

Vanessa took up the appointment as Deputy Health & Disability Commissioner in September 2021. Prior to this, she was the Operations and Clinical Executive, Uru Rauhi, Mental Health & Addictions across the Mid-Central DHB.

Vanessa is well experienced in management and has worked in the areas of mental health and addictions over many years. She has built positive relationships with key stakeholders, including Ministers, government departments, consumer networks and health organisations.

Vanessa's past governance experience includes membership of the Instep Ltd Board of Directors, Chair National Committee of Addiction Treatment, member Addiction Practitioners Association, Chair of the National Association for Addiction Professionals complaints committee and she is a registered Psychologist. She has also served on the Kapanui School Board of Trustees during the years her tamariki attended there.

Vanessa's post graduate qualifications includes Doctor Health Sciences (2011-2016, AUT) and Master of Business Administration (MBA) (2005-2007 VUW).