.

The change of Prime Minister added another twist to the 2023 election year. It raised questions such as how would political camps fare in the campaign? Would we see the re-election of Labour, albeit in coalition with the Greens and The Māori Party? Or would National and ACT, potentially with NZ First, be able to change the Government? Our panellists **Simon Bridges** and **Josie Pagani** discussed the possibilities.

In our members' forum, members representing different industries reflected on the policy issues affecting their businesses. This discussion involved **Malcolm Johns** (Genesis), **Chris Quin** (Foodstuffs) and **Steve Evans** (Fletcher).





International Delegation to Ireland (June)

In June, we took a delegation to Ireland which was our third international delegation in our history following our visits to Switzerland in 2017 and Denmark in 2019. During our time in Ireland, we explored what makes it one of Europe's most successful economies. This included finding out about the openness of the Irish economy and its ability to attract foreign direct investment.



Over the week, delegates heard from the country's most prominent business leaders, politicians and officials. They learnt about the social and economic policy setting that have made Ireland among the most prosperous countries in the world.

We intended to explore the following issues during the week:

- From a country plagued by poverty and losing its people to immigration to the Celtic Tiger: how did Ireland get rich?
- From an inward-looking economy to a magnet of international capital: How did Ireland become an international economic hub?

- From an economic backwater to a place to do business: How did Ireland strategically set its business and tax policies to become more competitive?

We took our delegates to Dublin, Galway, and to Belfast in Northern Ireland. The itinerary included visits to Trinity College, Iveagh House, Thermo King and Intel.

The group heard perspectives from a range of speakers including prominent Irish politicians, business journalists and business leaders.

The journey to Ireland led to our publication, *Irish Secrets: An Irish Lesson in prosperity*.





NIB Health Innovators' Summit (August) Auckland

The Health Innovators' Summit: Inspiring Action for Better Care was a half-day event that brought together politicians, members of The New Zealand Initiative, professional health associations, and senior journalists to learn about innovative solutions for better healthcare in New Zealand.



Keynote speakers shared their experiences and insights to inspire attendees to take action and improve the current healthcare system.

David Kirk MBE, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, Bailador, led a session about understanding the telehealth market in Australia and how New Zealand could learn from this model and whether this could help deal with capacity constraints in the New Zealand healthcare system.

Rt Hon Sir **Bill English**, former New Zealand Prime Minister, explored the Manawanui model of individualised funding for disability benefit recipients and its potential impact on the New Zealand healthcare system.

Ian McRae spoke about understanding the healthcare reforms that happened

in Canterbury, New Zealand, after the Canterbury earthquakes and the devolved approach that could be a starting point for the New Zealand healthcare system.

Professor Emeritus **Des Gorman**, University of Auckland discussed the latest research on increasing the number of General Practitioners and better workforce planning in the New Zealand healthcare system.

Tom Irvine and **Rangimarie Hunia**, Ngāti Whātua Ōrakei, explored the potential for partnerships between iwi (Maori organisations) and private health providers to improve healthcare outcomes in New Zealand.

Finally, Dr **Oliver Hartwich** led a panel discussion between all six keynote speakers.



Members' Lunch: A blueprint for change – Prescription for Prosperity (August) Auckland

In August, we held a members' lunch in Auckland to launch our research report *Prescription for Prosperity*.

Deloitte hosted this lunch in Auckland for our members. Dr **Oliver Hartwich** presented on the research report.



Members' Lunch with Brooke Roberts, CEO, Sharesies (November) Wellington

Our final members' lunch of the year was held at The Wellington Club on 28 November with Sharesies CEO **Brooke Roberts**. She talked about her journey starting up a new business and the lessons for regional economic development in New Zealand.

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Webinar: With Hon David Seymour (December)

In an exclusive webinar with Hon **David Seymour**, the new Minister for Regulation, members had a chance to learn about the upcoming Ministry of Regulation, aimed at improving our regulatory system. Minister Seymour discussed his agenda and held answered questions from the Initiative's members.



PUBLIC EVENTS

Webinar: Resource Management Reform (March)

This webinar included the Initiative's **Eric Crampton**, NERA's **Kevin Counsell**, Federated Farmers' **Paul Melville**, and Castalia's **Andreas Heuser**. They discussed the good, the bad, and the ugly in proposed Resource Management reform.



Webinar: A critical analysis of the Covid-19 pandemic management in New Zealand (April)

In April, we launched our report *Lifting the Lid: A Critical Analysis of the Covid-19 Pandemic Management in New Zealand*.

The author, Professor **Des Gorman** discusses his report with Dr **Oliver Hartwich** and what can be improved in future pandemic planning.

Webinar: Save our Schools (April)

This webinar launched our research report *Save Our Schools: Solutions for New Zealand's Education Crisis*.

The webinar and our publication, came at a critical moment, with New Zealand facing the choice between reform and decline in our education system.

The report's author, Senior Fellow Dr **Michael Johnston**, led a thought-provoking discussion with literacy expert Professor **James Chapman**, writing pedagogy specialist Dr **Helen Walls**, and the innovative Principal of Manurewa Intermediate School, **Iain Taylor**.



Webinar: Post-Budget Briefing (May)

Budget 2023 came at a critical time for New Zealand. Inflation showed no signs of abating. The current account deficit stood at a record high. Many commentators forecasted a severe recession down the track.

Dr **Oliver Hartwich**, Dr **Eric Crampton**, Taxpayers' Union Executive Director **Jordan Williams** and Taxpayers' Union Chair **Laurence Kubiak** discussed the economic implications of the Government's fiscal plans.

Artificial intelligence and the future of education (June) Auckland & Wellington

This forum provided an opportunity to discuss and debate the implications of generative AI for education. We explored opportunities that AI offers and potential policy initiatives to make the most of those opportunities. We also explored the risks and ways to mitigate them. The discussion informed a forthcoming report from the New Zealand Initiative on the topic.

Webinar: Learning from New Zealand's past to build a better future (June)

We held a webinar in June to launch *Paving the Way: Learning from New Zealand's Past to build a Better Future*.

Everyone talks about New Zealand's infrastructure deficit. But few people know how successful we once were at delivering big-ticket items like roads, rails and bridges. The report's author and our historian in residence, Dr **Matthew Birchall**, analysed some of New Zealand's most iconic infrastructure projects. His insights offer a unique perspective on how we can navigate the challenges that lie ahead.

Matthew discussed his findings on the webinar with our Executive Director Dr **Oliver Hartwich** and **Nick Leggett**, Chief Executive of Infrastructure New Zealand.



Webinar: Admin overload in New Zealand universities? (August)

In August, we launched our report *Blessing or Bloat? Non-academic staffing in New Zealand universities in comparative perspective*.

The report's author Dr **James Kierstead** was joined on this webinar by Dr **Oliver Hartwich**, and Massey University Distinguished Professor **Gaven Martin** to dive into the level and nature of administrative staffing at our universities. They discussed the implications for the future of higher education in New Zealand.



