



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

**THE
NEW ZEALAND
INITIATIVE**

www.nzinitiative.org.nz

The New Zealand Initiative Annual Report 2018
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Published by
The New Zealand Initiative
PO Box 10147
Wellington 6143
New Zealand
www.nzinitiative.org.nz

Designed by Angela Whitney, www.angelawhitney.com
Printed by True North New Zealand Ltd

Cover photo: Piha Beach, New Zealand

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“Good quality public policy discourse is more important than it has ever been in today’s fast-moving digital world. It is a critical underpinning for a well-functioning democracy. Taking the time to do considered research on important topics like education, housing and where to next for the economy are a must. Sometimes challenging the conventional wisdom and digging below the ‘30 second grab’ as The New Zealand Initiative does, provides an important contribution to New Zealand’s ongoing prosperity.”

Kate McKenzie, Chief Executive, Chorus

FOREWORD

The New Zealand Initiative aims to create a country that brings opportunity, prosperity and happiness to all its people. It is an overarching goal that is not left, right or centre. It is a vision all New Zealanders can unite behind.

No matter your party-political leanings, we all believe housing should be affordable. We all hold that our children deserve the best possible education. We all want to see an economy that creates great products, services and jobs.

It was on this foundation that the Initiative started in 2012. Right from the beginning, we refused to think of New Zealand's future in party-political terms. What matters to us is finding the best answers to our country's long-term challenges.

Because of that, the change of government in 2017 did not change at all what we believe or do. We continued to engage with both the Government and the Opposition – the only difference was that our politicians had swapped places.

Over the course of 2018, we made concrete recommendations on some of our most pressing policy issues:

- We launched a joint initiative with Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) to explore pathways to a decentralised government. This coincided with the Productivity Commission's own inquiry into local government funding.

- We launched two seminal papers on education policy, *Score!* and *Spoiled by Choice*. We also hosted New Zealand's first ever researchED conference.
- We continued our campaign for an incentives-based scheme to address housing supply. We were delighted when the Government announced a project to construct 9,000 homes in Auckland by drawing on recommendations in our report, *Free to Build*.

In our events programme, we hosted Australia's longest-serving Treasurer Peter Costello and leading British educationalist Katharine Birbalsingh, as well as Finance Minister Grant Robertson, Environment Minister David Parker, Climate Change Minister James Shaw, Regional Development Minister Shane Jones, Leader of the Opposition Simon Bridges, National's rising star Nicola Willis, and Auckland Mayor Phil Goff.

It was a year in which the Initiative once again left its mark on New Zealand's political debates and public policy. Together with our membership, which once again grew in 2018, we will continue to do so in the coming years.



Roger Partridge
Roger Partridge
Chairman



Oliver Hartwich
Dr Oliver Hartwich
Executive Director

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The New Zealand Initiative is a unique organisation, and not just by New Zealand standards.

We are a non-partisan think tank, we are an association of business leaders, we are an evidence-based research institute, and most of all we are independent. We believe these are not contradictions.

What truly sets us apart is while most think tanks are only loosely affiliated with their donors, we take the opposite approach.

We are proud to have some of New Zealand's highest profile business leaders among our diverse membership and who bring a wide range of interests, experiences and ideas.

Our vision is to contribute to a prosperous, free and fair society with a competitive, open and dynamic economy.

We believe our goals and values are similar – if not identical – to what most New Zealanders want to see achieved:



A good education system



Affordable housing



An open economy



A free and democratic society



The protection of our natural resources and heritage



Sound public finances



A stable currency

OUR PRINCIPLES

The challenge in public policy is often not to define what you want to achieve, but to find ways of achieving widely shared goals. Every good think tank needs solid foundations. These are ours:

We are credible.

Our research is based on a sound theoretical framework and is rigorously peer-reviewed.

We are evidence-based.

Our recommendations are supported by empirical, and often international, evidence.

We are non-partisan.

We engage with parties from across the political spectrum.

We are independent.

We promote good public policy, not the interests of individual businesses or industries.

We are committed.

Our members and the Initiative team share the vision to build a better New Zealand.

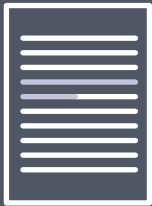


2018



260

opinion articles published
(including 142
Insights pieces)



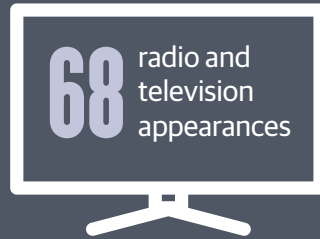
295

direct media mentions



4,332

Insights
newsletter subscribers



68 radio and television appearances

20

media releases



27

speaking engagements



7

research reports



10

written submissions

15

Initiative events held, hosting

47

speakers



4,262

Facebook likes



2,290

Twitter followers

YouTube

175,206

YouTube video views

Opinion 17

Super age must rise - and soon

Jenesa Jeram



It's time to get serious about raising the Super age. The current Super age of 67 is a relic of a bygone era, and it's time to update it to reflect the reality of a longer life expectancy. The current Super age of 67 is a relic of a bygone era, and it's time to update it to reflect the reality of a longer life expectancy. The current Super age of 67 is a relic of a bygone era, and it's time to update it to reflect the reality of a longer life expectancy.

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Britain's strictest teacher boosts kids

Shona Collins



Never at Katherine Birkhead's school do children get bored. She says that's because of her strict approach to learning. Birkhead is a primary school teacher in London, and she's known for her strict approach to learning. She says that's because of her strict approach to learning.

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Localism a hot topic at Wairarapa event

Wairarapa Midweek Local News Wednesday, August 22, 2018



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NZ businesses should be innovative, but aware of complicated labour market

ERIC CRAMPON



New Zealand businesses should be innovative, but aware of the complicated labour market. Eric Cramon, a leading economist, says that businesses need to be innovative and aware of the labour market. He says that businesses need to be innovative and aware of the labour market.

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THE SPINOFF

The foreign buyer ban is an abomination. Bad in principle, worse in practice



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OUR RESEARCH & SUBMISSIONS



OUR RESEARCH



Recipe for Disaster: Building Policy on Shaky Ground

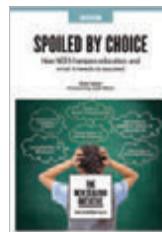
*Bryce Wilkinson and Eric Crampton
with Jason Krupp*

The Christchurch earthquakes caused massive disruption to householders and businesses. Recovery in the central business district is proving painfully slow. Few want to see that experience repeated.

Recipe for Disaster examines the strengths and weaknesses of the government's recovery arrangements.

The report, written by **Eric Crampton** and **Bryce Wilkinson**, finds that though many of the responses worked, the weaknesses were significant. In any future disaster, the government should quickly establish certainty about policies, plans and regulation. Anchor projects and precinct designations should be avoided unless they were planned for in the council's long-term disaster contingencies.

Repeating Christchurch's mistakes would be a recipe for disaster. This report shows how to better respond to the next natural disaster.



Spoiled by Choice: How NCEA Hampers Education, and What It Needs to Succeed

Briar Lipson

To coincide with the launch of the Ministry of Education's statutory review of NCEA, we launched *Spoiled by Choice: How NCEA Hampers Education, and What It Needs to Succeed*.

This report, written by **Briar Lipson**, finds that NCEA might be good for self-esteem, but it is failing too many students – particularly disadvantaged students – and needs urgent reform.

NCEA's flexibility is astounding, but *Spoiled by Choice* shows that disadvantaged students disproportionately pay its costs. This is because they are more likely to select or be guided into 'safe' options, which maximise NCEA success by avoiding challenging content.

