

## Editors' Note

**N**ew Zealand Population Review is the flagship publication of Te Roopu Whakawaihanga Iwi o Aotearoa, Population Association of New Zealand (PANZ). We are committed to supporting population research relevant to Aotearoa New Zealand and the wider Pacific region, and welcome all contributions on population-related issues including empirical studies, theory and policy analysis. NZPR publishes original research articles, shorter format research notes, and invited commentary. We are proud to continue as a fully open-access publication with no fees for authors or readers.

The 2020 issue came together in a challenging year, and we are immensely grateful to all who contributed to this issue, especially the authors and anonymous reviewers. This year, Editors Professor Tahu Kukutai and Dr Bryndl Hohmann-Marriott were joined by Dr Rosemary Goodyear. Rosemary contributes her extensive knowledge of the population research and policy of Aotearoa New Zealand. Rosemary works as a senior analyst at Stats NZ and has worked on census data, General Social Survey, and Te Kupenga. She specialises in housing-related issues as they relate to population, such as household crowding, housing quality and energy hardship.

The current global situation underscores the importance of considering populations, and our current issue assists in this knowledge.

For our first paper we are delighted to publish the winning 2019 Jacoby Prize paper, by Jesse Whitehead, Amber Pearson, Ross Lawrenson and Polly Atatoa-Carr. “We’re trying to heal, you know?” A Mixed Methods Analysis of the Spatial Equity of General Practitioner Services in the Waikato DHB Region’ discusses how inequitable access to health services can cause and exacerbate inequities in health outcomes and examines where and why inequalities occur. A particular strength of this paper is its mixed methods approach, linking spatial data to individual experience.

We then follow with a research note from Emeritus Professor Richard Bedford ‘Three Population Milestones: Some Comments and

Cautions', which reflects on three important milestones: the first is New Zealand reaching five million usual residents, the second the release of data relating to individuals, families, households and dwellings from the latest Census of Population and Dwellings, and the third being a funding announcement around the 2023 Census. Richard notes some of the issues and challenges of recent census and population data. This research note should be recommended reading for anyone using 2018 Census data and highlights the issues for Māori and Pacific population, in particular, in relation to the lower than expected response to the census and what that means for data analysis.

We continue a focus on census with Len Cook's paper 'The Census and Administrative Records – What Form of Consensual Union for 2023?'. Len discusses the key importance that censuses play in understanding the population, the risks of not getting the census right, and how changing census methodologies can contribute to the 2023 Census. 'A census is much more than a population count: censuses unveil our past, tell us who we are now, and point to who we will probably become'. For both Len and Richard, a good universal census is key to understanding a post-COVID New Zealand.

Our next paper is from Tahu Kukutai, Kate Prickett, Polly Atatoa Carr, and Arama Rata, who write about 'Family Structure and Change in Early Childhood and the Wellbeing of Tamariki Māori'. This paper uses longitudinal data from Growing Up in New Zealand to examine family structure and change for tamariki Māori during early childhood, and the potential impacts on their development and wellbeing. An important finding of this paper is that higher levels of cultural connectedness among tamariki Māori, which are associated with diverse family forms, seem to promote socio-emotional development.

We move from families to family intentions with a paper from Bryndl Hohmann-Marriott, Louisa Choe, Laura Schilperoort, and the Graduate Longitudinal Study of New Zealand team entitled 'Family and Career Plans of Students Graduating from New Zealand Universities'. This paper looks at the family plans of 5,157 students without children who are graduating from university, exploring differences by age, gender and major subject. They found that nearly 40 percent of graduates planned to have children within the next 10 years and hoped to combine children with a career.

It is with sorrow that we acknowledge the passing of one of New Zealand's eminent geographers, Dr Brian Heenan, and we are grateful to Emeritus Professor Richard Bedford for his obituary.

In addition to this regular annual issue, we are also pleased to announce a Special Issue on housing research with guest editors Dr Kay Saville-Smith (CRESA) Grace Walker (University of Canterbury).

This 2020 issue marks the final year of Professor Tahu Kukutai's editorship. As co-editor of NZPR from 2016-2020, she has contributed her extensive demographic knowledge, commitment to transformative scholarship, and outstanding research on a wide range of key population issues. Professor Kukutai has set a high standard and NZPR is committed to continue striving for this level of excellence. We are deeply grateful and look forward to future essential demographic research.