



Nominee Biographies AGM 2024 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 six (6) candidates.

Below are the biographies submitted by the 202 nominees.
Biographies are listed alphabetically by surname:

- Helena Chan
 - Renata Kotua
 - Meg Smith
 - Michael Turner
 - Murray Waring
 - Peter Wynne-Jones
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Helena Chan

Kia Ora Koutou/ 大家好,

Ko Helena Ko Helena taku ingoa, 我的名字是 Helena. I was born and raised in Tāmaki Makaurau to immigrant and refugee parents from Cambodia and China. I grew up in South Auckland. I'm now in my 30's and have lived experience of Cerebral Palsy (Spastic Hemiplegia), which is ideal for working in this space.

I'm confident that the adversities I have overcome, including being a female from an ethnic minority group will enable me to bring a balanced and diverse perspective to the board.

At heart, I'm a people person and I'm energised by connecting and helping others. I look forward to having a kōrero with members and improving the quality of life for Kiwis living with CP.

I'm not the type to let my CP get in the way of things I want to do! I was an AUT Uni Scholarship recipient and graduated with a Bachelor of Business (Marketing and Advertising) and then completed postgraduate studies.

I have worked across a variety of sectors, including local and central government, engineering consultancies and the not-for-profit sector.

My current role is at Vector working in Wellbeing, Diversity and Inclusion. I have been involved in re-establishing our accessibility network for employees.

I am passionate about raising the profile of disabled people and maximising their potential to succeed by listening to them and focusing on their strengths, instead of focusing on "What we can't do".

It is paramount to shift the mindset from seeing CP as a "deficit" and focusing on what value individuals with CP can bring to the table.

Noho ora mai,
Helena.



Renata Kotua

Kia Ora Koutou.
Ko Renata Kotua toku ingoa
E tipu ana ahau ki Hongoeka.
Tū mai rā te Mana o Kupe,
Ka pari a Raukawa Moana ki uta
Nei rā a Toa Rangatira e mihi atu nei.
He hine Hōkai Nukurangi ahau, na reira he hine
whaikaha.

(My name is Renata. I grew up in Hongoeka Bay Plimmerton looking out toward Mana Island & Raukawa Moana. Toa Rangatira is my iwi. I am a disabled woman with Cerebral Palsy.)

For the last 10 years, I have been working in disability project management and in governance roles doing my bit to help drive change for tangata whaikaha (disabled people). I advocate for social justice and work to modernise support systems, achieve accessibility, and improve attitudes towards disabled people.

Currently I am the disability advisor at workplace mental health clinic Mind Matters. I am an inaugural transformation board member at Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People and serve on the board of the forward-thinking disability organisation Your Way Kia Roha. I contribute to disability health research projects when I can and have worked with the Starship Foundation and Donald Beasley Institute. I am MCing the upcoming Disability Services Conference.

I am standing because I feel I can contribute. I have a working knowledge of our operational team, health research and good governance and advocacy experience which started right here back in 2020 my first time on any board.

I personally know and have met with more of our members than any other person currently sitting at the Board table that puts me in a great position to represent you well should you decide to vote for me.

I am a strong, outspoken and creative problem solver. I am great in a crisis and steadfast in my approach when I am working on something I am passionate about. With maturity I have gotten better at listening and not attacking everything head on in full on lioness mode – although that is what I am most well known for.

On other advisory and boards I have affectionately been dubbed “the piranha”, “the fire cracker”. The deaf community recently gifted me the sign name “firecracker”. That is the energy I bring to the table. And during these challenging times for our disability community this is the type of strength you want on your side.

I think it is crucial for disabled adults to be well represented on the Board and would love to work alongside Helena Chan. A lot of the attributes I am lacking – she has in abundance. We would be a great combination of assets to have at the board table.

When I am not working you will find me at the park or the beach trying desperately to keep up with my ridiculously fast daughters Te Ākau and Martha. Having a CP Mum has increased their kindness, empathy and willingness to support and advocate for others. I am raising them to have open hearts and open minds and to approach life looking at challenges through a strategic lens.

Ngā mihi



Meg Smith

The last four years on the board has been an extraordinary experience. 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 really good to be in a position to be able to continue to support the Society with progressing forward with a strong strategic plan, team and vision.

My personal connection with Cerebral Palsy is through my daughter Molly who is now 14 years old. I also have a 12-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.

Through the experience of being her mother, I have felt inspired to contribute to making a difference in the world of CP. As a result, I am almost finished my 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 and am looking forward to sharing my findings and being able to use them to promote positive change.

I have been a nurse 30 years and in the last 20 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 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 continue to use my skills, knowledge, and experience to help keep our society focused on advocacy and leadership in health, wellbeing, and inclusion so we are in the best position to make a difference to improving the lives of all people living with Cerebral Palsy.



Michael Turner

Michael has served on the CPS Board previously for number of years, and represents older people with CP. Michael has served on the CPS Board previously for number of years, and represents older people with CP.

I was born in Westport and have lived in Christchurch for the last 30 years I also have CP I have worked at Burwood Hospital for 19 years.

Did play Boccia but have had a couple of years off and looking at getting back into it, I also host one of the Chch coffee groups they tell me it's the biggest in NZ, it's just a fun group to me.

If I'm elected I would like to push to bring back the Xmas function around NZ and push for more outside of Auckland.



Murray Waring

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

Knowing I can continue to 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, I have decided to represent you again if you so choose to.

Bearing in mind I know firsthand 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 continue to 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 British based School with over 1,200 other students from all over the World and seeing most of the World first-hand with family, friends and on my own.

Work wise, with exception to Auckland International Airport where I had a two month paid contract, I enjoyed been a voluntary Disability Awareness Advisor over the years which was interesting, especially when my ideas and suggestions came to life for the likes of what was then Franklin Council (now part of Auckland Council), Papatoetoe High Schools Richards Centre, Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) Catering and Hospitality School and Ansett New Zealand which was an ex New Zealand domestic Airline.

So with the above in mind given the chance to represent you again, 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, Pete