A 2014 study by the Tertiary Education Commission found that 40% of Year 12 students with NCEA Level 2 could not read at a functional level. For a system designed to raise equity, this is too high a price to pay.

The report analyses NCEA's history and evolution, and its impact on students, teachers, employers and universities.

It makes seven recommendations to help raise the expectations of all students, reduce teacher workloads, and support educators to look beyond the numbers game to the wider goals of schooling.



Score! Transforming NCEA Data

Eric Crampton and Martine Udahemuka

It is hard to improve things without measuring them. Understanding where our secondary school system succeeds – and fails – depends on a better measure of student performance.

Eric Crampton and **Martine Udahemuka** demonstrate in *Score! Transforming NCEA Data* how to build this better measure.

NCEA puts equal weight on all credits towards a qualification. But it is much easier to attain an *Excellence* grade in some standards than in others. There can be vast variations between two people with the same NCEA qualification. Not only that, two students with substantial differences in academic achievement can finish NCEA with the same number of credit points, and the same number of *Excellence* or *Merit* grades.

Score! presents a better measure of student performance at NCEA. The Weighted Relative Performance Index (WRPI) weights overall student performance in each standard when assessing each student's performance.

The measure can assist government, policy analysts, researchers and schools to understand student performance better. It gives credit where it is due, as students truly deserve.



Who Guards the Guards? Regulatory Governance in New Zealand

Roger Partridge and Amy Thomasson

Regulations can only be as good as the regulators that apply them. Even the best-designed regulatory systems can fail if administered wrongly.

That is why it is so important to ensure that regulators do not exercise their powers in a vacuum. Just like any other organisation, regulators need a system of checks and balances to guide and monitor their behaviour.

This is what *Who Guards the Guards?* by **Roger Partridge** and **Amy Thomasson** is all about.

The report examines what good regulatory governance looks like and why it matters. It then analyses the results of a detailed survey of the performance of New Zealand's commercial regulatory agencies against a range of key performance indicators.

Who Guards the Guards? shows worrying deficiencies in the performance and behaviours of some of New Zealand's most important regulatory agencies, including the Commerce Commission and the Reserve Bank. By contrast, it finds high levels of respect for New Zealand's financial markets regulator, the Financial Markets Authority.



Smoke and Vapour: The Changing World of Tobacco Harm Reduction

Jenesa Jeram

Smoke and Vapour, written by **Jenesa Jeram**, argues that nicotine delivery products like e-cigarettes, snus and heat-not-burn can all help reduce the harms of smoking and positively contribute to New Zealand's smoke-free future.

Just days before the launch of this report, the Ministry of Health announced these products (except for tobacco chewed or dissolved in the mouth) can be lawfully imported, sold and distributed in New Zealand.

This is an excellent step for the country, and for the future of smokers wanting to quit.

But the hard work is not over yet. The Ministry is considering how best to apply risk-proportionate regulation across these products. However, as *Smoke and Vapour* argues, there is a tendency in public health to take an overly risk-averse approach.

The report makes several recommendations on key issues around advertising, excise and regulatory bodies. Though legalisation is an important first step, an overly risk-averse regime will limit smokers' access to these products and reduce the likelihood of switching.



Project Localism

The New Zealand Initiative and Local Government New Zealand

For the past six years, the Initiative has been arguing the case for localism. Pointing out that New Zealand is one of the most centralised countries in the world, we have called for a shift of political and fiscal power from the centre to the communities.

Alongside Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), we launched our joint position statement for 'Project Localism', calling for devolution and decentralisation in the way New Zealand is run.

LGNZ and the Initiative will explore how to recalibrate government. We will do this by consulting experts and stakeholders from government, business and academia. There will be public events and a call for submissions. We will engage widely to get the best ideas for better government.

The political feedback on our inquiry has also been encouraging. Then acting Prime Minister Winston Peters said he understood the problems facing local government and was open to ideas.

Opposition Leader Simon Bridges, on *Breakfast*, welcomed the project and pointed out that better incentives for a more competitive local government sector would be a positive development.

Our goal is to shift the way public decisions are made in New Zealand by seeking a commitment to localism.



Fit for Purpose? Are Kiwis Getting the Government They Pay For?

Bryce Wilkinson

In *Fit for Purpose? Are Kiwis Getting the Government They Pay For?* **Bryce Wilkinson** compiled rankings and statistics to answer one question: How good a job does the New Zealand government do with the resources it commands?

The report finds that the Government is achieving poor outcomes for New Zealanders relative to the resources it is using. Perhaps one dollar in three of New Zealand general government spending is wasteful. That represents around 13% of GDP or \$20,000 per household annually.

Fit for Purpose? looks at health and school education spending. It also identifies 20–30 areas of weakness in other sectors of government activity – government provision, institutional quality, and laws and regulations.

The launch of this report coincided with the Tax Working Group's interim report. Our report recommended some new taxes, especially around capital gains, and emphasised there is no point in being taxed more when the government does not deliver value for money on current taxation levels.



Embracing a Super Model: The Superannuation Sky Is Not Falling

Jenesa Jeram

New Zealand is one of a handful of countries to offer a universal, non-means-tested pension, payable from the age of 65.

Commentators insist that with our ageing population, New Zealand Superannuation (NZS) is unsustainable. There are rising concerns that New Zealand is sitting on a fiscal time-bomb, and that urgent reform to NZS is needed.

Contrary to the doomsayers, *Embracing a Super Model*, by **Jenesa Jeram**, offers a more positive story. Not only is NZS arguably one of the best pension models in the world, but the evidence does not point to a looming fiscal crisis.

The report finds that our pension scheme is worth celebrating but could do with a few tweaks as the population ages and concludes that the pension age must rise and be linked to health expectancy, to maintain a relevant relationship between retirement and receipt of superannuation.

The report warns that the future funding of NZS may be at the expense of more needy groups. New Zealand's current tax and welfare system is generally progressive: money is transferred from the rich to the poor. This could be reversed as the population ages and fewer people work, so that more money is transferred from the working poor to the relatively rich.

Embracing a Super Model makes four main recommendations:

1. Link the pension age to health expectancy
2. Index NZ Super to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) only, rather than both CPI and wages
3. Ensure that contributions to the NZ Super Fund do not come at the expense of paying down debt
4. Raise productivity growth to make NZ Super (and everything else) more affordable.

SUBMISSIONS

In 2018, the Initiative made submissions to:

- The Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Overseas Investment Amendment Bill
- The Social Services and Community Select Committee on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill
- The Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee on the Commerce (Criminalisation of Cartels) Amendment Bill
- The Education and Workforce Select Committee on the Education Poverty Reduction Bill
- The Tax Working Group on the Future of Tax
- The Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Reserve Bank (Monetary Policy) Amendment Bill
- The Treasury on Embedding Wellbeing in the Public Finance Act
- The Treasury on New Zealand's Fiscal Policy Framework: Establishing an Independent Fiscal Institution
- The Environment Committee on the Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Bill
- Parliament's Transport and Infrastructure Committee on the Building Amendment Bill

OUR ENGAGEMENT



ENGAGEMENT WITH MEMBERS

We held eight members' meetings in 2018. These meetings provided members the opportunity to hear from and engage with politicians, industry experts and international speakers on a wide range of topics.



