

Health Experiences Aotearoa New Zealand (HEXNZ) Symposium and Launch 2026

Bringing together researchers, health professionals, educators, community partners, and people with lived experience

Wednesday 25 November

9.00am – 5.00pm

Heritage Lecture Theatre, Level 2 Easterfield Building (EA), Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University,
Kelburn Parade, Wellington 6012

We are delighted to welcome three distinguished international guest speakers:

- **Professor Sue Ziebland, University of Oxford**, founding Director of the Medical Sociology and Health Experiences Research Group and co-founder of the Health Experiences International (HEXI) research collaboration
- **Professor Lorraine Smith, University of Sydney**, a leading researcher in patient experience and health communication, and former co-Director of Healthtalk Australia
- **Dr Rika Sato**, Managing Director/Lead Researcher at DIPEX-Japan (first HEXI member country outside the UK)

Programme Overview

8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome & Whakatau
9:30 – 10:30	International Keynotes: Professor Sue Ziebland, University of Oxford. Founding Director of the Medical Sociology and Health Experiences Research Group and co-founder of the Health Experiences International (HEXI) research collaboration. Professor Lorraine Smith, University of Sydney , a leading researcher in patient experience and health communication, and former co-Director of Healthtalk Australia.
	Morning Tea
11:00 – 12:30	Aotearoa in Focus: Experience-Based Health Research in NZ <i>Prof Kevin Dew (Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington)</i> <i>Dr Annie Jones (Waipapa Taumata Rau-University of Auckland)</i> <i>Dr Hemakumar Devan (Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka ki Pōneke-University of Otago Wellington)</i>
	Lunch
1:30 – 2:00	Introducing HEXNZ: <i>Maria Stubbe (Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka ki Pōneke-University of Otago Wellington)</i> <i>Cheryl Davies (Tu Kotahi Māori Asthma Trust)</i> <i>Cervantée Wild (Waipapa Taumata Rau-University of Auckland)</i> <i>Ally Gibson (Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington)</i>

2:00 – 2:30	HExNZ Website Demo
	Afternoon Tea
2:45 – 3.45	Panel Discussion: Using lived experience data for policy, practice, and equity <i>Prof Sue Ziebland (Oxford), Prof Lorraine Smith (Sydney), Cheryl Davies (Tu Kotahi Māori Asthma Trust), Dr Rika Sato (DIPEX-Japan)</i>
4:00 – 5.00	Networking Reception

About HExNZ

Health Experiences Aotearoa New Zealand (HExNZ) is a new research and public engagement initiative that shares the lived experiences of people navigating health conditions and healthcare in Aotearoa New Zealand. HExNZ creates evidence-based online resources based on qualitative interviews to support patients, whānau, clinicians, researchers, and students to better understand what it is like to live with a health condition.

HExNZ is part of **Health Experiences International** (formerly DIPEX), a global collaboration of scholars, clinicians, and patients committed to enriching our understanding of people's experiences of health, healthcare and illness and bringing that new knowledge into the world. It was inspired by the UK-based <https://hexi.ox.ac.uk/> which is managed by the Medical Sociology and Health Experiences Research Group (MS&HERG) at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences at the University of Oxford. Together, network members across 15 countries contribute to one of the world's largest collections of qualitative research on experiences of health and illness. The first HExNZ module focuses on the experiences of people living with diabetes in Aotearoa New Zealand.

This special event is jointly hosted by Ōtākou Waikaihu Waka-University of Otago, Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington, Waipapa Taumata Rau-University of Auckland, and Tu Kotahi Māori Asthma Trust, with support from the Royal Society of New Zealand Te Apārangi.