Who teaches the teachers? (September)

In September, we launched our report *Who Teaches the Teachers? Reforming initial teacher education* at Auckland Grammar School.

Dr **John Ety**, Associate Principal of Auckland Grammar School, joined authors Dr **Michael Johnston** and **Stephanie Martin** to discuss ways schools can contribute to developing new and more effective ways of preparing teachers for the classroom. Attendees were invited to discuss ways to improve teacher education in New Zealand.

In this report, Michael and Stephanie look at New Zealand's university-dominated model of teacher education. They conclude that student teachers don't have enough practical classroom experience and that there is not enough rigorous assessment of practical teaching skills.

They also demonstrate the overabundance of theory in university teacher education programmes, which undermines the effectiveness of instruction.

The report highlights that better-prepared teachers will lead to improved student outcomes and that investing in teacher education is a key strategy for improving educational equity and social mobility.



ACHIEVEMENTS

The New Zealand Initiative exists to provide and promote sound public policy. Here are some of the areas where we succeeded in influencing policy:

Coalition agreements

The time after the election was marked by change as the new government began to take shape. The New Zealand Initiative engaged with this opportunity for change, providing thoughtful analysis and promoting policies that benefit all New Zealanders.

A key aspect of the new government's approach, aligning closely with our principles, is its commitment to enhancing the policymaking process. The coalition agreements had an emphasis of using rigorous cost-benefit analysis and grounding decisions in empirical evidence.

This was a welcome development. It promised more effective and efficient policy to address long-standing issues such as economic growth and regulatory reform.

Throughout the agreements, there were unmistakable signs that the New Zealand Initiative's research and advocacy had borne real results.

The Government stated that it would reform market studies introduced by the Commerce Amendment Act 2018 to focus on reducing

regulatory barriers to new entrants to drive competition. We have been active in market studies process for grocery retail and building materials, and we have been urging the Commission to focus on barriers to entry.

In its agreements, the Government would consider setting an income threshold above which a personal grievance could not be pursued. Our work has recommended this change, which will make it easier for businesses to dismiss underperforming managerial staff, benefitting both companies and their workers.

They also planned to narrow the Reserve Bank's Remit, removing the dual mandate and focusing on price stability. The Initiative has long argued that the Reserve Bank should return to a single inflation mandate. Price stability should be, and now will be, the bank's only concern.

They would also aim to amend the Overseas Investment Act 2005 to limit ministerial decision making to national security concerns and make such decision making more timely. The Initiative has prominently noted the benefits of foreign investment, advocating that only rare national security concerns be screened.

Health

In the healthcare sector, the government's promise to adopt the 'Rule of Two' for faster access to safe medicines should result in a significant breakthrough.

Under the Initiative's proposed Rule of Two, drugs would automatically be approved in New Zealand if they had been approved by at least two trustworthy overseas approval agencies, unless Medsafe had extraordinary concerns about a particular medicine. But drugs so-approved would be reviewed if withdrawn from foreign markets.

This policy, long-advocated by the Initiative, will ensure timely approval of new pharmaceuticals, streamlining Medsafe's process, aligning it with international standards. It is an example of a responsive, evidence-based policy that will directly benefit the well-being of New Zealanders.



Education

Perhaps most importantly, the government's education focus resonates with our research and advocacy. Initiatives like strengthening core skills such as numeracy and literacy and revising the curriculum are crucial for improving education outcomes and preparing future generations for success.

In December 2023, our Senior Fellow Dr Michael Johnston was appointed chair of a newly formed Ministerial Advisory Group.

Minister of Education Hon Erica Stanford announced that the group would review the curricula and teaching methods to provide teachers with the clarity and tools needed to teach these core subjects effectively.

Dr Johnston will lead a world-class team, including literacy expert Emeritus Professor James Chapman, mathematician Distinguished Professor Gaven Martin and curriculum design expert Professor Elizabeth Rata. Work will be done in the first half of 2024, ready for implementation in 2025.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT US

“ Regardless of one’s own personal politics I believe the many New Zealand Initiative reports, and their education ones in particular, make some very pertinent and common-sense commentary that I believe if adopted into national education policy could make a difference. Their *Save Our Schools* report suggestions would make a valuable contribution to the national conversation about education, and this is something we certainly need to have!”

Iain Taylor
Principal, Manurewa Intermediate School



“

I've appreciated the work the New Zealand Initiative has put into the public realm. They're an essential and authoritative voice in the housing debate and making clear how our current policy settings are holding back Aotearoa from building the housing it needs.

Ben McNulty
Wellington City Councillor

”



“

The New Zealand Initiative's Dr Michael Johnston and colleagues have made a significant contribution to education public policy in 2023. Two major reports – *Save Our Schools* and *Who Teaches the Teachers* – provide solutions for fixing the education sector. The influence of the Reports' recommendations on public policy is already evident in the Coalition Government reform proposals. But the influence of the New Zealand Initiative's education experts goes further. Their prolific media releases in written and podcast form have resonated with the public. Creating an informed public adds a deeper dimension to sound policy programmes by ensuring that the new policy direction has democratic legitimacy. Undoubtedly the New Zealand Initiative's education efforts have achieved both depth and reach – directly into policy and indirectly into public understanding.”

Professor Elizabeth Rata
The University of Auckland

ONE YEAR IN REVIEW

2023

A snapshot of our work published throughout the year. Visit our website to read the full versions of our work.

JAN

12 JANUARY

The Grocery Industry Competition Bill
Submission

15 JANUARY

"The Economic Miracle"
The Common Room



16 JANUARY

"Reflections on 2022"
National Business Review

17 JANUARY

"Does it make sense to keep subsidising EVs out of ETS"
Today FM

18 JANUARY

Building market failure
Podcast

19 JANUARY

"World best ETS ruined by costly emissions nonsense"
The Australian

19 JANUARY

"Jacinda Ardern has never really understood free speech"
The Australian

19 JANUARY

"True legacy of Labour's key election promise isn't pretty"
The Australian

19 JANUARY

"Rolling back reform: Jacinda Ardern's long-term economic policy was disastrous"
The Australian

24 JANUARY

"AI chatbots will be a game-changer for educational assessment"
Newsroom

26 JANUARY

"The Seduction of Grandeur"
NZ Herald

30 JANUARY

"Children in New Zealand left rudderless by failing education system"
EducationHQ



31 JANUARY

"Grocery legislation decreases competition, not the reverse"
Newsroom

FEB

1 FEBRUARY

"NZ's new PM suggests shift from identity politics. Can Kiwis relax?"
The Australian

2 FEBRUARY

The Coddling of the American Mind
Free Kiwis! podcast

3 FEBRUARY

"Grotesque to see central banks striving to lift inflation expectations"
NZ Herald

