# Confirmed members of the Disability Advisory Panel

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bonnie Robinson** | Bonnie Robinson has more than 20 years’ experience working in the community social services sector. Roles have included policy analysis, research and advocacy, communications, and management. Much of this work has focused around services for older people, and people living with chronic conditions and disability.  Currently Bonnie works as CEO at HBH Senior Living which operates residential care, housing, day and community services for older people. Bonnie has had a parallel career in governance, and she is often called on to give workshops/presentations on issues relating to non-profit social services. Bonnie has MS and understands first-hand the impact of disability on negotiating life in Auckland. Bonnie is married with young adult children. Outside of work Bonnie sings with a choir, swims and sews. |
| **Chantelle Griffiths** | Chantelle is a vision-impaired professional with a current role at Blind Low Vision NZ. She has leadership roles within the Braille Authority of NZ Aotearoa Trust, NZ Braille Music Retreat and the Pasifika Braille Literacy Project.  Chantelle is a Be. Leadership graduate and brings strategic thinking and policy skills, good stakeholder relations and strengths in training and mentoring. |
| **Gerard Martin** | Gerard Martin is currently Relationship Manager, External Providers with Immigration New Zealand, for the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. He manages a portfoilo of external providers supporting skilled migrants and former refugees to settle in New Zealand. His areas of interest for the Disability Advisory Panel include addressing discrimination and unconscious bias affecting those with disabilities and advocating for the Universal Design approach to infrastructure and building design.  Mr. Martin leads the Transport Sub-Committee for his local Residents Association where he advocates with AT and the Local Board for improvements to pedestrian and traffic safety; he is a former board member of the Institute of Public Administration of New Zealand (IPANZ) and has served on the Committee of the Auckland/ Northland Amputee Society. He uses an above-knee prosthetic leg after losing his left leg to a bone tumour in his early 20s. |
| **Jason Boberg** | Jason is the Co-founder & Creative Director of social impact agency, Activate. A proudly disabled film director by trade, Jason applies a critical disability rights and justice lens to his work, focusing on ethical representation of disabled people in decision-making and media.  He is an advocate for disability rights in the climate movement, locally and internationally. The founder of Sustained Ability, he advocates at the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons, Human Rights Council, and Framework Convention on Climate Change for a disabled persons constituency.  He is passionate about supporting the next generation of disabled changemakers to understand the rich expertise and whakapapa of our disabled community. |
| **Kramer Hoeflich** | Kramer was born and raised in the beautiful Cook Islands on the island of Rarotonga until he was 15 and a spinal cord injury changed his life and brought him to New Zealand. During this time, he was faced with many challenges and had to overcome many barriers to become the person he is today.  This is where he found his passion to work with young people of all abilities, cultures and backgrounds, alongside them to make a difference within the community. He has a strong focus on equality, inclusion and diversity which is reflected on the projects, events and boards he is a part of. He is currently a Team leader at Vaka Tautua and is a strong voice for both the Pasifika and disability sector. His ultimate goal is to lead from the front as Minister of disabilities one day. |
| **Martine Abel Williamson** | Disability advocate, accessibility consultant and policy advisor Martine Abel-Williamson QSM has held numerous governance and other leadership roles in the disability area including for the World Blind Union, as its Treasurer and Strategic Lead, access to the environment and transport, as well as its Asia-Pacific UN Advocacy Network Regional Co-ordinator, and at Auckland and Manukau local Council levels within New Zealand. Martine is usually accompanied by her guide dog, Westin. |
| **Rachel Peterson** | Rachel Peterson is the Community Relationship Manager at YES Disability which includes being the project lead of parenting with a disability NZ.  She has lived and worked in the health and disability sector for over 30 Years and as a returning panel member brings both lived experience and strong work networks.  She is the mum to two amazing daughters, dogs and rabbits. In her younger days she played wheelchair basketball for NZ. She has a love for and training in design with a particular interest in eco-design and accessibility.  Last year she was fortunate to be chosen to attend the four-day IIDL conference in Washington DC and speak about her passion for youth with disability leadership and succession planning.  She passionately believes in using creative solutions and cultivating relationships to enhance communities. |
