



# Podiatrists Board of New Zealand

*Te Poari Tiaki Waewae O Aotearoa*

**My ePod**

**APRIL 2014**

## PODIATRISTS BOARD NEWSLETTER

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### BOARD MEETINGS

The Board met on 27 and 28 February and further 2014 meeting are to be held on 8 & 9 May, 31 July, 1 August, and 30 & 31 October.

### ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE RENEWAL

As you will all be aware, 31 March is the date when your APC expires. It must be renewed by then in order to continue practising legally in NZ.

A big thank you to those practitioners who posted in their APC applications in plenty of time.

This year's email reminders, rather than posted invoices, appeared to be successful as the Board noted there was generally an earlier than usual response with APC applications being received well before 31 March.

There are however, always some applications that are received last minute and this can be problematic for processing in a very short-time frame, especially when there may be issues with the paper work.

#### **A few reminders:**

Please note: Practitioners applying to renew their APC now, must pay the higher late fee (if they held an APC for 2013.) It is expected that practitioners have not been practising in the interim.

For those returning to practice and applying later in the year:

- Please allow time to post your application rather than emailing or faxing at the last minute
- Ensure the 4 pages are included, including the Form 1 (Self Directed Professional Development Needs Analysis) page.
- Ensure the fee is sent at the same time as the application form and vice versa.
- If you have not practised in NZ for a period of 3 years or more there may be some further competence requirements required.

The Board is hopeful that a new on-line APC renewal process may be available for practitioners for the 2015 renewal process. Further information on progress of this project will be available later this year.

### **PRACTISING WITHOUT AN ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC)**

This is a reminder for practitioners who do not hold an APC that should an opportunity arise for you to practice for a brief, perhaps unexpected period of time, you are still required to hold a current APC and would be practising illegally as a podiatrist should you not have this. To save embarrassment please contact the Board should this situation arise.

### **BOARD FEES**

Apart from the addition of the new disciplinary levy to the APC fee this year, and adjustments for GST in 2010, there have been no changes to the APC fee for 6 years, since 2008.

The Board has always made every effort to keep running costs down to a minimum and absorb as many expenses as it is able.

Being the smallest registered health profession, with approximately 330 practitioners but with the same legislative requirements of other larger RAs with a much greater number of registrants, (for example approximately 4,300 physiotherapists and 49,000 nurses) it is easy to see why the APC fee for podiatrists is necessarily higher than for some other health professionals.

With no funding from the Ministry of Health, the Board is solely reliant on practitioner fees to fund its operations it is required to carry out under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act.

It is an unfortunate reality that professions with smaller numbers generally incur higher APC fees, for example this is also the case for Chiropractors and Osteopaths where APC fees are higher than for podiatrists (although their numbers are actually greater).

As mentioned in previous publications, the Board hopes to remove or reduce the disciplinary levy within 3 years, if a sufficient disciplinary fund has been established. The Board has no control over the number of disciplinary cases that may arise from year to year however.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE WORK**

Expressions of interest are sought from experienced podiatrists (7 years or more) to join a pool of practitioners who are available to undertake work for the Board serving on various

committees. These would include Competence Review Committees and Professional Conduct Committees (PCCs).

## **PODIATRIC SURGERY:**

*A further regular reminder to podiatric surgeons who wish to renew their APC in this scope, the Board requires evidence of the following to be attached to their application form.*

- Advanced Life Support (4 hours minimum biennially)
- Advance Wound Care (5 hours minimum annually)
- 2 case studies: Board templates to be used (annually)
- CQI evidence: surgical practice audit (annually)

## **PODIATRY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA (PBA) & ANZPAC (Australia & NZ Podiatry Accreditation Council)**

The Board values its relationship with the PBA and will be working together on a number of projects including a possible alignment of the recertification requirements for both countries, to make complying with Board requirements easier and a more straightforward process for the trans-Tasman movement for podiatrists.

A joint teleconference will be held in June with representatives from both Boards and the Board looks forward to hosting some PBA members to its meeting on 30 October 2014.

The Board also values its membership in ANZPAC and is pleased with the current arrangements with ANZPAC providing qualification and skills assessments of overseas trained podiatry and podiatric surgery registration applicants for the Board.

## **PODIATRY NEW ZEALAND (PNZ)**

This is a reminder that the Podiatrists Board and Podiatry NZ are completely separate entities.

The Board is a regulatory body mandated by the HPCA Act, practitioners **must** be registered and hold a current practising certificate.

Podiatry NZ is the professional body, where membership is voluntary.

The Board continues to liaise with PNZ and regular meetings are held with representatives from PNZ, both with the Board's Executive Committee, and at Board meetings from time to time during the year.

There have been some concerns received by the Board regarding a PNZ initiative on diabetes contracts with some DHBs. This has involved further fees payable by practitioners to PNZ.

Please note this is not a Board project and any queries about this initiative and any further plans for this should be directed to PNZ.

## **SECRETARIAT**

The Board continues to be pleased with the support provided by the Occupational Therapy Board secretariat and a number of their staff assist the Board with work in various areas. Health Workforce NZ moves to encourage all Responsible Authorities (RAs) towards a full Shared Secretariat Organisation have been re-focused now towards rationalising the number of databases used by the RAs. Both the Medical Council and Nursing Council database are being considered by a number of RAs.

## HRANZ

Health Regulatory Authorities of NZ meetings continue regularly throughout the year, both at the strategic level and operational level.

This year HRANZ will hold its inaugural conference on 28 May 2014. It will focus on issues that impact regulators in Australasia, with the keynote speaker being Harry Cayton, CEO, Professional Standards Authority in the UK. To find out more please go to <https://www.hranz.health.nz/>

## DEATH NOTICES

The Board would like to express its condolences to the families of the following practitioners who have passed away recently:

- Daphne Steele
- Jack Travers Pizzey
- Sylvia Maria Pia Binzegger

## UPDATE REGISTER

The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA) requires that you **notify the Board of any address change within one month.**

**This is important to ensure you do not miss out on any posted information. Please also advise the Board of any email and phone number changes as well.**

## CONTACT

For all queries please contact the Registrar, Annabel Whinam

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