

Corporate Members' Representative Report to the 2024 AGM

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18 November 2024

NZSA Members' Perception of Corporate Membership

Earlier this year, we conducted a series of interviews to gain insights into the perspectives of individual and corporate members of the New Zealand Statistical Association (NZSA) on corporate membership. The goal was to assess how well NZSA serves its corporate members and to identify ways to strengthen connections between statisticians in academia and industry, aligning with recent constitutional changes.

From the insights gathered, the diagram below summarises the ins and outs of the corporate membership structure, illustrating the relationships among corporate members, the NZSA, and the broader New Zealand statistics community. Corporate membership was initially designed to enable industry input at the executive level (via a corporate members' representative on the NZSA executive committee), facilitate connections with industry sponsors for NZSA events and initiatives, and foster relationships with statisticians working in corporate entities like Stats New Zealand and Crown Research Institutes (CRIs). As part of the corporate membership, members received two copies of the paper-based *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Statistics*, a benefit that will soon transition to digital-only access.

While NZSA members recognise the value of industry presence on the executive committee to stay informed about trends beyond academia, a new approach is necessary to foster a more engaging and collaborative culture. I would like to extend my thanks to Richard Penny (former Corporate Members' Representative), Priya Parmar (University of Auckland), Roy Costilla (Cawthron Institute), and Beatrix Jones (NZSA President) for their contributions to this initiative. I also acknowledge Vince Galvin (Stats NZ), Lisa Thomasen (NZSA Mentoring Programme Representative), and Shirley Wu (Harmonic Analytics) for their valuable insights.

Proposal for Disestablishment of NZSA Corporate Membership

According to the current NZSA constitution, corporate members are defined as "*firms or organisations interested in furthering the aims and objectives of the Association.*" Corporate members may attend General Meetings without individual membership status, although they lack voting rights except in the election of the corporate representative on the Executive Committee at the AGM. Corporate representatives are elected by official representatives from each corporate member organisation attending the meeting.

As the current Corporate Members' Representative, I proposed to the NZSA Executive Committee the disestablishment of corporate membership, to be replaced by an "External Engagement Subcommittee." This proposal reflects a shift from a predominantly internal focus to a model that encourages broader engagement with the statistical community. The proposed subcommittee would support new and existing NZSA initiatives, including awards, scholarships, and mentoring programmes, allowing for more dynamic industry partnerships.

I extend my special thanks to Beatrix Jones for her tremendous efforts in supporting this transition.

A Brighter Future

The recent launch of the Tidy Travel Scholarship, generously sponsored by Hadley Wickham (details in the Awards Committee Report), exemplifies how NZSA can forge impactful connections with stakeholders to enhance benefits for our members. Moving forward, I am optimistic that increased engagement between NZSA and external partners will contribute to a vibrant and thriving New Zealand statistics community.

I would like to thank Muskaan (NZSA Student and Early Career Statisticians Representative) and Vanessa Cave (Awards Committee Convenor) for their support and efforts.