

The Psychotherapists Board of Aotearoa New Zealand

Te Poari o nga Kaihaumanu Hinengaro o Aotearoa



July 2012

Welcome to the second Board newsletter for 2012, this issue is designed to bring you up to date with some of the Board-related work since April.

Please also keep your eye on the Board's website as this is updated regularly.

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APC Renewals

The Annual Practising Certificate (APC) year runs from 1 October to 30 September each year.

APC renewal application forms will be available through your personal login from the 13th August. This will allow all psychotherapists to complete their APC renewal process prior to the new APC year starting. If the Board receives your completed form on or before Monday 17th September you will receive the 2012/2013 APC certificate prior to the 1st October 2012.

To help this process please:

- Ensure that you remember your personal login details;
- Check that your contact details are accurate;

- Carefully read and complete the online application and supporting APC renewal form; and
- Pay the correct fee.

Psychotherapists can also contact the Registrar with any Annual Practising Certificates enquires.

New Premises

Shortly the Board will be moving to new premises. Our new location will be ASB House, 101 – 103 The Terrace, Wellington. The rest of Board's contact details remain unchanged, including the telephone numbers and PO Box address. The Board will be sharing its new premises with:

- Dental Council;
- Physiotherapy Board;
- Podiatrist Board;
- Occupational Therapy Board; and
- Osteopathic Council.

The co-locating RAs will remain distinct and functionally independent, the primary change being the sharing of office space and some related services.

This move aligns with the Ministry's request for Regulatory Authorities to work more collaboratively.

Accreditation

The Board would like to hear from psychotherapy training providers/institutions offering Psychotherapy training who **have not** so far been involved with the Board's consultation

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on accreditation of courses which would lead to registration as a psychotherapist.

The Board held an initial accreditation meeting in March and will be consulting with practitioners, stakeholders, psychotherapy training providers/institutions in the coming months.

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

The Board continues to investigate the feasibility of developing a single share secretariat with other health regulatory authorities under the HPCAA. This would include back office functions such as finance, human resources and information technology, as well as regulatory functions under the Act.

Further updates will be provided to the profession and stakeholders as they occur.

Recertification

The Board has been reviewing practitioner and stakeholder feedback including various recertification methods used by other Registration Authorities. The Board intends to develop a consultation document which will be released prior to the end of the year.

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

The Board is still considering the Visiting Psychotherapist Presenter/Educator Scope of Practice and will continue the consultation process with the profession and stakeholders later this year. The issue is legally complex and the Board is still seeking a simpler solution to the original request from educators to find a way for such visitors to describe themselves as psychotherapists without

being open to prosecution by the Ministry of Health.

Consultation - Psychotherapist Scopes of Practice and Psychotherapist Clinical Supervision

The Board is currently seeking feedback on:

- Psychotherapist Scopes of Practice
- Psychotherapist Clinical Supervision

This consultation will take place over an 8 week period to allow individuals and groups time to discuss and consider their response. The Board appreciates the time that practitioners take to respond and looks forward to reviewing any feedback received. This consultation document can be located on the Boards website under 'News and Events'.

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

Thank you to those who responded to the consultation on reducing the APC fee. After considering the feedback the Board has reduced the fee as proposed.

The Board is committed to monitoring fees and will make further reductions where and when possible.

Points of Interest

FAQs: The Board's website hosts a list of Frequently Asked Questions FAQs. Please visit this section of the Board's website to see if it can assist you.

Applying for a replacement APC: Practitioners requiring a replacement APC can download the application form from the Board's website. This form is available under "For Psychotherapist - Administration Info".

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2012 Meeting Dates and Locations

The Board has two meetings remaining in the 2012 calendar, these are:

- 14 & 15 September 2012, Wellington
- 2 & 3 December 2012, Wellington

Board papers are sent to members 10 working days prior to a Board meeting. Correspondence received after Board papers have been issued will be held on file for the next Board meeting.

Board Member, Judy Smyth

Kia ora and greetings,

I am the most recently appointed Board member having begun my three year term in November 2011. When I started in this role I was aware of some of the work the Board had undertaken while also knowing I had a lot to learn.

My first task was gaining a deepening clarity, that the Board had been appointed by the Minister under the HPCAA specifically with a purpose 'to protect the health and safety of members of the public by providing for mechanisms to ensure that health practitioners are competent and fit to practise'.

I (and I know many others) did not clearly understand this when the profession lobbied for registration. Reading and understanding the HPCAA is an on-going evolving process working between interpretation (sometimes requiring legal advice) and clearly laid out criteria.

I have observed a lot since the beginning of registration; grief, anger and sometimes rage as some members of the profession dealt with misunderstandings and unfulfilled expectations of what regulation involved. A difficult transition has

evolved from what was considered self-regulation via professional associations to what the profession has now. There has however, been a shift in perception. Emotions are settling with practitioners beginning to understand and appreciate the benefits of registration. This process has been assisted by graduates bringing a new perspective.

Consultation is an important process valued by the Board. Consultation allows the profession and stakeholders the chance to provide comments and feedback. Through the HPCAA the Board is delegated the responsibility to make final decisions, however, the Board considers practitioners and stakeholder feedback when making these decisions.

What I have experienced since being on the Board is just how important consultation is. It is my experience that all feedback is seriously read, discussed and considered. Some feedback received is obviously the result of considered consultation widely disseminated throughout the profession, well thought through and delivered in a useful way that gives the members of the Board a wider perspective on which to base decisions.

As well as receiving written submissions, the Board is committed to having meetings in different areas of the country to enable the Board to meet members of the profession to engage in face to face discussion and consultation. Board meeting dates are set a year in advance with meeting dates and locations placed on the Board's website. Please communicate with the Registrar if you wish to meet with the Board.

I will look forward to the opportunity to meet those attending these meetings.

Sincerely
Judy Smyth