

Department of Public Health (Dunedin) Ethics Committee

These are the people who will review your ethics application. Two of these people will provide departmental scientific and ethical review for your research.

Dr Jude Sligo

(Chair)

Ethics Committee member since 2016 and chair since 2021. My particular interest is in the ethics of research with children and young people and participatory research projects. I have experience with qualitative and mixed method research (MMR) methodologies. Being the chair of the Department of Public Health (Dunedin) ethics committee is a privilege and an honour and I am very lucky to work with an excellent committee of people. I greatly value the opportunity to collaborate with researchers and to engage with the diverse and important research being undertaken within the department.

AP Claire Cameron, Director, Biostatistics Centre

I have been a Department of Public Health (Dunedin) Ethics Committee member since 2015 and Deputy Chair since 2024. My research area is the methodological aspects of the quantitative elements of health related research. I lead the Biostatistics Centre that is housed within Department of Public Health (Dunedin). Our mandate, historically, has been to improve the quality of health related research in the region, but more recently the bulk of our work is in the Health Sciences Division of the University of Otago where we collaborate with researchers across many disciplines. I see ethics committee work dovetailing neatly with my research interests that cover a wide range of content areas. It puts me in a good position to consider both the ethical and scientific aspects of most studies. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with researchers on their ethics applications and to ensure our ethical and scientific standards are upheld.

Dr Jerram Bateman

I have been on the Department of Public Health (Dunedin) Ethics Committee since 2018. My interest in research ethics stems from working with individuals and communities in India and Sierra Leone as an “outside” postgraduate researcher, and more recently working with people living cancer, and people living with HIV, in Aotearoa. I have experience in qualitative, quantitative and mixed method research, and enjoy seeing the breadth and quality of research being undertaken in our department that being on the ethics committee affords.

Dr Brett Maclennan

I have been a Department of Public Health (Dunedin) Ethics Committee member since 2021. My particular interest is around data ethics including data sovereignty and

governance. I have 20 years of research experience, primarily in a quantitative capacity, across a variety of health areas. It's a joy to learn about the wide range of research being undertaken in the department and to support hoamahi through the peer review and ethics process.

Dr Karyn Maclennan (Taranaki, Ngā Mahanga)

I have been a member of the Department of Public Health (Dunedin) Ethics Committee since 2021. I have experience in kaupapa Māori research, community engagement, and working with rangatahi. My interest in ethics stems from a commitment to ensuring research meaningfully involves Māori in ways that are relational, respectful, and responsive to community aspirations. It is a privilege to serve on this committee and to learn about the diverse and impactful work being undertaken within the department.

Dr Sue McAllister

I have been a member of the Department of Public Health (Dunedin) Ethics Committee for about the last 10 years. I am a Senior Research Fellow in the Department and also in the Centre for International Health. My research interest is mostly in HIV and tuberculosis with the latter work being mostly in Indonesia. Hence, many of our projects require ethical review in both NZ and Indonesia which is always an interesting process to see how different countries work. I have been privileged to read through many ethics applications and to see the diversity of projects being undertaken in the department.

Dr Erin Penno

My research interests lie in health systems, health policy and health economics with a focus on better understanding and strengthening health system to deliver better outcomes. I have experience with quantitative, qualitative and mixed method research methods. I really value the opportunity to engage with the incredible mahi of my colleagues through the PSM ethics committee and support the research process.

Dr Kelly Radka

New member (September 2025)

I am interested in the ethics of undertaking research with minoritised groups, including migrant and former refugee populations, and those impacted by different forms of precarity including (but not limited to) precarity due to health, work arrangements, socio-economic and immigration status. I have experience with a range of qualitative methodologies and methods, particularly those which remain 'close' to participants' experiences, perceptions and stories. I am excited to participate in the important mahi of this committee. I look forward to engaging with researchers to learn about their projects and help bring ethically sound qualitative research projects 'to life.'

AP Ari Samaranayaka, Biostatistics Centre

I am a member of Department of Public Health (Dunedin) Ethics Committee since 2016. As a biostatistician, my research interests are methodological aspects of quantitative health related research. I collaborate with researchers from all health-related disciplines. I have experienced the work in the ethics committee, that covers ethical aspects as well as aspects of scientific quality of research, matches well with my research interests, and with my day-to-day work. I appreciate the opportunity through the Ethics Committee to work with health researchers from a wide range of disciplines.

Ms Amara Boyd

(Administrator)

I am the Public Health (Dunedin) Ethics Committee Administrator. I have been in this role since 2024. I provide administrative support to the chair and members of the committee. I monitor the generic email account (psm.ethics@otago.ac.nz). Responding to requests and enquiries, or forwarding these to the Chair.
