

## DIVING INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP FORMED

**A new advisory group has been formed to represent each of the occupational diving sectors in New Zealand.**

The Diving Industry Advisory Group (DIAG) will be made up of hyperbaric operations experts and will be the conduit between New Zealand's occupational diving sector and WorkSafe New Zealand (which is providing secretariat services).

DIAG's primary purpose is to identify and reduce incidences of preventable injury through improved communications between the occupational diving sector and the regulator. DIAG and WorkSafe will drive adherence to good practice by industry.

DIAG's scope of work is:

- > Providing advice to WorkSafe on relevant sector issues, including regulatory impact.
- > Providing a channel for sector representation, communication and consultation on all matters impacting it and WorkSafe.
- > Collaboration on documents for communication across the occupational diving industry and to specific sectors.
- > Providing comment on guidance and good practice material developed for the purpose of improving safety standards in industry.

- > Providing comment and guidance on industry health issues, including but not limited to, health monitoring, reporting of harms, industry practices likely to impact on the health of workers.

DIAG is chiefly constituted against the categories of Certificate of Competence that reflect each of the occupational diving industries in New Zealand. Royal New Zealand Navy, New Zealand Police and a Professional Divers Representative have also been included.

DIAG was formed in October of 2015 and is currently made up of appointees and interim representatives.

WorkSafe has invited Professor Des Gorman to fulfil the role of DIAG Chair.

For more information about Professor Gorman, DIAG, and its current membership head to the [WorkSafe website](#).

This is a one-off email advisory to the Diving Industry. You can subscribe to regular WorkSafe updates [here](#).

## ABOUT DES GORMAN

Professor Des Gorman is Executive Chair, Health Workforce New Zealand and Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, at the University of Auckland.

He holds a BSc, MBChB and MD from the University of Auckland, as well as a PhD from the University of Sydney. The two doctorates were awarded for in vivo research into brain injuries. Professor Gorman's primary research and clinical interests are brain injury, diving medicine, occupational medicine and toxicology. His research career includes more than 250 publications.

He is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC), and a Member of the National Health Board and the Capital Investment Committee, Ministry of Health.

He has served in the Australian and New Zealand navies. He is a trained submariner and diving officer



## CURRENT DIAG REPRESENTATIVES

WorkSafe has accepted nominations from New Zealand Police (Snr Sergeant Bruce Adams), New Zealand Navy (Lt Cdr Kelvin Barrett) and Aquaculture New Zealand (Mark Preece) for the representative roles for Navy, Police and the Aquaculture Industry. WorkSafe's representatives are Senior Advisor and Registrar Adventure Activities Paul Mitchell and Certifications, Approvals and Registrations Team Leader Richard Steel.

Currently there are interim representatives for the construction, scientific and recreational industries. A film and photographic representative is being sought.

In the weeks ahead the industry will be invited to put forward nominees for these representative roles. It is the role of the Chair, using the current DIAG membership, to manage a vetting and election process and advise industry of the outcomes.

All DIAG members including the Chair are required to be self-funding and are expected to participate actively in meetings, consult and advise as required with the group they represent and to share information with all DIAG members. DIAG representative tenure is two years and meetings are held quarterly, alternately in Auckland and Wellington.

WorkSafe is preparing a DIAG webpage as a primary communication tool with industry. A synopsis of DIAG meetings, along with sector-focused information will be posted to this page.

DIAG is a new initiative and formalises WorkSafe's consultative approach to ongoing improvement in New Zealand's occupational diving industries.

WorkSafe's representatives can be contacted at [paul.mitchell@workSafe.govt.nz](mailto:paul.mitchell@workSafe.govt.nz).