

Chair in Regulatory Practice

Annual Report July 2019 - June 2020

School of Government
Victoria University of Wellington



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
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WELLINGTON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT



GOVERNMENT
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PRACTICE**
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Kia ora

Welcome to the second Annual Report of the Chair in Regulatory Practice.

The Chair in Regulatory Practice was launched in July 2018 at the School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington. The Chair is part of the [Aotearoa/New Zealand Government Regulatory Practice Initiative](#) (G-REG). G-REG is a network of central and local government regulatory agencies established to lead and contribute to regulatory practice initiatives.

G-REG is unique in the world. It follows up from a [2014 report by the Aotearoa/New Zealand Productivity Commission on regulatory institutions and practices](#). Its authors found that while Aotearoa/New Zealand's regulatory system is often compared favourably with those in other countries, some improvements appear necessary. These relate to better regulatory practice and institutional design, and better regulatory management.

In response to this report, G-REG was created. Since 2014, G-REG has grown to a network of some 50 central and local Aotearoa/New Zealand government organisations. It works on actions that improve leadership, culture, regulatory practice and workforce capability in regulatory organisations and systems.

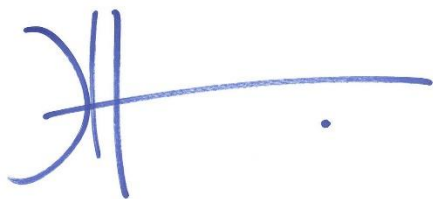
The Chair in Regulatory Practice contributes to G-REG actions through world-leading research on regulation and governance and active engagement with the G-REG community, and by contributing to the training of those involved in regulatory issues. Appendix A to this Annual report gives an overview of the Chair's 5-year plan (2018-2023).

Like G-REG, the Chair in Regulatory Practice is unique in the world. To the best of our knowledge, no other national government (or group of government organisations) has supported the establishment of a dedicated Chair to critically engage with their regulatory regimes and systems on an ongoing basis.

The work of the Chair is both inward-looking and outward-looking. By looking inwards, in response to the Productivity Commission's report, the Chair is exploring questions of where, why and how improvements can be made to regulatory regimes in Aotearoa/New Zealand. The Chair is looking outwards by bringing state-of-the-art knowledge of regulatory practice and other areas of regulation and governance to Aotearoa/New Zealand. Finally, the work of the Chair is both inward-looking and outward-looking because Aotearoa/New Zealand has in place unique regulatory instruments, processes and institutions that the rest of the world can learn from.

This second Annual Report of the Chair in Regulatory Practice, covering the period of July 2019 to June 2020, takes a quick tour through the actions undertaken in the areas of research, engagement and education.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the work of the Chair in Regulatory Practice.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a dot.

Professor Jeroen van der Heijden, PhD

Chair in Regulatory Practice, School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington

Honorary Professor, School of Regulation and Global Governance, Australian National University

About the Chair

The Chair in Regulatory Practice in the School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington, is part of the Aotearoa/New Zealand Government Regulatory Practice Initiative (G-REG). G-REG is a network of central and local government regulatory agencies and has been established to lead and contribute to regulatory practice initiatives. It works on actions that improve leadership, culture, regulatory practice and workforce capability in regulatory organisations and systems. The Chair is sponsored by ten agencies within G-REG, the Treasury, and the Victoria University of Wellington.

Through world-leading research on regulatory practice, active engagement with the G-REG community, and contributions to the training of those involved in regulatory issues, the Chair aims to help improve Aotearoa/New Zealand's regulations and their impact on economic and social performance. The Chair defines regulation broadly as the institutions, processes and instruments put in place to steer the behaviour of individuals and collectives towards desirable societal ends.



Professor Jeroen van der Heijden, PhD, is the inaugural Chair in Regulatory Practice. He started his tenure at the Victoria University of Wellington in July 2018. He works at the intersection of public governance and regulation, with specific interests in regulatory stewardship and dynamic governance regimes, and urban climate governance.

