



# Innovation & Growth

## Our team

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**Gwenan Riley**  
**Partner**

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Gwen is the National R&D Partner for KPMG and has been helping clients access R&D funding since 2008. Gwen holds a Bachelor of Science (BSc), Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Leeds.



**John van Bohemen**  
**Director**

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John has extensive experience in the innovation space since 2012. Before moving across to KPMG in mid 2018, John worked at Callaghan Innovation helping a number of diverse businesses access funding for their innovation.



**Byran Theunisen**  
**Senior Manager**

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Byran has a wealth of experience dealing with R&D funding claims. Most recently, this has been helping businesses access Callaghan Grant funding, though he was heavily involved with the 2008 tax credit regime. Byran is skilled in helping businesses navigate the application and approval process.



**Nitika Sharma**  
**Senior Manager**

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Nitika has over 15 years of experience in R&D, innovation performance, and R&D government incentives across a diverse range of industries, from construction and engineering to food and beverage. Nitika holds a Masters in Business Administration from The University of Auckland, and a Bachelor of Science, Food Science, Chemistry and Nutrition.



**Gareth Easter**  
**Assistant Manager**

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Gareth has a background in R&D in mechanical engineering and, tax consulting. A rounded skillset helps businesses identify R&D projects and expenditure.



**Akshita Wason**  
**Senior Consultant**

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Akshita has over 6 years of experience in conducting R&D programmes in the academic and commercial environment, including a recent secondment to the Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor. Akshita holds a Bachelor of Engineering, a Doctor of Philosophy (Biochemistry) and is currently working towards a Master of Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship.

## Australian Support



**Vien Duong**  
**Senior Manager**

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Vien is our connection to the well-established Australian R&D funding sector. Vien is an engineer by training, and brings a wealth of practical experience from his work across innovative Australian businesses. The insights from Australia are invaluable in making sure we make robust claims in New Zealand.