

Women in Safety and Health Excellence Regional Leads Announcement

We are excited to announce the appointment of **twelve WISE Regional Leads** across the Motu of awesome wahine working in safety and health in New Zealand. The purpose of the Regional Lead role is to develop collaborative and supportive networks of women working in health and safety in their home regions, to inspire other women to connect, collaborate, learn, grow and impact the wider health and safety system.

Michelle Welgemoed, Health and Safety Manager, Fletcher Living



Michelle has been in the field of Health & Safety as a general practitioner since 2011, and is currently a Health and Safety Manager with Fletcher Living, one of New Zealand's largest developers and home builders. Michelle has a passion for bringing safety to life through a combined collaborative and practical approach. She holds a NEBOSH International Occupational Health and Safety Diploma and is an active Certified Member of IOSH (Institution of Occupational Safety and Health) and a Professional Member of NZISM (New Zealand Institute of Safety Management). Michelle is committed to supporting and promoting women in the Health & Safety profession. She has participated in specialised Mentoring programmes (both as a mentee and now as a mentor) led by Dr Galia Barhava. As part of an internal cohort, Michelle has ensured that women have facilities on Fletcher Living sites where they provide female only toilets as well as free sanitary products. She is also involved in the development of a policy aimed at supporting women during Menopause- a crucial step toward inclusivity and well-being. Michelle proudly led safety efforts during the construction of New Zealand's first women-led residential build (BuildHers). It was an empowering experience that showcased women's collective strengths and skills. As a mother of two girls, she recognises that the steps she takes today pave the way for their future.

Auckland Region- Maria Welch



Maria is a passionate and motivated health and safety professional who has experience in Healthcare, Property and Construction. She enjoys providing strategic direction and partnering with various groups to mentor, upskill and enhance their understanding of health and safety to improve overall leadership and performance. She believes that building strong meaningful relationships, supporting high engagement and fostering psychological safe environments where individuals feel safe to speak up is a crucial part of effectively managing health and safety within the workplace. Maria is delighted at the opportunity to support other woman in the industry by creating safe spaces where they can connect, collaborate, learn, grow and be inspired by one another.

Auckland Region- Agnes Khyn, Health, Safety, Security and Environmental Advisor, Stantec NZ



Agnès is a passionate Health and Safety professional with nearly 20 years in the industry. Her experience in manufacturing, research, nuclear construction, transportation, pharmaceuticals, on multinational projects and worldwide organisations showcases an understanding of the complexities and nuances of workplace health and safety, as well as an ability to navigate diverse regulatory environments and cultural contexts.

Currently, Agnès is the Health, Safety, Security and Environmental Advisor for Stantec NZ, supporting 800 people across 16 offices and all associated field activities, which requires not only technical expertise but also strong communication and leadership skills.

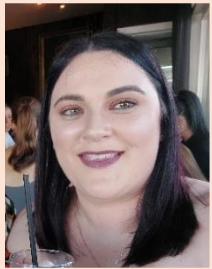
Agnès is passionate about empowering people to adopt a holistic approach to Health and Safety, by emphasising the "why" behind safety practices and advocating for the integration of health and safety into core business processes rather than as a requirement on the side.

Auckland Region- Mel Wood, Senior Health and Safety Specialist, Impac



An experienced, energetic and passionate Health, Safety & Wellbeing Specialist and Accredited Coach. With 20+ years in the Health & Safety, Wellbeing and Education sectors. Mel is able to offer practical and pragmatic solutions to help employers and individuals achieve their Health, Safety & Wellbeing goals. Mel has held various roles including occupational health, consulting, internal H&S leadership and operational positions in a variety of industries including manufacturing, aviation and recreation. Mel is a recognised award winner with HRINZ Specialist of the Year, Southern Cross Wellbeing Award and NZ Safety Awards Finalist. Also, an inaugural HASANZ scholarship recipient.

Auckland Region- Claire Johnson, Health and Safety ISO Specialist, Fletcher Building Products



As a seasoned health and safety professional spanning various industries, Claire thrives in the dynamic and ever-evolving landscape of occupational safety. Claire's background in Health, Safety, Quality, and Environment (HSQE) lends itself to a multidisciplinary approach, allowing her to tackle challenges from multiple angles.

Currently serving as an H&S Specialist for Fletcher Building Products, no two days are ever the same in this role, as each presents unique challenges and opportunities for problem-solving and innovation. As a female health and safety professional, Claire has navigated the challenges of working in the trades where, in the old days, it was not heard of to have a woman on the tools. Coming from the tools herself, Claire appreciates the importance of addressing the specific safety concerns where it may be hard to speak up given who we work with, and the backlash we may get. After being a member of the Canterbury NZISM Committee, seeing the work, Women in Safety Excellence (WISE) was doing first-hand, it was a natural progression for her to join WISE. Through WISE, she aims to support females within the Health and Safety industry by being a regional lead and connecting with H&S professionals and leveraging our collective expertise to support one and other no matter what step in their H&S career they are in.