| **Renata Kotua** | Renata is an intelligent, tenacious and thoughtful person who is willing to share her experience as a Maori/Samoan woman with Cerebral Palsy living a full life. She has good disability sector background including a recent role with CCS Disability Action as a Support Co-ordinator in the Youth Development Team and has called Auckland home for 13 years.  Renata is Mama to a beautiful 3-year old, a student halfway through an educational psychology degree and is working part time too. The best part of her weekends and weekday afternoons are spent playing with her daughter at various playgrounds, pools and beaches around town and she feels fortunate that Auckland has a variety of great parks and public spaces.  Through this experience, she has developed a keen interest in environmental accessibility and universal design, particularly in our playgrounds and at our beaches. She wants other parents with disabilities and for more kids with different disabilities to be able to participate and join in on all the fun as much as possible.  Clever design of our community spaces so they are accessible to all regardless of age, size, ability or disability; so they are convenient and a pleasure to use, benefits everyone. She believes only good can come from improving access to our community and is looking forward to contributing to this over the next three years. |
| **Ursula Thynne** | Ursula is profoundly Deaf but comfortable using both spoken language and NZSL. She has a history of working with the Deaf community in social services, Youth Development and Education as a qualified Youth Worker and Teacher of the Deaf.  Currently she works full time as a Teacher for Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education New Zealand. She is a mother to Cosmo McGrath who is currently doing NCEA Level 1. You often see her in person with a working dog called Casper. He is a hearing dog and is 10 years old. She is a proud Aucklander who has lived in Central Auckland for the past three years and out in West Auckland, Piha for 12 years prior to moving into town for her son's high school education. |

# Confirmed members of the Ethnic Peoples Advisory Panel

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Carol Guler** | Carol was born in Santiago, Chile. She is a Graphic Designer by profession and came to NZ in 2009 with a Working Holiday visa. Later, in 2011, she studied at The University of Waikato where she graduated from a Master in Business and Management degree.  In 2015 she started her own business, an international student recruitment agency called Step into NZ in which she has the privilege to work with students from Latin American and European countries.  She loves being involved with her community and to help other immigrants in their process to adapt themselves in New Zealand as she understands that it is a big wonderful change which can also become very challenging.  She loves travelling and meeting new cultures and has visited different countries in Asia, Europe and America. |
| **Farrukh Gul Qaisrani** | Farrukh Gul Qaisrani migrated to New Zealand from Pakistan with his family in 2002 and has made NZ his home since then. He has three beautiful children and he prides himself to be a caring father. Farrukh has extensive experience in the community and received the community service award of the year in 2019 from Pakistan Association of NZ. He was extensively involved in the Christchurch shootings relief operations on behalf of NZ Police in March 2019.  Farrukh has a diverse educational background and has BSc in Mathematics and economics, Masters in Business Administration and Law degrees from both Pakistan and New Zealand. He is admitted to practice Law in three countries namely New Zealand, Australia and Pakistan and is currently employed as a Senior Prosecutor with New Zealand Police. Prior to joining NZ Police, Farrukh has worked for the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Primary Industries and has extensive knowledge of the Public Sector operations and policies. He brings a wealth of policy, legal and community experience to his new role. |
| **Fatumata Bah** | Fatumata Bah is a former refugee from Sierra Leone, West Africa. She recently graduated from Auckland University of Technology where she studied a conjoint degree; a Bachelor of Health Science with a major in Psychology and a Bachelor of Business with a major in Management.  Fatumata is now a Strategy and Business Design Consulting Analyst at Deloitte. Prior to joining Deloitte, Fatumata was completing an internship at the Executive Office of the Secretary-General at the United Nations in New York, where she was reporting to the senior gender advisor. Fatumata is passionate about advocating for women's rights, cultural Intelligence (CQ) and diversity and inclusion |
| **Eva Chen** | Eva Chen is a community connector, the co-founder of Wellbeing Charitable Trust working alongside the Asian community since 2014, the co-founder of the Hawaiki Project that builds a platform for youth Maori to engage with indigenous people around the world since 2017.  She is also a SKIP Champion with Oranga Tamariki SKIP programme working with immigrant communities.  She is a former international student, a mother of four and a community change maker. |
