

New national trauma co-leads appointed

Te Whatu Ora is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr James Moore, Wellington-based intensivist and anaesthetist and Dr Max Raos, Auckland-based emergency physician, as co-leads of the National Clinical Network – Trauma.

These appointments mark a further step towards delivering on Te Pae Tata Interim New Zealand Health Plan 2022 and creating national clinical leadership across key services. [Learn more about James and Max here.](#)

The National Trauma Network has farewelled Professor Ian Civil, who has overseen the evolution of trauma care for the last decade. Aside from being a skilled and respected mentor, Ian led the development of the national trauma registry and quality improvement programme that has seen data used to inform network priorities, including the management of critical bleeding. We appreciate everything Ian has done for trauma care and are certain he will continue to be a passionate advocate for advancing a contemporaneous trauma system in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Our trauma whānau grows

While we welcome new clinical leaders, we also want to acknowledge the Network's Programme Coordinator, Sreeja Talluri, who recently gave birth to their first child. Sreeja will be on maternity leave for at least 6 months. In the meantime, it is a pleasure to welcome Michaela (Kayla) Haenga to Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission. Kayla will be working to support the clinical network quality improvement, research and analytics workstreams.

Major trauma research grant 2024 – applications open now

Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission, the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) and the National Clinical Network – Trauma are establishing a research programme for major trauma in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The major trauma research grant aims to encourage research into priority areas related to the management of, and outcomes from, serious injury in Aotearoa New Zealand.

An investment of \$100,000 per year is being made to support major trauma research. To allow as many projects as possible to be funded, the maximum value of each grant for a single project will be \$50,000 for a maximum term of 12 months.

Applications opened on 5 December 2023 and close on 16 February 2024. [More information and guidance on how to apply is here.](#)

Trauma rehabilitation case studies now available

If you're looking for inspiring ideas on improving care in your area, take a look at our recent [summary of case studies from the rehabilitation collaborative](#). The case studies describe activities that have improved experiences for provider teams, patients and whānau. The collaborative sparked some great ideas locally that have had meaningful impacts, and some have even gone national!

Quality improvement facilitator training 2024 – applications open now

Te Tāhū Hauora is offering a second cohort of quality improvement facilitator training in 2024. This follows a successful cohort completing the training in 2020 and 20 teams completing traumatic brain injury and rehabilitation improvement collaboratives over the past few years.

Applications are open for up to 28 clinicians involved in trauma-related care to take part in the training. Attendees will develop knowledge and understanding of quality improvement science, methods and tools while growing a network of health professionals who are collaborative, capable and confident in enabling quality improvement across Aotearoa New Zealand.

The application deadline is 14 December 2023. [More information on the Improving together: Facilitators trauma programme is available here.](#)

Australasian trauma nurse survey

If you haven't already, please complete the [Australia New Zealand trauma nurse survey](#) by 18 December 2023.

The aim of this research is to determine the current profile of a trauma nurse in Australia and New Zealand and describe role functions and available resources.



Chest trauma expert advisory group update

The chest trauma expert advisory group met for the first time on 1 November 2023.

The group is responsible for agreeing the scope of any quality improvement required to ensure there are nationally consistent processes and outcomes of care. The group was chaired by Mel Webb, a physiotherapist specialising in trauma care from the Royal Alfred Hospital in Melbourne. Its membership reflects a wide group of clinical professions.

At the meeting, the group discussed current outcomes of care and the variation in care pathways used to manage chest trauma across Aotearoa New Zealand. Work in progress includes some analyses of outcomes (eg, 7-day re-admission rates) and the updating of all chest trauma pathways across the country.

The group will meet again early in 2024 to finalise the scoping of a national quality improvement work programme.

Trauma Exchange interviews

An audio interview series called Trauma Exchange is [now available on the National Trauma Network website](#). In each of the five episodes, health care professionals and researchers involved in trauma care cover subjects including the state of trauma research, Māori experiences of trauma care and rehabilitation, changes to community rehabilitation, critical haemorrhage and the history of the National Trauma Network.

Enhancing care transitions

A working group is underway targeting improvements in the transition to home for major trauma patients. The group includes Kat Quick (clinical lead for trauma rehabilitation, Te Tāhū Hauora), Pam Fitzpatrick (trauma nurse specialist, Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tumai Auckland) and Sarah Shannon (trauma service allied health clinical lead, Te Whatu Ora Hauora a Toi Bay of Plenty), and representatives from ACC.

Pilots will begin in early 2024 in Te Toka Tumai Auckland and Hauora a Toi Bay of Plenty. A new process will be tested for early cover completion and ACC recovery team member allocation. The aim of the pilots is for major trauma patients to access the right support in a timely way after hospital discharge.

For more information, please email kat.quick@majortrauma.nz.

National Clinical Network programme update

The Te Whatu Ora-led National Clinical Network programme has begun, with trauma one of the first four networks to be established. Others will be announced early in the new year.

An expression-of-interest (EOI) process for membership is currently being finalised, and more information will be shared soon.

The network will include interprofessional representation from around Aotearoa New Zealand as well as expert, community and whānau voices. Once network membership is finalised, a workplan will be developed and priorities identified, which will be endorsed by the National Clinical Network Oversight Group.

You can read more about the National Clinical Networks on the [Te Whatu Ora website](#).

Other updates

AIS15 training continues to be delivered by the Australasian faculty. Course registrations for the 2-day course in February 2024 are now closed. If new colleagues require training, please email kendra.sanders@health.govt.nz.

The **National Minimum Dataset** for trauma was updated in October 2023 by the New Zealand Trauma Registry Data Governance Group and is [now available on the National Trauma Network website](#). The main update is to the description of 'definitive care hospital' in the glossary of terms (page 7). The definition better defines which hospital is 'definitive care', when patients are moved between tertiary centres.