3 FEBRUARY

The Natural and Built Environment Bill and Spatial Planning Bill
Submission

5 FEBRUARY

"Forget a petrol excise holiday, consider the peaches"
Stuff



7 FEBRUARY

"The understandable reluctance of Germany to send tanks to Ukraine"
Newsroom

9 FEBRUARY

"Pressure points for educational reform"
NZ Herald



9 FEBRUARY

Dr Oliver Hartwich on the minimum wage and Social Unemployment Insurance
Newstalk ZB

9 FEBRUARY

Benjamin Macintyre joins the team
Podcast

9 FEBRUARY

Economic Roundtable
Podcast

13 FEBRUARY

"Inflation a matter of hope and wait"
National Business Review

14 FEBRUARY

"New broom? Hipkins more of an Ardern wrecking ball"
The Australian

14 FEBRUARY

"How cities could regain more autonomy by restoring housing affordability"
Newsroom

15 FEBRUARY

"Submissions expose horrors of David Parker's RMA reform proposals"
NZ Herald

15 FEBRUARY

The economic effects of Cyclone Gabrielle
Podcast

17 FEBRUARY

"Dr Oliver Hartwich And Callum Purves On The Future Of Local Government"
Taxpayer Talk

19 FEBRUARY

"Don't repeat the mistakes of Christchurch earthquake rebuild after Cyclone Gabrielle"
Stuff



20 FEBRUARY

"The Roald Dahl Re-Edits and Dignity in Debate"
The Free Speech Union

20 FEBRUARY

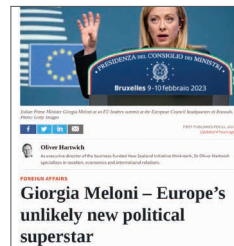
Emeritus Professor Roger Openshaw
Free Kiwis! podcast

20 FEBRUARY

Benchmarking New Zealand's infrastructure delivery costs
Podcast

21 FEBRUARY

"Giorgia Meloni - Europe's unlikely new political superstar"
Newsroom



22 FEBRUARY

"The question not asked over net benefits from RMA replacement Bills"
NZ Herald

22 FEBRUARY

"Is there an easy fix for our broken immigration system?"
The Front Page

28 FEBRUARY

"Talking nonsense on climate change: how NZ MPs get it wrong"
The Australian

28 FEBRUARY

"Managing retreat"
Newsroom

MAR

2 MARCH

"Cyclone Gabrielle: How to build back better (and how not to)"
NZ Herald

2 MARCH

The Flaws of the Charities Amendment Bill
Podcast

6 MARCH

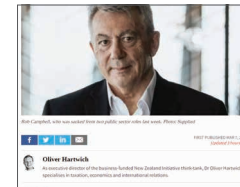
"Cyclone Gabrielle and New Zealand's political future"
ABC Radio National

6 MARCH

Education Ministry considers changes to new literacy and numeracy tests to reduce failure rate
Newstalk ZB

7 MARCH

"Germany's political public service v NZ's myth of neutrality"
Newsroom



8 MARCH

"What ails the public service and why?"
NZ Herald

8 MARCH

Public Service Political Neutrality
Podcast

13 MARCH

"The economic cost of NZ's natural disasters"
National Business Review

14 MARCH

"Parent power can save our schools"
Newsroom



15 MARCH

"No, Minister: NZ's powerful bureaucracy threatens reform"
The Australian

15 MARCH

Eric Crampton on targeted government support packages
The Platform

15 MARCH

Oliver Hartwisch discusses the serious issues New Zealand faces
Newstalk ZB

15 MARCH

Localism with Malcolm Alexander
Podcast

16 MARCH

"Time for a public sector reset"
NZ Herald



16 MARCH

Resource Management Reform
Webinar

16 MARCH

Mike Hosking talks to Bryce Wilkinson about New Zealand's monetary policy mess
Newstalk ZB

16 MARCH

Bryce Wilkinson on New Zealand's monetary policy mess
RNZ

16 MARCH

Made by Government: New Zealand's Monetary Policy Mess
Research Note

19 MARCH

"Teachers' unions aren't helping our best teachers get the pay they deserve"
Stuff



20 MARCH

Mātauranga Māori & Science
Podcast

21 MARCH

"Macron's reform dilemma: progress or popularity?"
Newsroom

22 MARCH

Save our Schools
Podcast

23 MARCH

"Here's what we need to do to fix education in New Zealand"
NZ Herald

23 MARCH

"Making the Grade: How can we fix New Zealand's education problems?"
The Front Page

24 MARCH

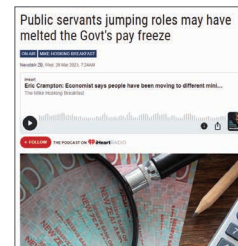
Michael Johnston discusses National promises to National's plan to 'teach the basics brilliantly'
The AM Show

28 MARCH

"Shameful legacy: NZ 'tolerance' takes well-deserved beating"
The Australian

29 MARCH

Public servants jumping roles may have melted the Govt's pay freeze
Newstalk ZB

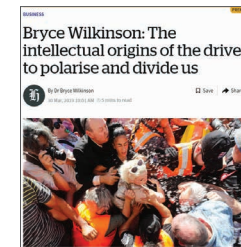


29 MARCH

The Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Bill
Submission

30 MARCH

"The intellectual origins of the drive to polarise and divide us"
NZ Herald



30 MARCH

Vocational education and training
Podcast

31 MARCH

"Ideology trumps evidence at the Ministry of Education"
Newsroom

31 MARCH

Worries latest minimum wage increase will cause job losses
Newstalk ZB

31 MARCH

NZ Initiative director urges for Severe Weather Emergency Recovery
Newstalk ZB

2 APRIL

"Three strikes against David Parker's RMA reforms"
Stuff

4 APRIL

"The far-right European pawns in Putin's game"
Newsroom

5 APRIL

"The path toward a more content-rich curriculum"
NZ Herald

5 APRIL

The history of New Zealand's infrastructure
Podcast

6 APRIL

Oliver Hartwisch joins Fred Pawle
ADH TV



6 APRIL

Credlin podcast with Dr Oliver Hartwisch
Credlin

10 APRIL

"How Okun's Law affects New Zealand"
National Business Review

MAY

11 APRIL

“How to make Emissions Trading Scheme bulletproof”

[Newsroom](#)

12 APRIL

“RBNZ faces uphill battle of its own making”

[The Australian](#)

13 APRIL

“Where is our Supreme Court on the rule of law?”

