

The Psychotherapists Board of Aotearoa New Zealand

Te Poari o nga Kaihaumanu Hinengaro o Aotearoa



*Welcome to the first Board newsletter for 2012, this issue is designed to bring you up to date with some of the Board-related work since December 2011.
Please also keep your eye on the Board's website as this is updated regularly.*

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Board Elections 2012

Under Schedule 3, Section 3 of the HPPCA elections for the Chair and Deputy Chair must be held at the first meeting of the New Year.

Mihiteria King (Chair) and Gordon Hewitt (Deputy Chair) were re-elected at the February meeting; however, due to personal reasons Mihiteria King has since stepped down as Chair until further notice. Gordon Hewitt has taken up the role as Chair supported by Carol Shinkfield as Deputy Chair.

Staff News

The Board is delighted to welcome back Jacquelyn Manley (Jacq) who returned from Parental leave at the start of February to her role as Registrar. She will be working 3 days per week. Jenny Rutherford has recently joined the Board team as a fulltime Registration

Officer; a role that will provide support to the Registrar. Jenny brings with her a range of regulatory authority experience gained from her time on the Registration team at the Medical Council of New Zealand. More recently Jenny has been involved in recruitment within the health sector.

Accreditation Update

Under section 118 (a) of the HPCAA the Board is required to prescribe the qualifications required for scopes of practice within the profession, and, for that purpose, to accredit and monitor educational institutions and degrees, course of studies, or programmes.

As the first step in the process the Board held an initial accreditation meeting on Saturday 31st March 2012. Eight different providers were represented along with representatives from interest groups and associations. All in attendance agreed that a primary goal is for the accreditation process to be affordable and that different modalities and training structures are valued and respected. Practitioner and stakeholder consultation will follow.

Consultation Update - Visiting Psychotherapist Presenter/Educator Scope of Practice - Update

Thank you to all those who provided feedback on this proposed scope of practice. The Board has taken this feedback into consideration and is currently in the process of re-drafting the proposed Visiting Psychotherapist Presenter/Educator Scope of Practice. The Board will consult on the re-drafted version later this year.

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Consultation - Psychotherapist Scopes of Practice

The Board's Psychotherapist Scopes of Practice have now been in effect since September 2008. Nearly four years on it has come to the Board's attention that the scopes of practice are due for review. Further information and details will be released to the profession and stakeholders in an upcoming consultation document. This consultation will take place over an 8 week period to allow sufficient time for response.

Consultation - Psychotherapist Annual Practising Certificate (APC) Fee Reduction 2012/2013

During the April 2012 meeting, the Board's financial situation was reviewed and it was agreed that the Board is now in a position to decrease the APC fee for the year commencing 1 October 2012, from \$700.00 (plus GST) to \$680.00 (plus GST).

This decrease will also be applied to the Board's reduced APC fee for a short year (July, August, and September) and for those eligible for the reduced fee due to earning less than \$25,000 gross income in the previous tax year. The reduced fee will decrease from \$384.00 (plus GST) to \$364.00 (plus GST).

The consultation document was released on 20 April 2012 and is available on our website under 'News and Events - Current Consultations'.

Please forward your comments to Jacq on or before Friday the 1st of June 2012.

Are your contact details up to date?

Please check by logging into your records on the PBANZ website using your personal login. This information is

especially important as the Annual Practising Certificate renewals approach.

Under the section 140 of the HCPAA health practitioners are required to promptly notify the Registrar of any change in their postal, residential and/or work address.

Competence Review Committee Training Update

The Board wishes to thank the profession for the large number of responses received from those willing to be trained and considered for competence review committee work. This is important work and the Board appreciates those members of the profession willing to support this process.

Competence Review Training was held on Monday 23rd April 2012 at Buddle Findlay offices, the training was well received by those in attendance.

Collaboration within the Regulatory Authorities - Health Sector reforms come to the regulatory authorities

We are all familiar with the government's focus on the front-line delivery of health services and reduction in costs to back-office functions. We have seen the district health boards moving to share their administrative services and information systems and it has been proposed that the RAs produce similar outcomes.

In February 2010, the 16 regulatory authorities that regulate health sector practitioners received a proposal from Health Workforce New Zealand (HWNZ) on behalf of the Minister of Health suggesting several changes under the heading "Proposal for a shared secretariat and office function for all health-related regulatory authorities together with a reduction in the number of regulatory authority board members".

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While the objectives are evident from the title, the proposal also has a strong focus on the provision of consistent and consolidated health workforce data to assist the Government in its long-term planning.

In accordance with the above proposal the Board is currently engaged in discussion with the 16 Regulatory Authorities under the HPCAA to see how this can be achieved. The Board will keep the profession and stakeholders informed as further information becomes available.

Points of Interest on the Website

Annual Report: The Board's fourth audited Annual Report, year ending September 2011, has now been submitted to the Minister of Health and tabled with the House of Representatives. This is now available on the Board's Website under "News and Event's".

NZAP Conference Attendance: Five Board members attended and gave a presentation on 'What the Board Actually Does' at the NZAP Conference in February 2012. This PowerPoint can now be found on the Board's website under 'News and Events'

How is practise defined?

The Psychologists Board published an article defining practice for psychologists. The principles and requirements apply in the same manner to psychotherapists and this Board has adapted that article for the benefit of psychotherapists. The Board's article is reproduced below and can also be found on the website [link].

How is Practice Defined:

The Board is frequently contacted by practitioners and by members of the public who want to know what constitutes "practising". The caller may be a psychotherapist who is semi-retired and considering "just doing a little bit of consulting", or a member of the public who saw an ad on the internet offering "life coaching" - only to discover that the person offering this service is a psychotherapist who does not hold a practising certificate.

"Practise" is defined in the HPCA Act 2003 as to perform services that fall within the description of the profession (refer section 5). In accordance with section 11 of the Act, the Board described the profession in terms of the three scopes of practice;

1. Psychotherapist Scope of Practice;
2. Psychotherapist Scope of Practice with Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist Specialism;
3. Interim Psychotherapist Scope of Practice.

The Psychotherapist Scopes of Practice can be found on the Board's website.

Practitioners must therefore be aware that, as long as they remain on the register of psychotherapists, they must hold a current practising certificate if they practise (under any title) within one of the scopes as described by the Board.

The Board is hearing of practitioners on the Register who are practising in such areas without holding a practising certificate, and we are obliged to make enquiries where this comes to our attention.

The penalties under the Act for practising without a practising certificate

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can be very severe, which reflects just how important the practising certificate regime is as a mechanism to ensure that psychotherapists are competent and fit to practise the profession.

We strongly recommend that all practitioners who are currently on the Register, but who do not hold a current annual practising certificate, review their circumstances carefully in light of the information above, and then formally notify the Board if they:

- a) require a practicing certificate,
- b) are not practising but wish to remain on the Register, or
- c) wish to come off the Register.

It is preferable for the Registrar to receive notification directly from the practitioner rather than a concerned member of the public.

The Psychotherapists Board acknowledges and thanks the Psychologists Board for the use and adaption of their article.

2012 Meeting Dates and Locations

The Board will meet on the following dates in 2012.

- 17 & 18 June 2012, Dunedin
- 14 & 15 September 2012, Wellington
- 2 & 3 December 2012, Wellington

Please note that these dates and locations may still be subject to change. Board papers are sent to members 10 working days in advance of a Board meeting. If correspondence arrives after Board papers have been sent it will be retained on file until the next Board meeting.