| **Ireen Manuel** | Ireen has years of experience of working within the ethnic community in education, social development, justice, health and community development which provide a good background in planning, policy and development work.    As an international development consultant, she aims to influence change and improvement by working alongside communities, government, development agencies and stakeholders at regional, national and international levels. Ireen works in multidisciplinary fields and helps create strategies that recognises gains in the fields of addressing social, political and economic aspects.    Ireen is from Fiji and is an immigrant to New Zealand. Having lived in many parts of New Zealand, she has diverse understanding and working knowledge with many ethnic communities. She has worked with underserved communities in isolated regions and has worked on policies and programmes of work that enhances and promotes inclusion and equality for all. |
| **Mohamud Mohamed** | Mohamud Mohamed is passionate about and committed to issues of social justice, human rights and gender equality. He has been actively involved in various community activities and has combined his passion for human rights and social justice for vulnerable and marginalised communities with his academic studies.  Born in Somalia he came as a young child with no understanding of English. Today he works as a Policy Advisor in the public sector and holds a Master of Arts (Hons) in Policy Studies and a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Social Sciences and Conflict Resolution.  Mohamud was a finalist in the Kiwibank Local Hero category of the 2018 New Zealander of the Year Awards. He worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and also taught New Zealand Politics and Co-operative Education at Auckland University of Technology.  He served on the Puketapapa Local Board Youth Caucus and is an alumnus of the Office of Ethnic Communities Youth Leadership Programme. Mohamud also served on the board of Migrant Action Trust and was the chair of Onkod Somali Youth Development Inc. |
| **Najira Khanam** | Najira is Bangladeshi British who moved to Auckland over four years ago and is currently working at Belong Aotearoa as a Systems Change Activator. This provides her with a good overview of systems and issues facing ethnic communities and she is passionate about creating an inclusive Tāmaki Makaurau.    Najira leads with strategic thinking; she balances creativity with strong technical expertise to deliver solutions. Her previous experience includes policy and relationship management at the British Council, the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations, and various cross-sector communications roles in New Zealand and internationally. With a people-centred approach, Najira has led teams to achieve measurable success, most notably an award-winning marketing campaign for a leading education institute in London.  A child to migrant parents to the UK, Najira grew up surrounded by a large and loving Bangladeshi family. Strong female role models in her life – her mother and sisters - helped shaped her values of courage, compassion and togetherness. Her community and the wonderful people in her life, inspire her every day. |
| **Sunil Kaushal** | Sunil was the chair of the previous term’s Ethnic Peoples Advisory Panel and is the current president of one of the largest Indian Associations in NZ.    He is well connected in the multi-ethnic community with a range of governance roles at local, business and cultural levels including being a Member of his local community patrol and head of Strategic Relations for India New Zealand Business Council amongst other community roles. |
| **Kathy Yan** | Kathy is a policy practitioner, writer, and aspiring conservationist. Currently, she works at the Department of Conservation, where she is part of an all-of-government programme to create nature-based employment in the post COVID-19 economy.  Having spent the majority of her career in public policy, Kathy is passionate about making an impact, particularly on the topics of social integration and environmental protection. She has also worked in management consulting, civil defence and crisis management; with experience in problem-solving a wide range of matters from systematic social inequality to the aftermath of a super-storm.  Born and raised in Beijing, China, Kathy spent the next two decades living in Canada, New Zealand, Singapore and the US. She now proudly resides in Tamaki Makaurau with her Kiwi husband. |

