

# Our mission

The Centre for Addiction Research is committed to improving the quality of life and well-being of individuals, families/whānau, and communities whose lives are affected by addictive consumptions in New Zealand.

We will do this by providing timely and relevant evidence that can inform policy and practice.

# Our goals

- Enhance understanding of addictive consumptions in New Zealand
- Identify and evaluate early intervention, treatment and harm reduction approaches
- Foster a world-class multi-disciplinary approach to addictions research
- Collaborate closely with treatment providers
- Engage with health policymakers to inform policy and regulation that address the negative impacts of addictive consumptions
- Work in partnership with our communities
- Nurture tomorrow's addiction research scientists and clinicians
- Disseminate our findings widely

Throughout all our activities we acknowledge the special relationship we have with Māori under the Treaty of Waitangi, and we are committed to supporting principles and practices of equal opportunity in the development of research.



# Centre for Addiction Research



The Centre for Addiction Research is committed to undertaking the highest quality research and disseminating findings within and beyond the academic community to inform policy, practice and debate in the prevention and treatment of addiction.

To find out more about the Centre's work please visit our website:  
[www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/cfar](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/cfar)

Email: [cfar@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:cfar@auckland.ac.nz)



**MEDICAL AND  
HEALTH SCIENCES**  
CENTRE FOR ADDICTION RESEARCH

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# Welcome



**The Centre for Addiction Research brings together researchers from across the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland who are exploring the effects of dangerous consumptions – such as tobacco, alcohol, other drugs and gambling – on individuals, their families, communities, and society.**

We investigate addiction across a spectrum – from molecular research right through to societal research, and everything in between.

Members of the Centre are dedicated to examining the causes, patterns and the impact of addictive consumptions, as well as ways of reducing associated harms.

Our members have an established record of identifying and evaluating interventions to help individuals manage dangerous substance use, and we work closely with treatment providers to facilitate the translation of our scientific discoveries into practical applications for people living with addiction.

We are committed to building research capacity within New Zealand to ensure appropriate evidence is available for the development of effective strategies and interventions by policy makers and treatment providers.

We look forward to sharing our discoveries with other researchers, health professionals, service providers, policymakers and the community.

**Associate Professor Natalie Walker**  
Director, Centre for Addiction Research

# Our research – an introduction

Alcohol, tobacco, other drug use and gambling contribute to many and various health and social challenges facing New Zealanders today:

- Tobacco, alcohol and drug use are among the ten leading risk factors contributing to premature disease or disability in New Zealand
- One in forty New Zealanders is negatively affected by other people's gambling

The Centre for Addiction Research endeavours to share its scientific discoveries as widely as possible to influence the development of evidence-based policy and practice, and to encourage informed understanding and debate about dangerous consumptions and their impact on individuals, families and communities.



Our research extends from the molecular level to the macro-societal and global levels. Accordingly, our activities embrace a full spectrum, which includes biomedical, psychological, public health and sociological research.

## **Our current research focuses on the following thematic priority areas:**

- Patterns, causes and impact of addictive consumption use
- Intervention and treatment
- Public health and policy
- Cultural and community perspectives

# A multi-disciplinary approach

The Centre for Addiction Research is recognised for its work across all dangerous consumption subsectors, including the interplay between addictive consumptions and mental health problems.

Examples of research areas by addictive consumption:

## **Alcohol**

- Screening and brief interventions
- Patterns of alcohol consumption, alcohol and injury
- Youth use of alcohol
- Treatment options
- Cultural perspectives and practices
- Alcohol and pregnancy
- Clinical effectiveness of pharmacotherapies
- Co-existing alcohol use and mental health problems

## **Tobacco**

- Policy
- Health promotion initiatives
- Strategies to access highly dependent groups
- Investigation of novel smoking cessation therapies (including drugs)
- Investigation of smoking cessation aids such as alternative nicotine delivery devices and mobile phone messaging
- Co-existing tobacco use

## **Illicit drugs**

- Screening and brief interventions
- Illicit drug use and effects
- Opioid substitution treatment
- Prescription drug misuse
- Cognitive effects of drug use
- Addictions and families
- Psychopharmacology of illicit drugs
- New psychoactive substances
- Co-existing illicit drug use and mental health problems
- Drug policy

## **Gambling**

- Effectiveness of problem gambling intervention services
- Crime and gambling
- Gambling-related public health
- Identifying and improving information on gambling for use by local and territorial authorities
- Gambling venue design and delivery modifications
- The ethics of receiving funds from the proceeds of gambling

The Centre for Addiction Research is also interested in examining the broader social and structural contexts of addictive consumptions, including research on policy, health services, industry behaviour and influence.