

PNZ Executive Nominee: Dr Sarah Mitchell



I have been the Executive Director Allied Health Scientific and Technical in the Bay of Plenty District Health Board since March 2019. In the previous year I was the Physiotherapy Professional Lead.

Prior to these positions I held numerous positions within the Scottish government, latterly the National Programme Director for the Allied Health Professions (AHPs) Active and Independent Living Programme (AILP). This government policy and the previous National Delivery Plan were aspirational strategies aimed at transforming healthcare at a national level. They both necessitated enhanced professional development of AHPs and their resultant repositioning as agents of change and leaders of early diagnosis and rehabilitation.

Under my leadership, these visionary strategies became a series of rigorous programmes, engaging all 14 territorial NHS Scotland Boards, all Scottish Local Authorities, relevant UK government departments, wide ranging third sector organisations as well as other essential national and international stakeholders.

Through these senior roles within the Scottish government, I gained significant expertise in policy development and implementation, service management and improvement. In recognition of my contributions to Allied Health and in particular physiotherapy, in 2017 I became a fellow of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP). This fellowship is the highest award the CSP can make to people who have had a significant national impact on the physiotherapy profession.

I am passionate about promoting the significant impact that physiotherapists can have on the health and wellbeing of the people who use our services, and I will bring my significant experience and expertise to ensure that impact is fully realized beyond our own profession.