

The Psychotherapists Board of Aotearoa New Zealand

Te Poari o nga Kaihaumanu Hinengaro o Aotearoa



June 2019 This issue brings you up to date with Board related work since the last newsletter.

*Tēnā tātou katoa,
Nau mai haere mai ki te pānui a-marama.
He mihi maioha ki a koutou
Ko te tumanako kua ora katoa ō koutou whānau*

*Welcome to the Newsletter for this month.
Warm regards to you all at this time of the year.
We hope that you and your families are well.*

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**Meet the Registration Officer
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**Changes to the Health Practitioners Competence
Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA)**

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Meet the Board

Meet the Board's Registration Officer

Natasha Khouri, the Board Registration Officer, was employed at the end of January 2019.

Natasha is also currently working at the Department of Internal Affairs where she has been employed for over 4 years. She has completed a bachelor's degree in science, majoring in Psychology and has recently completed a Graduate Diploma of Arts, majoring in Cultural Anthropology. She has a keen interest in psychotherapy in particular, and is interested in training to become a psychotherapist in future.

Natasha's days of work are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Expression of Interest

The Board is now seeking expressions of interest from psychotherapists who are interested in being part of:

[Competence Review Committee](#) (CRC); or
[Professional Conduct Committee](#) (PCC);

Committees are made up of three (3) people; two (2) psychotherapists who hold a current

Annual Practising Certificate and one (1) layperson.

The Board maintains a pool of psychotherapists and experienced laypeople that can be appointed to one of the above committees, should the need arise.

It is important that the pool of psychotherapists available for committees includes a range of backgrounds, culture, training, knowledge, and experience.

The Board would like to encourage psychotherapists, particularly those who identify as Māori/Tangata Whenua to consider submitting their interest.

Training for these committees is available periodically¹ and committees are supported by an experienced convenor².

Historically CRC and PCC work has proven to be infrequent and member availability is sought when the need to appoint a committee arises.

The work of both committees is important, so please review the linked information and contact the Registrar should you have any questions.

Thank you to those who have already expressed an interest. This interest is appreciated and maintained on file.

¹ The Registrar will advise when this is available.

² Often the layperson.

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Recertification audit

Thank you to all the psychotherapists who were selected for, and engaged in, the 2017/18 practitioner audit. This audit is nearly completed.

Feedback indicates that psychotherapists are continuing to find the self-reflective process beneficial and useful to their practice.

Once the audit has been completed the Board will update its Recertification Plan tips; the tips offer guidance which psychotherapists engaged in future audits may find useful.

The updated audit tips will be available on the [Recertification and Audit](#) page of the Board's Website.

Auditor comment

The following comment has been made by an auditor:

"I have been involved in auditing practitioners' recertification over the last 3 years. I just wanted to make a personal comment that I have experienced a great deal of pride in our profession, at times envy at the work people are doing, and have been moved by the stories practitioners have shared. I wanted to say thank you to practitioners for entrusting their work to this process."

Accreditation Standards for Psychotherapy Training Programmes – Training Provider Consultation

Following the last training provider consultation period which included facilitated consultation hui, the Board and the Accreditation Committee have continued to refine draft Accreditation Standards to reflect the feedback received from training providers, while also meeting the requirements of the HPCAA.

If you are a training provider and have not been contacted by the Board about this consultation process, please contact the Board's Registrar.

Wider consultation is anticipated to be held late 2019 or early 2020. This will involve training

providers, practitioners, the public, regulatory authorities and other agencies related to psychotherapy training.

Annual Practising Certification renewal

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

The APC renewal process will open, through your personal login, on **Monday 5th August 2019**. This will allow all psychotherapists time to complete their APC renewal process prior to the start of the new APC year.

To help this process please ensure that:

- Your contact details are up to date;
- You have allowed time to obtain your supervisor's signature.

As a reminder, the APC Renewal steps are:

1. Login and complete the online section of the process.

Practitioners have three options:

- a) **Renew**: renew your APC;
- b) **Non-practising**: retain your name on the Register as a non-practising psychotherapist³;
- c) **Removal**: request to have your name removed from the Register of psychotherapists.

2. Print the form at the end of the online process.
3. Obtain your supervisor's signature and attestation that they have sighted and discussed your Recertification Plan, and return the form to the Registrar.

Further information on the APC renewal process can be found on the Board's website under '[How to renew your Annual Practising Certificate](#)'.

Changes to the HPCAA

Following the passing of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA) Amendment Bill several changes will now take place.

³ Non-practising means that you are not working. For example: on parental leave, on sick leave, on an extended holiday.

Newsletter [disclaimers](#)

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The changes made within the HPCAA include:

- Wider use of electronic processes and communications (email) such as the issuing of APC's⁴.
- Clarification to ensure complainants are kept informed about complaint processes and Board decisions.
- Medical assessment may now be undertaken by a 'health practitioner'; previously this assessment was required to be carried out by a medical practitioner.
- Board discretion as to whether to refer a practitioner with a minor conviction to a Professional Conduct Committee (PCC).
- Clarification that the Board can receive and act on information from members of the public about the practice, conduct, or competence of a psychotherapist.
- Inclusion of cultural competence provisions with specific mention of cultural competencies that will enable effective and respectful interaction with Māori/Tangata Whenua.
- Responsible Authorities will be required to undergo a performance review every five years.
- The Board will be required to collect workforce data such as: name, date of birth, gender, ethnicity, employer, place of employment, hours of work and scope of practice.
- Responsible Authorities will be able to revoke the accreditation of a psychotherapy programme.

The Board will begin working on these changes as soon as practicable and incorporate them where appropriate into policy and guidance documents. Should you have any questions please contact the Registrar.

Reminders and links

The Board has the following documents available on the website:

Psychotherapist Standards

1. Standards of Ethical Conduct,
2. Standards of Cultural Competence, and
3. Standards of Core Clinical Competence

Claro Law e-learning

Claro Law, who specialise in health legislation, are offering an online legal education resource about the New Zealand's health sector, called [Clarify](#).

This is designed to help health professionals gain a better understanding of health law in New Zealand and may be of interest to psychotherapists.

Meet the Board

The next Board meeting is in Wellington on the 16th August 2019. Practitioners are invited to meet with the Board (open forum). This is an opportunity to ask questions about current Board work, and to meet Board members and engage in conversation. If you intend to come along, please RSVP to registrar@pbanz.org.nz. A reminder will be sent closer to the time.

Date: Friday 16th August 2019
Time: 4.00pm – 5.00pm
Location: Level 7, 22 Willeston Street, Wellington

Nga mihi mahana,
Best wishes

*He aha te nui? He tangata, he tangata,
he tangata.*

*What is the most important thing? It is people, it is
people, it is people.*

⁴ It is important that psychotherapists keep their email address is current.