

**Expression of Interest (EOI) for
Paediatric Physiotherapists and Speech Language Therapists
To join the Sleep & Respiratory National Clinical Network Reference Group**
Child & Youth Health National Clinical Network (CYHNCN)

The Child & Youth Health National Clinical Network (CYHNCN) are calling for applications from **Paediatric Physiotherapists and Speech Language Therapists** who are interested in leading a workstream advocating for increased national access to resources for clinical investigation and treatment within their professional field, to join the Sleep and Respiratory Clinical Network (CN) Reference Group (RG).

The responsibilities of the role are outlined in the attached [Terms of Reference](#).

This is a great opportunity to participate in national leadership for the delivery of Sleep and Respiratory services to improve outcomes for tamariki (children), rangatahi (youth) and whānau across Aotearoa.

Please share this opportunity widely with your colleagues and networks.

Applicants should align with the Paediatric Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) strategy; Te Tiriti o Waitangi provides overarching guidance, supported by interconnected themes to improve equity, strengthen partnership and connectiveness, and build a culturally responsive workforce that has the skills and resources to support nationally consistent model of care, standards of practice, and quality of service. The full PSNZ strategic plan can be found here: <https://www.paediatrics.org.nz/about>.

We have a focus on strengthening our equity lens therefore we will prioritise applicants who identify and have experience working within Māori and Pacific communities. This is an exciting opportunity to help shape and influence whānau-centred models of care nationally.

The aim of all the RGs is to improve outcomes for pēpi, tamariki, rangatahi in the context of their whānau. Further information about the program can be accessed via the CYHNCN's website:

<https://www.paediatrics.org.nz/our-work/nz-child--youth-clinical-networks/respiratory--sleep-network>

How do Networks work?

Clinical Networks receive funding and administrative support to work collaboratively to improve the delivery of services to whānau in a range of settings. Work plans are developed by the RG then approved by the CYHNCN Governance Group with deliverables that have timeframes. This may include practice guidelines, whānau information, education for health professionals and a range of other activities that are based on best evidence.

RG's include a multi-disciplinary team of people across a range of health settings; primary, secondary, and tertiary and across a geographical range in Aotearoa New Zealand. The whānau voice is also integral to the RG.

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How often does the RG meet?

The Reference Group meets approximately six to eight times per year. This usually includes five short online meetings and one face-to-face day meeting, usually either in Wellington or Auckland.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) provide an overview of governance and the responsibilities of the functions expected from the RG. These are attached to this document. We recommend you discuss submitting your application with your workplace (if appropriate) so that you can receive time to attend the face-to-face meetings. All transport costs and expenses associated with travel are funded.

How to apply

If you are interested in joining the Sleep and Respiratory Reference Group and/or would like to be involved in projects within this Clinical Network we would love to hear from you.

To express your interest, please provide:

- A brief summary of your skills, experience, and what you would bring to the role
- Your CV
- A contact phone number

Applications close: 5pm, Wednesday 5 August, 2026.

Please send your application to:

Kat Kirchmann – CYHNCN Support Administrator

kat.kirchmann@paediatrics.org.nz

Ngā mihi nui

Cass Byrnes, Co-chair of the Sleep and Respiratory Network Reference Group

David McNamara, Co-chair of the Sleep and Respiratory Network Reference Group

Nicola Austin, Chair of CYHNCN Governance Group



Child & Youth Health National Clinical Network for Sleep and Respiratory Terms of Reference

Background

The Sleep and Respiratory Clinical Network (CN) is operating under a co-chair model with support from the Reference Group (RG) and the wider network of clinicians.

Respiratory illness is a leading cause of acute hospitalisations among tamariki (children) and rangatahi (youth) in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Inequities disproportionately affect Māori and Pacific children due to systemic factors such as poverty, overcrowded housing, and limited access to culturally safe care.

