



Universities New Zealand – Te Pōkai Tara Programme Director – Complex Workstreams

- **Work across Aotearoa New Zealand’s university sector**
- **Be a key part of the sector’s interface with government**
- **Shape sector thinking and practice**

Universities New Zealand – Te Pōkai Tara (UNZ) is the peak body for this country’s eight universities. Although it is a relatively small organisation of just 15 Wellington-based staff, it coordinates work across the university sector on matters of common interest and provides a constructive, well-considered contribution to thinking and policy shaping in Wellington. Its work is overseen by a committee made up of the eight Vice-Chancellors (the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors’ Committee – NZVCC).

This role coordinates or drives a growing number of complex strategic workstreams on behalf of UNZ for the NZVCC and NZVCC sub-committees and working groups. Workstreams are complex and strategic where (a) they require working across multiple university sector committees and functions, and/or multiple government agencies, and where (b) they affect the sector as a whole in areas such as strategy, mandate, resourcing and future shape.

Some workstreams will be relatively small and low level, but need support and expertise around framing up the approach and rationale – particularly financial. Others will be large and high level, with significant oversight and many different parties involved in governance and implementation. This role is best envisaged as an in-house management consultant where success will depend upon your ability to untangle and navigate through complex issues and agendas.

You will be a strong systems thinker, with excellent skills in analysis and creative problem solving. You will be very capable at presenting ideas in person and on paper and will be known for your ability to generate successful outcomes in an environment where none of those you seek to influence actually report to you.

In addition, you will have the following:

- Substantial experience in roles with a focus on organisation or system design, improvement and development working with stakeholders at tier 1 (chief executive) and tier 2. Ideal candidates might come from a management consulting background or the equivalent sort of role from within an organisation.
- Substantial experience in the tertiary sector and/or a government sector.
- Key competencies and experience:

- Developing strategies and plans – evidence of developing strategies at sector or whole-of-organisation level and translating them into effective implementable plans.
- Writing for an executive audience – ability to communicate simply and effectively to audiences in tier 1 and 2 roles.
- Stakeholder engagement – ability to build strong and trusted relationships and to collaborate with and influence a wide range of university and external staff.
- Judgement and political nous – demonstrate excellent judgement in an environment that is often ambiguous and complex.
- Quantitative skills – ability to assess and/or develop intermediate level financial and economic analyses.

This is a permanent (open tenure) full-time role with some requirement for travel – mainly domestic.

To register your interest, please send a CV and a short covering letter to judy.lyons@universitiesnz.ac.nz. Applications close 5pm, Monday 23 May 2022.