

## Brief biographies of new Kāinga Ora board members

**Arihia Bennett** (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Porou, Ngāpuhi), of Kaiapoi, was the CEO of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu for almost 12 years, resigning from that position in 2024. She started her career in social work, and worked for Child, Youth & Family and for Barnados Aotearoa. From 1999 to 2002 she was a director of Ngāi Tahu Development Corporation, and then chair from 2002 to 2005. Ms Bennett was on the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Commission following the September 2010 earthquake.

She is a member of the Māori advisory panel to the Ombudsman's Office, and has served on New Zealand-China Council and the boards of Predator Free 2050 Ltd, Barnardos Aotearoa, and the Christchurch Women's Refuge. In 2021 Ms Bennett was appointed chair of the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Government's Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the 2019 terrorist attack on Christchurch mosques.

**Jenn Bestwick**, of Queenstown, has been the Chair of the Tertiary Education Commission and has been a government-appointed board member at Antarctica New Zealand, Ara Christchurch Polytechnic, Southern Response Earthquake Services, and Tourism New Zealand. She has experience in strategic planning and in senior strategy management roles across the health, tertiary education, natural resource management, science and research, and tourism sectors.

**Alan Dent**, of Wellington, was a Partner for 26 years at Deloitte NZ. He established and led the Deloitte Corporate Finance Wellington practice from 1990 to 2020 and he was a member of the Deloitte NZ Partner Board from 2000 to 2012. Mr Dent has provided commercial and financial advice across the public and private sectors, and he has led industry reform work in the social housing, health, and other sectors. He has been recognised as one of New Zealand's leading valuation practitioners, having valued around \$200 billion of shares, assets, and businesses, including the assets of Housing New Zealand and retirement villages and residential property development businesses.

**Peter Jeffries**, of Auckland, has extensive experience in the community housing sector. He became the manager in 1987 at CORT (Community of Refuge Trust), a Community Housing Provider in Auckland. He was then the Chair and then became the CEO to 2022. CORT now has more than 390 one and two bedroom properties, housing over 540 people. CORT owns over 310 of those properties and is building new homes.

**Ceinwen McNeil**, of Auckland, was a member of the panel for the Independent Review of Kāinga Ora, so she is familiar with the issues faced by the organisation. She is an external affairs and government relations professional, and has worked primarily in the design, engineering, and construction industries in the last decade.

Her current roles include Director, Central and Local Government Relations Aurecon, and President of the Association of Consulting and Engineering NZ.

**Fiona Mules**, of Christchurch, was on the Kāinga Ora board from January 2023 to February 2024, when she resigned to prevent any perceived or potential conflicts of interest with other advisory work in the government infrastructure area. Her work does not now present any conflicts, and she brings relevant governance experience from that year of service and from her previous roles on the boards of Development Christchurch and the Lyttelton Port Company, which have had sizeable urban regeneration development activities.

She is also currently a director of Rural Livestock Ltd, and was previously a Director of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand and KiwiRail Holdings Ltd. She was on Treasury's Capital Investment Panel, which considered requests for capital funding and advised Ministers on their merits from a whole-of-government perspective. Ms Mules is an experienced audit and risk committee chair.