His work is organised around innovations in regulation and the way in which good regulatory practice can deliver on Aotearoa/New Zealand's critical policy objectives. This allows him to draw lessons from Aotearoa/New Zealand and elsewhere to improve regulation and its impact on economic and social performance, and to showcase to the rest of the world the state of the art in regulatory practice in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Professor van der Heijden is an architect by training, and he became interested in regulatory governance when he worked for a consultancy firm in the early 2000s. It struck him that, whenever a building-related incident occurred, it was not the contractor, the engineer or the architect who was blamed by the media and the general public, but the (often municipal) building inspector. Seeking an answer to why that is the case, and considering how regulatory practice and regulatory governance could be improved, he embarked on a PhD and a further academic career in public governance, with a focus on regulation, enforcement and compliance. This ultimately led him to his current quest to understand how governments and others can uphold and strengthen their 'social licence to regulate', and whether regulatory stewardship is a promising means for doing this.

Professor van der Heijden holds a position as Honorary Professor at the Australian National University (School of Regulation and Global Governance), and previously held positions at the University of Amsterdam (College of Law), Delft University of Technology (Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management), and Wageningen University (Environmental Policy Group). He has published widely on regulation and governance, having written five books and over 60 articles in leading academic journals. His books include *Urban Climate Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2019, with Bulkeley and Certomà), *Innovations in Urban Climate Governance* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) and *Governance for Urban Sustainability and Resilience* (Edward Elgar, 2014).

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Research

The research programme of the Chair in Regulatory Practice is built around four clusters and questions:

- **Regulation and governance of pressing societal problems.** In this cluster, we ask whether, and, if so, how, regulation (understood in its broadest sense as the institutions, processes and instruments put in place to steer behaviour towards desirable societal ends) can provide the appropriate incentives and disciplines to achieve desirable societal outcomes.
- **Advances in regulatory practice in central and local government regulatory agencies in Aotearoa/New Zealand.** Here we ask what the state of the art is in regulatory practice in Aotearoa/New Zealand (by international standards), and how this practice performs. We consider innovative regulators, regulatory instruments and regulatory processes in Aotearoa/New Zealand.
- **Advances in regulatory practice outside Aotearoa/New Zealand.** This cluster mirrors the previous one, and asks what the state of the art is in regulatory practice outside Aotearoa/New Zealand (by international standards), and how this practice performs.
- **Regulatory systemic change: Regulatory success and failure, and regulatory stewardship.** This cluster spans the others, and we ask what conditions positively or negatively affect regulatory performance, what combinations of these conditions are likely to result in regulatory success or failure, and what stewardship roles and functions may increase the likelihood of regulatory success and reduce the risk of regulatory failure.

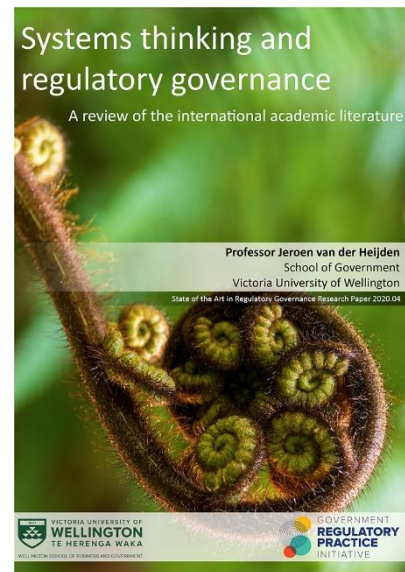
State of the Art in Regulatory Governance Research Paper Series

Each year two topics have central attention in the Chair's research program. Through broad and systematic reviews of the international academic regulatory literature, the Chair seeks to transfer state-of-the-art knowledge on regulatory governance to executives, managers and frontline workers. In the second year of the Chair, the focus was on systems thinking and responsive regulation:

- The terminology of regulatory systems is frequently used in regulatory policy and practice, but often without careful explanation of terminology. Therefore, the Chair has undertaken a broad scoping of the international academic literature on (complex adaptive) systems theory (including cybernetics) as it relates to regulatory governance and practice. This to understand how advances in systems thinking may help improving regulatory design and regulatory practice.
- Responsive regulation is one of the most discussed regulatory theories and approaches to regulation discussed in the academic literature. It is also widely followed in regulatory practice around the world. Yet, it remains unknown whether responsive regulation performs better than other approaches to regulation. To gain a better understanding of the performance of responsive regulation, the Chair has undertaken an extensive evidence synthesis of the peer-reviewed literature on responsive regulation.