In 2018, we hosted the following guest speakers:

- **Rt Hon Bill English**
Former Prime Minister and former Leader of the National Party
- **Andrew Leigh**
Australia's Shadow Assistant Treasurer and Federal Member for Fenner (ACT)
- **David Parker**
Attorney-General, Minister for Economic Development, Environment, and Trade and Export Growth
- **Phil Goff**
Mayor of Auckland
- **David Goodhart**
Journalist, author and founder and former editor of *Prospect* magazine
- **Nicola Willis**
National Party spokesperson for Early Childhood Education
- **Simon Bridges**
Leader of the National Party
- **James Show**
Co-Leader of the Green Party and Minister for Climate Change



ANNUAL MEMBERS' RETREAT (MARCH)



The New Zealand Initiative's Annual Retreat has become a fixture in business leaders' calendars. This year, we took our members to enjoy the scenic Kauri Bay where they heard from a strong line-up of national and international speakers.

The new Leader of the Opposition, **Simon Bridges**, outlined his vision for renewing the National Party.

Shane Jones, Minister of Forestry, Infrastructure, and Regional Economic Development, spoke about regional economic development. He discussed the billion-dollar Provincial Development Fund, a flagship Government policy.

Minister of Finance **Grant Robertson** updated the members on the Government's legislative programme and his priorities in fiscal policy.

Australia's longest-serving Treasurer **Peter Costello** gave an inspiring dinner lecture. With a raft of experience on the domestic and international political and financial stage, he spoke about his take on current politics and his work at Australia's sovereign wealth fund, the Future Fund.

Our researchers highlighted findings from their various research projects, including financial capability and education policy. **Oliver Hartwich** informed members about how the Initiative will continue to influence public policy debates.



DINNER LECTURE BY KATHARINE BIRBALSINGH (MAY)

Around the world, many education systems are struggling to bring high-quality education to those students who need it most: students from lower socio-economic backgrounds. But in one London school, a knowledge miracle is happening.

Guided by headmistress **Katharine Birbalsingh**, Michaela School is changing children's lives by challenging them to learn. Described by Boris Johnson as an "incredible school," Michaela School delivers where other schools often give up.

Katharine joined us for an inspiring dinner lecture on Thursday, 31 May in Auckland to tell the story of Michaela School. Almost 300 teachers, school trustees, business leaders and politicians attended the event. Whilst in New Zealand, Katharine visited a primary and secondary school in Auckland to meet with the students and teachers. We also had great media coverage, with TVNZ's *Breakfast*, *RadioLIVE*, *Radio New Zealand*, *New Zealand Herald*, *The National Business Review*, and *Newstalk ZB* interviewing Katharine about her philosophy. We hope the conversation we started will help realign the education debate.





RESEARCH-ED (JUNE)

We partnered with researchED to reignite evidence-based education in New Zealand. On Saturday, 2 June more than 240 passionate educators, parents, researchers and school trustees gathered at Auckland Grammar School to discuss the evidence on effective education.

Speakers, including **Katharine Birbalsingh**, **Benjamin Evans**, **Melinda Webber**, **Michael Johnston** and **Elizabeth Rata**, covered early literacy instruction, the findings from John Hattie's meta-analyses of education methods, how to improve University Entrance of Māori students in low-decile schools, cognitive automaticity in maths, the meaning of knowledge, and the New Zealand history curriculum.

The festival created a buzz and inspired several attendees to start blogs to continue the discussion.

"There were a lot of people attracted to researchED who probably wouldn't find themselves at home in the mainstream educational establishment, and as a result there was a bit of (tidily dressed and well enunciated) 'raging against the machine'."

Tom Haig, PPTA

"Having spent Queen's Birthday Saturday at the researchED Conference in Auckland along with 300 other educators who have a passion for teaching and learning, I have come away feeling inspired, uplifted and determined that the problems our education sector currently faces can be overcome."

John Morris, attendee researchED



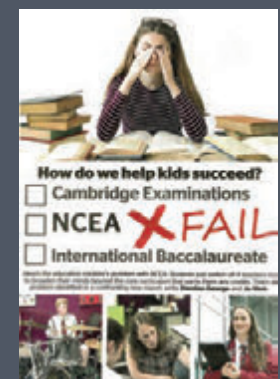
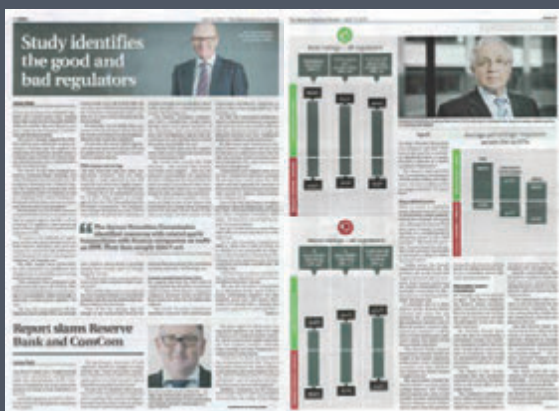
PUBLIC FORUM WITH PHILIPPE LEGRAIN (AUGUST)

Philippe Legrain, British economist, writer and founder of international think tank, OPEN, joined us for three speaking engagements in Auckland and Wellington.

At an event hosted by ANZ, and an open lecture at Victoria University of Wellington, attendees heard about how our open world is under threat, and why it matters. The topic at another lunch presentation, at AWF Madison, was how hiring refugees can benefit businesses. Over his three presentations, Philippe addressed around 160 attendees.

He also discussed the benefits of hiring refugees on *The AM Show* and *The Project*, and in an opinion piece for *The National Business Review*. He was also interviewed by *Newsroom* and *The Dominion Post*.





MEDIA

Measuring the political impact of an organisation is notoriously hard. At The New Zealand Initiative, we want to show how our research is shaping conversations and making a real difference for all New Zealanders.

One of the key ways we do this is by engaging with the media to ensure our research and policy recommendations are seen, understood and debated by the public, policymakers, business leaders and everyone in between.

Our media coverage in 2018 was impressive – both locally and internationally. Our weekly *Insights* pieces, weekly columns in *The National Business Review* and *Newsroom*, and contributions to other major newspaper and industry publications together surpassed the 250 mark. And these are just the pieces we wrote ourselves. Other publications have also written about our research and events.

Our researchers also made regular appearances on radio and TV. It was no wonder when in July 2018 *Radio New Zealand* investigated who is setting the agenda with opinion pieces in New Zealand, we got a special mention.

No week goes by without the Initiative appearing in the media somewhere. That, to us, is a good measure of success. Our *Insights* newsletter carries a weekly log of our media mentions.

While commenting on the state of New Zealand's political landscape has kept us busy, international affairs have also intrigued, frustrated and amused us. **Oliver Hartwich** dedicated many of his columns to explaining the complex goings-on of international politics such as Brexit, Italy's financial crisis, and the race to succeed Angela Merkel. These well-received columns were often followed up with additional local and international radio interviews.

Our research reports explored NCEA, New Zealand Superannuation, earthquake policy, tobacco harm reduction, government spending, and regulatory governance, and they all generated high-level coverage. The expertise of our researchers is evident in the growing number of requests for comment and interviews year on year.

The Dominion Post showed an interest in our upcoming research using integrated data to show what effect individual schools have on student achievement once their socio-economic backgrounds are adjusted for, with a double-page spread introducing the project we will be launching in mid-2019.

The AM Show and *Breakfast* snapped up exclusive interviews with our researchers when their reports were released and spoke with some of the international speakers we hosted during the year, including British economist **Philippe Legrain** and **Katharine Birbalsingh**, Founder and Headmistress of London's Michaela Community School.

Social media continues to be an important engagement tool for us, and we have worked hard to increase our visibility and grow our followers. These platforms give us the opportunity to share our research and recommendations with a much wider audience as we continue our mission to create a more prosperous New Zealand for all New Zealanders.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR



JANUARY

16 JANUARY

Sugar taxes overseas have ruined popular drinks like Irn-Bru. Responding to renewed calls for a sugar tax in New Zealand, **Jenesa Jeram** explains on *Newstalk ZB* why they will punish consumers, not the manufacturers.



