



Gail Pacheco is a Professor of Economics and Research Institute Director with a passion for evidence-based analysis of relevance to economic welfare in Aotearoa. She specialises in leading and advising cross-disciplinary teams working on a broad spectrum of complex, system-wide policy issues.

She has previously held the roles of President of the New Zealand Association of Economists, as well as Commissioner at the New Zealand Productivity Commission, and is currently the Co-Chair of the Business and Economics PBRF (Performance Based Research Fund) panel for the Tertiary Education Commission.

A key aim of Gail's research agenda is to address inequities for priority populations - whether it be in the labour market, health or education space, and across the lifecourse (from early childhood through to adulthood). To this end, she works collaboratively with stakeholders that include community organisations, practitioners, and the public sector.

Gail was born in Kuwait and has ancestral links to India and Portugal. Her passion for improving social policy and outcomes particularly for priority populations has been inspired by childhood experiences living through an invasion, war and time as a refugee.