# Confirmed members of the Pacific Peoples Advisory Panel

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Analosa Veukiso-Ulugia** | Dr Analosa Veukiso-Ulugia is of Samoan descent, her parents hail from Siufaga Falelatai and Malie in Western Samoa.  Analosa's husband, Peter, is a Detective Constable in the Counties Manukau Police District.  The Veukiso family hail from Matahau and Houma in Tonga.  Analosa and Peter are proud parents to Paula (aged 10), Michael (aged 8) and Catherine (aged 1).  They are active members of St Joseph's and St Joachim's Catholic parish in Otahuhu.  Analosa is a registered social worker, teaching in the Bachelor of Social Work programme at the University of Auckland.  She works closely with Pacific health, social and youth services, including Moana Research and Counties Manukau-West BlueLight. |
| **Caroline Ligi Harris** | Ligi (Caroline) Harris is of mixed heritage born and raised in South Auckland. Her mother is Saupisapisa Fata of Samoan Chinese lineage from Afega Samoa. Her father Taimaiono Pita Leaupepe was raised in Safotu/Fasitoo’uta Samoa with blood ties to the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Fiji, and America.  Ligi is the founder of In-Awe Women Social Enterprise that supports the economic growth of aspiring Pacific women entrepreneurs. Ligi has held multiple positions in education and community development in leadership and in the design of culturally appropriate programmes for Pacific peoples.  She is currently a Senior Career Development Consultant for Pacific Work Connect at the Tertiary Education Commission. Pacific Work Connect is a new programme that aims to help recent Pacific migrants to prepare for the New Zealand Labour Market.  Ligi values teachings from her mother who advised her to: “Faamalosi, Taumafai, aua le fiu gofie”; translated as: "Stay strong, give it a go, don’t give up”. |
| **Damian Piilua** | Damian joins the Pacific demographic panel bringing extensive knowledge and experience in working with diverse groups of young people in Tāmaki Makaurau.  He spent the last 6 years in various youth and community development spaces and is all about strengthening the presence of youth in decision-making spaces, with a strong focus on Pasifika youth.  He is of proud Samoan descent, from the villages of Lano and Fagamalo on the north and east coasts of Savai’i. |
| **Edmond Fehoko** | Edmond is a proud Tongan from the Islands of Kotu and Mo’unga’one. Edmond holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminology and Social Sciences, Masters in Arts with Honours and has recently submitted his PhD Thesis in Public Health at Auckland University of Technology.  He currently works as a Pasifika Partnerships Consultant at Manukau Institute of Technology. In 2013, Edmond was the Recipient of the Prime Ministers Pacific Youth Award and most recently recognised at the 2019 Sunpix Pacific Peoples Awards for Services to Pacific Education and Research. Edmond is a Member of the Institute of Directors and the Royal Society of New Zealand. He is also an Elected Member of the Board of Trustees for One Tree  Hill College, NCEA Pacific Peoples Review panel and the Consumer Council for Counties Manukau Health. He is also an active member of the Ponsonby Tongan Methodist Church. |
| **Hainoame Fulivai** | Hainoame Fulivai is a NZ born Tongan Kiwi with a varied professional background in the not for profit, public and private business sector both in NZ and abroad.  She is a qualified and experienced leader in education and community development with a passion for innovation and impact for change.  Her work history and current role with Foundation North positions her well to support Pacific aspirations whilst working across diverse communities and Council. A small family business owner alongside her husband Dibor Fulivai they have two young daughters.  A forward thinker who will add value to the panel, council and community. |
| **Litiana Wilson** | Born and raised in Māngere, Litiana is of Fijian descent. Litiana’s main drivers are her love for people and the desire to see better outcomes for Pasifika communities in Aotearoa.    She is a Policy Advisor at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development where she works on system settings and urban growth. She is passionate about improving housing and urban outcomes for Pasifika peoples.    She brings the perspective of a younger generation and is confident articulating a different perspective through telling stories. She will be a great team player, cultivating and proactively maintaining relationships with energy. |
| **Manu Sione** | Manu is a New Zealander of Māori (Ngāti Whātua), Samoan (Fagamalo and Luatuanu’u) and Cook Island (Pukapuka) descent and was born and raised in South Auckland. He is passionate about working with whanau/aiga/families, organisations and communities to better meet the needs of Māori and Pasifika within a multi-cultural community.  Manu has over 25 years experience in senior leadership and management roles. Currently he is Director of Geotren Ltd a Management Consultancy focusing on Māori and Pasifika work on projects, engagement, management and support. Previously he was National Manager - Culture for Emerge Aotearoa from 2015 - 2020. Prior to Emerge Aotearoa he was Director Operations Northern Region for Relationships Aotearoa covering from Gisborne to Kaitaia. For 5.5 years Manu was General Manager Pacific Health Counties Manukau District Health Board. Manu was General Manager for Pacific Trust Canterbury (PTC) in Christchurch from 1999 – 2007. During this time he worked with other Pasifika providers to support ongoing quality services, contracts and community engagements across the South Island. |