18 JANUARY

Bryce Wilkinson and **Eric Crampton** brief Christchurch MPs **Poto Williams** and **Duncan Webb** about their upcoming report, *Recipe for Disaster*.

18 JANUARY

In an opinion piece in *The New Zealand Herald*, **Randall Bess** argues that the way fishing catches are allocated leaves recreational fishers at risk.



19 JANUARY

The New Zealand Herald interviews **Oliver Hartwich** about The New Zealand Initiative and the key issues we will look at this year.



25 JANUARY

We launch *Recipe for Disaster: Building Policy on Shaky Ground*. The report profiles the disaster response to the Christchurch earthquakes and provides a number of policy recommendations.



25 JANUARY

Eric Crampton discusses our new report on earthquake policy on *One News at Six*.



30 JANUARY

Briar Lipson shares her thoughts with the NCEA Review Reference Group about the shortcomings of the NCEA assessment system, and what we need to do to fix it.



30 JANUARY

After the announcement of the Government's proposed Child Poverty Reduction Bill, we warn in a media release that well-intentioned targets must be followed by well-targeted actions.

FEBRUARY

2 FEBRUARY

Our researchers meet with the National Party's parliamentary research team for an exchange of views.

2 FEBRUARY

A review commissioned by NZIER for the Ministry of Health finds that sugar taxes are unlikely to improve health outcomes. The findings mirror what we concluded in our 2016 report, *The Health of the State*.



7 FEBRUARY

Eric Crampton and **Bryce Wilkinson** discuss their latest report on earthquake policy with **Roger Sutton**, ex-head of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Agency.

8 FEBRUARY

Newsroom interviews **Eric Crampton** and **Jenesa Jeram** about our 2016 report *The Health of the State* in which we argue against the imposition of a sugar tax.

12 FEBRUARY

Oliver Hartwich, **Eric Crampton** and **Bryce Wilkinson** meet with Danish ambassador **Tom Nørring** and his officials to talk about housing affordability and regulations.

12 FEBRUARY

Our education team outlines our upcoming NCEA report to the Ministry of Education. **Briar Lipson** discusses her research with PPTA President **Jack Boyle**.



12 FEBRUARY

Eric Crampton argues on *Stuff* that New Zealand businesses should be innovative, but aware of the complicated labour market.



13 FEBRUARY

Bryce Wilkinson and **Oliver Hartwich** attend Treasury briefings on the planned changes to the Reserve Bank's mandate and the Government's plans to incorporate the Living Standards Framework into the process for the 2019 budget.

14 FEBRUARY

We prepare a submission to the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Overseas Investment Amendment Bill.



16 FEBRUARY

Roger Partridge writes for *Stuff* about a protest march in Auckland against the Government's decision to end the charter school model.

16 FEBRUARY

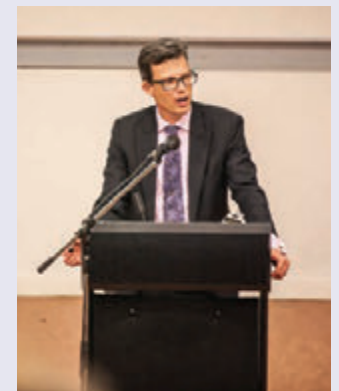
Oliver Hartwich addresses the Commodores Business Club at Auckland's Royal Yacht Squadron on the new Government's agenda and the Initiative's work on regional economic development.

20 FEBRUARY

Eric Crampton talks to **Kate Hawkesby** on *Newstalk ZB* about the economics of ticket scalping.

21 FEBRUARY

Eric Crampton is one of the guest speakers at the Optimistic Futures event. He imagines a future in which the reliance on central government shifts to a regional one. He also pushes the idea that in the future, we no longer would need to ask which policies work because we would have enough insight to know which investments produce a return.



MARCH

26 FEBRUARY

Documents released under the Official Information Act reveal KiwiBuild apartments and houses to be priced up to \$600,000 in Auckland could still be well out of reach of the target market. **Oliver Hartwich** discusses KiwiBuild on *RadioLIVE*.



26 FEBRUARY

Eric Crampton participates in the Resource Reform NZ symposium on reforming the Resource Management Act, hosted by the Employment and Manufactures Association (EMA).

1 MARCH

At a lunch with the New South Wales Treasurer's leadership team, **Oliver Hartwich** presents the Initiative's key recommendations for public policy reform.

1 MARCH

In a conversation with the Centre for Independent Studies' director **Tom Switzer**, **Oliver Hartwich** analyses the New Zealand government's new agenda.

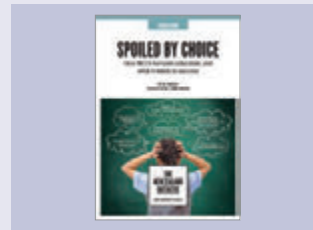
2 MARCH

At the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum in Sydney, **Oliver Hartwich** speaks about the future of work.



4 MARCH

We release our report *Spoiled by Choice: How NCEA Hampers Education, and What it Needs to Succeed*. **Briar Lipson** speaks to *Radio New Zealand* and *RadioLIVE* and appears on *TVNZ Breakfast*. *The Herald on Sunday* and *The Sunday Star Times* also cover the report.



5 MARCH

We host a dinner with former Prime Minister **Rt Hon Bill English** and several of our members in Wellington.

8-9 MARCH

The Initiative holds its sixth annual Members' Retreat at Kauri Bay Boomrock in Auckland. Our dinner speaker is Australia's longest-serving Treasurer **Peter Costello**, who is now chair of both Australia's sovereign wealth fund and the Nine Entertainment Corporation.



13 MARCH

We release *Score! Transforming NCEA Data*. The report surveys existing student achievement measures and builds a new one useful for benchmarking student performance. *The New Zealand Herald* and *Education Central* cover the report.



14 MARCH

There are lots of reasons not to like sugar taxes, argues **Eric Crampton** as part of *Stuff's* 'Sugar Fix' series.

22 MARCH

On *ABC Radio*, **Tom Switzer** interviews **Oliver Hartwich** on the incoming New Zealand government and the policy challenges it faces.

22 MARCH

At an event hosted by Russell Investments, **Oliver Hartwich** interviews Finance Minister **Grant Robertson** about economic policy.

APRIL

3 APRIL

The government's 10-year transport plan proposes a fuel tax increase of 9–12 cents per litre. **Sam Warburton** discusses the consequences of this increase on *Newstalk ZB* and *RadioLIVE*.



4 APRIL

We prepare a submission to the Social Services and Community Select Committee on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill.

5 APRIL

We prepare a submission to the Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee on the Commerce (Criminalisation of Cartels) Amendment Bill.



6 APRIL

We invite **Andrew Leigh**, Australia's Shadow Assistant Treasurer and Federal Member for Fenner (ACT), to our members' dinner in Wellington. **Nigel Haworth**, President of the Labour Party, and Labour MPs **Poto Williams**, **Michael Wood**, **Iain Lees-Galloway** and **Greg O'Connor** also attend.

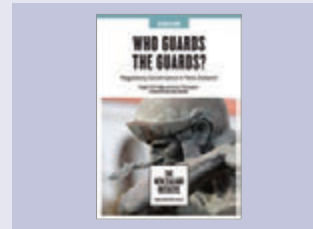


10 APRIL

As part of the Article IV missions, the International Monetary Fund consults with a broad range of stakeholders. **Oliver Hartwich** and **Eric Crampton** share our views on housing policy and local government with a delegation of the IMF.

