

Cathy Cooney (Chair)

Current role: Director of Kowhai Health Associates Limited – a health consultancy company.



Ms Cooney has an extensive background in both clinical and health management roles, and currently a Director of Kowhai Health Associates Limited – a health consultancy company. She brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the role and has a particular interest in organisational governance and leadership along with building high performing teams with positive, engaged team cultures, which fits with the inter-RAI NZ Governance Board's vision.

Ms Cooney has a background in professional and corporate leadership, executive level health management, workforce development, quality systems and accreditation, public health nursing and community development.

She is a Fellow of the College of Nurses Aotearoa, a Fellow of the Australasian College of Health Service Management/ NZ Institute of Health Management and a Member of the NZ Institute of Directors.

Some of Ms Cooney's current and recent roles include:

- Chair Director General Health Reference Group: Better Community and Home Support Services for all New Zealanders, 2015
- Health sector lead auditor, DAA Group: DHB Certification and Surveillance audits (US 8086)
- Member of the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (Nursing)
- Workforce development – Independent Facilitator Kaiawhina Workforce Action Plan development; DHB representative for the NZQA mandatory review of unregulated roles: health, disability, social service and whanau ora (Levels 1-6)
- NZQA Panel member for the approval process Waiariki Institute of Technology, PG/Master of Management; & joint programme monitor
- Building capacity and capability; leadership development; strategic planning; business recovery/ operational sustainability; quality systems development.

Ms Cooney has 40 years' experience in the health sector, is a Registered Nurse and Midwife and holds a BA Honours Degree (First Class). From 2001 to 2012 she was the Chief Executive of Lakes DHB and from April 2011 to June 2012 was also the Acting Chief Executive for HealthShare Limited, the shared services organisation of the Midland DHBs. From 1994-2000, Ms Cooney was the Lakeland Health Director of Nursing and Midwifery and the Service Director for Clinical Support.