



Health Law Intensive

The University of Otago and Vida Law are pleased to confirm that this post-graduate focused course will be held in Wellington from 23 August- 27 August 2026.

This course is designed specifically for senior clinicians, board members, chief executives, and managers working in the New Zealand health and disability sector. Enrolment is also open to post-graduate law students and practising lawyers with an interest in the field of health law.

What to expect

The course will consist of 5 full days of intensive teaching. Each day will include lectures, case studies, and small group work, addressing the most important legal issues and challenges faced by the health and disability sector.

Numbers are limited, to allow plenty of interaction with presenters and other participants. Participants will be expected to prepare for the course with pre-course reading.

Who should attend?

You will benefit from this course if you are working in a senior role in the health and disability sector. In particular you should consider attending if you:

- Practise as a clinical director/leader or otherwise as a senior clinician in the New Zealand health and disability sector.
- Serve as a board member, chief executive, or senior manager of a health and disability sector organisation.
- Have worked as a clinician or manager in the health and disability sector in an overseas jurisdiction and wish to develop your knowledge of New Zealand health law.
- Are undertaking vocational training with any of the Royal Australasian Colleges.
- Are considering studying towards a postgraduate qualification.

Health Law

University of Otago Intensive Course



Course overview (with examples of topics covered)

Day 1 Health systems and the law

- Introduction to New Zealand's legal system
- The public health and disability sector
- New Zealand's no-fault compensation scheme
- Civil and criminal liability relating to the provision of health and disability services in New Zealand
- Health sector funding, procurements and contracting

Day 2 Health consumers and the law

- Promoting and protecting patients' rights under the Code of Rights
- Supported decision making
- Advance directives
- Healthcare decision making in the absence of consent
- Adult legal guardians
- Healthcare decisions by and for children

Day 3 Health practitioners and the law

- Key principles of employment law
- Managing concerns about health, competence, or conduct of health practitioners
- Ensuring workplace health and safety
- Human rights and the health and disability sector
- Practising in a resource constrained environment
- Governance and the health and disability sector

Day 4 Healthcare harm and the law

- Health information privacy
- Official information
- Protected Quality Assurance Activities
- Compulsory assessment and treatment
- Healing, learning and improving from harm
- Adopting a restorative practice and hohou te rongo approach to addressing healthcare law
- Preventing, managing, and learning from complaints
- Learning from major inquiries
- Reporting deaths and coronial inquiries

Day 5 Health law and ethics

- Organ donation
- Abortion law reform
- Withdrawal and withholding treatment
- Assisted Dying

Presenters

The course will be run by Iris Reuevecamp, a practising lawyer specialising in health and disability law, in association with a senior academic from the University of Otago Faculty of Law, Dr Jeanne Snelling, along with a range of guest speakers with specialist knowledge in relation to specific topic areas.



Iris Reuevecamp BA LLB(Hons) (VUW) MBHL (Distinction) (Otago) GradDipBusStuds (Dispute Resolution) (Massey) LLM (Hons) (Auckland) AAMINZ MInstD

Iris is a barrister and solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand and a Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales with around 25 years' experience in health and disability law, working as both in-house and external counsel. She advises public and private health and disability sector organisations and is a panel member of the All of Government External Legal Services Providers and the ACC External Legal Services Panel. Iris has a particular interest in the law relating to mental health, disability, aged care, and decision-making capacity. She appears across New Zealand courts and tribunals and acts in various court-appointed counsel roles. She is a Senior Professional Practice Fellow at the University of Otago, where she teaches health and disability law, and has published on a range of topics relevant to health and disability law. Iris is co-editor of Mental Capacity Law in New Zealand (Thomson Reuters, Wellington, 2019), and editor of Brookers Family Law — Incapacity (online looseleaf ed, Thomson Reuters), PPPR Act & Analysis (Thomson Reuters, Wellington, 3rd edition, 2023) and Mental Health Act & Analysis (Thomson Reuters, Wellington, 1st edition, 2023). Iris was awarded a Borrin Foundation Women Leaders in Law Fellowship in 2022 to work on a text entitled Death, Dying and the Law, to be published in 2026/2027. Iris also holds multiple governance roles in health and disability organisations.

Dr Jeanne Snelling is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, University of Otago. PhD, LLB(Hons), RNZcmpN



Jeanne's teaching and research interests encompass health law, criminal law and the regulation of biomedical technologies. Prior to commencing a full-time position in the Law Faculty, Jeanne held a joint position with the Law Faculty and the Bioethics Centre, where she was the Lead Academic for Health Law teaching in the Otago Medical School and the allied health professions. Jeanne is the Law Faculty convenor of the Masters in Bioethics and Health Law (MBHL). Jeanne is currently Chair of the Ethics Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology (a Ministerial Committee appointed under the HART Act 2004) and is a member of the Expert Advisory Group for the New Zealand Law Commission's Ngā Huarahi Whakatau | Review of the Law and Practice Relating to Adult Decision-making Capacity.

Venue, Dates and Cost

The venue for the course will be in Wellington

Enrolment

Enrolment in this proposed course will be through the Faculty of Law, University of Otago. Enrolment will be restricted to appropriately qualified and experienced participants.

Dates	Cost
23 August – 27 August	TBC

Contact us

If you would like to receive further information about the course please contact:

Iris Reuevecamp

Tel: 021 869 361 | Email: iris@vidalaw.co.nz

To enroll, please send a completed enrolment form to: healthlaw@otago.ac.nz

