Professor Michael Baker MBChB, FNZCPHM, FAFPHM, FRACMA, DComH, DObst. Michael Baker serves as Professor of Public Health; Director, Health Environment Infection Research Unit (HEIRU); Director, Public Health Communication Centre; Co-Director, He Kainga Oranga / Housing and Health Research Programme; Co-Director, Public Health Summer School, University of Otago, Wellington.

He is passionate about opportunities to organise society in ways that promote health, equity and sustainability.

Michael has been a full-time staff member at the University of Otago since 2003. In 2015 he was the NZ-UK Link Foundation



Visiting Professor at the School of Advanced Study (SAS), University of London. And in 2023 he was a visiting Fellow at the Norwegian Centre for Advanced Study (CAS).

His work during 2020-22 was dominated by assisting with the Covid-19 pandemic response. Michael is a member of the Ministry of Health's Covid-19 Technical Advisory Group and has been a leading architect and advocate for the Covid-19 elimination strategy. He established a programme of research on the epidemiology, prevention and control of Covid-19 in NZ and internationally (Co-Search), which has generated a large amount of published research and commentary aimed at improving the pandemic response.

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