
Bio – Ani Waaka

Ani Waaka's working life started in Rotorua as a shorthand typist in a law firm.

Three years later she moved to Wellington to be Michael Hardie-Boys secretary in the law firm of Scott, Hardie-Boys, Morrison & Jefferies. She returned to Rotorua and spent 10 years in her original law firm, as a legal executive working initially in common law and then family law.

Returning to Wellington, Ani spent eight years in the legal team at the Ministry of Consumer Affairs during which time she took up a 2½ year secondment into Parliament as Consumer Affairs secretary to the Minister of Consumer Affairs.

Ani then moved into consulting work for six years on her own before joining the consulting team of Tall Poppies and spent eight years as part of that team, which merged businesses and became Thought Partners.

Ten years ago, the firm disbanded and she has been working again for herself since then. Her areas of work have included:

- Mediation, dispute resolution and workplace investigations
- Leadership and management training design and facilitation
- Strategic and business planning
- Team and culture building
- Board support in recruitment and role profiling
- Executive, board and mediator coaching.

As a contractor Ani has held chief executive positions including as the CEO establishing the Māori Television Service. She acted in the role of Director Human Resources for the Ministry of Economic Development supporting the HR team through the integration into what is now the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and was Director of Public Programming for Te Papa Tongarewa.

Ani has many years of experience on boards of directors including chairing the Mary Potter Hospice Board until 2017. She now volunteers serving meals at the Hospice. Ani also currently serves on the St Peter's on Willis Anglican Church Vestry and is a Trustee on the Wellington Anglican Diocesan Board of Trustees.