[NZ Herald](#)

14 APRIL

New Zealand university administrative bloat

[Podcast](#)

16 APRIL

“There’s a better way to reset the Three Waters reforms”

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18 APRIL

Higher education in New Zealand

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18 APRIL

Members’ Pre-Budget lunch with Nicola Willis, Wellington

[Member only event](#)

18 APRIL

“Macron’s reckless diplomatic defiance”

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19 APRIL

Average Effective Tax Rates

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20 APRIL

Lifting the Lid

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20 APRIL

Think tank says NZ was ‘woefully underprepared’ for Covid

[RNZ](#)

20 APRIL

“Scathing criticism of the role politics played in our COVID-19 response”

[Newstalk ZB](#)

20 APRIL

“Hubris, false pride and excessive congratulatory behaviour”

[Newstalk ZB](#)

20 APRIL

Lifting the Lid: A Critical Analysis of the Covid-19 Pandemic Management in New Zealand

[Research Note](#)

20 APRIL

Covid-19 management: A public webinar

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21 APRIL

Members’ Pre-Budget lunch with Nicola Willis, Auckland

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26 APRIL

“Australia reaps the benefit from NZ’s decline with citizenship rules”

[The Australian](#)

26 APRIL

Tony Burton joins the team

[Podcast](#)

27 APRIL

“ChatGPT and the future of work”

[NZ Herald](#)

Opinion: ChatGPT and the future of work



27 APRIL

“Cheaper housing the fix for Aussie brain drain”

[Newsroom](#)

27 APRIL

Save Our Schools: Solutions for New Zealand’s Education Crisis

[Research Report](#)

27 APRIL

Save Our Schools

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29 APRIL

“Time to make the shift to congestion charging”

[The Post](#)



30 APRIL

“How can education help our democracy?”

[The Common Room](#)

1 MAY

The science of learning

[Podcast](#)

2 MAY

“Not enough evidence to justify ban on streaming in schools”

[Newsroom](#)



4 MAY

“Educating the educators and fixing our underachieving schools”

[NZ Herald](#)

9 MAY

“Govt has allowed councils to block new development”

[Newsroom](#)

9 MAY

Australia vs. New Zealand: Where to Thrive?

[Podcast](#)

10 MAY

“The economic cake: why we can’t both have it and eat it”

[National Business Review](#)

10 MAY

“Joe Biden’s new deal threatens global prosperity”

[NZ Herald](#)

11 MAY

The AM Show with
Dr Michael Johnston
The AM Show



12 MAY

"Unaffordable, unwelcoming:
NZ now land of mediocrity"
The Australian

13 MAY

"Unrest in the forest and
trouble with the trees"
The Post

15 MAY

NZ is now a mediocre country
The Platform

16 MAY

"Orwellian-sounding'
Auckland Council forgets city
must grow up, and out"
NZ Herald

16 MAY

"Democracy on the line
in Turkey"
Newsroom

16 MAY

NCEA and the school
curriculum
Podcast

17 MAY

Planning urban futures
Podcast

18 MAY

Post-Budget Briefing
Webinar

19 MAY

Eric Crampton on 1 News
1 News

22 MAY

Rail transport funding
Podcast

23 MAY

"Fringe economics, like
homeopathy, needs a dose
of reality"
Newsroom

23 MAY

Dr Oliver Hartwich On NZ's
Slide From God's Own To
Devils Playground
Reality Check Radio

23 MAY

Members' Retreat 2023
Member only event

24 MAY

"No competition? Time to
level up trans-Tasman ties"
The Australian

25 MAY

"Government profligacy is
unkind and reckless"
NZ Herald

25 MAY

"Capital Markets: Oliver
Hartwich - New Zealand's
road to recovery"
NZ Herald

27 MAY

"Does the Government's deal
with NZ Steel make sense?"
The Post

30 MAY

"Auckland Council should
ditch emissions reduction
policy"
NZ Herald

30 MAY

"Germany's heating plan: from
green dream to red alarm"
Newsroom



30 MAY

"Enormous benefits from
close economic ties between
Australia and NZ"
Sky News Australia

30 MAY

Eric Crampton on the
superannuation age
RNZ

JUN

1 JUNE

Oliver Hartwich on ADH TV
with Nick Cater
ADH TV

1 JUNE

Teacher training
Podcast

2 JUNE

Culture & Economics
Podcast

6 JUNE

"What does Govt being 'more
of a friend than foe' to RBNZ
mean?"
National Business Review

6 JUNE

"On the housing crisis Labour
and National need to grow
up (and grow out)"
Newsroom

7 JUNE

The Leighton Smith Podcast:
The state of education in NZ
Newstalk ZB

7 JUNE

"New Zealand's universities
face an identity crisis"
NZ Herald



8 JUNE

"NZ crime wave: Pointing a
water pistol at a forest fire"
The Australian

8 JUNE

Artificial Intelligence in
Education Forum
Event

9 JUNE

May be too early to read into
Govt's higher than expected
deficit
Newstalk ZB

9 JUNE

Retail crime in New Zealand
Podcast

10 JUNE

"Rates for change: How
Wellington can be the
blueprint for the rest of NZ"
The Post



11 JUNE

Has Ardern altered the
course of NZ?
The Common Room

12 JUNE

Green's tax overhaul isn't
the way
Newstalk ZB

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13 JUNE

"Europe's refugee reboot"

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13 JUNE

Economics with Dr Eric Crampton

[RNZ](#)

14 JUNE

Paving the Way

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14 JUNE

"What history of infrastructure means for future"

[National Business Review](#)

14 JUNE

Paving the Way: Learning from New Zealand's Past to Build a Better Future

[Research Report](#)

15 JUNE

Mike Hosking discusses report highlighting NZ's over-reliance on public debt to fund infrastructure deficit

[Newstalk ZB](#)

15 JUNE

Liquid Gold: New Zealand's need for compensated plasma collections

[Research Note](#)

15 JUNE

Artificial intelligence and the future of education, Wellington

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15 JUNE

"How history can help us build back better"

[NZ Herald](#)



19 JUNE

Victoria and Otago Universities employ more non-academic than academic staff

[Policy Point](#)

20 JUNE

"Why Labour should rule out a wealth tax"

[Newsroom](#)

22 JUNE

"Wealth tax: Bryce Wilkinson - the case against a predatory policy"

[NZ Herald](#)

22 JUNE

Public Service Bloat: The Evidence

[Research Note](#)

23 JUNE

Report questions why outcomes in govt-dominated sectors aren't performing better

[Newstalk ZB](#)

23 JUNE

Universities in crisis

[Podcast](#)

24 JUNE

"Should we compensate blood donors?"

[The Post](#)

25 JUNE

Irish Secrets: Business Delegation

[Member only event](#)

26 JUNE

The economics of free speech

[Podcast](#)

27 JUNE

Dr Bryce Wilkinson on the rise in public service staff since Labour won in 2017

[The Platform](#)

29 JUNE

The Ministry of Ignorance strikes again

[Opinion piece](#)



1 JULY

Proposed science curriculum will "take teachers up the garden path"

[Newstalk ZB](#)

3 JULY

"What's with this 'technical recession'?"