| **Mary Brown** | Mary is of Fijian and Samoan descent and is a qualified secondary teacher with over 14 years’ experience in schools, including middle and senior leadership roles. Born and raised in Mangere, South Auckland, she attended the local schools and continues to work and live in the South Auckland community. She also has experience of working in a governance committee setting.  Mary and her husband have chosen to raise their two children in Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland) and she is privileged to serve and be part of the Pasifika Advisory Panel.  When she is not working, she enjoys reading, spending time with her family and friends and participating in a daily exercise regime.  She received her Masters of Educational Leadership (MEdL) from AUT and Postgraduate diploma in Arts, Graduate diploma of Teaching and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Auckland. |
| **Patrick Lino** | Patrick Alofaifo Lino is part Niuean-Samoan. He was born and raised on Niue, before attending secondary and tertiary education in New Zealand. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communications Studies from AUT, majoring in Multimedia.  He has over 25 years’ experience and knowledge of broadcast radio and television, as well as new developments in digital and online media. He served as the Chief Executive Officer for the Pacific Media Network between 2017-2019. He has ongoing association with the Pacific and more particularly the Niuean community in New Zealand. |

# Confirmed Members of the Rainbow Communities Advisory Panel

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Aych McArdle** | Aych McArdle is a community advocate and human rights defender based in Tāmaki Makaurau working in the intersections between health, education and social services.  Some of the hats Aych wears in the rainbow community are Co chairperson of OUTLine, Human Rights Researcher at the Intersex Trust of Aotearoa New Zealand and Project Collaborator at ReFrame. |
| **Fale Andrew Lesā** | Fale is a strong advocate for the Pacific rainbow community and is keen to ensure that Auckland celebrates its unique diversity and serves as a safe space for all minorities.    He has represented his community for many years – starting in 2009 when he was elected to the Manukau City Council Pacific Island Advisory Committee and subsequently to the board at Manurewa High School where he was vice chairman for the last decade. Fale is a policy consultant at the Asian Development Bank and has a number of other governance roles in health, education and conservation. He is a funding assessor at Creative New Zealand and sits on the youth advisory board at Philanthropy New Zealand. Both roles allow him to support the aspirations of Auckland's rainbow community. |
| **Jack Byrne** | Jack Byrne is a Pākehā trans man and human rights researcher, born in Māwhera/ Greymouth, who now lives in Tāmaki Makaurau. From 2005-2014 he worked at the New Zealand Human Rights Commission where he project managed its Transgender Inquiry.  Jack has worked on other national, regional and international research projects and advocacy campaigns including co-authoring Counting Ourselves: the Aotearoa New Zealand Trans and Non-binary Health Survey.  Jack is a founder for the online group NZ Trans Guys, the Chair of the Policy and Advocacy Committee for the Professional Association for Transgender Health Aotearoa (PATHA), on the Advisory Board for the Asia Pacific Transgender Network, and supports a network for Rainbow asylum seekers and refugees in Aotearoa. |
| **John Kingi** | John Kingi, 30, is of Maniapoto, Raukawa, Waikato-Tainui and Ngaapuhi descent and is a born and raised Aucklander. John works at the University of Auckland and has a conjoint Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts, majoring in political science and history.  John has a passion for Maaori afffairs, rainbow issues, equity and family law and this has led to his engagement in a number of roles including serving a term as Chair of Rainbow Youth and being elected a Student Union President.  John served as Co-Chair of the Rainbow Communities Advisory Panel from 2017-2019 and is pleased to be returning to the panel to continue to provide a perspective as a Rainbow Aucklander to the important work of Auckland Council |
| **Julie Watson** | After a teaching career Julie worked for two decades at the Human Rights Commission, one of the highlights of that time was working on the Transgender Inquiry, To be Who I am, and being part of the Intersex roundtable.    Currently she is a Programme Manager for Silver Rainbow and Rainbow Tick and is the production manager for samesame but different, Aotearoa’s only LGBTTIQ+ writers festival. (Auckland).    Julie is also Director of TAP IN which facilitates respectful workplaces, creates safe places to explore issues and promotes the telling and hearing of stories.    Julie was a member of the panel in the previous term. |
