

Nik Mitchell

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Experience

- **NZ Royal Commission Inquiry - COVID-19 Lessons Learned**

Principal Data Analyst

May 2024 – July 2024

Created high-quality visualisations to support the Inquiry

- Created visualisations that contextualised pandemic trends (COVID-19 cases, hospitalisations, deaths and vaccinations) in New Zealand against policy decisions (e.g. lockdowns, border closing) and pandemic trends in other countries
- Also conducted analyses and created visualisations to highlight the disparate impact of COVID-19 on Māori and Pacific ethnic groups and people living in areas of higher socioeconomic deprivation
- Worked closely with the Chair of the Commission to discuss how to tell the story of the COVID pandemic through the above visualisations in a way that draws out lessons for future pandemics

- **COVID-19 Analytics, Ministry of Health/Health New Zealand**

Team Lead

July 2022 – October 2023

Managed team responsible for NZ's COVID data (cases, hospitalisations, deaths etc)

- Balanced high volumes of short-timeline requests against long-term projects in our work plan
- Coordinated between analysts, management and other teams to establish clear expectations for deliverables
- Incorporated Contact Tracing and Antivirals work streams into our business-as-usual responsibilities
- Hired and trained new staff
- Coordinated Intelligence stakeholders to produce daily National Situation Report for Measles outbreak

Senior Data Analyst

September 2021 – July 2022

Continuing from previous role, but with additional responsibilities

- Automated weekly creation of visualisations for group's flagship report
- Liaised with external research groups about modelling, data requirements and data quality
- Collaborated with technical experts (e.g. epidemiologists) to design and refine analyses.
- Created more efficient and robust data pipelines
- Trained and supported new team members.

Research & Data Analyst

July 2020 – September 2021

Designed, conducted, visualised and automated analysis and reports related to COVID-19 in NZ

- Provided data for public, media organisations, parliament and internal stakeholders on tight timelines in emergency response conditions
- Communicated, resolved and prevented data issues in newly developed and constantly evolving systems
- Automated reporting processes
 - * Replaced Excel-based workflows with scripted workflows in R
 - * Automated table and graph production into Word document reports using R Markdown
 - * Set up automatic emails for distribution of regular reporting

- **Open Philanthropy Project, San Francisco (remote)**

Conversation Notes Contracting

February 2020 – April 2020

- Created and reorganised summaries of audio conversations between Open Philanthropy staff and scientific experts in AI and neuroscience
- The conversations were on the topic of how to estimate the computational capacity of the human brain (as an input to estimated timelines for progress in AI)

Education

- **University of Otago**

Masters of Physics (achieved with Distinction), Quantum Fluid Dynamics

March 2018 – March 2019

BSc. Physics (First Class Honours), Minor in Mathematics

2014 – 2017