[National Business Review](#)

4 JULY

"Eric Crampton on the Green Party's proposed cap on rent rises"

[The Platform](#)

4 JULY

"Comparing (export) apples with apples"

[Newsroom](#)



4 JULY

"An election year policy wishlist"

[National Business Review](#)

4 JULY

"Subsidies end and new taxes take hold"

[RNZ](#)

5 JULY

"Science curriculum provides shock"

[RNZ](#)

5 JULY

Consultation on New Zealand Grocery Supply Code of Conduct

[Submission](#)

5 JULY

"Foreign investment: Ireland's secret financial formula is not so secret"

[NZ Herald](#)



6 JULY

"Leaked Documents: What's Happening To The Science Curriculum"

[Reality Check Radio](#)

6 JULY

"NZ Initiative's Michael Johnston on the controversial new science curriculum"

[The Platform](#)

6 JULY

"Senior research fellow warns universities will need to teach science from scratch if new curriculum implemented"

[The AM Show](#)

7 JULY

Data analytics for social impact (part one)

[Podcast](#)

8 JULY

"New Zealanders succeeding internationally, but why won't we accept their help at home?"

[The Post](#)

10 JULY

Data analytics for social impact (part two)

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10 JULY

"The 'reading wards' lessons for teaching science"

[Newsroom](#)

11 JULY

"Funding the Future: The cast for special purpose bonds"

[Newsroom](#)

13 JULY

"Why is NZ so helpless when it comes to funding infrastructure?"

[NZ Herald](#)



18 JULY

"Land owners: Should I stay or should I grow?"

[Newsroom](#)

20 JULY

"Why the inequality and tax debate is all wrong"

[NZ Herald](#)

20 JULY

"Winter has come: Hipkins' honeymoon is over"

[The Australian](#)

21 JULY

The changing landscape of higher education

[Podcast](#)

22 JULY

"With friends like these, does the Emissions Trading Scheme need enemies?"

[The Post](#)

24 JULY

Dr Oliver Hartwich and his observations in Ireland

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24 JULY

Eric Crampton on whether we should introduce more toll roads

[RNZ](#)

24 JULY

Learning from the Emerald Isle

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25 JULY

"Dutch elections a litmus test for centrist politics in Europe"

[Newsroom](#)



27 JULY

"NZ's roading problems can't simply be patched over"

[NZ Herald](#)

28 JULY

Economic expert says homeowners are disproportionately feeling cost of living crisis pain

[Newstalk ZB](#)

28 JULY

Te Pāti Māori wants to remove GST from food

[TVNZ Breakfast](#)

31 JULY

"Is New Zealand shutting up shop?"

[The Platform](#)

31 JULY

Auckland Future Development Strategy

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AUG

1 AUGUST

"Should GST be cut from food?"

[RNZ](#)

1 AUGUST

Research reveals there are up to 50 percent more non-academics than academics at inis

[Newstalk ZB](#)

1 AUGUST

"Taking GST off food would be a big mistake"

[Newsroom](#)



1 AUGUST

Blessing or Bloat? Non-Academic Staffing in New Zealand Universities in Comparative Perspective

[Research Report](#)

1 AUGUST

Admin overload in NZ universities?

[Webinar](#)

2 AUGUST

Providing a universal weekly payment would be less expensive for the government than eliminating the GST on food

[Radio Waatea](#)

2 AUGUST

"Universities have more managers and admin staff than academics: report"

[RNZ](#)

2 AUGUST

Blessing or Bloat?

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2 AUGUST

Media funding and regulation

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3 AUGUST

Pharmac should not be criticised simply for being selective and slow about the medicines it funds

[Policy Point](#)

3 AUGUST

"NZ universities and non-academic staff - how many is too many?"

[NZ Herald](#)



4 AUGUST

"Why NZ must resist this GST siren call"

[The Australian](#)

5 AUGUST

"Canada a cautionary tale for Big Tech paying for news"
[The Post](#)

7 AUGUST

Unlocking New Zealand's Potential
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8 AUGUST

"Italy has left China's Belt and Road Initiative – Luxon should consider why"
[Newsroom](#)



9 AUGUST

"Save Our Schools"
[The Shape of Dialogue Podcast](#)

9 AUGUST

Lifeline for Health: Meeting New Zealand's need for General Practitioners
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9 AUGUST

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10 AUGUST

"Accepting Chinese funding for infrastructure projects"
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10 AUGUST

"The case for attracting foreign investment"
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11 AUGUST

ETS Review and Permanent Forestry
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14 AUGUST

"Eric Crampton talks to Sean Plunket about the proposed GST cut for fruit and vegetables"
[The Platform](#)

14 AUGUST

GST off fruit and vegetables: NZ's dumbest policy proposal ever?
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14 AUGUST

Who Teaches The Teachers? Reforming Initial Teacher Education
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15 AUGUST

Let's abolish education
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15 AUGUST

"Labour makes a big show of GST change while picking your pocket"
[Newsroom](#)

16 AUGUST

"For richer or poorer: Kiwis really need to get out more"
[The Australian](#)

17 AUGUST

"GST policy breathtakingly cynical"
[NZ Herald](#)



17 AUGUST

"Off or on? The debate over GST on fruit and veg"
[RNZ](#)

19 AUGUST

"The 'shakedown' news legislation that is heading to parliament"
[The Post](#)

21 AUGUST

New Zealand's Tobacco Policies
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22 AUGUST

"Germany's flight plan: from superstar to standstill"
[Newsroom](#)

24 AUGUST

"Where's the funding plan for big spending transport policies?"
[NZ Herald](#)



24 AUGUST

Prescription For Prosperity: 2023 Briefing to the Incoming Government
[Research Report](#)

24 AUGUST

Dr Oliver Hartwich on Newstalk ZB: Prescription for Prosperity
[Newstalk ZB](#)

24 AUGUST

Members' lunch: A blueprint for change – 'Prescription for Prosperity'
[Member only event](#)

25 AUGUST

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[Podcast](#)

29 AUGUST

"Brewing storm: Why NZ dollar faces toxic cocktail"
[The Australian](#)

29 AUGUST

"Those who blame rising costs on 'greedflation' haven't got a clue"
[Newsroom](#)

29 AUGUST

Exploring literacy in New Zealand
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30 AUGUST

Dr Oliver Hartwich on the government's plan to reduce public spending
[Newstalk ZB](#)

30 AUGUST

"NZ Initiative's Eric Crampton isn't getting too excited by the latest IMF report"
[The Platform](#)

31 AUGUST

"Land Prices and productivity"
[Stuff](#)

31 AUGUST

"Three big problems and four quick wins for the next government"
[NZ Herald](#)



SEP

1 SEPTEMBER

Dr. Oliver Hartwich on Free Speech Fridays
The Platform

2 SEPTEMBER

"Cities must be allowed to expand to reduce housing costs"
The Post

4 SEPTEMBER

"Dr. Eric Crampton on National's tax plans"
RNZ

5 SEPTEMBER

"Dr. Oliver Hartwich on a potential CEPA agreement between the UAE and New Zealand"
Dubai Eye Breakfast