| **Lee Grabarek** | Lee is passionate about working with rainbow communities which has taken them from working in health promotion at the Auckland District Health Board to working as a support worker for transgender tamariki, rangatahi and their whanau at RainbowYOUTH.  Lee has a strong interest in promoting the wellbeing of rainbow communities, a commitment to helping rainbow young people express their agency and voice and the ability to work across organisations. |
| **Max Tweedie** | Max Tweedie is the Director of the Auckland Pride Festival, Auckland’s arts, cultural, and community festival for rainbow communities.  His background is in community mahi and activism, including working for the New Zealand AIDS Foundation, and presenting the petition to ban conversion therapy at Parliament. |
| **Tara Pond** | Tara Pond is in her final year of her PhD at AUT University. Within social psychology, her thesis examines the experiences and identities of bisexual and other plurisexual women using a mixed method approach.  Her professional interests lie in examining the intersections of gender and sexuality and working to make hidden and marginalised populations visible in academic and community spaces.  Tara lives on the North Shore of Tāmaki Makaurau and is a vocal advocate for bisexual+ people. |
| **Tux Hika** | Tux is Takatāpui with strong interpersonal skills and experience of navigating diverse needs and in working collaboratively to achieve outcomes. He credits this to his role in capturing and celebrating Auckland’s rainbow community through photography and writing contributions to LGBTQ publication Express Magazine for the past decade.  Tux feels that the council has helped to create a positive shift in attitudes towards rainbow communities – particularly in south Auckland - but feels there is more that can be done to reduce violence towards rainbow people, increase rainbow visibility throughout the region, support trans inclusion in sport and recreation and consider the needs of rainbow seniors. |

# 

# Confirmed members of the Seniors Advisory Panel

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Claire Dale** | Claire lives in the central city and works part-time at the University of Auckland in the Retirement Policy and Research Centre. Claire researches and writes for academic and media publications about key policy areas such as intergenerational equity, pensions, health and housing. Claire’s work also sees her organising public events to provide and promote discussion and dissemination of age-related information and issues. She is passionate about age-friendly cities and spaces.  Claire is also founder and Chair of Nga Tangata Microfinance. This organisation works nationwide with Kiwibank and Financial Mentors to provide no interest loans to people on low incomes, and promote social justice, financial capability and inclusion, and protection from predatory lenders. |
| **David Wong Hop** | David was the deputy chair of the previous Seniors Advisory Panel and wishes to continue the work of the previous panel with a particular focus on Auckland becoming an Age-Friendly city which he feels should involve all ages, ethnicities, those with disabilities and transgender communities. He is also keen to encourage more people to participate in local council activities and to be involved in the council’s drive for efficiency and climate change.  He has extensive connections in Auckland with Chinese, Asian and Ethnic communities and would encourage more sharing of their knowledge of art, culture, language and religion as well as physical activities and exercise.  David is an historical researcher and a Foundation member of the Chinese New Zealand Oral History Foundation and hopes more will share wonderful moments of their life  . |
| **Gayle Marshall** | Born Auckland, Gayle's home is Glen Eden and her second home is on Waiheke.  Gayle has Tangata Whenua Heritage on her Paternal side: Ngati Paoa of Tanui. She has been married 56 years and has one adult son. She has had two businesses (shops) and is very involved in Community: Funeral and Marriage Celebrant are two of the services she facilitates plus she is involved with a number of charitable organisations.  She has seen many changes within our city and has a keen interest in people who call it home. Her questions have always been: do the people understand how to take on board how our cities work or is life all too consuming with very little time for anything else.  She was an elected member of three terms and Chair of a Community Board for Waitakere City Council as well as three terms on the Portage Licensing trust. |
| **Jane Messer** | Jane was born and raised in Auckland.  She enjoys travelling and has lived and worked in a number of different countries as a health professional and language teacher.  She is a mother and grandmother and enjoys and appreciates the cultural and environmental diversity of Auckland. |
