

Realising Their Potential - The New Professionals Conference

The IPANZ 2016 New Professionals Conference was held 28-29 July at Te Papa. The theme of the conference was 'Realising Potential - your contribution to New Zealand'.

The first day focused on the big picture and kicked off with Colin MacDonald talking about the purpose of the public service. He challenged new professionals to think about why they are here, and how can they remain relevant and continue to simplify in a truly citizen-centric way.

Delegates were then exposed to a range of perspectives, trends, and information about what was going on across government. This included information about the investment approach being used in agencies such as MSD, health and wellbeing trends, and a direct challenge from Judge Carrie Wainwright to "acquire a level of competence in te reo Māori". Experienced leaders shared their journeys and gave advice to the cohort on how to be authentic, value diversity, and be guided by personal values. "Success comes easier when you're doing what feels right for you," Mervin Singham said. Gill Greer echoed, "It's the direction you're going in that is important, not the speed".

Towards the end of the day delegates attended an expo of diverse and innovative projects across the public sector, where delegates could get a feel for some of the work going on. The day came to a close with a networking function.



explored their own natural strengths, and how to use and develop these further in the workplace. Voice, Presentation and Performance Coach Maaïke Christie-Beekman provided the group with some practical tools to help ensure their non-verbal communication was matching the message they are trying to get across. The day then ended with a two-hour session led by Dr Paul Wood and Vanderson Pires on strategies to build personal resilience, including mindfulness.

Feedback from delegates was overwhelmingly positive, with many of them citing some practical takeaways that they could immediately apply to their work environment.

ROWING THE ATLANTIC

On the second day, the focus turned inwards to how new professionals could better understand and develop themselves to be successful. The day kicked off with an inspirational tale of rowing the Atlantic by Kathy Tracey. She encouraged new professionals to think about the challenges they set themselves, and how to overcome barriers.

Before lunch, the participants broke into smaller groups and spent some time with a strengths-based facilitator. Delegates

Comments included: "It was inspiring to see the passion of others in the public sector to improve people's lives. Also great that it got me thinking about the role of the public sector and what the future might look like."

"I enjoyed meeting great people, and knowing that I do have value to add to New Zealand's future - my contribution matters, and the generation above me knows it."

You can view conference speeches and photos at: www.ipanz.org.nz/npconference

The demand for policy professionals continues!

We are working with some truly great teams across the public sector and have exciting policy opportunities across a range of subject areas and departments. If you are an experienced policy practitioner thinking about what's next then call us today. In particular we are looking for senior policy advisors and senior policy analysts who are looking for a new challenge. If you want the scope to be innovative, lead complex policy work and develop your leadership ability then it's likely we'll have some options that will spark an interest!

Take control of your career by staying informed about what's happening in the market - email kate.terlau@h2r.co.nz to hear about current and upcoming opportunities.

Policy Contractors - We are still working with a variety of government agencies who are seeking experienced policy contractors to lead and be involved in significant policy programmes. If this sounds like you please contact our contracting specialist Georgina Makarios at georgina.makarios@h2r.co.nz

For more details, visit www.H2R.co.nz/policy or call us on 04 499 9471.



Kirsty Brown and Kate Terlau

NZ's Leading Recruitment and Organisational Development Specialists

www.H2R.co.nz

