

The Public Health Reference Group has been established to guide and support the development of the Healthy Eating programme's goals, objectives and strategies leading to its launch in autumn next year. Members of the group include:

Professor Jim Mann (Chair) Professor in Human Nutrition and Medicine at the University of Otago. Professor Mann has been working in this role and as a Consultant Physician (Endocrinology) in Dunedin Hospital for the past 18 years. For the preceding 15 years he lectured at the University of Oxford and worked as a Physician in the Radcliffe Infirmary. He is also the Director of the recently established Edgar National Centre for Diabetes Research and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Human Nutrition.

Professor Janet Hoek is a Professor in Marketing at Massey University. Her research interests include marketing and public policy, and she has written extensively on marketing regulation. Her current work examines self-regulation in food and alcohol marketing, and the effectiveness of social marketing initiatives designed to improve public health.

Dr Rachael Taylor, PHD is a Senior Lecturer in Human Nutrition at the University of Otago. Much of the work she is involved in at present concerns clinical and community based interventions in weight management and obesity prevention in both children and adults.

Christina McKerchar, (Ngati Kahungunu, Ngati Porou) is Agencies For Nutrition Action's National Co-ordinator. Christina graduated from Otago University with BCAPSc in Human Nutrition and worked for five years as a nutrition advisor for Te Hotu Manawa Maori. She has an MSc(Otago) majoring in Community Nutrition based on her work at Te Hotu Manawa Maori.

Ruth DeSouza is a Senior Research Fellow and Centre Co-ordinator for the Centre for Asian and Migrant Health Research in the National Institute for Public Health & Mental Health Research at Auckland University of Technology. Ruth is also a Director of Auckland based Wairua Consulting and is a researcher, educator, and mental-health nurse.

Leonie Matoe (Ngā Rauru, Ngā Ruahine) studied physical education at Otago University. Leonie has worked in the field of Maori development as a policy analyst for Te Puni Kokiri and in exercise prescription and management roles for regional sports trusts. Last year Leonie moved back to Maori Health to manage the nutrition and physical activity team for Te Hotu Manawa Maori.

Professor Robert Scragg is a public health physician with 20 years experience as a public health researcher and epidemiologist. He is based in the School of Population Health, University of Auckland.

Winsome Parnell, Senior Lecturer, Otago University Human Nutrition Department. Lead nutrition researcher for the Children's Nutrition Survey, 2002, her areas of specialty are currently Food and Nutrition Policy and Food Security.

Gerard Vaughan, National Project Manager for Like Minds - a campaign funded by the Ministry of Health to reduce stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness. Gerard has also worked for five years with community-based organisations developing employment solutions for people who were long-term unemployed, and housing options for people with disabilities.

Ta'i Matenga-Smith is a member of Pacific Islands Food and Nutrition Group (PIFNAG) and is the ex chair person of PIFNAG. Tai graduated with a Masters in Public Health Nutrition and a Bachelor of Food Science Human Nutrition. Tai is currently working in the Health Outcomes Team as a Nutritionist with the Regional Public Health Service.

Sitaleki 'Ata'ata Finau studied at the University of Queensland School of Medicine, and achieved a Postgraduate Diploma of Community Health from the University of Otago. A registered public health specialist in New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific, Professor Sitaleki recently became the Director of the Pasifika at Massey Strategy.

Pefi Kingi - Monu Tagaloa. Pefis has a focus in Niue mobilisation; and Pacific community development, education, health, women's issues, and youth development. She is a "driver" for NIU Development Inc, contracted into providing a national Pacific problem gambling service.

Adrian Te Patu has worked in government departments, community organisations, for health providers, iwi, and crown agencies in Maori specific roles for almost three decades. Adrian is a member of the Te Waipounamu Health Promotion Coalition Think Tank and is currently a council member of the New Zealand Health Promotion Forum. He is presently employed as Maori Health Advisor to the nine hospitals and health centres of the Rural Health Services of the Canterbury District Health Board.