



**Te Poari Kaimātai
Hinengaro o Aotearoa**

NEW ZEALAND PSYCHOLOGISTS BOARD

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Hon Matt Doocey

Minister of Mental health
Ministry of Health
Wellington

9th May 2025

Subject: Proposed new role – Assistant/Associate Psychologist

Tēnā koe Minister Doocey

As you know, the New Zealand Psychologists Board – Te Poari Kaimātai Hinengaro o Aotearoa, is responsible for developing and upholding the ethical and regulatory framework that supports the delivery of safe, effective, and high-quality psychological services for all New Zealanders.


I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the Board's (NZPB) ongoing involvement in the development of the scope definition and competencies for the proposed new role of Assistant/Associate Psychologist.

For NZPB the exploration of such initiatives is supported in our long-term strategic plan. We recognise this exploration as a constructive step toward addressing both the current and anticipated challenges within the psychology workforce. The NZPB acknowledges the growing demand for psychological services and emphasises the importance of strategic workforce development to ensure the profession remains responsive, sustainable, and equipped to meet the evolving mental health and wellbeing needs of Aotearoa New Zealand's population.

The NZPB operates under the statutory framework of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003), which mandates strict compliance with regulatory requirements in the development of scopes of practice, competences and prescribed qualifications.

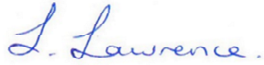
In accordance with these legislative obligations, the NZPB is undertaking a thorough consultation process. Upon completion of this consultation and subsequent analysis of the feedback received, the NZPB will then make a determination on the scope definition and competencies for the proposed new role. This will then enable Tertiary Education Organisations, contracted by Health NZ, to proceed with the development of their training programmes. Once their draft programmes have been developed, the NZPB will initiate a consultation focused specifically on the proposed qualifications, prior to formal accreditation processes. This is in line with our legal obligations.

In summary, the NZPB is committed to fulfilling all legislative and regulatory requirements throughout the development of this new professional role. We are ensuring that the process is transparent, fair and inclusive, with our mandated focus of maintaining public safety and supporting the long-term capability of the psychology workforce.



NZPB would welcome the opportunity to connect up to discuss the initiative in more detail, address any questions you may have, and explore how we can continue to work collaboratively to support the process.

Nāku noa, nā



Lisa Lawrence
Kaihautū – Chairperson
New Zealand Psychologists Board