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**No te Taumata | Note from the Chief Executive/Registrar**

Tēnā koutou katoa,

As we progress further into the year, we'd like to provide you with an update on recent developments within the Board.

The annual practising certificate renewal period has now concluded, and we would like to extend our thanks to everyone for making this process as smooth and efficient as possible.

In our ongoing efforts to enhance efficiency, we will be transitioning to a new operating system later this year. This upgrade will offer improved functionality for managing day-to-day operations, as well as provide an online solution for the CCP process.

Looking ahead, the next Board meeting will take place in Auckland, preceded by a [Practitioner evening on 29 April](#). This event offers an opportunity for practitioners to receive updates on Board activities and engage directly with Board members. We warmly encourage your attendance.

Additionally, the Board is planning two similar events in Christchurch and Wellington later this year. More details will be shared in due course.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events and will keep you informed of any further developments.

Ngā mihi nui,

**Vanessa Simpson**

**Chief Executive/Registrar | Tumuaki/Pouroki**

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## **He Purongo Matua | Priority News**

### Assistant/Associate Psychologist (AP) Update

As part of mental health workforce development currently being undertaken by Te Whatu Ora/Health New Zealand (TWO/HNZ) the New Zealand Psychologists Board are leading the development of a regulatory framework for the proposed new scope of practice, currently being referred to as Assistant/Associate Psychologist (AP).

Our progress in this area has been focused on content development to support the formal consultation process, based on the feedback we have received and continue to gather. While NZPB remain focused on the AP consultation content we continue to engage with stakeholders and are currently working closely with TEOs for their input.

A reminder that some surveys remain open. The [consumer](#) and [supervision](#) surveys will remain active until April 30, and their findings will contribute to the consultation document along with the initial sector survey findings.

There will be **further opportunity** to provide feedback via **formal consultation** this year and we encourage you to keep an eye out for this via our Pānui. Please ensure "[nzpbnews@nzpb.org.nz](mailto:nzpbnews@nzpb.org.nz)" is in your safe sender list if you wish to receive information about the AP role and formal consultation.

Once the formal consultation is complete, the analysis will be shared with decision-makers, Te Whatu Ora/Health New Zealand (TWO/HNZ), the profession and the public.

There has been a welcome escalation in publicity and opinion of the AP role and NZPB support engagement and discussion on the topic.

Any queries outside of AP scope, competencies, role title and accreditation should be directed to [Te Whatu Ora](#) who are the lead in the development and implementation of the AP role.

### New Secretariat Operating System

We are pleased to announce that our Secretariat | Tari Hekeretari will transition to a new operating system later this year.

This is a major change, and our team will require time to adapt, which may impact our usual delivery times. We will prioritise high-risk regulatory matters, including immediate actions to safeguard the public, as well as urgent registration applications.

There should be no impact to the user experience of Practitioner Portal, which will continue to operate as usual.

We will keep the sector informed about any potential go-live dates. If you have any questions regarding this transition, please feel free to email [projects@nzpb.org.nz](mailto:projects@nzpb.org.nz).

### Online CCP Solution

Whilst this new operating system is being built, our software development partner has also begun working on a solution to bring the Continuing Competence Programme (CCP) online through the Practitioner Portal.

This solution will allow for self-reflective reviews, learning objectives, learning plans, and learning activities to be recorded through the portal. More details about this will be communicated as soon as they are available, but this is an exciting development on the horizon for the sector.

### Psychology Week | 12th -18th May 2025

The New Zealand Psychological Society (NZPsS) has announced their theme for Psychology Week for 2025 - **Kotahitanga: Uniting for Collective Wellbeing**.

Psychology Week features events involving the NZPsS psychologists across the country including public events and media articles on a range of issues. The public are welcome at many events - attendance is free.

Please visit the [NZPsS website](#) for more details.

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## **He Aha Nga Mea Hou? | What's New?**

### Reporting Actual or Suspected Abuse in Aotearoa New Zealand

The Psychology Advisors at Te Poari Kaimātai Hinengaro o Aotearoa | The New Zealand Psychologists Board are often asked if there is mandatory reporting of actual or suspected abuse in Aotearoa New Zealand. We hope you find the following education piece helpful in considering this issue.

Please click [HERE](#) to read the full education piece.