Systems thinking and regulatory governance

This research paper presents findings from a broad scoping of the international academic literature on the use of systems thinking and systems science in regulatory governance and practice. It builds on a systematic review of peer-reviewed articles published in the top 15 journals for regulatory scholarship. The aim of the research paper is to introduce those working in a regulatory environment to the key concepts of systems thinking and systems science, and to discuss the state of the art of regulatory knowledge on these topics. It addresses five themes: (1) the evolution of systems thinking, (2) examples of systems thinking from the academic literature, (3) evidence of how systems thinking helps improving regulatory governance, and (4) the epistemic challenges and (5) ethical challenges that come with applying systems thinking to regulatory governance and practice.

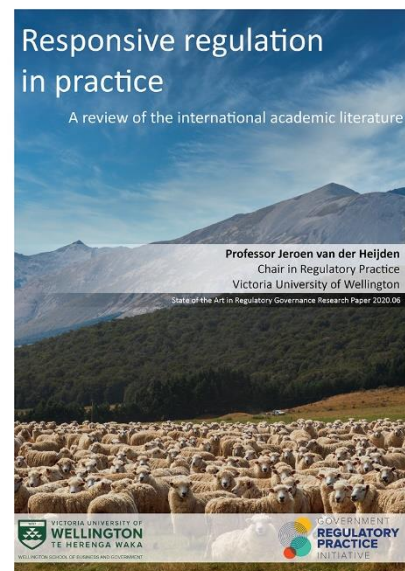


Available as open access publication:

- van der Heijden, Jeroen (2020). *Systems thinking and regulatory governance: A review of the international academic literature*. State of the Art in Regulatory Governance Research Paper – 2020.04. Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington/Government Regulatory Practice Initiative. [Available online here](#).

Responsive regulation in practice

To assist executives, managers and frontline workers in regulatory organisations and units who are interested in responsive regulation, the Chair has carried out a systematic evidence synthesis of a broad range of international academic literature on the use of responsive regulation in practice. It addresses five themes: (1) the evolution of responsive regulation and the reason of its success, (2) practical examples of responsive regulation in practice, (3) evidence of the performance of responsive regulation, and (4) the epistemic challenges and (5) ethical challenges that come with this approach to regulatory governance and practice.



Available as open access publication by late July 2020:

- van der Heijden, Jeroen (2020). *Responsive regulation in practice: A review of the international academic literature*. State of the Art in Regulatory Governance Research Paper – 2020.06. Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington/Government Regulatory Practice Initiative. [Available online here](#).

Engagement

Besides research activities, the Chair in Regulatory Practice undertakes a range of engagement activities. Central to these are regulatory lectures and workshops, the blog *From the Regulatory Frontlines*, and ongoing engagement with the broader public through invited lectures, key-notes and different media outlets.

Regulatory lectures and workshops

The mission of the regulatory lectures and workshops is to improve the regulatory literacy of those involved in regulatory issues. To fulfil this mission, the following regulatory lectures and workshops were held:

- *Global trends in regulation: A future outlook*, Office of the Privacy Commissioner, Wellington, New Zealand – 25 November 2019
- *Global trends in regulation: A future outlook*, Land Institute of New Zealand (LINZ), Wellington, New Zealand – 22 November 2019
- *Global trends in regulation: A future outlook*, WorkSafe, Wellington, New Zealand – 30 October 2019
- *Regulatory philosophy, theory and practice: Ka mua, ka muri*, Inaugural lecture, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand – 22 October 2019
- *How to maintain the social license to regulate?*, Government Regulatory Practice Initiative Annual Conference, Wellington, Christchurch, and Auckland, New Zealand – 17, 24 and 29 October 2019
- *Governing urban resilience: Facilitation, coercion and mixed incentive models*, International Urban Resilience Forum (Seoul Metropolitan Government/UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction), Seoul, South Korea - 23 September 2019
- *Global trends in regulation: A future outlook*, Senior Public Service Operational Leaders Board, Wellington, New Zealand – 2 September 2019
- *What's the next logical step in regulatory reform*, WorkSafe Board, Auckland, New Zealand – 26 August 2019
- *The nature and future of regulatory stewardship*, New Zealand Standards Approval Board, Wellington, New Zealand – 8 August 2019
- *What can we learn from behavioural insights?* (Discussant to Dr David Halpern), Competition Matters 2019 – Competition and Regulation Conference, Auckland, New Zealand – 25 July 2019
- *Reforming regulatory governance: How Aotearoa/New Zealand aims to become a world leader in regulatory practice*, International Conference on Regulatory Governance, Hong Kong SAR: Chinese University of Hong Kong - 6 July 2019

These lectures and workshops have attracted approximately 750 participants, predominantly from sponsoring agencies.

