

PNZ Executive Nominee: Sarah Butler



I have been a physiotherapist for 30 years. After training in London, I gained a wide range of experience in the United Kingdom, eventually focusing on paediatrics and in particular cardiorespiratory physiotherapy. After moving to New Zealand in 1994, I continued to work in respiratory paediatrics, initially at Waikato Hospital and then at Starship Hospital in Auckland. More recently, I worked privately at the New Zealand Respiratory and Sleep Institute. I have had several teaching roles during this time, running courses regularly from Starship, teaching under and postgraduate students here and overseas, and teaching for Physiotherapy New Zealand (PNZ). I am currently employed as a Clinical Centre Leader for Waitemata District Health Board, working with third and fourth year physiotherapy students and clinical educators to facilitate the students' practical learning.

My experience across public and private domains and the education and clinical practice areas has given me a multi-dimensional perspective. This means I have an appreciation of a variety of employment areas and different healthcare settings. Having been an active member of the Paediatric and Respiratory SIGs I have a good understanding of the importance of SIGs in our profession.

I am a strong advocate for our next generation of physiotherapists but am aware of the stresses and demands on clinical staff. As a profession, I strongly believe that physiotherapy education should continue to evolve to meet the demands of an ever-changing health context, fiscal constraints, competing interests, and reflect our multi-cultural society. I also would like to encourage PNZ's work in ensuring that equal representation is given to the members working in both the private and public sectors and ensure that all SIGs have an equal voice within the society.

By joining the PNZ Executive, I hope to ensure that our profession achieves these goals.