# General Consultation Information

The Psychotherapists Board of Aotearoa New Zealand (the Board) is committed to open, transparent and consistent consultation when reviewing or developing standards, guidelines and related policies for dissemination to the public, profession and stakeholders. The Board will also consult to meet its common law obligations and obligations under section 14 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA).

Consultation means that the Board will seek information and/or advice and will consider it when making a decision. Consultation does not mean that the Board will abrogate its responsibility to make decisions consistent with its purpose and functions under the HPCAA.

1. **Benefits of consultation**

The Board recognises that open consultation has many benefits, some of which are:

* enabling stakeholders to contribute to policy development;
* facilitating working dialogue with internal and external stakeholders;
* helping early identification of potential problems and issues with proposed standards, guidelines and related policies;
* assisting to make the process of developing standards, guidelines and related polices accountable; and
* increasing public and stakeholder understanding of the role and functions of the Board.

1. **How the Board will consult**

Consultation will usually be undertaken for a period of eight (8) weeks allowing sufficient time for consideration by the profession, public and stakeholders.

* consultation papers will be available for downloading from the Board’s website on the ‘Resources and Publication’ page;
* consultation will be promoted to the Board’s practitioner and stakeholder database as well as in the Board’s newsletter and through the Board’s website;
* submissions received by practitioners or stakeholders will be acknowledged on receipt; and
* the Board will determine on a case-by-case basis, the appropriateness and desirability of public and stakeholder face-to-face consultation meetings.

1. **The Board’s decision-making**

The Board in its decision-making process will consider, without limitation, the following:

* all feedback received during the consultation process; and
* its primary purpose under the HPCAA which is to protect the health and safety of members of the public by providing for mechanisms to ensure that health practitioners are competence and fit to practise their professions.