



Innovation & Growth

Our team

2019



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
Director

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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 number of years of practical experience in R&D in Mechanical Engineering, and has most recently been helping businesses access innovation funding in New Zealand.

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Chris Carrington
Senior Consultant

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Chris has over three years experience in R&D, tax, and advisory services with KPMG, and has worked on a wide variety of R&D sector engagements. Chris has a strong focus on helping the Māori businesses prosper, and is a key contributor to Te Roopu Kaitaki, KPMG's Maori sector team.



Akshita Wason
Senior Consultant

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Akshita has over six 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.



Sebastian Woollard
Consultant

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Sebastian has recently graduated with a BCom/Bsc conjoint degree from the University of Auckland in Genetics, Cellular Biology, Commercial Law and Management. He was responsible for logistics, inventory management and client management in several small to medium business during his studies.



Sandhya Ravi
Consultant

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Sandhya has over two years of experience in mobile hardware and software with IBM. She was part of IBM's Mobile First for iOS Garage (Apple Garage) team from 2015 to 2017 and has worked with a number of clients from different countries and sectors. Sandhya holds a Bachelor of Technology degree from Anna University.

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.

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