13 APRIL

We launch our report *Who Guards the Guards?* on regulatory governance in New Zealand with an exclusive two-page spread in *The National Business Review*.



13 APRIL

We prepare a submission to the Education and Workforce Select Committee on the Education Poverty Reduction Bill.

17 APRIL

Briar Lipson responds on *Education Central* to a PPTA blog and continues the debate on curriculum, knowledge and skills.



18 APRIL

Eric Crampton argues on *The Spinoff* that legislation to prohibit foreign property buyers will do nothing to alleviate the housing crisis. In a following piece, he lays out all the other reasons the ban makes no sense.

27 APRIL

Eric Crampton tells **Jim Mora** on *Radio New Zealand* that anchor projects for the Christchurch rebuild were a terrible idea. Eric also discusses the government's announcement about the Metro Sports Facility project in the city.



27 APRIL

Tracy Martin, associate Minister of Education, wants to regulate the meaning of the commonly used word 'teacher'. **Roger Partridge** argues on *Education Central* that our language is ours. If we let politicians define the meaning of commonly understood words, where will it end?

30 APRIL

We prepare a submission to the Tax Working Group on the Future of Tax.

MAY

1 MAY

Ray Finch MEP, leader of the UK Independence Party's delegation to the European Parliament and spokesman for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, visits our office. **Oliver Hartwich** shares our prospects for greater cooperation between the United Kingdom and New Zealand, given the UK's impending exit from the European Union.

4 MAY

With Auckland **Mayor Phil Goff** halfway through his first term, we invite him to speak at a members' breakfast about his strategies for transport and housing in Auckland. This event is hosted by our member, PwC.



4 MAY

In *Idealog*, **Eric Crampton** shares what keeps him up at night in a new series in partnership with Tech Futures Lab.

5 MAY

Bryce Wilkinson takes part in a panel discussion with **Donna Provost** from the Children's Commission, and **David Hanna** from Wesley Community Action on the government's proposed targets for child poverty. Bryce argues that effective action is imperative for housing, education and job access, but grandiose and distant targets may not help much. The interview is published on Facebook in July.

5 MAY

At the Social Innovation New Zealand conference in Auckland, **Jenesa Jeram** speaks on a panel about governance and public policy. She explains some of the limitations of government and bureaucracies in implementing new solutions to entrenched social problems.



8 MAY

Oliver Hartwich joins the first ILANZ-Bell Gully General Counsel Forum to discuss the economic outlook for 2018 and beyond while focusing on regulation, localism and education.

11 MAY

Jenesa Jeram discusses on TVNZ's *Breakfast* her new report *Smoke and Vapour*, including the changing world of tobacco harm reduction. *Newstalk ZB*, *Radio New Zealand* and *Newshub* also cover the report.



11 MAY

Chapman Tripp and the Initiative host a members' lunch with **Hon David Parker**. The Minister speaks about New Zealand's trade and export growth.



14 MAY

New Zealand has vocational training. But what happens in secondary school before students start a vocational programme matters too. **Martine Udahemuka** remarks in *Education Central* on the striking differences between our system and Germany's.

17 MAY

Eric Crampton analyses in *The Dominion Post* what's good, bad and risky in the 2018 Budget.



17 MAY

On Budget Day, we welcome Associate Finance Minister **James Shaw's** announcement of a new, independent body to assess government forecasts and cost political party election promises. The announcement echoed our call for a fiscal council, first proposed in our 2014 report *Guarding the Public Purse: Faster Growth, Greater Fiscal Discipline*.

JUNE

25 MAY

Eric Crampton comments on *Radio New Zealand* on the new taxi service to rival Uber. Zoomy now has more than 80,000 app downloads and more than 2,000 drivers, but can it become profitable?

25 MAY

Children in New Zealand are at the bottom of the class in reading among English-speaking countries. **Roger Partridge** explains on *Stuff* where we should seek solutions.

31 MAY

British educator **Katharine Birbalsingh**, whom then UK Foreign Secretary **Boris Johnson** described as “a powerful and inspirational head teacher,” joins us for a dinner lecture in Auckland. She also appears on TVNZ *Breakfast* and is interviewed for an article in *The New Zealand Herald*.

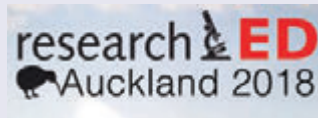


31 MAY

On World No Tobacco Day, **Jenesa Jeram** argues on *The Spinoff* for a ‘harm reduction’ approach that includes tobacco products.

2 JUNE

We host the first researchED event in Auckland. Policymakers, researchers, principals, teachers and **Briar Lipson** share how they have used evidence-informed practices to drive classroom performance



6 JUNE

Oliver Hartwich speaks to *Newstalk ZB's Mike Hosking* on the Fair Pay Agreements setting minimum standards for wages and employment conditions for workers within specific industries.



22 JUNE

Briar Lipson addresses 55 secondary principals at a meeting of the PPTA's Secondary Principals' Council on the NCEA review. Briar shares the analysis and findings from her report *Spoiled by Choice*, and speaks alongside Hobsonville Point School Principal **Maurie Abraham** and Victoria University's **Dr Michael Johnston**.

24 JUNE

Wallace Chapman interviews **Jenesa Jeram** on *Radio New Zealand* about how we measure child poverty. Jenesa says the Child Poverty Reduction Bill is underwhelming and the way we measure poverty isn't consistent.

27 JUNE

At Payments NZ's The Point 2018 conference, **Oliver Hartwich** talks about the true state of the Euro crisis by explaining the European Central Bank's Target 2 system.



28 JUNE

After New Zealand's worst road accident in 13 years, **Sam Warburton** tells **Mike Hosking** on *Newstalk ZB* the road toll has gone up by 60 percent over the past four years, but travel is only up 15 percent.

28 JUNE (AND 17 JULY)

In Presbyterian Support Northern's free public lecture series in Auckland and Wellington, **Jenesa Jeram** speaks about how we should measure child poverty and what the new Child Poverty Reduction Bill will achieve.



JULY

1 JULY

Radio New Zealand investigates who is setting the agenda through opinion pieces in New Zealand. They find that after universities, it is think tanks and sector groups – and the Initiative is leading the charge.



2 JULY

Eric Crampton participates in a roundtable discussion, Investing for Social Wellbeing, hosted by Victoria University and NZIER and attended by Minister for Social Development **Carmel Sepuloni**.

6 JULY

Nicola Willis, National's spokesperson for Early Childhood Education, joins us for a members' lunch in Wellington. She highlights the importance of creating good policy to protect the younger members of our communities.



10 JULY

When two resignations in 24 hours busted UK Prime Minister's 'soft Brexit' plans, **Oliver Hartwich** speaks to *The National Business Review* about the factions and challenges for Prime Minister **Theresa May**.



12 JULY

Oliver Hartwich participates in two TVNZ panel discussions on the future of our lifestyles ("Could you make do with less stuff?") and the kindness economy ("Do you think profit should be the most important priority for a business?").

14 JULY

Oliver Hartwich speaks to *ABC Radio National* in Australia on the increasing uncertainty of the future of the trans-Atlantic alliance and other international agreements following President **Donald Trump's** visit to Europe and the UK.

15 JULY

At Local Government New Zealand's (LGNZ) annual conference, President **Dave Cull** announces Project Localism. This joint project between LGNZ and the Initiative calls for a shift in the way public decisions are made by seeking a commitment to localism.