| **Jay Reid** | Jay was born in Wellington, moving to Auckland when he was eighteen. He is married, with one adult daughter and two grandchildren. Jay and his wife live in St Heliers.  His professional background is as a teacher, working in primary schools, as a tertiary teacher, researcher, and leader. Jay led the Manukau Family Literacy Programme for many years, and was Chair of the NZ Council of Deans of Education.  He was elected to the first Manurewa Community Board and is an active member of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, Mac Seniornet and U3A. He and his wife own a Motorhome, and travel in NZ and overseas. He is a keen genealogist, loves classical piano, and is an avid reader. |
| **Jeet Suchdev** | Jeet’s background includes owning and running a successful hospitality business which, he gave up to pursue his community interests.  Jeet has 25 years of experience and service in working with Seniors. As the founder of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust Jeet established the Senior Citizens Group.  A partnership with the BUPA saw Jeet establish the first culturally appropriate Rest Home for the seniors where there all cultural needs are met  In 1995 he founded an organization focused on helping the South Asian Community towards their settlement in NZ. This has grown into a highly successful community organization.  Jeet has extensive governance experience and has been involved with many boards including previously on the Ethnic Panel 2011-2013. |
| **Judy Smyth** | Dr Judith Smyth is an experienced clinical Psychotherapist and Counsellor. She grew up on the East Coast but has lived in Auckland for many years.  Her work services mainly adults and their relationships including employee issues. Past work has also included working with refugees. She has experience of governance roles within the health sector and as an elected member on Newmarket Borough Council.  Her passions include metaphysics and photography. She also enjoys year-round outdoor swimming, walking and pilates. |
| **Lindsay Waugh** | Lindsay has a long history of involvement with local government in a variety of fields including the Safer Communities Crime Prevention initiative and subsequently coordinating Settlement Support in North Shore City as well as a three-year stint as the first General Manager of the Takapuna Beach Business Improvement District.    Lindsay was an elected representative serving on the Birkenhead Northcote Community Board and then as the inaugural chair for the Kaipatiki Local Board and as a member for the last two terms.    Lindsay did not seek re-election at the last election and would now like to apply her experience and knowledge to promote the value and contribution that senior citizens can make to Auckland’s future. |
| **Zahra Fazelnia** | Zahra moved to New Zealand with her family in 2006. To immerse herself into Kiwi culture she began to volunteer for ESOL Home Tutors (teaching English to refugees), Mercy Hospice, and Community Care Auckland. To understand Maori Culture she attended Maori Cultural Awareness workshop and studied the Treaty of Waitangi.  Her background was mostly in banking and investment but having some experience in teaching English and being a qualified ESOL teacher, she began to teach English as a second language at Rutherford College – Community Education. Meanwhile she worked as a volunteer for Massey CAB and Hospice west Auckland.  Zahra retired in 2017, continuing her community involvement and updating her knowledge by attending different courses and extra volunteering. She was a volunteer board member for Waitakere Ethnic Board till June 2020 and currently is a volunteer board member (treasurer) at Waitakere Health Link. |

# Confirmed Youth Advisory Panel members

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Alexa Forrest – Pain** | Alexa is of Ngāti Porou descent and feels honoured to have been appointed to the Youth Advisory Panel for Auckland Council.  Her background involves attending the University of Auckland, where she completed a Bachelor of Health Sciences, before gaining employment for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua, where she now works in Māori Public Health. She is immensely passionate about bridging the gap between community voice and policy and therefore looks forward to the opportunities to do this on the advisory panel. |
| **Amy Irvine** | Amy Irvine is a third-year Bachelor of Law and Global Studies student at the University of Auckland, coming onto the panel as a returning member. She is involved with a number of community and student organisations that advocate for social justice and the wellbeing of young people. Amy grew up on the North Shore, but is an active participant in community groups across the city. |
| **Arizona Ariki Nofoali’I Leger** | Of Samoan, Māori, Tongan and Fijian descent, Arizona is an advocate for mobilising the voices and representation of youth from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Arizona is a current Master of Human Rights candidate, with a specific focus on Indigenous Rights.  Born and raised in Tāmaki Makaurau, her expertise involves working with Indigenous rangatahi, mostly from South Auckland, to achieve equitable outcomes in Education. In 2019, Arizona was nominated as the Indigenous Delegate to attend the G(irls)20 Summit in Japan. She was also appointed to the Government’s Ministerial Advisory Group on the NCEA Review and most recently was named in the Kau Tuli, the Youth Steering group for the Ministry for Pacific Peoples.   Additionally, Arizona presents at various events ranging from a TEDxYouth Talk on the concept of Leadership in 2013 to the Festival for the Future 2020 Gender Equality panel. |
