

## ISSUE 7 | Huitanguru 2025

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

Tēnā koutou katoa,

I am pleased to introduce the **Huitanguru | February 2025** edition of our Pānui, which provides important updates on developments from the New Zealand Psychologists Board.

One of the key highlights in this update is the progress on the Assistant/Associate Psychologist (AP) role. The New Zealand Psychologists Board has taken the lead on the regulatory component for this new scope of practice, an initiative that aligns with wider mental health workforce development efforts by Te Whatu Ora (TWO). The AP role is designed to enhance service provision by working alongside psychologists in a supervised capacity. I am delighted to announce that Mr Rob Paramo has taken the lead role for NZPB in developing this initiative alongside TWO, with the first challenge being defining practice competencies and supervision guidelines. I encourage all stakeholders to stay engaged as consultation and feedback opportunities arise in the near future.

The Board recently held their first meeting for 2025. It was a full agenda involving discussions around strategy, projects and statutory matters. Board elections confirmed the NZPB Chair and Deputy Chair remain unchanged for this year, with a refresh applied to committee leadership.

Practising Certificate renewals are now open. You should now apply to renew your practising certificate (PC) OR update your practising status for the new practising year (1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026). More details can be found by clicking [HERE](#). This must be actioned by 31st March 2025 at the latest, as after this, you can only apply for a new PC or a short-term PC.

Finally, our 2023/24 Annual Report is finalised and can be found on our website by clicking [HERE](#). Extraordinary external factors resulted in a delay in this being published. We are hoping to be able to publish the 2024/25 Annual Report in a timelier fashion.

Ngā mihi nui,

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

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

### Assistant/Associate Psychologist Role Update

The New Zealand Psychologists Board has taken on the lead role for the development of a regulatory framework for a new scope of practice, currently being referred to as Assistant/Associate Psychologist (AP). This work is additionally resourced and is being conducted within a wider context of mental health workforce development currently being undertaken by Te Whatu Ora/Health New Zealand (TWO/HNZ).

The AP role is part of wider efforts to increase and enhance mental health and addictions provision in Aotearoa. The AP scope is intended to work in a supporting role alongside and with supervision by psychologists. The role of AP is intended to work under a limited scope to provide psychologically informed services alongside psychologists within a wider service.

The AP development project is scheduled to take three years and is currently at the seven-month milestone. Work has been commenced to draft a scope of practice, set of practice competencies and supervision guidelines with next steps to undertake further consultations and feedback on these.

Future updates will provide information on the consultation process and milestones associated with accreditation of training programmes and opportunities to engage with and provide feedback that will contribute to the scope development process.

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

### Advertising - Board Statement

Psychologists can advertise in Aotearoa New Zealand to create awareness of their services and expertise in particular areas. It is important that psychologists advertise in a way that is lawful, ethical and responsible.

Te Poari Kaimātai Hinengaro o Aotearoa | New Zealand Psychologists Board have issued a statement setting out the expectations for advertisements that psychologists use to promote their services.

It is expected that psychologists will comply with the guidance provided in this statement.

This statement may be used by NZPB, the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal | Taraipuinara Whakatika Kaimahi Hauora, and the Health and Disability Commissioner | Te Toihau Hauora, Hauātanga as a standard to assess conduct associated with advertising.

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

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

### What do we mean by Practising? Who needs to hold a Practising Certificate?

If you are registered as a psychologist and are providing any services that “fall within the description of” the profession of psychology, you must hold a practising certificate, even if you aren’t meeting with clients or providing psychology services in person. These services are outlined in the scopes of practice, with more detail in the Core Competencies. For example, even if all you are doing is providing supervision, you will need to hold a PC. The title you are employed under isn’t relevant – for example, if you are employed as a programme coordinator, a health improvement practitioner or a group therapist you will need to hold a PC as these roles use your psychology skills and knowledge and fall within psychology scopes of practice.

Any work that uses your psychology knowledge in a direct relationship with clients, supervisees or other colleagues, including providing professional advice, providing education or training, requires a practising certificate if you are registered. Working on policy development where the policies have an impact on people and draw on your psychology knowledge, requires a practising certificate. If you are registered as a psychologist and you are working only in management or administration, you will need to hold a practising certificate if you wish to use the title “Psychologist” in any way. If you are registered and your sole work is research, check with the [Psychology Advisors](#) as you may need to hold a practising certificate.

If you are taking extended leave and do not intend to practice, you can select ‘not practising’ – but if your plans change and you want to return to work, you must then apply for a practising certificate. While you are in “registered, but not practising” status, you do not need to participate in the Continuing Competence Programme, but we suggest that you check out the “Return to Practice” guideline to plan properly for your return to work.

### Frequency of Supervision

After our December Pānui, clarification has been sought on the required supervision frequency for a full time psychologists.

The Pānui noted that Psychologist who are working 0.6FTE or more should have fortnightly supervision. A number of readers then noted the Guidelines for Supervision state that "the

frequency of routine supervision should be a minimum of two hours per month for full-time psychologists".

Whilst the guidelines say two hours per month, if you prefer to do that all at once, then that is acceptable as long as it gives you sufficient time to discuss your work. As the guidelines say, "the frequency and duration should be set at a level that allows all aspects of the supervisee's work to be discussed and enables a beneficial supervision relationship".

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### **Meet the Team | Ann Connell - Kaitohutohu Mātua Mātai Hinengaro/Senior Psychology Advisor**

Ann Connell is the Board's Senior Psychology Advisor. She advises the Board, the Secretariat, and the wider psychology community on professional aspects of complaints, competence, fitness, and registration matters. She was a Board member from 2011 to 2021.

Ann completed her clinical psychology training at Otago University, with some internship experience at Cherry Farm Hospital, before taking a role as a new graduate for the Hawkes Bay Area Health Board. She joined the Psychology Department at Porirua Hospital in 1990 and continued working for mental health, addiction and disability services (MHAIDS) in the Porirua, Wellington and Wairarapa - districts. When she started her employer was an Area Health Board, then Regional Health Authority, Crown Health Enterprise, Health and Hospital Services, District Health Board – she left just before it changed to Te Whatu Ora. She was Psychology Professional Leader until taking up the role of Director of Allied Health for MHAIDS.

Ann worked in a number of adult mental health settings and set up the Regional Personality Disorder Service. She took a special interest in ethics and boundaries and was member and chair of the DHB Clinical Ethical Advisory Group.

Ann took up the Psychology Advisor role with the Secretariat in 2021.



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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 excited to announce our first **Practitioner Evening for 2025** in **Auckland**. This presentation is an opportunity for us to share the Boards programme of work 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 on our monthly Pānui for updates.

Please remember our Team are here to help with any specific questions you may have prior to the event.

### 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