

## **PECERA Email to PECERA International delegates**

Kia ora tatou

Conference update: Covid-19 Alert level changes within New Zealand

On behalf of the Conference Organising Committee, I want to say just how much we are looking forward to seeing you all online in just a few more days. After the postponement of the conference last year, it has seemed like we might never get to this point where we are just days away from the conference.

As you will know, our planning for the conference has been for a blended delivery with our international delegates joining us online and our New Zealand delegates meeting on site in Wellington, New Zealand. However, events in New Zealand over the last few days have forced us to move to our Plan B in how we host the conference.

Last weekend, an international visitor spent the weekend in Wellington and, being a great tourist, visited many locations around the city including an international art exhibition at our national museum that had very high visitor numbers. Unfortunately, early on Monday morning before departing overseas, this visitor had the onset of symptoms and later tested positive to the delta variant of Covid-19. Our government moved the greater Wellington region to a higher alert level from Wednesday evening and then today extended this alert level out until midnight on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

As a result, our conference organising committee has made the decision that we need to move to a fully virtual conference for all participants, including our New Zealand delegates. While it is possible that Wellington may return to a lower alert level on Wednesday, we felt that it is too close to the start of the conference to risk continuing with a blended approach to the conference.

While we are disappointed that the New Zealand delegates will not be able to gather face-to-face in Wellington for the conference, we are grateful that we have the online infrastructure in place and will be able to pivot quickly to have all our delegates participate online. From your perspective, the conference will look and feel much the same, but we wanted to let you know about the move to have the conference completely online.

This week, please look out for email communications from us about how to access the platform online. If you don't receive this email by the end of Wednesday, please check your spam box and internet settings to allow you to receive conference communications and get in contact with us so we can ensure you get the information before Friday.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can email Lu at [lu@cmnzl.co.nz](mailto:lu@cmnzl.co.nz) or Sue at [sue.cherrington@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sue.cherrington@vuw.ac.nz)

Looking forward to seeing you all on Friday

Warmest best wishes

Sue Cherrington

On behalf of the PECERA Conference Committee