

Biography



Dr Lester Levy

Chief Executive, New Zealand Leadership Institute
University of Auckland Business School

Dr Lester Levy is the foundation Chief Executive of The New Zealand Leadership Institute at the University of Auckland and Professor (Adjunct) of Leadership at the University of Auckland Business School. A graduate of Medicine and an MBA with his formative management background in multi-nationals 3M and Beecham Research Laboratories, he is best known for leading a number of organisational performance transformations in both the private and public sectors.

Lester has been the foundation Chief Executive of South Auckland Health, The MercyAscot Private Hospital Group (of which he was a founder) and The New Zealand Blood Service and his governance experience includes being the Chairman of Boards of Directors in the fields of healthcare, biotechnology and film and television production.

He has previously been seconded to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as an advisor and has been awarded the King's Fund International Fellowship from the King's Fund in London. Lester is a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Management and is a member of the selection panel for the Blake Medal, New Zealand's premier civilian leadership award.

Lester is the author of the book "Leadership and the Whirlpool Effect" and is a frequently invited speaker and presenter on the subject of leadership, in New Zealand and overseas.

He teaches leadership at Auckland University primarily at the postgraduate and executive level, including the MBA and the Masters of Management where his teaching is strongly focussed on understanding leadership, the link between leadership and performance, the difference between management and leadership, governance, ethics and strategic thinking.

Lester's research interests include perceptions of leadership, concepts of leadership, the relationship between leadership and management and strategic thinking. His work has been published in international peer review journals including Organization, The European Journal of Work and Organisational Psychology and The International Journal of Learning and Change. He is also the principal investigator and author of the research reports "More right than real: the shape of authentic leadership in New Zealand." and "The generational mirage: a study into the perceptions of leadership by Generation X and Y."

At the International Conference for the Study of Leadership in Warwick, UK, 2007, the work of Lester Levy and his colleague Dr Brigid Carroll was awarded the prize for the best research paper titled "Challenging the Competency Paradigm: Leadership as Practice".