Auckland Region- Nina Donaldson, Health, Safety, and Environment Manager, ECL Group



Nina Donaldson is a diligent Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Manager with a passion for integrating HSE practices seamlessly into production processes. With a practical approach, Nina fosters open dialogue and collaboration to ensure that HSE measures are embraced by all stakeholders. Nina's experience spans various industries, from construction with McConnell Dowell and Fletcher Construction to oil and gas exploration with Geokinetics. Her roles have involved strategic HSE planning, staff training, incident management, and fostering community health initiatives. Beyond her professional pursuits, Nina enjoys boating, kayaking, swimming, and making furniture.

Tauranga Region- Alicia Tomchuk, HSQES & People Divisional Manager, Fulton Hogan



Alicia pulls her passion for health and safety from her time as a paramedic and volunteer firefighter back in her home country of Canada. She also drove trucks, and worked as a labourer in the rugged Canadian oilfield before she came to New Zealand. Alicia started in Civil Construction as a labour hire driving trucks eight years ago and had a dream to become a Civil Engineer, but her passion for health and safety shone through. She has determinedly taken up role after role and excelled. She is currently the HSQES & People Divisional Manager for Fulton Hogan, Bay of Plenty. She truly believes in enabling people to be the best version of themselves, is extremely passionate about continuous improvement and supporting wahine to excel in all areas. In Alicia's personal life, she is a volunteer firefighter, she volunteers her time every week to a programme that mentors under privileged girls to become their best-self and she is currently undertaking an ambitious project to convert her HiAce van to a campervan.

Hawkes Bay Region- Eve Riley – Senior Health & Safety Specialist, Impac



Throughout Eve’s career, she has been largely involved in education, human resources and health and safety-based roles. She started out teaching at both primary and secondary levels, followed by work within adult education while with a training organisation. While holding a split role of HR & H & S, Eve upskilled in occupational safety training, and then decided to solely focus on safety. She aims to assist businesses to “work better” by understanding their risks, and putting in place operationally practical and pragmatic measures to mitigate these, with the goal of creating a safer work environment for everyone.

Eve held safety roles with both PGG Wrightson and T & G Global which required her to be actively involved in the health and safety management of multi-sited operations. This included the development and implementation of key pieces of work from within an H & S strategy alongside providing day-to-day advice and guidance to large and diverse teams. Business activities included growing, post-harvest and corporate services which required Eve to work effectively with a wide cross-section of people and types of risk. She considers herself to be a very practical person and her work experience has helped her to develop excellent communication and organisational skills and the ability to complete tasks systematically and efficiently. Eve endeavours to continue building knowledge and skills with the aim of being an efficient and effective health and safety practitioner.

Waikato Region- Laura Eps, Health and Safety Consultant, Independent Safety Solutions BOP Ltd



Laura has over 10 years of experience working in the health and safety sector. Laura prides herself on being able to build capacity and capability for businesses and their people to embed robust health, safety, wellbeing, and sustainability solutions. She has experience in many different sectors working as a health and safety generalist alongside clients to develop and imbed health and safety practices through co-design. She holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences Majoring in Human Resources and Industrial Relations, as well as a Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety, which have given her the transferable skills and knowledge to build strong safety cultures. Recently she had the privilege of leading a project enabling

safety differently in the disability sector. This project was awarded a Judges Commendation award at the 2023 National Safeguard Awards.

Nelson/Marlborough Region - Marion Edwin CNZHFE, Manager Human Factors/Ergonomics, WorkSafe New Zealand



Marion is Manager Human Factors/Ergonomics within the Health Team at WorkSafe New Zealand. She brings her broad industry background (from fishing boats to corporate- and everywhere in between) to support the health and safety regulator’s initiatives. She has expertise in human factors/ergonomics methods to reduce musculoskeletal health risks for workers, and to improve productivity. These include addressing the systems barriers to healthy work outcomes; analysing and addressing musculoskeletal injury risks; designing equipment, workplaces and work processes for optimal function; incident investigation;

office workstation assessment and design; research work; and professional supervision and mentoring. She lives in an off-grid ecovillage in rural Motueka, appreciates smoky single malt, and enjoys getting very mucky in the garden.

West Coast Region - Candis Hawkins, Operations Critical Risk Manager, Westland Milk Products



Candis is an engaging and pragmatic practitioner with a deep understanding of the technical, legal, and human factors involved in protection of people and business, with a health and safety management background in primary and secondary industries.

Candis is currently Operations Critical Risk Manager with Westland Milk Products and the recipient of the HASANZ Women in Safety (WISE) Scholarship Programme (2022).

Dunedin Region- Laura Biggs, Business Development Manager (New Zealand), Pryme



For the past seven years, Laura has worked within the Safety industry working with people from all sectors, from Mining to Education, and from Councils to Construction.

With experience in the safety Industry across New Zealand and Australia, along with a passion for sustainability and mentorship, Laura is looking forward to positively impacting our local safety community. Laura is excited to be working with a team of safety professionals where we can exchange ideas and insights that are crucial for driving continuous improvement in our safety practices.

