

APH Organisation Form

Organisation and Responsible Portfolio

AGED CARE COMMISSIONER – HEALTH

Brief Outline of the Functions and Responsibilities of the Organisation

The office of the Health and Disability Commissioner – Te Toihau Hauora, Hauātanga (HDC) is an independent Crown entity for the purposes of the Crown Entities Act 2004. The HDC is responsible for promoting and protecting the rights of consumers as set out in the Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights.

Current Membership

Name	Gender Identity	Region	Ethnicities (and Iwi if applicable)	Date of original appointment	Expiry date of present term
Morag McDowell (Health and Disability Commissioner)	F	Auckland	European (New Zealand European)	7 September 2020	6 March 2026
Jean Rosemary (Rose) Wall (Deputy Health and Disability Commissioner)	F	Wellington	European (New Zealand European)	26 August 2013	1 October 2030
Vanessa Caldwell (Deputy Health and Disability Commissioner)	F	Wellington	Māori (Kāi Tahu, Te Rapuwai, Waitaha, Kati Māmoe)	6 September 2021	5 September 2026
Vacancy (Aged Care Commissioner)					

Candidate CV Form

Name	JAMES, Erin
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The Position

Organisation/Entity	Health and Disability Commissioner – Te Toihau Hauora, Hauātanga
Position	Aged Care Commissioner
Term	Five-year term commencing on 7 April 2026 and ending on 6 April 2031
Payment	Set by Remuneration Authority

How the Candidate Meets the Needs of the Position

Skills and attributes the candidate will bring to the position	Erin James' legal and human rights experience and expertise will provide a valuable perspective to the organisation. Ms James is currently Director of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) team at the Office of the Ombudsman. She has strong leadership skills with relevant public sector experience particularly focused on maintaining the rights of vulnerable communities, with a sound understanding of challenges older people face accessing health and disability services. Ms James was the Head of Investigations/Head of Report: Lake Alice and Social Welfare Investigations at the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historic Abuse in Care in 2021 to 2022. Ms James obtained a LLB/BSc, BA (Hon) – First Class Honours (2008) and Master of Laws – First Class Honours (2009) from the University of Auckland. Ms James is currently completing a Master of Laws in Human Rights and Constitutional Law at the London School of Economics and Politics. She was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court in New Zealand in 2008.
Possible conflicts of interest	No substantial conflicts of interest have been identified that would preclude Ms James' appointment.
Proposals for conflict management	Should any conflict of interest arise, Ms James will be expected to manage this in accordance with the requirements of the Crown Entities Act 2004 and the Health and Disability Commissioner Act 1994 and recuse herself from any cases where there may be a perceived, potential or actual conflict of interest.

The Candidate

Name	JAMES, Erin
Address	s9(2)(a)
Ethnicity(s)	Not declared
Age range	41 - 50
Gender	Female
Current or most recent Employment	2022 – present, Director Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture <u>Office of the Ombudsman</u>
Government board appointments held	N/A
Private and/or voluntary sector board appointments held	2018 – 2022, Chair <u>The Human Rights Lawyers Association Aotearoa New Zealand</u>
Qualifications and experience	<p><u>Experience</u></p> <p>2021 – 2022, Head of Investigation/Head of Report: Lake Alice and Social Welfare Investigations 2021, Senior Solicitor – Psychiatric Investigation <u>Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historic Abuse in Care</u></p> <p>2016 – 2021, Barrister Sole <u>District and High Court, Auckland</u></p> <p>2013 – 2015, Director/Consultant <u>Jetplane Consulting</u></p> <p>2008 – 2013, Junior Barrister <u>Shortland Chambers</u></p> <p>2008, Solicitor <u>Powell Webber and Associates</u></p> <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>Present, Master of Laws <u>London School of Economics and Politics</u></p> <p>2019, Master of Arts – First Class Honors 2009, Master of Laws – First Class Honors 2008, Bachelor of Science, Laws and Geography <u>University of Auckland</u></p> <p>2004, Bachelor of Arts <u>University of California Santa Barbara</u></p>

Date: 21/05/2025