Invited lectures, keynotes, and other engagement activities

The Chair in Regulatory Practice has quickly gained interest beyond the initial engagement activities agreed on with its sponsoring agencies. In the past year, the Chair has received a broad range of requests to speak at policy and practitioner conferences and seminars, and to provide workshops on regulatory practice. The following have been provided:

- *What activate cities in climate change-oriented networks?*, University of Melbourne, Australia – 2 December 2019
- *Governing urban resilience: Facilitation, coercion and mixed incentive models*, International Urban Resilience Forum (Seoul Metropolitan Government/UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction), Seoul, South Korea - 23 September 2019
- *Regulatory Governance in the Era of Disruptive Innovation* seminar, Seoul, South Korea: Korean Institute for Public Administration – 20 September 2019
- *An introduction to qualitative comparative analysis (QCA)*, Open University, Heerlen, the Netherlands – 17 September 2019
- *Good regulatory governance: A critical research agenda for environmental policy and planning*, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany – 10 September 2019
- *Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning* editorial meeting, Berlin, Germany: Humboldt University – 8-10 September 2019
- *International Conference on Regulatory Governance*, Hong Kong SAR: Chinese University of Hong Kong – 4-6 July 2019

These lectures and keynotes have exposed the work of the Chair an audience of approximately 1,250 people.

Please note: As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, we have had minimal opportunities to engage with the New Zealand regulatory community through workshops and lectures in the first half of 2020.

In the media

In addition to the above, the following media outlets have approached the Chair for opinions between July 2019 and June 2020:

- 13 March 2020, opinion piece, [The vanity of promising a regulation bonfire](#)
- 22 October 2019, opinion piece, [What to do about NZ's regulation failures?](#)

Other engagement activities

Two major engagement activities this year were the Chair's inaugural lecture in October 2019 (*Regulatory philosophy, theory and practice: Ka mua, ka muri*) and the completion of a book chapter on the history of G-REG (with Pelin Fantham, Wendy Kale, Keith Manch, Nick McGirr, Peter Mumford, and Sanjai Raj).

Regulatory philosophy, theory and practice:

Ka mua, ka muri

Regulation as a practice, profession and discipline has progressed considerably over the last 4,000 years. Modern regulation has shed its image of being a dull, rigid and highly legalistic way to achieve policy outcomes. Today, all around the world, regulators actively experiment with innovative regulatory interventions, often supported by communities and the private sector. Professor van der Heijden's inaugural lecture as Chair in Regulatory Practice on 22 October 2019 reflected on the long and often remarkable history of regulatory reform to lay out the main regulatory challenges of today, and he explored how they can be best addressed in the future. This research paper is an extended transcript of that lecture.



Available as open access publication:

- van der Heijden, Jeroen (2019). *Regulatory philosophy, theory and practice: Ka mua, ka muri* State of the Art in Regulatory Governance Research Paper – 2019.03. Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington/Government Regulatory Practice Initiative. Available online [here](#).

Professionalising regulatory practice: Lessons from the New Zealand G-REG Initiative

The pervasive impact of regulation on society, coupled with regulatory failures often attributed to the performance of regulators, calls for the professionalisation of regulation as a practice, vocation, and discipline. To this end, governments and non-governmental organisations around the world have begun to explore pathways to build out the regulatory profession. New Zealand's Government Regulatory Practice (G-REG) Initiative is one of these, and unique in that it seeks to build a professional community of regulatory practitioners across all levels of government and all regulatory systems. This research paper is a pre-publication version of a book chapter that will appear later in 2020. It situates the G-REG initiative in an international context of regulatory professionalisation initiatives, and discusses the motivations for, and experiences with, developing a professional community of regulators within the public sector in New Zealand. The research paper has a foreword by Professor Jeroen van der Heijden.



Available as open access publication:

- Fantham, Pelin; Kale, Wendy; Manch, Keith; McGirr, Nick; Mumford, Peter; Raj, Sanjai; and, van der Heijden, Jeroen (2020). *Professionalising regulatory practice: Lessons from the New Zealand G-REG Initiative* State of the Art in Regulatory Governance Research Paper – 2020.05. Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington/Government Regulatory Practice Initiative. Available online [here](#).

