



Nominee Biographies – AGM 2022 Cerebral Palsy Society of New Zealand

The Cerebral Palsy Society's Constitution allows for nine (9) board member positions and also requires 50 percent of previously elected board members to stand for re-election at each AGM.

This year there are four (4) positions available, and five (5) candidates.

Below are the biographies submitted by the 2022 nominees.

Biographies are listed alphabetically by surname:

- Trish McQueen
 - Meg Smith
 - Merryn Straker
 - Murray Waring
 - Peter Wynne-Jones
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Trish McQueen

Kia ora, my name is Trish McQueen and I have Cerebral Palsy.

I believe that we have the right to have our voices heard and get what we need to have a better life.

I would like to make a difference for people with Cerebral Palsy and make myself free if the members need to talk.

I believe all people who has Cerebral Palsy should have the same experience like everyone.



Meg Smith

The last two years on the board has been an extraordinary experience and as a team, I am proud of the work we have done together to get to the place we are today and I would love to be able to continue.

It is exciting to be in a position to move the Society forward with a fantastic strategic plan, team and vision.

My personal connection with Cerebral Palsy is through my daughter Molly who is now 12 years old. I also have a 10-year-old son, Archie.

Molly has taught me a great deal about the world and what is important, and I feel humbled and privileged to be her mother.

I am currently doing a doctoral degree looking into the experiences of Aotearoa whānau who have a child living with Cerebral Palsy.

This is an area that I have discovered has had very little research done in NZ. I am really enjoying the journey that this work is taking me on.

I continue to work on the CP Clinical Network as co-chair with Professor Sue Stott. The network has made great progress over the last two years through work in early diagnosis and intervention, the CP Register, transition to adulthood, capturing the voices of people with Cerebral Palsy and therapy models.

I see this work as crucial for improving and progressing the way people with Cerebral Palsy are supported in NZ and ultimately with optimising outcomes and quality of life.

I have been a nurse for more than 27 years and in the last 17 years I have worked mainly in management and leadership positions. I have a Masters in Health Management with first class honours.

Previously I have worked as the Charge Nurse Manager for the Paediatric Orthopaedic service at Starship Children's Hospital where many children with Cerebral Palsy came through the service.

This allowed me to gain insight into the challenges and barriers that whānau living with Cerebral Palsy face.

In my current job as a Clinical Nurse Director, I provide professional nursing leadership to a large nursing workforce at Counties Manukau Te Whatu Ora.

Like many parents of tamariki with Cerebral Palsy, I have dedicated a lot of time and energy into navigating the health and education systems in order to optimise outcomes for my daughter.

This, along with my professional experience, has given me a good understanding of systemic structures across government services in NZ for our tamariki living with Cerebral Palsy.

I have a strong desire to use my skills, knowledge and experience to help make a difference to improving the lives of all people living with Cerebral Palsy and to help navigate our society into a strong position of advocacy and leadership in health, wellbeing and inclusion.



Merryn Straker

Kia ora tatou

I'm a mother to three boys of which our middle son Oscar (15) has Ataxic CP.

In a work sense I'm the Chief Operating Officer of Straker Translations, an Australian listed company I co-founded with my husband Grant in 1999.

My work life includes growing a large export business in 12 countries but firmly keeping our core roots and head office here in New Zealand.

I have strong technical skills, key focus in system and process improvement and have driven our business in the translation of 140 languages across all manner of industries as we have grown and acquired nine companies globally.

As an ASX business we operate on strong principles of governance which is vitally important on any Board.

I am passionate about the CP Society advocating for change at all levels – government, local body included.

We have a strong membership base and we need a strong advocacy arm to gain meaningful change for our members to enjoy a better and more equitable life.

I am excited about the strategic plan that has been formed and building the team out that can help implement that to best advantage to all of members – from newly diagnosed, children, teens, young adults and adults.

As a family we are keen sailor's and it is one of the greatest things we have been able to gift to Oscar – his love of water and the freedom he has swimming in it.

I'd love to continue on my journey on this board as our son ages and changes there is always a new perspective to be had.



Murray Waring

Hello one and all, I'm Murray from the rural community of Pukekohe that is in the southern region of Auckland.

I'm nominating myself knowing I can make a difference not only for those of us who have CP like myself, but also to those of you who support us regardless of the role you play.

Approaching my 50th year in March, I know how hard it is to fight for what is right along with being humbled for all the good things that come our way.

Given the chance I'll be at your side as I am approachable and easy going with a sense of humour when the time is right to use it.

Although I'm a Kiwi, I've had the privilege living in the Middle East/UK for several years. A few highlights have been being the only student with a disability at an international school with 1,200 other students from all over the world and seeing most of the world first-hand like Africa with family, friends and on my own.

Work wise, I enjoyed being a Disability Awareness Advisor over the years which was interesting, especially when my ideas/suggestions were adopted.

Bearing in mind what I said above and given the chance to represent you I will ensure the CPS continues to support you as it is vital to harness one's abilities rather than their disabilities as I for one believe it is a case of when not if.



Peter Wynne-Jones

Ko Ruapehu te maunga e rū nei taku ngākau
Ko Waikato te awa e mahea nei aku māharahara
Nō Kirikiriroa ahau
E mihi ana ki ngā tohu o nehe, o Tāmaki-makaurau e
noho nei au

I am so privileged to be on this Board as an Independent Director and Treasurer and I am very much looking forward to continuing to work hard with such a talented Board.

I have a B.Bus (Banking and Finance) from Chisholm Institute of Technology (now part of Monash University, Melbourne).

My career started off in banking but after 17 years, I moved into local Government with the Hamilton City Council for 11 years and Fonterra for three years. Since 2011, my positions have all involved accounting with many companies in Auckland. I am married to Jacqueline and have three adult children.

As well as a lifelong interest in the outdoors, I am interested in movies, music, reading, theatre (on-stage as well as off-stage), public speaking, snow skiing, centreboard sailing and travel.

Over the years, I have served on a voluntary basis (especially as Treasurer) on many committees.

I hope that my life experiences and professional expertise will continue to be of use to the Society and I look forward to your vote of confidence in my continuing role with the Society.

Ngā mihi nui, Peter