5 SEPTEMBER

"Brits want something radical to fix 'broken Britain'"
Newsroom



7 SEPTEMBER

"NZ Initiative's Eric Crampton breaks down National's tax plan"
The Platform

7 SEPTEMBER

"The myth of public service neutrality"
NZ Herald



7 SEPTEMBER

Teaching Science
Podcast

8 SEPTEMBER

Free Speech Union Debate: Dr. Eric Crampton on whether we should tax the wealthy
Free Speech Union

8 SEPTEMBER

The Government Policy Statement on land transport
Podcast

12 SEPTEMBER

"Reserve Bank credibility in question over 'blackballing' of experts"
Newsroom

14 SEPTEMBER

"New teachers are not ready for the classroom"
Newsroom

14 SEPTEMBER

"The Prefu forecasts are not realistic"
NZ Herald

14 SEPTEMBER

Who Teaches The Teachers?
Research Report

14 SEPTEMBER

Issues With Teacher Training
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14 SEPTEMBER

Who Teaches The Teachers?
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15 SEPTEMBER

"How NZ's complex voting system could hurt Labour"
The Australian

15 SEPTEMBER

"Who teaches our teachers?"
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16 SEPTEMBER

"Transport funding is an incoherent mess, but here is a solution"
The Post



19 SEPTEMBER

Debunking degrowth
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19 SEPTEMBER

The Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport
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19 SEPTEMBER

"MMP system is complex and secretive"
Newsroom



21 SEPTEMBER

"The inequality debate we should be having"
NZ Herald

21 SEPTEMBER

The Mike Hosking Breakfast: Dr. Michael Johnston on the ACT Party's educational policies
Newstalk ZB

21 SEPTEMBER

Dr Oliver Hartwich discusses the debate
1 News

22 SEPTEMBER

Dr Michael Johnston on ACT's education policies
The AM Show

26 SEPTEMBER

"Pseudoregulation: the failure to stop meth production"
Newsroom

26 SEPTEMBER

The Deficit Diaries: Six years of red
Research Note

26 SEPTEMBER

The Deficit Diaries: Six years of red
Podcast

27 SEPTEMBER

"Now is the time to face up to our education challenges"
The Post



27 SEPTEMBER

"Fool me once: NZ Labour's budget deja vu"
The Australian

27 SEPTEMBER

National's plan for those on jobseeker benefits
TVNZ Breakfast

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27 SEPTEMBER

Mike Hosking discusses the Labour government's six-year fiscal record with Dr Oliver Hartwich
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28 SEPTEMBER

"Borrowing to spend is like waiting for Godot"
[NZ Herald](#)

28 SEPTEMBER

MMP vs FPP
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29 SEPTEMBER

"The dinner talk New Zealand needs"
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29 SEPTEMBER

"Mood of the Boardroom: Where to wield the knife for spending cuts"
[NZ Herald](#)

30 SEPTEMBER

"Zero-sum game is holding back housing progress"
[The Post](#)

3 OCTOBER

"Polls apart: NZ and Germany interpret MMP quite differently"
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3 OCTOBER

"Should governments be stepping in to save the news media?"
[RNZ](#)

3 OCTOBER

"Eric Crampton on 'weetbix-gate' and grocery competition"
[The Platform](#)

3 OCTOBER

Dr Eric Crampton talks to Kate Hawkesby about Labour's pledge to help new supermarket retailers
[Newstalk ZB](#)

4 OCTOBER

Data down under: An expert panel discussion on quantitative research in the Aotearoa New Zealand education sector
[Webinar](#)

5 OCTOBER

"Beyond the election debate soundbites"
[NZ Herald](#)

5 OCTOBER

A historical perspective on the 2017-2023 Government's spending spree
[Research Note](#)

6 OCTOBER

Teacher education
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10 OCTOBER

"Housing and the Nimby problem"
[Newsroom](#)



11 OCTOBER

"How NZ's complex voting system could hurt Labour"
[The Australian Financial Review](#)

11 OCTOBER

"All sizzle, no steak: NZ election menu short on substance"
[The Australian](#)

12 OCTOBER

"Leaders' debates should be more than just entertainment"
[NZ Herald](#)



12 OCTOBER

The 2023 New Zealand general election
[Podcast](#)

14 OCTOBER

"We get the council decisions we deserve"
[The Post](#)

15 OCTOBER

"The Wealth Script We NEED"
[NZ Everyday Investor](#)

18 OCTOBER

"How Europe's 'culture of welcome' backfired"
[ZB Plus](#)

19 OCTOBER

"Why NZ needs an independent Parliamentary Budget Office"
[NZ Herald](#)

19 OCTOBER

Post-election - Our reaction and what happens next
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24 OCTOBER

"Boys' underachievement at school is a problem for everyone"
[The Post](#)

24 OCTOBER

"Christopher Luxon and a new era of political leadership for NZ"
[The Australian](#)

24 OCTOBER

"On water reform National and Act are sailing on same course"
[Newsroom](#)

24 OCTOBER

Teacher education in NZ: Past and present
[Podcast](#)

25 OCTOBER

"Dr Michael Johnston talks about the shocking results of new NCEA tests"
[Reality Check Radio](#)

26 OCTOBER

"Localism: The common thread in New Zealand's emerging coalition"
[NZ Herald](#)



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26 OCTOBER

"What is the value of heritage?"
[RNZ](#)

27 OCTOBER

"Briefing for the incoming Education Minister: The teaching profession is in crisis"
[ZB Plus](#)



27 OCTOBER

"Oliver Hartwich on the current "eerie silence" in politics"
[RNZ](#)

27 OCTOBER

"Oliver Hartwich on the future of NZ's political landscape"
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28 OCTOBER

"The approach to heritage preservation needs a fundamental overhaul"
[The Post](#)

30 OCTOBER

Technology's effect on education
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31 OCTOBER

"Reclaiming democracy in Poland"
[Newsroom](#)



31 OCTOBER

"Dr Michael Johnston on our education system's recent challenges"
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31 OCTOBER

Irish Secrets: An Irish lesson in prosperity
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1 NOVEMBER

Sir Bill English on the state of NZ politics
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2 NOVEMBER

"The love language of politics: How to decode a coalition agreement"
[ZB Plus](#)



2 NOVEMBER

"New Commerce Commission chair, same old Commission"
[NZ Herald](#)

2 NOVEMBER

Safe to follow: Faster access to medicines for Kiwis
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3 NOVEMBER

Lord Sumption on free speech
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7 NOVEMBER

"Cutting cabinet: why New Zealand needs leaner government"
[The Australian](#)

7 NOVEMBER

"How a 'Rule of Two' could remove our barrier to better drug access"
[Newsroom](#)

8 NOVEMBER

"Oliver Hartwich on the MMP system in Germany"
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8 NOVEMBER

Conflict in the Middle East: A conversation with the Israeli Ambassador
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9 NOVEMBER

"The generational housing divide"
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10 NOVEMBER

Structured Literacy
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11 NOVEMBER

"Rule of two would provide faster approval of new drugs"
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13 NOVEMBER

"Abolishing NCEA science"
[ZB Plus](#)

