

▶▶ Introducing the WDC Design Group



Alan Cadwallader

Alan Cadwallader is an Executive Director of Open Polytechnic NZ, and holds responsibility for the delivery of the polytechnic's learning and teaching. Alan's ITP experience spans two decades including five years as Academic Director of Wellington Institute of Technology. Alan's roles also include a teacher in business studies, head of a business school and an associate dean with responsibilities for educational innovation. His enthusiasm for innovating vocational education and training is matched with a lifelong interest in education for business.



Diane Lithgow

Di Lithgow is an experienced senior manager and education professional. She has held a range of operational, strategic and policy roles within Industry Training Organisations over the last 20 years. With a passion for best practice learning and development, Di has successfully led teams across the many facets of industry training. She is a strong advocate for quality outcomes that improve learner and employer performance. In her current role as General Manager: Vocational Consultancy for The Skills Group, Di is keen to help with the design of the new Workforce Development Councils to ensure the continued success of New Zealand's Vocational Education sector.



Erin Simpson

Erin's extensive career in the Horticulture Industry started in the 1980s. His experience gives him a robust and insightful understanding of the skills needed by employers to be effective members in today's industries. He is passionate about ensuring that the skills and training delivered and developed today are fit for purpose in the unknown world of tomorrow. Erin is active in the education sector through programme development and teaching, including his current role with pipfruit sectors to engage and collaborate with Government and Industry training providers to attract, grow and retain talent.



Rod Bentham

Rod Bentham has over two decades of experience in adult education and training including teaching and executive leadership roles within the polytechnic sector, leading a standard setting body within the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, and most recently as a member of the senior leadership team at Careerforce Industry Training Organisation. Rod is excited to be involved in the Design Group and views it as an opportunity to bring the knowledge and experience gained over his time in tertiary education to a major reform of vocational education and training.



Mike Crossan

Mike Crossan is General Manager of Learning Products and Services at Primary ITO overseeing the development of qualifications and standards. He has been working in tertiary education for the last 19 years both as a teacher and as a leader. He is excited to be involved in the Design Group and sees the development of the WDCs as the opportunity of our generation to positively impact thousands of Kiwis lives and provide industry with the skills and knowledge it needs for a sustainable future.



Megan Cooper

Megan Cooper is a Senior Capability Advisor (People & Culture) at Ara Institute of Canterbury, and has worked in the vocational education and training sector in New Zealand and Australia. Megan strongly believes that the best outcome for industry, workforce learners and education providers will come out of a well-designed system that values the perspectives, needs and agency of all stakeholders and this Workforce Development Council design process is an excellent opportunity to build optimal educational/industry partnerships that value diverse organisational needs, identities and cultures.



Peter Cowper

Peter Cowper has a diverse background in a variety of sectors including telecommunications, building science and education. His experience includes general management and leadership, organisational design and change management, implementing business and service delivery improvement, and commercial and third party supplier strategies. Peter's management consultancy practice focuses on coaching and mentoring senior managers, providing support in developing organisational and people strategies, and improving operational effectiveness. Peter is looking forward to contributing to the future thinking of the Design Group.



Phil Garing

Phil Garing has worked in vocational education for 30 years. He consults on learning strategy, design, and implementation models across the Corporate, Government and VET sectors. This work has seen him lead thinking in a wide range of sectors including primary, health, central Government, construction, transport and energy. He is able to 'see across' the big picture and identify opportunities for innovation and new ways of working. Phil understands at a practical level what it takes to design for and deliver effective learning solutions for industry. He wants to ensure investment in learning delivers meaningful and targeted outcomes.





Ruanna Tagaloasa Letalu

Ruanna Tagaloasa Letalu is the Director of Employer and Community Partnerships with Solomon Group & New Zealand Welding and Trades Services, where she works alongside local employers to understand their workforce requirements. Ruanna works in partnership with church groups, Iwi, schools and organisations to ready those seeking jobs or new opportunities. Her focus is to ensure candidates are better equipped with the skills or qualifications they need to access the roles offered by industry. She is looking forward to joining the Design Group to develop plans and a vision that will create a skilled workforce with future career development.



Simon Anderson

Simon Anderson is the Regional Growth Manager at ChristchurchNZ, the Economic Development and Visitor Attraction agency focused on transformation of the Ōtautahi economy. Simon is a social sector board member and avid RoVE supporter believing it is needed to generate wealth and prosperity for Aotearoa. He was driven to be a part of the design of WDCs because of his deep interest in the effects of technological change in education, including the requirement to build an institution capable of rapidly prototyping new provision as need and change grows exponentially.



Tim Wilson

Tim Wilson has worked at senior executive level across ITP, PTE, ITO and regulator/policy roles. He understands the operating models, drivers and constraints in different tertiary sectors and recognises the importance of a highly collaborative approach in the design and operation of WDCs. Tim's collaborative approach has driven his success influencing international maritime training and certification requirements. Tim is passionate about the difference highly effective vocational education and training can make for learners, employers, safety, productivity and New Zealand overall.