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## **I Patai Mai Koe | You Asked**

## The Importance of Reviewing Reports with Clients

In the course of reviewing complaints, the Conduct, Competence and Fitness Committee sometimes receives concerns from clients about the content of a psychological report. These reports may have been sought by third parties, or by the clients themselves. On some occasions the reports contain information which the complainant states is incorrect; or they may complain that they did not provide consent for certain pieces of information to be included.

Such complaints underline the importance of providing clients with the opportunity to review reports before they are submitted. A review session gives clients the chance to correct any factual errors which can otherwise cause concern and distress down the track. The right to correct errors in their information is a client's right under the Health Information Privacy Code 2020 (Principle 7). While there may be disagreements about opinions or conclusions, clients are entitled to request corrections of factual information. If the agency declines to make corrections, clients can provide a statement of correction. As per Information Privacy Principle 7, "...the agency must take such steps (if any) that are reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that the statement of correction is attached to the information in a manner that ensures that it will always be read with the information." Check out the [website of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner](#) for more information about your responsibilities under the Privacy Act, including free e-learning modules.

In other scenarios, clients object to certain pieces of information being included in a report. These situations highlight the importance of the informed consent process, particularly during the engagement phase of a psychological service - but it is also important to check in with clients during the course of providing that service. To ensure your processes are consistent with best practice recommendations, it is useful to review recently updated NZPB guidelines for [Informed Consent](#). Documenting your discussions about informed consent is important so both psychologist and client are clear about what has been agreed to.

In some contexts, there is discretion about how much detail must be included in a report. It might be possible to problem solve with the client about how to phrase information, to alert the intended audience to underlying concerns whilst protecting the client's privacy regarding some details. For example, in a report which isn't directly related to trauma, a client may prefer the phrase, 'has experienced childhood trauma,' rather than 'was sexually abused by a family member'.

Reviewing reports with clients may be more complicated in some situations, such as when a psychologist is instructed by the Family Court to write a report. In this situation, the Court owns the report, and psychologists are not allowed to release the report to anyone other than the Court. In this scenario, the importance of accurate note keeping during the assessment process is highlighted, as well as taking opportunities to fact check during the assessment process with parties and support persons. In their chapter "Psychologists Working within the Family Court," from *Psychology and the Law in Aotearoa New Zealand (2022)*, Wali, Seymour and Blackwell recommend a second interview with each party during an assessment, so issues can be covered more fully. A second interview could also provide an opportunity for fact checking; or alternatively, this could be carried out afterwards by providing a written summary for review. In regard to

interviewing people who aren't parties to the proceedings, the authors also state, "It is good practice to summarise at the end of the interview and check with the interview the information you will be using from their interview, for accuracy and to avoid difficulties later." Clients do have the opportunity to review the report with their legal representative or Family Court Coordinator; if factual inaccuracies are identified at that point, a statement of correction should be appended.

In summary, the complexity of report writing is acknowledged. In the process of preparing, writing and submitting reports, it is important to keep in mind:

- thorough informed consent processes, which are documented;
- accurate note-keeping;
- adherence with clients' rights under the Health Information Privacy Code; and
- collaboration with clients wherever possible.

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## **Be Involved | Opportunities**

For opportunities to be involved with our mahi and other projects in the sector, please click [HERE](#). Your engagement helps shape the future of psychology in Aotearoa.

### Practitioner Evening - Auckland

We're pleased to announce our first **Practitioner Evening for 2025 in Auckland**. This presentation is an opportunity for us to share the Boards activities for 2025 and broader sector changes. There is some time for Q and A included. Click [HERE](#) to reserve your spot.

Afterwards, we welcome you to connect with the Board, Secretariat, and fellow practitioners while enjoying some light refreshments.

**Date:** Tue, 29 Apr 2025 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM NZST

**Location:** Hauraki Room (Level 10), Sudima Auckland City, 63-67 Nelson Street, Auckland City 1010

Information about additional Practitioner Evenings being held around the motu will be released in due course, keep an eye out for updates in our Pānui.

### Expressions of Interest Reopened

The below expressions of interest were opened in October 2024 and closed in November. We have elected to reopen and extend these until 30th April 2025.

A **Complaints Review Reference Group (CRRG)** is being established to provide input on NZPBs Complaints Process. Please click [HERE](#) for more details.

An **Overseas Trained Psychologist Advisory Group (OTPG)** is being established to provide input on NZPBs review of the pathway. Please click [HERE](#) for more details.

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### **He Hui-a-Poari-a-te-Marama | Dates of next Board Meeting**

30th April - 1st May

11th - 12th July

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