14 NOVEMBER

"Germany and Turkey a microcosm of Western challenges"
[Newsroom](#)

16 NOVEMBER

"Not ready to be ruled by AI, but maybe inspired"
[ZB Plus](#)

16 NOVEMBER

"Underperforming in education harms national income"
[NZ Herald](#)



16 NOVEMBER

"Dr Michael Johnston talks about the shocking results of new NCEA tests"
[Reality Check Radio](#)

16 NOVEMBER

How can we improve Initial Teacher Education?
[Podcast](#)

21 NOVEMBER

"How Luxon can drag NZ out of mediocrity"
[The Australian](#)

21 NOVEMBER

"Drilling down into limitless clean energy"
[Newsroom](#)

DEC

21 NOVEMBER

Class Divides: Streaming in our schools

[Research Report](#)

21 NOVEMBER

Class divides? The impact of classroom streaming

[Podcast](#)

23 NOVEMBER

"Real work begins for the Government"

[NZ Herald](#)

25 NOVEMBER

"Time to restructure Wellington Water to fix the region's creaking pipes"

[The Post](#)

Time to restructure Wellington Water to fix the region's creaking pipes

Eric Crispin | November 25, 2023



28 NOVEMBER

"Stark warning in creative misuse of Covid funds"

[Newsroom](#)

28 NOVEMBER

"New Zealand's fiscal constraints"

[ZB Plus](#)

28 NOVEMBER

University-based Teacher Education

[Podcast](#)

28 NOVEMBER

Members' Lunch with Brooke Roberts

[Member only event](#)

29 NOVEMBER

"Streaming - What we (don't) know"

[ZB Plus](#)

29 NOVEMBER

Dr Eric Crampton on the less well-cannvassed aspects of the new government's coalition agreements

[RNZ](#)

30 NOVEMBER

"Dr Oliver Hartwich reacts to National's policy programme"

[The Platform](#)

30 NOVEMBER

"Where to from here for infrastructure policy?"

[NZ Herald](#)

Matthew Birchall: Where to from here for infrastructure policy?

11 minutes | 2023 NOV 30 10:00 AM | 10:00 AM (GMT+12)



30 NOVEMBER

Lord Hannan on Brexit and CANZUK

[Podcast](#)

5 DECEMBER

"Grant Robertson is to blame for the end of the Productivity Commission"

[Newsroom](#)



5 DECEMBER

Interim measure required for NCEA Literacy and Numeracy

[Policy Point](#)

6 DECEMBER

"Pisa results: Michael Johnston on why New Zealand's education system is failing"

[NZ Herald](#)

6 DECEMBER

Dr Michael Johnston in RNZ news about NZ education decline and low PISA results

[RNZ](#)

6 DECEMBER

The massive energy potential of deep geothermal

[Podcast](#)

7 DECEMBER

"Reversing Ardern's policies as easy as unscrambling an egg"

[The Australian](#)

7 DECEMBER

"It's happy hour for economists in NZ now"

[NZ Herald](#)

7 DECEMBER

"David Seymour's regulation decimation could learn a thing or two from Iceland"

[NZ Herald](#)

8 DECEMBER

Peter Shirtcliffe and our MMP electoral system

[Podcast](#)

9 DECEMBER

"Nipping tobacco prohibition in the bud"

[The Post](#)

Nipping tobacco prohibition in the bud

Eric Crispin | December 9, 2023



12 DECEMBER

"While the West dithers, Russia steams ahead"

[Newsroom](#)

12 DECEMBER

Dr Michael Johnston talking about the Government delaying NCEA literacy and numeracy test delays

[Newstalk ZB](#)

14 DECEMBER

"Why Fair Pay Agreements were never going to work"

[NZ Herald](#)

15 DECEMBER

Mike Hosking talks to Dr Oliver Hartwich about the shock GDP fall

[Newstalk ZB](#)

15 DECEMBER

2023: A year of new beginnings

[Podcast](#)

19 DECEMBER

The New Zealand Initiative celebrates Senior Fellow Michael Johnston's appointment

[Press Statement](#)

21 DECEMBER

"More oversight of public spending needed"

[NZ Herald](#)

More oversight of public spending needed - Bryce Wilkinson

11 minutes | 2023 DEC 21 10:00 AM | 10:00 AM (GMT+12)



OUR TEAM



Dr Oliver Hartwich
Executive Director

Oliver is the Executive Director of The New Zealand Initiative. Before joining the Initiative, he was a Research Fellow at the Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney, the Chief Economist at Policy Exchange in London, and an advisor in the UK House of Lords.

Oliver holds a Master's degree in Economics and Business Administration and a Ph.D. in Law from Bochum University in Germany.



Chelsy Killick
Deputy Director,
Organisation

Chelsy Killick is the Deputy Director, Organisation. With a demonstrated history of working in the public policy industry, she has over three decades of experience in corporate and government agencies.

Chelsy is responsible for handling operations, human resources, overseeing communications, and managing events including our annual members' retreat, and three international delegations (Switzerland in 2016, Denmark in 2019 and Ireland in 2023) for 40 of our members, consisting of CEOs and Chairs of some of New Zealand's top companies.

Working closely with the Board on governance matters, Chelsy also plays a key role in managing membership and ensuring the smooth functioning of the organisation.



Dr Eric Crampton
Chief Economist

Eric is the Chief Economist at The New Zealand Initiative. At the Initiative, he has worked in policy areas ranging from freshwater management to earthquake

preparedness, and from local government to technology. He has recently focused on policy related to Covid-19 response.

He served as Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Economics at the Department of Economics & Finance at the University of Canterbury from 2003 through 2014.

Eric's columns and commentary appear regularly in New Zealand's major media outlets, as well as on his blog, *Offsetting Behaviour*.



Dr Bryce Wilkinson
Senior Fellow

Bryce is a Senior Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative and also the Director of the Wellington-based economic consultancy firm Capital Economics.

Prior to setting up his consultancy in 1997, he was a Director of, and shareholder in, First NZ Capital. Before moving into investment banking in 1985, he worked in the New Zealand Treasury, reaching the position of Director.

Bryce holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Canterbury and was a Harkness Fellow at Harvard University. He is a Fellow of the Law and Economics Association of New Zealand.



Dr Michael Johnston
Senior Fellow

Michael is a Senior Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative. He has held academic positions at Victoria University of Wellington for the past 10 years, including the Associate Dean (Academic) of the University's School of Education for the past three years.

Prior to his time at Victoria, Michael was the Senior Statistician at the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, a position he held for six years. Before that, he held positions at Melbourne and Latrobe universities.

Michael holds a PhD in Cognitive Psychology from the University of Melbourne.



Dr Matthew Birchall
Senior Fellow

Matthew is a Senior Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative, and focuses on infrastructure and the housing market.

A historian by training, Matthew's writing on the British Empire has been published in the *Journal of Global History and Global Intellectual History*. He was awarded the Royal Historical Society's prestigious

Alexander Prize in 2021 for the best scholarly article based on original historical research.