Blog: From the Regulatory Frontlines

The mission of the *From the Regulatory Frontlines* blog is to be an online source of regulatory news, analysis and opinion for central and local government regulatory agencies in Aotearoa/New Zealand and overseas. It also serves as an online beacon to allow the general media (and other interested parties) to find the Chair and get relevant information on its work. Since its launch in August 2018, it has had close to 10,000 views from 3,000 visitors. The blog also has traction outside of Aotearoa/New Zealand, with some 20% visits being from overseas. In 2019-2020, the following blogs were posted:

- 29 June 2020, [Responsive regulation \(4\): Evidence and findings](#)
- 23 June 2020, [Responsive regulation \(3\): Examples](#)
- 20 June 2020, [Responsive regulation \(2\): Evolution and success](#)
- 15 June 2020, [Responsive regulation \(1\): A review of the international academic literature](#)
- 8 April 2020, [Brief book review – Government and Markets: Toward a New Theory of Regulation](#)
- 15 March 2020, [Brief book review: *Responsive Regulation*](#)
- 12 January 2020, [Systems thinking and regulatory governance](#)
- 3 February 2020, [Systems thinking and regulatory governance \(6\): Further reading](#)
- 19 January 2020, [Systems thinking and regulatory governance \(5\): Challenges](#)
- 12 January 2020, [Systems thinking and regulatory governance \(4\): Evidence](#)
- 9 January 2020, [Systems thinking and regulatory governance \(3\): Examples](#)
- 5 January 2020, [Systems thinking and regulatory governance \(2\): Evolution](#)
- 16 December 2019, [Systems thinking and regulatory governance: A review of the international academic literature \(1\)](#)
- 22 November 2019, [Brief book review – Regulatory Delivery: Introducing the Regulatory Delivery Model](#)
- 21 October 2019, [Regulatory philosophy, theory and practice: Ka mua, ka muri](#)
- 17 October 2019, [How to maintain the social license to regulate? \(G-REG conference\)](#)
- 4 October 2019, [Brief book review – Governing through regulation: Public policy, regulation and the law](#)
- 6 August 2019, [Brief book review – Inside the Nudge Unit: How small changes can make a big difference](#)
- 3 July 2019, [One year on the job](#)

Guest blogs by Keith Manch, Chief Executive and Director of Maritime New Zealand

- 14 June 2020, [Exploring issues about regulation – chapter review of the book Regulatory Delivery \(on risk-based prioritisation\)](#)
- 6 May 2020, [Exploring issues about regulation – chapter review of the book Regulatory Delivery \(on outcome measurement\)](#)
- 25 March 2020, [Exploring issues about regulation – chapter review of the book Regulatory Delivery \(on culture\)](#)
- 4 March 2020, [Exploring issues about regulation – chapter review of the book Regulatory Delivery \(on accountability\)](#)
- 4 November 2019, [Exploring issues about regulation: reflections on the management of regulatory systems](#)
- 30 September 2019, [Exploring issues about regulation: policy and operations \(also known as chalk and cheese\)](#)

Education

Through the regulatory lectures and workshops, the Chair in Regulatory Practice actively engages in professional and executive education and teaching. Other educational activities relate to the Chair's engagement with the Aotearoa/New Zealand Certificate in Regulatory Compliance, and PhD and MSc student supervision.

The Aotearoa/New Zealand Certificate in Regulatory Compliance Evaluation

New Zealand has in place a unique qualification framework to provide people employed in, or who want to go into, the regulatory compliance sector with core knowledge of regulatory compliance. This framework helps to build out the regulatory profession in New Zealand and serves as a world-leading (and to the best of our knowledge, world-first) example of a systematic approach to the training of staff in government and non-government organisations working in a regulatory compliance environment.

This research project seeks to map, explore, and interrogate the development of the NZ Qualifications Framework, its implementation and performance with a specific focus on Level 3 Core Knowledge. Results will help future development of the NZ Certificate in Regulatory Compliance. G-REG and Jeroen have begun to reach out to local and national government bodies to participate in the research project.

Professor Jeroen van der Heijden has completed a review of the qualifications and submitted a draft manuscript to an academic journal for peer-review. The draft manuscript is available upon request. An extensive evaluation report will be made available in the second half of 2020.

