

## The ePod Newsletter

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### September 2020

Greetings Tēnā koutou katoa and welcome to the Board's latest Newsletter.

The Podiatrists Board of New Zealand (PBNZ) recognises the unprecedented disruption that Covid-19 has caused to every one of our registrants this year. We appreciate your continuing commitment to keeping your patients safe and for remaining responsive to the Allied Health Treatment Guidelines produced by the Ministry of Health under the various Covid-19 Alert Levels. The Board also recommends that you consider downloading the Awhina App so that you can be advised when updates are made to the information for all health providers.

We will continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation closely and adapt to all advice from the Ministry to put the safety of patients and practitioners at the heart of what we do. We will also ensure that any changes to our Covid-19 guidelines and how we are advised to practise at different Alert Levels are passed on swiftly to the profession as and when we receive that advice from the Ministry.

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### Board Meetings

The next Board Meeting will be held 12 - 13 November 2020. PBNZ Board Meetings for 2021 are scheduled for:

- 11 - 12 February
- 27 - 28 May
- 05 - 06 August
- 11 - 12 November

## Board Members

The Minister of Health appointed three new health practitioner members in 2020, Belinda Ihaka, Rebecca Holbrook and Chris Rewi-Wetini. They all come with a wealth of experience and we are delighted to have them on the team. Fiona Angus currently remains as Chair and at the last meeting held 6 - 7 August, Dr Matt Carroll was elected as Deputy Chair. The Board is still waiting on the appointment of two new lay members and in the interim has managed to retain Helen Wild to provide a representative vote as required. The appointment process across all the Responsible Authorities has been affected by Covid-19 and we are waiting for advice from the Ministry of Health as to when our current vacancies will be filled.

### Current Board Members

Fiona Angus (Chair)  
Dr Matt Carroll (Deputy Chair)  
Steve York  
Belinda Ihaka  
Chris Rewi-Wetini  
Rebecca Holbrook  
Helen Wild (Lay member)

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## New Registrar

Sandi Gale moved across from the Osteopathic Council of New Zealand (OCNZ) to start full time as our new Registrar on 10 August 2020. She is no stranger to regulatory processes with over 20 years as a Royal Naval Officer before a second career in Allied Health. The Board would like to extend its thanks to Fiona Angus and Erin Beeler who held the fort in the period between Registrars and coordinated all regulatory responses for Covid-19 during a very challenging period for all.

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## Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

All practitioners should now be familiar with the new CPD framework outlined via the link [here](#). The Board will be sending out a CPD Survey soon requesting your feedback on the current process so we can continue to make improvements. Please remember to record your CPD hours online, using the login and practitioner portal. The current CPD cycle is 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2021 and audits will commence in early 2022.

CPD Providers: A [Guidance List](#) of providers is available for your assistance.

## Prescribing Update

The Board is progressing with this application and is in the process of finalising the list of medicines consulted on. Practitioners will be updated with any further progress on this important project.

## Professional Advisor Role, Supervisors and Committee work for the Board.

The Board is actively seeking experienced practitioners who are interested in having their name added to the list of those available to assist as a Supervisor (generally for return to practice podiatrists), or to serve on a Competence Review Committee (CRC) or a Professional Conduct Committee (PCC). We are also seeking expressions of interest for a new role as Professional Advisor. Please email the Registrar if you are interested in finding out more about these roles.

## Privacy Act

Changes to The Privacy Act are expected to occur in late 2020 and podiatrists can view information and online learning regarding the changes on the Office of the Privacy Commissioner website. The Board will also produce a supporting policy document for the profession and outline how the changes may affect you later in the year.

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## HPDT Decisions

Pursuant to Section 157 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (HPCA), the Board can be directed to publish links to the New Zealand Health Practitioner Disciplinary Tribunal (HPDT) decisions. These will be published in the newsletter in future when made available online and requested by the Tribunal.

Brian Koh - 20 July 2020. [HPDT decision link](#)

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## Educational Events and Professional Development

PodiatryNZ is your professional membership association for registered podiatrists in New Zealand. The Board encourages all registrants to actively engage with your membership association and participate in the educational and professional development opportunities they offer, in support of maintaining high standards of competence in your profession.

[www.podnz.org](http://www.podnz.org)

## Organisational Structure

The Board is a separate organisation from the professional association for podiatrists (PodiatryNZ), which exists to increase awareness of the benefits of podiatry in support of improving health outcomes for all New Zealanders. Their team works hard to support the professional needs of New Zealand registered podiatrists. In short,

they actively represent the podiatry profession in the healthcare environment. Although Board members may also be members of PodiatryNZ, our duty as Board members is to act in accordance with the aims, objectives and requirements of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act. Board members are appointed by the Minister to oversee the profession, they are not elected by podiatrists to represent their professional interests.

We do not work in a vacuum though – PBNZ are in regular contact with PodiatryNZ, as well as other health professional regulators, in these challenging times. When we respond to queries by saying an issue may be best considered by PodiatryNZ, we are doing so because we acknowledge that our organisations' roles and areas of expertise are different.

The Board would like to extend it's thanks to PodiatryNZ for the ongoing support and cooperation to ensure consistent and clear messages were provided to all practitioners in support of public and practitioner safety during the recent resurgence of Covid-19.

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For all queries please contact the Registrar,  
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