

Our people

A diverse group of passionate individuals have teamed up to form the Social Wellbeing Agency

Executive Leadership team

Dorothy Adams

Interim Chief Executive



Before her role as Chief Executive of the Social Wellbeing Agency and formerly the Social Investment Agency, Dorothy established and led the Social Investment Unit. Earlier she was General Manager Insights at the Ministry of Social Development, where she was responsible for leading their data, analytics and evidence hub.

Prior to joining the Ministry in 2008, Dorothy worked in local government for ten years specialising in policy and governance, with her most recent role being Manager, Strategic Development at Hutt City Council. Dorothy has also held senior roles in the Department of Labour, NZ Employment Service and was an advisor to the Minister of Employment.

Dorothy has a Master of Public Administration from Monash University and an LLB from Victoria University of Wellington. She is an Enrolled Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Wellington.

Paul Delahunty

Deputy Chief Executive - Advisory Services



Paul joined us in October 2018 as Chief Investment and Integration Officer before moving to the role of Deputy Chief Executive - Advisory Services, in February 2020.

Paul leads the core business functions making up our engine room: Data Systems, Analytics, Insights, and Design and Sector Engagement.

Throughout his career Paul has worked in New Zealand and overseas in telecommunications, information technology, management consulting, and the public sector. He has had roles in strategy development, business improvement, change management, operations, and general management.

Before joining us, Paul was a Partner at a consulting firm. Prior he had been Head of Enterprise Portfolio Management at ACC (Accident Compensation Corporation), Head of Improvement and Portfolio Management at the Department of Conservation and a company Director. Earlier work included strategy at New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and management consulting within a multinational professional services firm.

Atawhai Tibble

Chief Advisor - Māori

Atawhai is a passionate and experienced Māori development professional and sought after expert in Māori-Crown relationships. At the Social Wellbeing Agency, Atawhai provides strategic and relational support to the organisation. He is the Senior Responsible Officer for project Manawa – Measuring what matters for Māori, and

is responsible for our Māori capability program Te Aho Kura.



Previously, Atawhai managed the development of Te Kupenga 2013, the first indigenous wellbeing survey undertaken by a national statistics organisation.

An experienced policy advisor, Atawhai has worked as Private Secretary to two Ministers and has held senior advisor roles at the Ministry of Education, Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori, Te Puni Kōkiri, the State Services Commission, and more recently, the NZ Treasury.

Atawhai is bilingual and bicultural. He is strongly affiliated to the tribes of Ngāti Porou, Tuwharetoa, Raukawa te au ki te Tonga. He has a law degree from Victoria University and was one of the early students of Te Wānanga o Raukawa when it was a fledgling cultural development institution.

Lynda Jelbert

Director Organisational Performance



Lynda leads the Agency's development and implementation of organisational and capability strategies. These strategies ensure we have the right capabilities and practices in place so that our work and projects are well managed, planned and executed. Lynda also leads the management of our corporate functions. Her goal is to ensure that the Social Wellbeing Agency is a great place to work, with a fantastic culture and capable people.

Lynda has a strong background in Human Resources, Leadership, Organisational Development, Change Management, and Health and Safety — spanning both public and private sectors. She has five years at EQC (the Earthquake Commission) and eight years at New Zealand Trade and Enterprise under her belt. She's also worked with Oranga Tamariki and various private businesses.

Lynda joined the us in October 2018. She holds an ANZSOG Executive Master's in Public Administration through Victoria University of Wellington.

Alistair Mason

Director Office of the Chief Executive



Alistair has worked with the Social Wellbeing Agency, formerly the Social Investment Agency, since its establishment as the Social Investment Unit in 2015. He moved into the role of Director Office of the Chief Executive in February 2020.

The Office of the Chief Executive oversees Ministerial engagement, communications, and provides advice and support to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Board and Social Wellbeing Committee.

Alistair has spent close to ten years working as Ministerial Advisor for a variety of Ministers, primarily covering social portfolios. This experience has supported Alistair's passion for improved social sector decision making and practice.

Alistair has an extensive background in public relations, having worked for some of the world's leading public relations firms in London, Hong Kong, the UAE, and Wellington.