PhD and MSc supervision

The Chair in Regulatory Practice is supervising the following students:

- Michael Howden (Victoria University of Wellington, MSc student; commenced 2020)
- Adriana Sanchez Gomez (University of New South Wales, PhD student; ongoing)
- Ryan Wong (Australian National University, PhD student; completed 2020)
- Sayel Cortes (Wageningen University, PhD student; ongoing)

Academic publications and performance

In the second year of the Chair in Regulatory Practice, Professor Jeroen van der Heijden has published a variety of peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers, and book chapters. These publications are available upon request.

Book chapters

- Jeroen van der Heijden, Harriet Bulkeley, and Chiara Certomà (2019) “Promises and Concerns of the Urban Century: Increasing Agency and Contested Empowerment.” In: van der Heijden, J. et al. (eds), *Urban Climate Politics: Agency and Empowerment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1-20.
- Jeroen van der Heijden, Harriet Bulkeley, and Chiara Certomà (2019) “The politics of urban futures: recognition, experimentation, orchestration.” In: van der Heijden, J. et al. (eds), *Urban Climate Politics: Agency and Empowerment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 231-242.

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- Jeroen van der Heijden (2020) “Urban climate governance informed by behavioural insights: A commentary and research agenda.”, *Urban Studies*, 57(9), 1994-2007.
- Jeroen van der Heijden (2020) “Understanding voluntary program performance: Introducing the diffusion network perspective”, *Regulation and Governance*, 14(1), 44-62.
- Ryan Wong and Jeroen van der Heijden (2019) “Avoidance of conflicts and trade-offs: A challenge for the policy integration of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.”, *Sustainable Development*, 27(5), 838-845
- Sara Burch, Aarti Gupta, ... Jeroen van der Heijden, et al. (2019) “New Directions in Earth System Governance Research.”, *Earth System Governance*, 1(1) article 100006
- Jeroen van der Heijden (2019) “Studying urban climate governance: Where to begin, what to look for, and how to make a meaningful contribution?”, *Earth System Governance*, 1(1), article 100005.

Peer-reviewed conference papers

- Benjamin Leffel, Michele Acuto, Ben Derudder and Jeroen van der Heijden (2020) “Quantifying the global urban environmental governance landscape: Interaction of environmental policy networks and environmental services industries across 47,000 world cities”, *International Studies Association Annual Convention 2020*, Honolulu, USA: ISA.

Appendix A – Chair in Regulatory Practice – 5-year plan (2018-2023)

The Chair in Regulatory Practice ('the Chair') in the School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington, is part of the Aotearoa/New Zealand Government Regulatory Practice Initiative (G-REG). G-REG is a network of central and local government regulatory agencies that has been established to lead and contribute to regulatory practice initiatives. It works on actions that improve leadership, culture, regulatory practice and workforce capability in regulatory organisations and systems.

Professor Jeroen van der Heijden commenced his role as Chair in Regulatory Practice on 30 July 2018. This document sets out the overarching 5-year plan for the Chair (2018-2023) as agreed on with the sponsors of the Chair in August 2018.

