



# Te Poari Kaimātai Hinengaro o Aotearoa

NEW ZEALAND PSYCHOLOGISTS BOARD

## Pānui | Newsletter Issue 15 | June / Maramaono 2026



### Ngā Kaupapa o te Wā | Top stories in this edition

- Code of Conduct & Code of Ethics
- Psychology Assistant Qualification Consultation
- Scope of Practice Review
- Professional Practice reminders

### Nō te Taumata | Note from the Chief Executive/Registrar

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Welcome to the June edition of the Board pānui. This month we provide updates on the Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics, the Psychology Assistant prescribed qualification, and a few reminders from our psychology specialists.

We also take this opportunity to thank those who continue to engage with the Board's consultations, events, and work programmes. Your input helps inform the Board's decision-making and supports the ongoing regulation of the profession in the interests of public safety.

Ngā mihi nui,

Vanessa Simpson

Chief Executive/Registrar | Tumuaki/Pouroki

### Code of Conduct & Code of Ethics

The Board acknowledges the significant mahi that has been undertaken in reaching this point and thanks you all for your contributions to date.

The Board advises that it is in receipt of legal advice that necessitates that implementation processes for both the draft Code of Conduct and draft Code of Ethics need to be immediately halted. In accordance with s118 (1) (i) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 ("HPCAA 2003") the Board is tasked with setting the standards of ethical conduct for the psychology profession. The Board has now received advice that the proposed draft Code of Conduct would constitute a standard made specifically under s118 (1) (i) of the HPCAA 2003. Once it comes into force it would have the status of secondary legislation. The advice further indicates that additional statutory requirements must be satisfied before implementation can proceed.

Further, the Board has also received advice that, as a joint owner of the draft Code of Ethics, the same secondary legislation requirements as per the HPCAA 2003 arise in relation to that document. So, at the point it is implemented it becomes secondary legislation.

As a result, further work is required to ensure both documents align with the requirements of the HPCAA 2003 and the broader legislative framework.

The Board acknowledges that this development may be unexpected, and the Board wishes to emphasise that this pause relates to the legal and statutory implementation pathway for the documents, rather than the value of the work undertaken to date. The Board is currently in the process of establishing options for next steps in relation to both documents and will provide a further update once those pathways have been determined.

### Psychology Assistant Qualification Consultation

The Board appreciates the time taken to provide feedback on the recent [proposed qualification consultation](#) for the Psychology Assistant scope of practice.

The Board received and reviewed considered input from across the profession and wider sector. This included consideration of how the proposed qualification pathway supports safe and competent practice, workforce development, and public protection.

Your feedback is an important part of the Board's decision-making process and helps ensure that any qualification requirements are appropriate, proportionate, and aligned with the intent of the HPCA Act 2003.

The Board met in mid-May to discuss the consultation evaluation and has approved the prescribed qualification. The consultation evaluation [can be viewed here](#) and further information regarding implementation and accreditation will be provided in due course.

### Scope of Practice Review

As previously advised in Board pānui (December 2024 and March 2025), the Board has decided to pause further work on the planned review of scopes of practice, competencies, and accreditation standards. This pause reflects the need to understand the implications of the proposed Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Amendment Bill and broader regulatory reforms before progressing this work.

Once the implications of the proposed changes are clearer, the Board intends to undertake a more holistic review of scopes of practice, competencies, and accreditation requirements to ensure these remain fit for purpose and aligned with the Board's statutory responsibilities.

### Professional Practice reminders

As we move through the start of another practising year we thought it would be timely to send out a few reminders.

#### Annual Practising Certificates

Reminders to renew your APC are initially sent through your Pānui in February and March, followed by emails to individual registrants, and so it is important to keep your email addresses updated via your Portal. While the Board do send these reminders it is your responsibility to be aware of the expiry date of your practising certificate and ensure it is updated in time. The failure to renew your practising certificate by 31 March 2026, contravenes your legislative obligation in accordance with section 8(1) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA 2003). This is not merely an administrative process, it is part of the Board's responsibility to ensure your ability to practice safely. So remember to update your diary with a reminder to renew in plenty of time.

#### Continuing Competence Programme

We hope you have all now updated your online platform for the start of the CCP year – and you can see all those green ticks! The annual plan requires registrants to complete a self-reflection on each of the nine core competencies, including those related to specific scopes of practice, at the start of the CCP year (April of each year). This information is added to your online platform, and relevant learning objectives set. Learning activities can be added throughout the year and you are encouraged to do so to keep track of tasks and lighten the end of year load.

#### CCP exemptions

You may apply to the Board at any time to be exempted from CCP participation and/or an audit of participation for a specified period. For instance, if you are unable to complete your initial self-reflective review or complete your learning activities. This should be done in a timely manner (or as soon as circumstances permit). In addition, it is not acceptable to apply for an exemption from engagement in the CCP at the end of year should you be audited. It is expected that you will have undertaken the CCP process until such time as your circumstances change and you apply for the exemption, and any aspects completed prior to the exemption being granted will be audited if you are selected. The exemption request form is available on the Board's website.

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

1st July  
12th & 13th August  
11th & 12th November

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Te Poari Kaimātai Hinengaro o Aotearoa | The New Zealand Psychologists Board

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