

Introducing the Trauma National Clinical Network programme team

We are pleased to introduce the Trauma National Clinical Network (the Network) programme team:

- Kendra Sanders, Programme Manager (below left)
- Zoë Page, Programme Coordinator (below right).



The Network has had two meetings this year. It is creating a workplan focused on achieving better outcomes for injured patients and their whānau, reduce variation across the trauma system and improve equity of care for Māori. Five expert reference groups (rōpū rangatira) have been created to focus on different aspects of the trauma system.

The five rōpū rangatira and co-chairs supporting the Network are attached to this communicate as appendix 1.

New Zealand Trauma Registry updates

Zoë Page now handles adding or removing staff from the New Zealand Trauma Registry. Contact her by email at NationalTraumaNetwork@TeWhatuOra.govt.nz.

Rehabilitation

One-year collaborative review

The one-year review of the rehabilitation collaborative is due to be published in June 2024 and highlights the sustained improvements and competency from this work.

Changes to the ACC early cover process

Changes to the ACC early cover process are aimed at making sure all major trauma patients are assigned to an ACC recovery team member before they are discharged from hospital.

The working group comprising ACC, Te Tāhū Hauora and trauma teams will soon be testing changes to the early cover process. There are plans to streamline communication and documentation processes between hospitals and ACC so major trauma patients undertake community rehabilitation at the best point in their recovery.

Post-hospital discharge rehabilitation

Te Tāhū Hauora is using data from the New Zealand Trauma Registry to establish what post-hospital discharge rehabilitation looks like for major trauma patients. This is a significant project, the outcome of which will help us scope future opportunities for improvements in trauma care for our most seriously injured New Zealanders.

You can email Kat Quick with any questions about this work programme at kat.quick@majortrauma.nz.

Major trauma research grant

Te Tāhū Hauora, in collaboration with ACC and the Trauma National Clinical Network, is managing the provision of grant funds to encourage research into priority areas related to the management of, and outcomes from, serious injury in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We are pleased to announce the following recipients of the 2024 major trauma research grant.

Project	Organisation	Investigators
Major trauma and comorbidities: prevalence, changes over time and implications	University of Otago	Dr Helen Harcombe, Associate Professor Gabrielle Davie, Mr Dave Barson, Dr Brett Maclennan, Associate Professor Trudy Sullivan

Validation of days alive out of hospital as an outcome measure for patients with major trauma	Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tumai Auckland and the University of Auckland	Dr Luke Boyle, Dr Doug Campbell, Professor Ian Civil, Dr Paul McBride, Associate Professor Bridget Dicker, Dr Matthew Moore
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We look forward to sharing the outcomes of their research in 2025.

Serious chest injury

Te Tāhū Hauora and the Trauma National Clinical Network are excited to welcome on board Jacques Marnewick from Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora Hauora a Toi Bay of Plenty as clinical lead for the serious chest injury project.



Jacques is a New Zealand-trained general surgeon, having gained his fellowship from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 2016. He attended medical school at the University of Cape Town and worked at the world-famous Groote Schuur Hospital, site of the world's first heart transplant in the 1960s. After working in South Africa for three years, he relocated to New Zealand with his wife and continued his career in Aotearoa.

He became trauma medical director for the Bay of Plenty when he joined Tauranga Hospital in 2019 and has relished the opportunities and challenges the role has presented. He is proud to be part of a great trauma service in the bay and enjoys improving care for hundreds of trauma patients annually through

improvements in protocols and pathways. Jacques says that the most rewarding aspect of the role is developing the relationships required to ensure the best possible care for trauma patients. When not at work he is exercising, spending time with his family or curating his fountain pen collection.

Serious traumatic brain injury summary report

A report summarising the serious traumatic brain injury national collaborative is now available on the National Trauma Network website: <https://bit.ly/3VunL5h>. The report highlights the improved access to neuroscience centres and increased rates of post-traumatic amnesia assessment after a national quality improvement project.

Assessment of post-traumatic amnesia in the major trauma population continues to improve, and a review of registry data is underway. This will be shared with each district to assist in monitoring local systems. We continue to audit instances where patients who meet criteria are not transferred to neuroscience centres, using our audit tool: <https://bit.ly/4c5IXWL>.

Follow-up after major traumatic injury

A study looking at follow-up services after major traumatic injury in Australian and New Zealand public hospitals was published in *BMC Health Services Research*. The study used a cross-sectional online survey which was distributed to key personnel in 71 hospitals in Australia and New Zealand.

Results showed that follow-up care is provided by trauma specialists and predominantly focuses on the physical health of the patients affected by major traumatic injury. Variations exist in terms of patient selection,

reason for follow-up and care activities delivered with gaps in the provision of psychosocial and family health services identified. Currently, evaluation of trauma follow-up care is limited, indicating a need for further development to ensure that the care delivered is safe, effective and beneficial to patients, families and health care organisations. Read the article: <https://bit.ly/45uBQE8>.

2022/23 Annual Report

The 2022/23 Annual Report has been published on our website: <https://bit.ly/3Vv6bh9>. It highlights some of the incredible progress made to reduce mortality and improve trauma care for people across Aotearoa New Zealand.

National Trauma Symposium

The national trauma symposium will be held on 21 November 2024 in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington. Abstract submission opens on 24 June 2024. More details are available on the symposium website: <https://bit.ly/4b5yI2U>.

Appendix 1: Rōpu rangatira

Rōpū rangatira	Co-chair and network member	Co-chair
Injury prevention	Dr Oz Mansoor Medical Officer of Health/ Public Health Medicine Specialist, National Public Health Service, Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora Tairāwhiti	Paul Kennedy Manager, Targeted Investments – Injury Prevention ACC (ACC nominated)
Acute care	Dr Tony Smith Deputy Clinical Director Hato Hone St John	Dr Christopher Duncan EMT and Pre-Hospital/Retrieval Medicine Specialist Doctor Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tumai Auckland
Rehabilitation and transitions of care	Kat Quick Clinical Lead – Trauma Rehabilitation Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission	Caroline Juniot Health Sector Partnerships Manager ACC
New Zealand Trauma Registry, data and insights	Mr Chris Harmston Consultant General and Colorectal Surgeon Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora Te Tai Tokerau	Prof Ian Civil Director of Trauma Service Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tumai Auckland
Trauma quality improvement	Associate Professor Grant Christey General Surgeon and Trauma Specialist Head of Trauma Department Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora Waikato	Jessica Lockett Quality Improvement Advisor Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission