

Chair's Report 2024, November 2024

Dr. Tony Scott

It has been a productive and transformative year for the New Zealand Resuscitation Council. Below are the key updates and achievements that reflect our continued commitment to advancing resuscitation efforts, education, and governance.

Financial Audit

We have successfully completed the financial audit for the 2023-2024 year. I'd like to extend a special thanks to Rachel and Kevin for their work in ensuring the process was efficient and straightforward. Conducting such a thorough audit is no easy task—well done.

Office Changes

This year, we have had several changes within our office team. After three years of working with us, our Administration and Engagement Coordinator, Karen Nixon, has moved on to another role within Te Whatu Ora. Karen has been a key member of our team and has contributed to many projects and developments, especially in establishing the pastoral care program to ensure our instructors are supported by the council. We wish Karen well on her career journey.

We have, of course, been recruiting to fill this gap in our team. We would like to welcome Meredith Dreyer, who initially joined the team as a temp during our recruitment period and has now been successfully appointed as our permanent Administration Assistant. It is great to have Meredith on board—welcome!

We are also currently recruiting for a Communications and Engagement Coordinator to support our instructors through our pastoral care program and assist with our communications activities. We have finished interviews and are currently reference-checking for this role. We are excited to make an appointment in the coming weeks.

Instructor Review

We've recently completed our annual instructor review, and we are pleased to report an increase in the number of instructor courses being held. This is a positive indicator of our growing capacity to meet resuscitation training needs across the country.

NZ Resus 2024

We successfully held NZ Resus 2024 this year at the beautiful new conference center, Tākina, in Wellington. Following the success of NZ Resus 2022, where we sold out the event months before registration closed, demand was high for our meeting this year. We had a total of 362 registrants, making it a successful turnout. The feedback was extremely positive. This event was planned entirely by our in-office team.

The conference dinner, held at Parliament's grand ballroom, garnered significant attention. All 200 available spots were sold out within two weeks; it was definitely an event to remember.

We also honoured Dr. Lindsay Mildenhall, who deservedly received the Sir David Hay Medal for his services to resuscitation, particularly his work in newborn life support. Congratulations, Lindsay.

We are looking forward to our next NZ Resus Scientific Meeting, which will be held at Te Pae in Christchurch in 2026. This will also mark the 30th anniversary of the New Zealand Resuscitation Council, an exciting milestone to celebrate.

World Restart a Heart

Our campaign for World Restart a Heart Day this year was another resounding success. Four survivor stories brought important insights into our public messaging. This campaign has become one of our most important annual activities.

Council/Councillors

We were delighted to welcome Suzi Bryce, Brendan Harris, Bridget Dicker, Melanie Trimbo, and Rob Visser as new council representatives this year. It is great to see new faces around the table, and we look forward to your input.

We also farewelled Cheyenne Heka and Anna Lawson from our council this year. I would like to thank them for their contributions. Anna has been involved with the council for many years and contributed to several curriculum reviews and instructor manual and resource projects. Cheyenne has helped build the foundations for our out-of-hospital cardiac arrest strategy, which we hope will guide government policy to enhance New Zealand's capability to respond to out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. Thank you both for your work.

Additionally, we are currently halfway through our constitutional review to ensure our governance structures remain robust and adaptable to future needs.

ANZCOR

Our ongoing work with ANZCOR includes updates to the guideline website and planning for the Australian Resuscitation Council's Spark of Life event, which will be held in Melbourne in 2025. We are also engaged in the ANZCOR governance review and continue our work and commitments to ILCOR.

ILCOR Involvement

We continue to maintain strong ties with ILCOR. Our representatives remain active in various task forces, including Tonia Nicholson with the ALS Task Force, Kevin Nation with the EIT Task Force and the funding and communications committees, Bridget Dicker with the Basic Life Support Task Force, and Gabrielle Nuthall, who continues to contribute to the Paediatric Task Force. Our Communications and Engagement



Manager, Teghan Mear, continues to support ILCOR and World Restart a Heart globally with communications strategy and advice.

We are proud to have such strong representation on these international platforms. The in-person ILCOR meeting in Taiwan provided an excellent opportunity for task forces to engage after the challenges of remote collaboration. ILCOR has confirmed that the next meeting will be hosted by the European Resuscitation Council in Rotterdam in 2025, which promises to be another milestone event for international resuscitation efforts.

2024 has been another successful year for the New Zealand Resuscitation Council, with significant growth in both our team and our activities. We are already looking forward to next year, for which planning is well underway. Thank you to our councillors, instructors, and staff for your efforts this year in improving outcomes for Aotearoa New Zealand.