16 JULY

Oliver Hartwich, **Martine Udahemuka** and Acumen Republic Chairman **Michael Dunlop** use Switzerland as a case study in their presentation on building strong economic prosperity. The trio spoke at LGNZ's annual conference about our 2017 delegation to Switzerland and what New Zealand could learn from the Swiss models of education and localism.



26 JULY

At AGCARM's 2018 conference, **Oliver Hartwich** puts forward the case for localism in New Zealand and explains how it works in Switzerland.



29 JULY

At the Festival of the Future event in Wellington, **Oliver Hartwich** participates in a panel discussion with Housing Minister **Phil Twyford**, among others, on making housing more accessible, affordable and sustainable.



30 JULY

We welcome **Natanael Rother**, a Research Fellow from think tank Avenir Suisse, to the team for six weeks. Natanael spends his time researching New Zealand's policies and industry groups.

avenir suisse

AUGUST

3 AUGUST

Eric Crampton discusses at the Treasury's Friday Forum the importance of rebuilding economics capability at Treasury.

6, 7 AND 9 AUGUST

The Initiative hosts British economist **Philippe Legrain** for a series of lectures in Auckland and Wellington on how our open world is under threat and why it matters, and how hiring refugees can benefit businesses. He speaks about the latter on *The AM Show* and *The Project* and writes an opinion piece for *The National Business Review*.



7 AUGUST

Hardware chain Bunnings Warehouse agrees to pay its staff the Living Wage of \$20.55 per hour. **Eric Crampton** discusses the decision on *Newstalk ZB*.

12 AUGUST

At the ACT Party's annual conference, **Briar Lipson** speaks about NCEA and the wider context of New Zealand's education system.

13 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich is joined by the Swiss Ambassador **David Vogelsanger** and LGNZ Chief Executive **Malcolm Alexander** in Carterton. The trio present their experience and research on localism and how it might work for the Wairarapa region.



16 AUGUST

The New Zealand Herald publishes an in-depth article on localism, "Local funding for growth". The article discusses whether restrictions on local government funding are stifling the ability of our cities to grow at their best. Project Localism, our joint initiative with LGNZ, is referenced.

16 AUGUST

Victoria University of Wellington's debating society invites **Briar Lipson** to participate in a panel discussion on NCEA. The aim of the debate is to get more people talking about the NCEA Review.



17 AUGUST

At the Infrastructure New Zealand conference, **Eric Crampton** participates in a panel discussion on local government, infrastructure financing and housing.

17 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich speaks at the New Zealand Association for Migration and Investment's (NZAMI) annual conference focusing on think tanks and housing.



21 AUGUST

We begin our weekly column for *Newsroom*. In the inaugural column, **Eric Crampton** argues that the Government must change councils' incentives to grow if it truly wants to improve housing affordability.

22 AUGUST

The New Zealand Herald publishes **Jenesa Jeram's** opinion piece on period poverty and how these side-line campaigns cloud the core issue of poverty.



SEPTEMBER

7 SEPTEMBER

In *The National Business Review*, **Natanael Rother** discusses New Zealand's fascination with Switzerland, and Swiss politics, in his opinion piece, "We're rich but the question is: Why?"

7 SEPTEMBER

We make a submission to the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's (Monetary Policy) Amendment Bill.



13 SEPTEMBER

The Leader of the Opposition **Simon Bridges** is our guest speaker at a members' lunch hosted by Bell Gully in Auckland.



13 SEPTEMBER

A briefing from Ministry of Health's chief science advisor **Dr John Potter** to the Prime Minister says a sugar tax would generate millions in revenue and save lives. **Eric Crampton** tells *Newstalk ZB* and *The New Zealand Herald* that a few important details are missing from the report.

19 SEPTEMBER

We release *Fit for Purpose? Are Kiwis Getting the Government They Pay For?* Author **Bryce Wilkinson** finds that the government is wasting New Zealand's resources on a grand scale because it is failing to focus on producing value for money. Bryce speaks about the report on *Breakfast and Newstalk ZB*, and **Oliver Hartwich** records a podcast for the Q+A programme.



20 SEPTEMBER

We announce the appointment of New Zealand entrepreneur **Stephen Jennings** to our Board of Directors.



21 SEPTEMBER

In an opinion piece in *The Dominion Post*, **Bryce Wilkinson** says when governments in New Zealand are spending 40% of GDP annually, the quality of that spending really matters.



21 SEPTEMBER

Treasury releases its advice about an upcoming Cabinet Paper proposing Fair Pay Agreements. In a media release, we warn that the government must heed Treasury's warning about rushing this policy process.

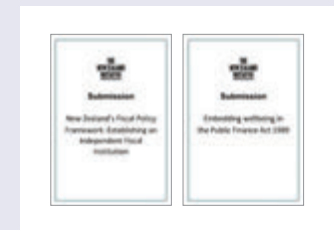
26 SEPTEMBER

Briar Lipson writes a column for the *researchED* magazine about why she was inspired to campaign for more evidence-informed education.



28 SEPTEMBER

We prepare two submissions for Treasury. The first is about New Zealand's Fiscal Policy Framework, the second is on Treasury's proposed changes to the Public Finance Act as part of the Government's flagship Wellbeing Budget in 2019.



OCTOBER

30 SEPTEMBER

In an interview on *Radio New Zealand*, **Bryce Wilkinson** discusses his new report, *Fit for Purpose?* and compares productivity to how much money the government spends on core sectors such as education and health.



30 SEPTEMBER-6 OCTOBER

The Initiative's leadership team attend the 2018 Mont Pelerin Society's General Meeting in the Gran Canary Islands.

11 OCTOBER

We prepare a submission to the Environment Committee on the Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Bill.



12 OCTOBER

Briar Lipson gives the keynote presentation at the Cambridge Conference NZ on NCEA and the curriculum.



15 OCTOBER

Eric Crampton participates in season 2 of the "What's Next?" series, focusing on our economy. He discusses the pros and cons of capitalism in New Zealand and globally.

17 OCTOBER

We prepare a submission for Parliament's Transport and Infrastructure Committee on the Building Amendment Bill.



19 OCTOBER

Jenesa Jeram participates in a roundtable discussion with the Government's Welfare Expert Advisory Group on priority ideas for welfare reform.

23 OCTOBER

Jenesa Jeram meets an American Cancer Society researcher to discuss New Zealand's e-cigarette public policy landscape.

26 OCTOBER

Eric Crampton writes a Top Ten column for *Interest* about the state of play for freshwater management.



29 OCTOBER

The first meeting of the Project Localism Reference Group takes place in Wellington to discuss how localism could work in New Zealand.



NOVEMBER

1-2 NOVEMBER

In Sydney, the Initiative's leadership team attend a roundtable discussion with their counterparts from several Australian think tanks. The group also have a dinner with former Australian Prime Minister **John Howard**.



2 NOVEMBER

In an opinion piece for *The New Zealand Herald*, **Briar Lipson** writes that the NCEA review is not tackling our declining performance.



9 NOVEMBER

Bryce Wilkinson attends a workshop in Christchurch on the lessons from the "Recovery Governance Arrangements" following the city's 2010/11 earthquakes.

9 NOVEMBER

At the Cannabis Referendum conference in Wellington, **Eric Crampton** participates in a panel discussion with MPs **Greg O'Connor** and **Chloe Swarbrick**, among others, to discuss the cannabis law reform ahead of the public referendum on personal cannabis use.



10 NOVEMBER

In a *Stuff* article about sugar taxes, **Jenesa Jeram** says we need more public health incentives at the community level and a holistic approach that includes physical and overall wellbeing.