Purpose

To improve respiratory health outcomes and reduce structural barriers to care for Tamariki:

- Provide advice and advocacy efforts that focus on equity through clinical leadership, service improvement, and system accountability.
- To develop the Clinical Network and embed activities to ensure sustainability
- To promote good clinical practice, equity and excellence in respiratory and sleep health for Tamariki and rangatahi in Aotearoa.
- Develop sustainable professional workforce and service

Equity Statement

The PSNZ is committed to upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi which is at the core of all work as outlined in the [strategic plan 2021 - 2026](#), specifically addressing the following:

Preamble

Respect existing Māori authority, strengthen relationships, and contribute to peace and good order.

Article 1: Kawanatanga

- Māori lead and contribute to the development of all work and establish the priorities it is intended to serve; and Māori agree that the work is satisfactory.

Article 2: Tino rangatiratanga

- Māori are contributing through drafting and advising on matters of tikanga or specific Māori interest.
- Restore resources and power to Māori/hapū.

Article 3: Ōritetanga

- Consider the responsibilities, rights and capacities of Māori citizens and ensure equity of outcomes as Māori people define them.

Article 4: Wairuatanga and custom

- Support people to live as Māori and according to Māori values and customs.

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Guiding Principles

Partnership and Connectivity: Collaboration across health and community sectors.

Continuous Improvement: Use of data, whānau voice, and best practice models of care and clinical guidelines.

Cultural Support: Ongoing support and representation via the Te Tiriti and Equity Programme Manager.

Governance and Support

The Clinical Network operates under the governance of:

- **Te Kāhui Mātai Arotamariki o Aotearoa (Paediatric Society of NZ)** – contract holder.
- **CYHNCN Governance Group** – oversight and work plan approval.
- The **CYHNCN Management Team** supports network operation with programme management, coordination, administration, and communications.

Network Membership

Open to diverse stakeholders across Aotearoa including clinicians and health representatives. Communication ensures widespread engagement and feedback opportunities.

Reference Group

Provides strategic oversight and steers annual work plans. Membership may include but is not limited to:

- Māori and Pacific leadership
- Clinicians (paediatricians, nurses, physiotherapist, speech language therapists)
- Researchers
- Lived Experience Navigators
- Kaimahi who work with tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau

Membership is limited to 10 for manageability and is appointed a selection panel appointed by the CYHNCN and based on information provided through the EOI process.

Co-chair Responsibilities

The Co-chairs leads planning, communications, and external engagement, and ensures alignment with strategic priorities and cultural safety. They are supported by their network Project Coordinator.

Member Responsibilities

- Actively participating and contributing to meetings, processes and tasks of the CN
- Supporting the Co-Chairs, Project Coordinator and RG members (including medical co-leads)
- Providing advice from their areas of expertise to other CN members

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- Responding in a timely manner to requests for information and advice from other CN members
- Reporting back to their own organisations and related organisations
- Not disclosing any confidential information or making media statements on matters relating to the CN without the prior approval of all members of the RG and Co-Chairs

The **PSNZ CYHNCN Support Manager** will provide support to the CN including:

- Oversight of business rules and financial matters
- Support for the development of the annual work plan
- Support for agreed communication/information processes
- Support and guidance of specific projects as appropriate

The **PSNZ CYHNCN Support Administrator** will provide support to the CN including:

- Providing administrative support to the CN Co-chairs, Project Coordinator, RG and CN members as appropriate

Working Groups and Work Streams

- Focused teams delivering projects that align with the network's priorities.
- Report to the Reference Group and are led by a nominated clinical lead.

Whānau Voice

All projects should demonstrate engagement with whānau, ensuring their insights shape service design and evaluation. This can be supported by but is not the sole responsibility of a Lived Experience Navigator. Ongoing whakawhanaungatanga (relationship building) of network members is encouraged to grow relationships, support co-design and alleviate responsibility from Māori and Pasifika network members.

Reporting and Accountability

- Quarterly reports submitted are submitted by the network, this is led and managed by the Co-chairs and Project Coordinator.
- Reporting schedule: April, July, October, and January.

Review

Terms of Reference to be review biannually by the reference group.