| **Chris Balzat** | Chris is 19 years old and lives in the Kaipātiki community on the North Shore. Born to two German parents, he is a first-generation kiwi with his roots in Beach Haven. Throughout his time in the Kaipātiki Community he has been a part of a variety of community groups and events through which he became passionate about amplifying Aotearoa's rangatahi.  He is the 2020 Coordinator for the Auckland Climate Challenge and believes in youth empowerment as they are the kaitiaki of tomorrow. He is engaged with and passionate about Climate Activism, and the Rainbow Community space. He looks forward to his term with the Tāmaki Makaurau Youth Advisory Panel and being able to make an important difference for all Aucklanders. |
| **Faenza - Lee Hiroti** | Faenza is a year 11 student at St Cuthbert’s College. She was raised in Te Ao Māori and educated in Te Kura Kaupapa Māori and she is keen to represent and advocate for Māori youth as she feels their voices are rarely heard on issues of importance to them.    For the past 2 years, Faenza has attended the Create1World National Creative Activism and Global Citizenship Conference at Massey University which has provided her with an opportunity to get involved with global issues such as climate change, sustainability and inequality. |
| **Hannah Njo** | At the time of appointment, Hannah is studying towards the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) at the University of Auckland. She has a keen interest in how the conditions in which we live and grow shapes our wellbeing. These conditions are determined by systems of governance. Ensuring these decisions are influenced by the people it will impact on is crucial.  Her passion for strengthening youth voice and representation are demonstrated by her roles as a class representative, student representative on School of Population Health boards/committees, and founder of the BHSc Student Advisory Group during her time at university. |
| **Murali Krishna Magesan** | Murali grew up in the town of Rotorua where in his final year of schooling became Head Prefect and Dux. While at school, he became a Rotorua District Youth Councillor to serve the wider Rotorua community.    In 2014, He moved to Auckland to pursue his tertiary education under scholarship and later graduated from the University of Auckland with a B.E. (Hons) specialising in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Since 2018, Murali has been working as a Product Development Engineer at Fisher & Paykel Appliances, Auckland.    In his other capacity, he is the President of Hindu Youth New Zealand and coordinated the successful 4th New Zealand Hindu Youth Conference earlier this year. Since 2014, he has represented New Zealand at various international platforms and has spoken at two World Hindu Youth Conferences. |
| **Veisinia Maka** | Veisinia Maka is of Tongan descent. Her family hails from the villages of Folaha and Longoteme. She was raised in Mangere and Panmure and now currently resides in Pakuranga.  She is an Undergraduate University of Auckland student studying a Bachelor Arts and Law and aspires to one day become a New Zealand appointed Judge.  She has been in the youth space since she was 15 and has a huge passion for empowering young people through storytelling. She is also a huge advocate for increased youth inclusiveness when it comes to the development of local communities, processes, and plans.  Being a part of the panel last term allowed her to grow in the youth advocacy space as well as gain lifelong skills. She feels incredibly privileged to be back in this space and is excited to having a continuing role of ensuring that a youth voice is present in decision-making. |
| **Xavier Breed** | Xavier is a Pacific dance artist, hailing from the villages of Lotofaga (Aleipata), Matatufu, Falelatai and Falefā in Sāmoa. Xavier will be graduating with a Master of Dance Studies in the second half of 2020 with a focus on cultural understanding through dance in the context of international diplomacy.  He is an advisory board member for the NZ Dance Company and the Asia NZ Foundation. In 2019, he was selected to perform at a number of internationally prestigious dance festivals and was awarded the ‘Asia NZ Foundation 25 to watch - for Media, arts, culture and sports’.  There is a commonly used alagā'upu or whakatauki in Sāmoan that encompasses what the youth advisory panel role represents for him: 'O le ala i le pule o le tautua' - the pathway to leadership is through service. Our leadership within this capacity is to be of service to the diverse communities we represent among our young people and bring their issues, concerns and perspectives to the table. He looks forward to serving alongside like-minded young leaders who are ready to serve the voices of our next generation of movers and shakers in Tāmaki Makaurau |