

Our people

A diverse, yet like-minded, group of passionate individuals have teamed up to form the SIA.

With a shared goal of wanting to make a difference, we're writing the book (literally) on how to implement the social investment approach. We're also creating the tools and supporting guidance to help make it a reality.

Representing many corners of the globe, our blend of qualifications, experience and ability to think outside of the box are essential to the success of the SIA's cutting-edge work.

Going where no one has gone before are: statisticians, enterprise architects, lawyers (not to be confused with baristas – there's one of them), social sector privacy gurus, data scientists, mathematicians, policy analysts, business analysts, coders, administrators and communicators, who interpret the technical stuff.



Leadership team

Dorothy Adams, Interim Chief Executive



Before becoming the SIA's Acting CE, Dorothy led the Social Investment Unit since being established in July 2015. Before that she was GM Insights, Ministry of Social Development (MSD), responsible for leading their data, analytics and evidence hub.

Prior to joining the Ministry in 2008, Dorothy worked in local government for ten years specialising in policy and governance, with her most recent role being Manager, Strategic Development at Hutt City Council. Dorothy has also held senior roles in the Department of Labour, NZ Employment Service and was an advisor to the Minister of Employment.

Dorothy has a Master of Public Administration from Monash University and an LLB from Victoria University of Wellington. She is an Enrolled Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Wellington.

Danny Mollan, SRO Data protection and use policy

Danny started his career with SIA as the Infrastructure team Lead in February 2017.

With more than 26 years' experience as an ICT consultant, Danny has held a range of roles in the public sector.



Most recently these include: Service Design Lead at the Ministry of Justice, Director of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (GCIO) and Programme Architect on the Immigration Global Management System.

Before moving to New Zealand from the UK in the late 90s, Danny was Technical Lead at Cap Gemini, working on a number of commercial systems. His early career included working as a programmer, database designer and database administrator.

Danny has a degree in Pure Mathematics and a Masters in Information Technology, from University College London.

Neil Sorensen, Director Partnerships



The Director Partnerships role at the Social Investment Agency is Neil ‘Sos’ Sorenson’s first government role, which means he brings a great pair of fresh eyes to the agency. Having come from New Zealand Rugby, Sos is fantastic at building great teams and is passionate about delivering outstanding results.

Sos was with New Zealand Rugby for 17 years, most recently as General Manager – Rugby, leading a team of 55 people. He is described as professional and forward-thinking, with a can-do attitude that is immediately infectious.

Paul O’Connell, Director Insights



Prior to joining SIA as Director Insights, Paul was an Advisor in the Policy Advisory Group at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. He came to DPMC from the Ministry of Justice where he led the Sector Investment team in the Sector Group.

Paul started his career in the Select Committee Office in Parliament, before moving to the New Zealand Treasury where he worked in a range of roles including Education policy, Justice policy, fiscal management, and asset. He has worked as an economic advisor to the Associate Minister of Finance in the Fifth Labour Government, in Finance and Performance at Transport for London, and in Advisory Services for Pricewaterhouse Coopers in New Zealand.

Paul has an a Bachelor’s degree in English and an Honours degree in Diplomacy and International Relations from the University of Canterbury, and a Postgraduate Certificate in Public Policy from Victoria University of Wellington.

Paul Delahunty, Chief Investment & Integration Officer



Paul Delahunty joined SIA in October 2018, continuing a long career in organisational strategy and portfolio management. Described as a ‘pragmatic realist’, he specialises in designing and implementing strategies to improve performance and realise opportunities.

Over Paul’s career he has been responsible for successfully implementing over one billion dollars of business change (people, process and tools) - so he is well placed to ensure SIA supports the social system to invest in the right initiatives. Paul’s focus at SIA is to integrate its work right across the social system.

Paul enjoys shaping ideas and concepts, and communicating in ways that engage wider stakeholder communities.

Lynda Jelbert, Director Corporate



Lynda joined SIA as Director Corporate in October 2018 bringing a strong background in Human Resources, Leadership, Organisational Development and Change Management. Through her career she has worked in both public and private sectors, giving her unique perspectives that she utilises in her role.

Under her belt Lynda has five years at EQC and eight years at New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, as well as time with Oranga Tamariki and various private businesses. One of her main goals as Director Corporate is to ensure that SIA is a great place to work, with a fantastic culture and capable people.

Lynda holds an ANZSOG Executive Masters in Public Administration through Victoria University.

Kate Kolich, Director Data Systems & Analytics



Kate Kolich joined SIA in December 2018 as Director Data Systems & Analytics. Prior to joining SIA Kate had a number of data and technical leadership roles in the financial services industry most recently at BNZ as Head of Enterprise Data and Information Services where she was at the forefront of leading data and analytics transformation teams and strategic initiatives.

Kate is passionate about creating opportunities for people to thrive and innovate, she is active in promoting women in STEM through her work as a Global Women in Data Science Ambassador where she hosted the first NZ Women in Data Science Conference at The University of Auckland in 2018 and is co-hosting the upcoming Women in Data Science Conference in 2019 at Victoria University of Wellington as part of the Global WiDS programme. Kate has been an active member of the MIT Sloan Center for Information Systems Research – Data Research Advisory Board and volunteers as an industry mentor at Victoria University of Wellington. Kate is described as a role model, trend setter and as ‘having endless energy’ which inspires those around her. She holds a Masters in Information Management from Victoria University of Wellington.

Jacinta Syme, Communications Manager



Jacinta uses language and ideas to compel great human experience.

Previously Jacinta was principal advisor communications for The Treasury’s 2018 Investment Statement *He Puna Hao Pātiki, Investing for Wellbeing*. There she was instrumental in articulating the dimensions of investment that contribute to wellbeing.

As part of the Europe leadership team, Jacinta rebuilt New Zealand Trade and Enterprise’s European business advisory network, tripling key accounts. She established the BusinessNZ Sustainable Business Forum and - after facilitating a successful merger and acquisition - the New Zealand Sustainable Business Council. Early in her career

Jacinta marketed internationally the quintessential Kiwi children’s nursery brand, phil&teds.

Jacinta is a skilled facilitator and past student of the Presencing Institute. She has a double degree from Victoria University of Wellington, incorporating credits attained at Gakushuin University in Tokyo. She thrives in the company of her partner and their two daughters.