14 NOVEMBER

Joel Hernandez explains in *The Dominion Post* how his research using integrated data shows what effect individual schools have on student achievement after adjusting for socio-economic backgrounds.



14 NOVEMBER

Oliver Hartwich is interviewed on *Newstalk ZB* about the Brexit deal announced by UK Prime Minister **Theresa May**.

20-21 NOVEMBER

Briar Lipson attends the Rural Women New Zealand Summit 2018 at Parliament. She speaks on a panel about the future of work, and the implication of this on New Zealand's education.

22 NOVEMBER

Linking the pension age to health expectancy maintains a relevant link between retirement and receipt of pension. Universal NZ Super is better targeted if the majority of those eligible are retired, writes **Jenesa Jeram** in *The Dominion Post*.



22 NOVEMBER

Eric Crampton attends the Smart and Resilient Cities series for 2018 run by the Public Sector Network. This year's theme focuses on building capabilities, strength and engagement through collaboration and technology.

23 NOVEMBER

Roger Partridge writes a column for *The National Business Review* following the news that some Year 13 students did not know the meaning of the word 'trivial' in their NCEA History exam. The column is republished on *Education Central*.

DECEMBER

26 NOVEMBER

Project Localism, our joint initiative with LGNZ, gets a mention in a *Stuff* article on how revitalising small town New Zealand is a key way to helping ease the pressure on Auckland.

27 NOVEMBER

Oliver Hartwich, Eric Crampton, Briar Lipson and **Joel Hernandez** speak about the cultural importance of think tanks, and our research areas, for a short video.



29-30 NOVEMBER

Eric Crampton attends the Canterbury Earthquakes Symposium in Christchurch. Our report, *Recipe for Disaster*, is highlighted in Mayor **Lianne Dalziel's** opening speech.

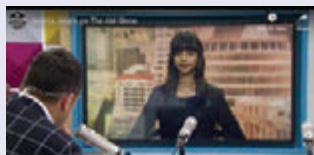


3 DECEMBER

The Project Localism Reference Group meets for a second time to discuss the benefits of localism for New Zealand.

4 DECEMBER

Jenesa Jeram introduces her new report, *Embracing a Super Model: The Superannuation Sky is not Falling*, on *The AM Show*. The report is also covered in *The New Zealand Herald*, *The National Business Review*, *Stuff*, and *Newsroom*, and on *Newstalk ZB*, *Radio New Zealand* and *RadioLIVE*.



6 DECEMBER

Oliver Hartwich and **Eric Crampton** meet with **Richard Harris**, a visiting professor from Durham University to discuss the state of New Zealand's economy.

7 DECEMBER

At our final members' lunch of the year, we host **James Shaw**, Co-Leader of the Green Party and Minister for Climate Change. He discusses the Government's renewable energy policy. Mercury's Chief Executive **Fraser Whineray** responds to the Minister's presentation.

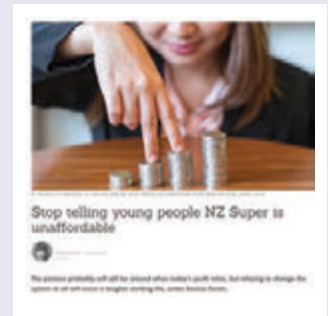


13 DECEMBER

Oliver Hartwich speaks about Brexit on *Newstalk ZB*. He says UK Prime Minister **Theresa May's** days are numbered as her party is deeply divided over Brexit.

18 DECEMBER

Jenesa Jeram explains why we need to "Stop telling young people NZ Super is unaffordable" in *The Spinoff*.



20 DECEMBER

On *Newstalk ZB*, **Eric Crampton** discusses what the minimum wage increase means for our economy.



WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT US



“The work the that The New Zealand Initiative does is important not just for this generation of New Zealanders, but for the next generations as well. The New Zealand Initiative covers a wide range of subject areas using in depth evidence and research. They are not afraid to raise confronting and challenging issues that we face as a country. They deliver reports on a wide range of issues that are both helpful and insightful. It is important to have independent think tanks such as The New Zealand Initiative to raise issues, challenge government, business and the community and to ensure as a country we progress these important conversations.”

Hon Louise Upston | MP for Taupo, National Party

“Good quality public policy discourse is more important that it has ever been in today’s fast-moving digital world. It is a critical underpinning for a well-functioning democracy. Taking the time to do considered research on important topics like education, housing and where to next for the economy are a must. Sometimes challenging the conventional wisdom and digging below the ‘30 second grab’ as The New Zealand Initiative does, provides an important contribution to New Zealand’s ongoing prosperity.”

Kate McKenzie | Chief Executive, Chorus

“The New Zealand Initiative provides a valuable service to our readers and subscribers with its weekly column of economic insights. The Initiative’s writers are all experts in their respective fields and are major contributors to debates on issues relevant to the business community and beyond.”

**Nevil Gibson | Editor-at-Large,
The National Business Review**

“The New Zealand Initiative’s methodological, fact-based approach to policy is ideally placed to improve public understanding on many of the key challenges and opportunities facing New Zealand.”

**Stephen Jennings | Chief Executive,
Rendezvous**



“Regardless of the ups and downs of our political cycles, New Zealand needs smart long run policy thinking on both the challenges and opportunities that New Zealand faces economically, socially and environmentally. The bottom line is New Zealand only does well in the world when we perform above the means and expectations of other countries of comparable size. Thus, the world class and independent work of the NZ Initiative is critically important to provoke us collectively to innovate, experiment and embrace new thinking..”

Christopher Luxon
Chief Executive, Air New Zealand,
Chair of the Prime Minister's
Business Advisory Council

OUR TEAM



Dr Oliver Hartwich
Executive Director

Oliver is the Executive Director of The New Zealand Initiative. Before joining the Initiative, he was a Research Fellow at the Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney, the Chief Economist at Policy Exchange in London, and an advisor in the UK House of Lords.

Oliver holds a Master's degree in Economics and Business Administration and a Ph.D. in Law from Bochum University in Germany.



Chelsy Blair
Operations Director

Chelsy is the Operations Director of The New Zealand Initiative. She works closely with the Board on governance matters and is responsible for membership, human resources, and the Initiative's finances. She also project manages the Initiative's events, including our annual members' retreat and delegations of around 40 members on international tours.

Chelsy holds a National Diploma in Business Administration and Prince II Foundation Certificate in Project Management. She has over 20 years' experience providing support at top management level in New Zealand and Britain.



Mangai Pitchai
Research Director

Mangai is the Research Director at The New Zealand Initiative. She has worked as an editor and publications manager in think tanks for nearly a decade, particularly at the Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney. Before that, she had worked in legal publishing in Australia, journalism in California and India, and teaching in India.

Mangai has an M.Phil. in archaeology from India and she studied journalism in California.



Dr Eric Crampton
Chief Economist

Eric is the Chief Economist at The New Zealand Initiative and co-author of *The Case for Economic Growth*. He served as Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Economics at the Department of Economics & Finance at the University of Canterbury from 2003 to 2014. Eric is also the creator and author of the well-known blog *Offsetting Behaviour*.

He has a Ph.D. and a Master's degree in Economics from George Mason University, and a B.A. (First class, double honours) in Economics and Political Science from the University of Manitoba.



Dr Bryce Wilkinson
Senior Fellow

Bryce is a Senior Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative. He is also the Director of economics consultancy Capital Economics. Prior to setting this up in 1997, he was a Director of Credit Suisse First Boston (now First NZ Capital). Before moving into investment banking in 1985,

he worked in the New Zealand Treasury, reaching the position of Director. Bryce has a strong background in public policy analysis, including monetary policy, capital market research and microeconomic advisory work.