Matthew holds an MA (Hons) in International Relations & Modern History from the University of St Andrews, an M.Phil. in Political Thought & Intellectual History from the University of Cambridge, and a PhD in History, also from the University of Cambridge.



Dr James Kierstead
Research Fellow

James is a Research Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative and a Senior Lecturer in Classics at Victoria University of Wellington, where his research focusses on ancient Greek democracy.

His main focus at the Initiative is on higher education policy, including academic freedom.

James holds a BA in Classics from Oxford, an MA in Ancient History from the University of London, an MA in Political Science from Stanford, and a PhD in Classics from Stanford.

He is also the co-host (with Michael Johnston) of Free Kiwis!, a podcast dedicated to free speech in a New Zealand context.



Max Salmon
Research Fellow

Max Salmon is a Research Fellow at the New Zealand Initiative. He joins as a generalist, with interests in education, infrastructure, and energy. Prior to joining the initiative, Max worked in research and policy in the private sector, and with the COVID-19 response group at DPMC. Max has a BA majoring in Classical Studies and Philosophy from Victoria University of Wellington and has recently completed an MSc in Philosophy and Public Policy at the London School of Economics.



Benjamin Macintyre
Research Assistant

Benjamin is a Research Assistant at The New Zealand Initiative, and focuses on education research. Benjamin joined the team in February 2023 and holds a BA (with honours) in Politics, International Studies and Italian and an MA (with merit) in International Security from the University of Warwick. During his time at Warwick, he was also awarded Club Colours for his time with the University's rugby league club.



Jamuel Enriquez
Marketing &
Communications Manager

Jamuel is the Marketing and Communications Manager of The New Zealand Initiative. He is responsible for increasing awareness of the Initiative's research and thought leadership, with a particular focus on communications, social media, website, and brand management.

Jamuel holds a Bachelor of Commerce & Administration majoring in Marketing and International Business, and a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Film from Victoria University of Wellington.



Mangai Pitchai
Editor

Mangai is The New Zealand Initiative's editor. She has worked as an editor and publications manager in think tanks since 2009, particularly at the Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney. Before that, she had worked in legal publishing in Australia, journalism in California and India, and teaching in India.

Mangai has an M.Phil. in Archaeology from India and has studied journalism in California.



Katrin Eickhorst
Office Administrator
& Event Coordinator

Katrin is the Office Administrator and Event Coordinator responsible for smooth workings in the office. She enjoyed a varied career in Germany, Scotland and New Zealand, initially in classical music performance and education, including teaching contracts at the New Zealand School of Music, Victoria and Massey universities, and several secondary schools. More recently, she was executive assistant in a not-for-profit organisation and trainer/coordinator in an educational programme working with people transitioning through life crises.



Jennifer Watt
Accounts and Payroll
Administrator

Jennifer works part-time with The New Zealand Initiative and is responsible for the accounting and payroll functions.

Her experience as a Practice Manager in the accounting industry over the past 10 years has given her great experience and understanding in partnering business performance with financial reporting requirements.

OUR BOARD



Roger Partridge
Chairman,
The New Zealand
Initiative

Roger Partridge is Chairman of The New Zealand Initiative, and is a senior member of its research team. He led law firm Bell Gully as executive chairman from 2007 to 2014, after 16 years as a commercial litigation partner. Roger was executive director of the Legal Research Foundation, a charitable foundation associated with the University of Auckland, from 2001 to 2009, and was a member of the Council of the New Zealand Law Society, the governing body of the legal profession in New Zealand, from 2011 to 2015. He is a chartered member of the Institute of Directors, a member of the editorial board of the *New Zealand Law Review* and a member of the Mont Pelerin Society.



Barbara Chapman
CNZM
Deputy Chair, The
New Zealand Initiative

Barbara Chapman is the Deputy Chair on The New Zealand Initiative's Board of Directors. She has served as Chief Executive and Managing Director of ASB Bank Limited from 2011 until 2018. Since 1994, she has held several diverse senior executive roles with the Commonwealth Bank Group of companies, having started her career there as Chief Manager of Marketing at ASB. Barbara is the Chair of Genesis Energy and an Independent Director of Fletcher Building, IAG and Herald publisher, NZME. She was named the New Zealand Business Leader of the Year in 2017 and made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2019 New Years Honours Roll for services to business.

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Matthew Cockram
Chief Executive,
Cooper and Company

Matthew Cockram is the Chief Executive Officer and Principal of Cooper and Company NZ. Prior to that, he spent 20 years at law firm Bell Gully, with the past past years as Chairman, specialising in construction, commercial property and major projects. He has been an independent Director of Tainui Group Holdings Limited since 2011.



Dr Oliver Hartwich
Executive Director,
The New Zealand
Initiative

Oliver Hartwich is the Executive Director of The New Zealand Initiative. Before joining the Initiative, he worked for leading think tanks in London and Sydney as well as in the UK House of Lords. His research covers a broad range of policy issues, and his articles have been widely published.



John Judge
Director,
John Judge Ltd

John has served as a chief executive of Ernst and Young New Zealand, chairman of ANZ Bank, a director of Fletcher Building Limited and Fletcher Building Finance Limited, and chairman of the Crown Organisation, Accident Compensation Corporation. He is a member of the Otago University School of Business Advisory Board.



Liz Naylor
Independent Director

Liz was Head of Market Access and Government Affairs at Janssen, the Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson. She is chair of the Policy Solutions Working Group and past Board Member of Medicines New Zealand. Liz is particularly interested in health policy, whole of government efficiencies, and developing the role of the private health sector.



Neil Paviour-Smith
Managing Director,
Forsyth Barr

Neil is the long-serving Managing Director of Forsyth Barr, a leading New Zealand wealth management, sharebroking and investment banking business. He has extensive experience in New Zealand capital markets. He is a Director of The New Zealand Initiative and NZ Art Show Ltd. Neil has significant governance experience having been Chancellor of Victoria University of Wellington and a Director of NZX and Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand (CAANZ) as well as chairing the NZ Regulatory Board for CAANZ. He was an inaugural recipient of a Sir Peter Blake Trust Leadership Award in 2005.



Scott Perkins
Non-Executive Director,
Brambles, Origin Energy
and Woolworths

Scott is a Non-Executive Director of Brambles Limited, Origin Energy Limited, and Woolworths Limited. He is an active participant in not-for-profit communities in Australia and New Zealand and has had an extensive career in financial services. He was head of corporate finance for Deutsche Bank Australia and New Zealand.



Chris Quin
Chief Executive,
Foodstuffs North Island

Chris took office as the CEO of Foodstuffs North Island Limited in 2015. He has since immersed himself in the unique world of grocery and works with the Foodstuffs Co-operative team and its 350 store owners to create a leading supermarket experience for New Zealand shoppers. Prior to joining Foodstuffs, Chris was CEO of Spark Home, Mobile and Business and led the company through the very successful rebrand from Telecom to Spark.

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