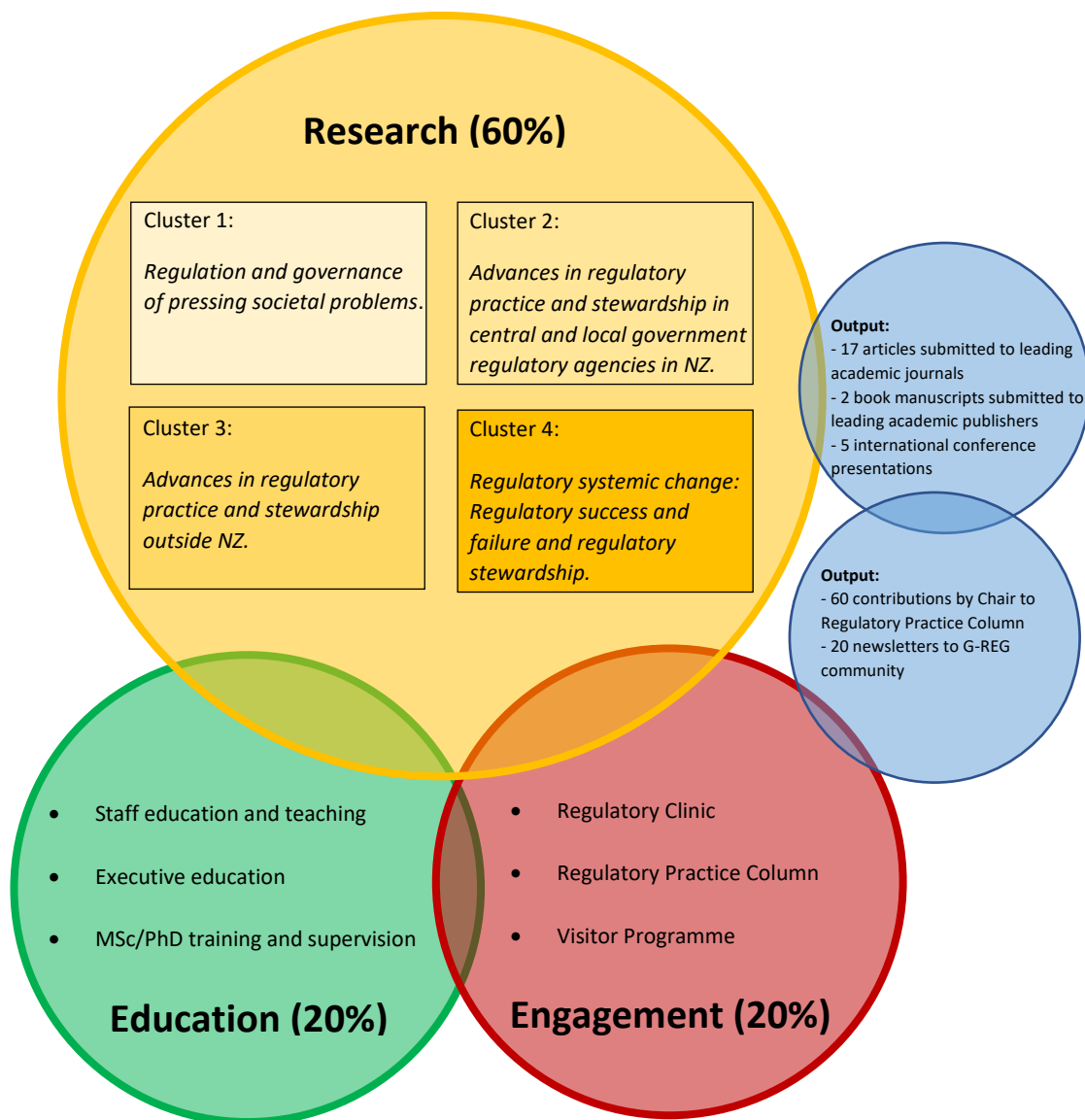


Figure 1 – Chair activities in 2018 - 2023

The aim of the Chair

Through world-leading research on regulatory practice, active engagement with the G-REG community, and contributions to the training of those involved in regulatory issues, the Chair aims to help improve regulation in Aotearoa/New Zealand and the impact of this regulation on economic and social performance. The Chair defines regulation broadly as the institutions, processes and instruments put in place to steer behaviour towards desirable societal ends.

Vision of success

The success of the Chair will be demonstrated by:

- A significant contribution to G-REG by the production of high-impact and novel research outputs that include conceptual and theoretical advances in understanding regulation and governance, regulatory practice and regulatory stewardship.
- The Chair being recognised by central and local government regulatory agencies in Aotearoa/New Zealand as a leading hub in regulatory research and knowledge dissemination.
- The Aotearoa/New Zealand government in general, and G-REG in particular, being recognised in the international academic community as a global frontrunner for its structured cross-government regulatory practice programme and its ongoing ambition to improve regulatory stewardship.
- Active engagement with and contribution to regulatory practice and regulatory stewardship in Aotearoa/New Zealand and elsewhere.
- A continuation of the Chair beyond its initial 5-year funding period, possibly as the Victoria University of Wellington Centre for Regulatory Governance.

Assessment criteria

- Alignment with the objectives and stated goals of the Terms of Reference to the Funding Agreement for the Chair (12 May 2017) and the G-REG annual work programmes (2018-2023).
- Potential to push the frontiers of regulatory practice research.
- The likelihood of the research achieving pioneering theoretical or methodological innovation.
- The capacity of the research to deliver outcomes that help to improve regulation in Aotearoa/New Zealand and the impact of this regulation on economic and social performance.
- The capacity of the engagement to deliver outcomes that help to improve regulation in Aotearoa/New Zealand and the impact of this regulation on economic and social performance.