He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Canterbury and was a Harkness Fellow at Harvard University.



Dr Patrick Carvalho
Research Fellow

Patrick is a Research Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative, with extensive international experience in public policy across academia, public organisations and private sector. He was Head of the Economic Studies Division at the Federation of Industries of Rio de Janeiro and then Research Fellow at The Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney. More recently, Patrick was a Director at a Washington, D.C.-based consultancy.

He has Bachelor of Law degree from Rio de Janeiro's State University, a Master's in Political Science from the University of Wollongong, and a Ph.D. in economics

from the Australian National University, where he also worked as a lecturer in macroeconomic policy.



Briar Lipson
Research Fellow

Briar is a Research Fellow specialising in education. Before joining the Initiative, she was a Maths teacher and Assistant Principal in London, where she also co-founded the Floreat family of primary schools. Briar has worked for international education consultancy CfBT, and the Westminster think tank Policy Exchange.

She holds a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Edinburgh.



Jenesa Jeram
Research Fellow

Jenesa is a Research Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative, focusing mainly on social issues and lifestyle regulations. She is the author of *Health of the State*, a report that looks at the evidence and ideology behind public health and lifestyle regulations. She

has an interest in sugar tax regulations, and has also co-authored publications on poverty, inequality, social impact bonds, economic growth and housing.

She has a Bachelor's degree with first class Honours from the University of Otago, majoring in Politics, Philosophy and Economics.



Joel Hernandez
Policy Analyst

Joel is a Policy Analyst at The New Zealand Initiative. Joel joined the Initiative after completing his Master's in Economics at Victoria University, where he worked on productivity, competition, labour economics and game theory. He also has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Otago, majoring in Microbiology.



Simone White
Communications Officer

Simone White is a Communications Officer at The New Zealand Initiative and the main contact for media queries. She writes media releases and manages the Initiative's social media channels. Simone also engages with the Initiative's members, collates our Annual Report and member updates, and works with the leadership team as they scope, write and publish research reports. She engages with the media to facilitate opportunities for the team to discuss their research across various forums: print, TV and radio. Simone has previously worked in communications at The Royal Australasian College of Physicians and New Zealand Post.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Media Studies and Classical History from Victoria University of Wellington.

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Linda Heerink
Communications Officer

Linda Heerink is a Communications Officer at The New Zealand Initiative. She works closely with our research team as they scope, write and publish research reports. Linda engages with stakeholders and media to facilitate opportunities for the research team to discuss their reports across various forums: print, TV and radio. Linda also manages the Initiative's weekly newsletter, *Insights*, and helps maintain the Initiative's social media channels and website.

Linda has worked in communications at the Dutch Postcode Lottery, BankGiro Lottery, and FriendsLottery in The Netherlands.

She holds a Bachelor of Communications degree.

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Helene Luey
Office Administrator &
Events Coordinator

Helene Luey is the first point of contact for The New Zealand Initiative and is responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. She works closely with our Operations Director to plan our in-house and external events and helps keep the website content updated. Helene has worked for many years in event coordination, administration and marketing for Oticon New Zealand, and more recently as an administrator for the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.

She has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Victoria University of Wellington.

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OUR BOARD



Roger Partridge
Chairman, The New Zealand Initiative

Roger Partridge is chairman and a co-founder of The New Zealand Initiative, and a senior member of its research team. He led law firm Bell Gully as executive chairman from 2007 to 2014, after 16 years as a commercial litigation partner. Roger was executive director of the Legal Research Foundation, a charitable foundation associated with the University of Auckland, from 2001 to 2009, and was a member of the Council of the New Zealand Law Society, the governing body of the legal profession in New Zealand, from 2011 to 2015. He is a chartered member of the Institute of Directors, a member of the University of Auckland Business School advisory board, a member of the editorial board of the New Zealand Law Review, and a member of the Mont Pelerin Society.



Barbara Chapman, CNZM
Chair and Independent Director

Barbara Chapman served as Chief Executive and Managing Director of ASB Bank Limited from 2011 until 2018. Since 1994, she has held several diverse senior executive roles with the Commonwealth Bank Group of companies, having started her career with the Group as Chief Manager Marketing at ASB. Ms Chapman is the Chair of Genesis Energy and an Independent Director of Fletcher Building, IAG and *Herald* publisher, NZME. She was named the New Zealand Business Leader of the Year in 2017 and made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2019 New Years Honours Roll for services to business.



Matthew Cockram
Chief Executive, Cooper and Company

Matthew Cockram serves as the Chief Executive Officer and Principal of Cooper and Company NZ. Prior to that, he spent 20 years at law firm Bell Gully, with the last five years as Chairman, specialising in construction, commercial property and

major projects. He has been an independent Director of Tainui Group Holdings Limited since 25 March 2011.



John Judge
Independent Non-Executive Director

John Judge was formerly Chief Executive of Ernst and Young New Zealand and former Chairman of ANZ Bank and Accident Compensation Corporation. He is also a former Director of Fletcher Building Limited and Fletcher Building Finance Limited. John is a member of the Otago University School of Business Advisory Board.



Linda Meade
Lead Partner, Deloitte Access Economics

Linda Meade is Partner at Deloitte New Zealand. Since joining Deloitte 13 years ago, Linda has played a lead role in the delivery of public sector and infrastructure engagements, with particular emphasis on central government departments, the transport sector, education and housing.



Neil Paviour-Smith
Managing Director,
Forsyth Barr

Neil Paviour-Smith is the Managing Director of Forsyth Barr, a leading New Zealand share-broking firm and investment bank. He is a Director of the New Zealand Exchange (NZX) and the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, and a Council Member of Victoria University of Wellington.

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Scott Perkins
Non-Executive Director,
Woolworths Limited and
Brambles Limited

Scott Perkins is a Non-Executive Director of Woolworths Ltd and Brambles Ltd. He is an active participant in the not-for-profit communities in Australia and New Zealand and has an extensive career in financial services. He was head of corporate finance for Deutsche Bank Australia and New Zealand.

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Chris Quin
Chief Executive,
Foodstuffs North Island

Chris Quin was appointed CEO of Foodstuffs North Island Ltd in May 2015 and joined the business in 2015. Chris has since immersed himself in the unique world of grocery and works with the Foodstuffs Co-operative team and its 350 store owners to create a leading supermarket experience for New Zealand shoppers.

Prior to joining Foodstuffs, Chris was CEO of Spark Home, Mobile and Business and led the company through the very successful rebrand from Telecom to Spark. From 2008 to 2012, Chris was CEO of the then Gen-i Australasia (now Spark Digital); in 2012, he spent three months as Acting CEO of Spark Group.

Chris relishes his role as Chairman of business incubator The ICEHOUSE and is on the Board of Directors for Loyalty NZ. In 2010, Chris received an Emerging Leader Award at the annual Sir Peter Blake Leadership Awards, and the Chairman's Award at the 2010 TUANZ Innovation Awards.

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Stephen Jennings
CEO and Founder,
Rendeavour

Stephen Jennings is one of New Zealand's most successful entrepreneurs. For more than 20 years, the Taranaki-born economist and investor has been living and working in emerging markets. A pioneer of capital markets in Central and Eastern Europe and Africa, he is responsible for more than \$200 billion worth of investment into these regions.

As the leader of Africa's largest urban development company, Rendeavour, he now helps build city-scale developments in some of the fastest growing cities in Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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The combined
 revenue of our
 member firms equals



of the
 New Zealand
 economy

Members of the
 Initiative provide
 employment to

150,000

people
 in New
 Zealand



