

Hon. Heather Roy

Biography



Heather Roy is a professional director and is currently Chair of Medicines New Zealand, Chair of the Advertising Standards Authority and Chair of Utilities Disputes Ltd. She is also the principal and director of TorquePoint Limited, a boutique business consultancy specialising in the use of military planning techniques in the corporate environment as well as training and advice on political engagement for businesses.

In May 2017, Heather was the winner of the Governance New Zealand 'Women on Board's' Inspirational Excellence Award; the Supreme Award acknowledging contribution to Governance.

Heather is a former Member of Parliament, elected to the NZ Parliament in July 2002 and retiring in November 2011. During her 3 terms in Parliament she was a Minister of the Crown from Nov 2008 until August 2010 - Minister of Consumer Affairs, Associate Minister of Defence and Associate Minister of Education. Between 2006 -2010 she was Deputy Leader of the ACT party and party whip. Heather had a private member's bill passed in to law in September 2011 - the Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Act.

Heather was a Reservist in the NZ Army from 2006 – 2016. She was originally posted to 5 Wellington West Coast and Taranaki (5WWCT) Battalion Group and 2 Engineer Regiment as a sapper. In 2013 she was commissioned as an Officer and posted to Defence Headquarters.

Heather's earlier career path included training as a physiotherapist and she worked both in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. She worked for pharmaceutical companies as a Clinical Research Co-ordinator in the 1990s on trials in the cardiovascular and psychiatry areas. In 1999/2000, Heather set up and worked in the position of manager of a private kindergarten and she worked as publicity officer for the NZ Portrait Gallery in 2001.

Heather has undertaken many voluntary roles including being a member of a number of committees associated with her children's schooling and sporting activities, community groups and for 8 years (2000-2008) she was the Convenor of the Karori Normal School Gala.

Heather is married to Dr Duncan Roy and they have 5 adult children.

Heather's 'outside of work' interests include reading novels rather than official documents, playing the piano and enjoying the outdoors - especially tramping and boating. She is an enthusiastic latecomer to New Zealand's most popular outdoor pursuit, fishing. To date, the fish are winning.