Activities

To achieve success, the Chair will work on the following activities:

- Research programme (academic leadership; 60%)
 - Research cluster 1: *Regulation and governance of pressing societal problems.*
 - Central research question: Can regulation (understood in its broadest sense) provide the appropriate incentives, disciplines and institutions to achieve desirable societal outcomes and, if so, how can it do this?
 - The initial focus of this research is on climate change and cities. This broad topic allows for the involvement of, and will generate knowledge relevant for, all the sponsoring agencies.
 - Research cluster 2: *Advances in regulatory practice and stewardship in central and local government regulatory agencies in New Zealand.*
 - Central research question: What is the state of the art in regulatory practice in New Zealand (by international standards), and how does this practice perform?
 - This research will consider innovative regulators, regulatory instruments and regulatory processes in New Zealand. Each year, five in-depth case studies will be carried out to explore the development, implementation and performance of innovations that are of interest to regulatory practitioners and academics around the globe.
 - Research cluster 3: *Advances in regulatory practice and stewardship outside New Zealand.*
 - Central research questions: What is the state of the art in regulatory practice outside New Zealand (by international standards), and how does this practice perform?
 - This research will consider innovative regulators, regulatory instruments and regulatory processes outside New Zealand. Each year, five case studies will be carried out and compared to draw lessons for regulatory practitioners and academics in New Zealand.
 - Cluster 4: *Regulatory systemic change: Regulatory success and failure and regulatory stewardship.*
 - Central research questions: What conditions positively or negatively affect regulatory performance, what combinations of these conditions are likely to result in regulatory success or failure, and what stewardship roles and functions may increase the likelihood of regulatory success and reduce the risk of regulatory failure?
 - Building on data collected in Clusters 1-3 and using a comparative configurational methodology, selected cases will be systematically studied to uncover pathways towards regulatory success and regulatory failure. These pathways will inform mid-term and long-term policy development.
 - Anticipated output from research activities:
 - A total of at least 17 articles submitted to leading academic journals and at least two book manuscripts submitted to leading academic publishers over the period 2018-2023.
 - A total of at least five international academic conference presentations (one per year) to showcase the state of the art in regulatory practice and stewardship in New Zealand to an international academic audience.

- Engagement programme (organisational capability; 20%)
 - Regulatory clinics
 - A series of lectures and workshops at the sponsoring agencies for discussion and workshops on regulatory practice topics and question sessions with staff. On a rotating basis between the agencies.
 - Regulatory blog
 - The launch of an online source of regulatory news, analysis and opinion for central and local government regulatory agencies in New Zealand. The Regulatory blog will also serve as an online beacon to allow the general media (and other interested parties) to find the Chair and obtain relevant information on its work.
 - Visitor Programme
 - Development and management of a (funded) visitor programme. Prospective international visitors will be invited to apply for financial support to visit the Chair and carry out research within the Victoria University of Wellington for up to two weeks (longer visits need to be self-funded). International visitors are expected to participate in the Chair's engagement programme.
 - Anticipated output from engagement activities:
 - At least one contribution per month by the Chair to the regulatory blog. A total of 60 contributions over the course of the first five years.
 - Four newsletters per year for the G-REG community to summarise highlights and relevant further discussions in the regulatory blog. A total of 20 newsletters over the course of the first five years.
- Education programme (professional community; 20%)
 - Education and Teaching
 - Training of staff in government agencies through: (1) participation in, and support with shaping, G-REG annual conferences; (2) support for G-REG in development/implementation of Certificate in Regulatory Compliance; and (3) conducting seminars and workshops for junior and middle-ranking staff of funders of the Chair.
 - Executive education through: (1) conducting seminars and workshops for senior staff of funders of the Chair; and (2) executive training programmes.
 - Training and supervision of graduate and PhD students related to the activities of the Chair.
 - Guest lectures where relevant on Victoria University of Wellington courses.

Contact details and further information

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Further information

For more information on the Chair in Regulatory Practice, please visit

- www.victoria.ac.nz/sog/researchcentres/chair-in-regulatory-practice

For regular updates on the work of the Chair, please visit

- www.regulatoryfrontlines.blog/

For more information about Professor Jeroen van der Heijden, please visit

- www.jeroenvanderheijden.net