Professor Tony HARLAND is Professor of Higher Education and Head of the Higher Education Development Centre (HEDC) at the University of Otago, New Zealand. HEDC provides a service for the university based on high quality research into higher education. It teaches undergraduates, postgraduates and academic staff and focuses on support for student learning, research, teaching and service. Tony’s first subject was marine ecology and he has taught this for 30 years in four institutions. He then went on to study higher education and in 1996 joined the Higher Education Research Group at the University of Sheffield, UK. He moved to New Zealand in 2000.

Tony's research examines the rationale for higher education and what institutions are trying to achieve for teaching, research and service. Recent projects have investigated the ways in which higher education is valued, how teaching values form an important part of a student’s education, what critical theory has to offer our thinking about university work and its relationship to society, and how students learn through doing research. Tony teaches qualitative research methods and other topics such as learning theory, leadership and peer review. He also supervises PhD students working in the fields of policy and practice in higher education. In 2013, he was awarded the Tertiary Education Research in New Zealand (TERNZ) research medal for outstanding contribution to the field. Tony is on the editorial board of several international journals.