

The ePod Newsletter

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December 2020

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

As we approach the end of an extraordinary year the Podiatrists Board of New Zealand (PBNZ) would like to again thank every one of our registrants for 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.

Board Meetings

The next Board Meeting will be held 11 – 12 February 2021. PBNZ Board Meetings for 2021 are scheduled for:

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

Board Members

The Board is still waiting on the appointment of two new lay members and interviews for these positions have taken place at the Ministry of Health. We

expect the appointments to be announced early next year and until then we have retained Helen Wild to provide a representative vote as required.

Current Board Members

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

Privacy Act 2020 - How it affects you

The Privacy Act 2020 came into force on 01 December 2020 and it is important that all registered podiatrists are familiar with the changes and how they impact your operations.

The biggest change is that reporting a serious privacy breach is now mandatory. For example, if you are responsible for a breach of privacy that could cause serious harm to clients, you are legally obligated to report this to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner and to the affected individuals. One example of a breach of privacy would be leaked personal patient information that could be used in identity theft or published online.

The Privacy Commissioner also has new powers to help people access their own information and to require businesses and organisations to comply with the law. If a patient requests personal information held by a business, the business cannot destroy the information in order to avoid providing it. Also, if you are using service providers based overseas, like cloud software, you will need to ensure that those providers are meeting New Zealand privacy laws.

There are increased fines for organisations that don't comply, and there are also new rules when sending personal information overseas. You can find out more about the changes and how to report a privacy breach [here](#).

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.

Allied Health Services Contract

The Board are aware that ACC have proposed the integration of physiotherapy, hand therapy and podiatry contracts under one Allied Health Contract. It is a proposal at this stage with any changes subject to their internal approvals, but likely to come into effect on 01 November 2021. Updates on this proposal are being provided by ACC via their Allied Health Provider Updates, which you can sign up for directly and on the [Government Electronic Tender Service \(GETS\) website](#). All thoughts and feedback on this proposal should be emailed to alliedhealth@acc.co.nz or to your professional membership association, PodiatryNZ.

Supervisors and Committee work for the Board.

The Board is still 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). If you require further information on the commitment this may involve, please email or call the Registrar for further information.

The Board would like to congratulate our new AUT graduates, who in November completed all academic and clinical requirements to be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Health Science in Podiatry.

Registration

In support of our new graduates, the Deputy Chair conducted a presentation at AUT in October to advise students on the Boards role and on their responsibilities as registered health professionals under the HPCA Act 2003. The Registrar and Registration and Recertification Officer also took part in a zoom meeting with the AUT students organised by PodiatryNZ in November to ensure an efficient registration process for the graduates. Some of them have already been issued with their first APC and started work on 01 December 2020.

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. <http://www.podnz.org>

PodiatryNZ Conference 2021 in Rotorua 19 - 20 Jun. Please use this link for access to two packed days of Better Together conferencing with opportunities for you to attend and gain CPD points to meet our registration requirements. <https://www.2020podconference.org/>

Please note that the PBNZ office will be closed from 23 December until 11 January 2021 and we hope you all manage to take a well- deserved break over the Christmas period after an extremely challenging year for all.

For all queries please contact the Registrar,
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