



## Newsletter Chair in Regulatory Practice #14 (October 2021 – December 2021)

### Welcome from Professor Jeroen van der Heijden, Chair in Regulatory Practice

Welcome to the combined 14<sup>th</sup> quarterly Regulatory Practice Newsletter highlighting recent activities, research and news from the Chair in Regulatory Practice (October 2021 – December 2021).

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

### Research

#### *Regulatory Stewardship*

The [Korean Institute of Public Administration \(KIPA\)](#) has asked Jeroen to contribute a chapter to their forthcoming book *Global Issues in Public Administration*. KIPA was particularly interested in Aotearoa's experiences with Regulatory Stewardship. In the chapter, Jeroen approaches the idea of regulatory stewardship as a guiding philosophy for regulatory reform and contrasts its development and current state with other such guiding philosophies. He argues that when pursuing regulatory reforms, regulators should look at the performance of their regulatory systems in full rather than at the performance of parts of it. Regulatory reforms have long been approached, unintentionally, as zero-sum games in which improvements of some parts of regulatory systems would ask for sacrifices of other parts—typically, increased cost-effectiveness has been traded off against reduced accountability, transparency, equity, or certainty. When looking at the performance of regulatory systems in full, regulators are forced to think about such trade-offs early on. Arguably, the Regulatory Stewardship experience in New Zealand illustrates that changing this mindset is possible despite many challenges. A pre-publication version of the chapter will be made available in the [State of the Art in Regulatory Governance](#) research paper series.

#### *Regulation and the war on red tape*

Prof. Arie Freiberg (Monash University) has asked Jeroen to co-author an article (with Monica Pfeffer) on attempts by policymakers, regulators and others to cut red tape. The article interrogates why decades of extreme anti-regulatory rhetoric and numerous red tape reduction initiatives have failed to reduce either the demand for or supply of regulation. It argues lasting regulation reform requires acknowledging regulation as an asset, professionalising its workforce and more actively asserting its public value. The article will appear in the *Journal of Australian Public Administration* (likely in 2022). If possible, we will make a pre-publication version of it available in the [State of the Art in Regulatory Governance](#) research paper series.

## Education

### *Postgraduate Certificate in Public Management*

On 26 November, we formally welcomed the first cohort to the Post Graduate Certificate in Public Management (PGCPM), focusing on regulatory governance in practice ([see a previous newsletter for details](#)). The PGCPM will be delivered to this cohort throughout 2022. Enrolment is still possible. The PGCPM is targeted at experienced public officials, particularly regulatory or policy practitioners in or aspiring to management in central or local government organisations. The PGCPM will expand their understanding of the theory and practice of public management and regulatory practice in the 21st century in Aotearoa/New Zealand and open career development options. Participation leads to upgraded personal competencies and capacities as managers and the ambition, imagination and courage to improve practice in regulatory organisations. For more information, please get in touch with Dr Verna Smith, [verna.smith@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:verna.smith@vuw.ac.nz)

### *Regulatory Governance Training for Boards*

We offer the Regulatory Governance Training for Boards program again in 2022. Most likely, we will work with two cohorts in March and April and plan additional cohorts later in the year if we receive enough interest in the program. Please keep an eye on the [G-REG website](#) for dates.

### *Students*

Jeroen continues supervising the MSc thesis of Michael Howden and the PhD thesis of Geetanjali Sharma (the latter co-supervised with Dr Flavia Donadelli). In addition, Jeroen has continued working with his PhD students Adriana Sanchez Gomes at the University of New South Wales and Sayel Cortes Berrueta at Wageningen University.

## Outreach

Workshops and (online) seminars delivered:

- Online seminar for the Asian Productivity Organization (APO): Regulatory Stewardship: An Introduction (11 November)
- Online workshop for the Asian Productivity Organization (APO): 100 years of regulatory reform in 100 minutes (12 November)
- Participation in the online G-REG conference: International Trendsetting Conversations (22 November)
- Online seminar for the Korean Institute of Public Administration: Exploring regulatory stewardship in New Zealand (7 December 2021)

Unfortunately, all 10 workshops in the G-REG continuing education series planned for November and December were cancelled due to the G-REG online conference held from 15 to 26 November. They will be rescheduled for 2022

## Publications/output

- *Academic*
  - Sayel Cortes Berrueta and Jeroen van der Heijden (2021) “Trading off benefits and requirements: how do city networks attract cities to their voluntary environmental programmes?”, *Environmental Policy & Governance*, 31(5), 451-462.
  - Jeroen van der Heijden (2021) “Risk as an approach to regulatory governance: An evidence synthesis and research agenda”, *SAGE Open*, 2021(July-September), 1-12
  - Jeroen van der Heijden (2021) Interview (2021), “Understanding the new horizons in regulatory policymaking”, *InTheBlack*, 1 December.
- *Blogs*
  - 8 November 2021: Brief book review – Nudge: The Final Edition
  - 9 November 2021: Brief book review – The Behavioral Code: The Hidden Ways the Law Makes Us Better Or Worse