



Te Poari Kaimātai Hinengaro o Aotearoa

NEW ZEALAND PSYCHOLOGISTS BOARD

Pānui | Newsletter

Issue 17 | Maramaiwa 2026



Ngā Kaupapa o te Wā | Top stories in this edition

- Changes to our Board membership
- Expressions of interest: Assessment Team panel members

Nō te Taumata | Note from the Chief Executive/Registrar

Tēnā koutou katoa,

There have been significant changes to the membership of the New Zealand Psychologists Board following the completion of the Ministry of Health's appointment process. We are writing to share those changes openly with the profession, to acknowledge with significant gratitude the members who have completed their service, and to introduce the newly appointed members who now join us. Changes at governance level can understandably raise questions, so we have set out below what has changed, how the process works, and what it means for you.

Ngā mihi nui,

Nalini Meyer

Chief Executive/Registrar | Tumuaiki/Pouroki

Changes to our Board membership | Taunga mai, wehenga atu o ngā Mema Poari

How Board members are appointed | Te kopounga o ngā mema

Members of the Board are appointed by the Minister or Associate Minister of Health under section 120 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA). Nominations are sought from the public and through nominating agencies, and appointment decisions rest with the Minister or Associate Ministers of Health. The Board has no role in selecting, appointing or reappointing its own members.

In this round, three members were eligible for reappointment, and one member reached the end of their final term. The Ministry has now completed its process and has advised that the Associate Minister of Health, Hon Matt Doocey, took the decision not to reappoint the three incumbent members.

Acknowledging our outgoing members | Ngā mihi ki a Rātou ngā pou whakarae e wehe ana

The Board farewells four members whose contribution has shaped the regulation of psychology in Aotearoa New Zealand:

- **Ms Lisa Lawrence** — lay member and Chairperson
- **Dr Tania Cargo** — practitioner member (Clinical Psychologist)
- **Dr Elizabeth du Preez** — practitioner member (Counselling and Clinical Psychology)
- **Dr Ainsleigh Cribb'Su'a** — practitioner member (Clinical Psychologist), who leaves the Board having served three terms

Their collective mahi has left a lasting legacy on the profession. During their tenure:

- the Psychology Assistant scope of practice was developed and brought to fruition;
- substantial work was undertaken on the new Code of Conduct and on ethical standards for the profession;
- expectations for culturally competent and culturally safe practice were strengthened; and
- the organisation became more responsive to, and led by, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, guided by the Hauora for All strategy.

We thank each of them sincerely for the knowledge and experience they brought, and for the considerable time they gave to the Board's work. Their contributions have helped shape regulatory frameworks that support safe, competent and culturally sound practice, and in every decision they made they held the health and safety of the public at heart. We wish them well.

Board leadership | Hautūtanga o te Poari

The Board is now led by **Dr Valerie Tan**, previously Deputy Chairperson, who takes up the role of Interim Chairperson. Dr Tan is a registered clinical psychologist and a lecturer in the Department of Psychological Medicine at the University of Otago, and is in her second term with the Board. She brings cross-sector governance experience, an academic background in both psychology and neuroscience, and a long-standing commitment to equitable access to healthcare, culturally safe practice and the development of a socially responsive mental health workforce. This continuity in leadership means the Board's work carries forward without interruption.

Mr John Eatwell, practitioner member (Organisational Psychologist), now takes up the role of Deputy Chair, bringing extensive experience in governance, leadership, change, team development and organisational wellbeing.

Welcoming our new members | He mihi ki ngā mēma hou o te Poari

The Board warmly welcomes four new members, who bring a depth of clinical, academic, regulatory and governance experience to the table:

- **Professor Lois Surgenor** — practitioner member (Clinical Psychologist). Professor Surgenor is a Professor in the Department of Psychological Medicine at the University of Otago, Christchurch, and Associate Dean (Academic) in the Division of Health Sciences. A registered clinical psychologist of more than 30 years, her research spans eating disorders, rehabilitation, and health workforce wellbeing and regulation. She previously served on the New Zealand Psychologists Board from 2002 to 2011, including as Chairperson, and is a former Chair of the Health Regulatory Authorities of New Zealand.
- **Professor Julia Rucklidge** — practitioner member (Clinical Psychologist). Professor Rucklidge is a clinical psychologist, Professor in the School of Psychology, Speech and Hearing at the University of Canterbury, and Director of Te Puna Toiora, the Mental Health and Nutrition Research Lab. She has twice served as Director of Canterbury's clinical psychology training programme, has published widely, and is a recipient of the New Zealand Psychological Society's Ballin Award for significant contributions to clinical psychology in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- **Mrs Jenny Allison** — practitioner member (Psychologist). Mrs Allison joins the Board as a registered psychologist with experience across health settings, including oncology, cardiology, transplant, chronic pain, general mental health, primary health care and hospital-based services.
- **Dr Raymond Tan** — lay member. Dr Tan is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Directors and a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute, with a PhD in public asset management and an MBA. He brings extensive governance experience across public, community and not-for-profit organisations, including current service as a lay member of the Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand, giving him direct insight into health practitioner regulation under the HPCAA.

Together with our continuing members, Dr Dianne Ball and Ms Megan Campbell, both lay members with extensive governance experience, the Board retains a strong balance of practitioner insight, academic and clinical expertise, lived experience of the health system, and governance capability. We look forward to the contributions these members will make in ensuring the Board's regulatory functions are carried out in the best interests of the public we are mandated to protect.

What this means for you | E mahi tonu ana ngā mahi-ā-ture, ā Poari

The Board's statutory functions under section 118 of the HPCAA continue without interruption. Registration, annual practising certificates, competence and conduct matters, accreditation, and the Continuing Competence Programme all carry on as usual. New members receive a full induction into the Board's regulatory responsibilities and its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi before taking part in decision-making.

Nāku noa, nā,

Dr Valerie Tan

Interim Board Chair

Expressions of interest: Assessment Team panel members

Expressions of interest are now open for registered psychologists who would like to join the Board's Assessment Team panel.

Assessment Teams are made up of four registered psychologists who together assess one of the 23 prescribed qualifications that lead to registration as a psychologist in Aotearoa New Zealand. This is meaningful and rewarding work: it helps the Board meet its statutory obligation to accredit prescribed qualifications under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, and it directly supports the quality of the education and training that shapes the next generation of psychologists.

We warmly encourage applications from across the whole profession — from every scope of practice, and from academics and practitioners alike. A range of perspectives makes for stronger, fairer assessments, and we would be pleased to hear from you if this work interests you.

What you should know | He kōrero mōu e mōhio ai

- Each Assessment Team has four members: a convenor, a psychologist with an academic background, a psychologist with a practitioner background, and a psychologist with cultural expertise.
- Around four prescribed qualifications are accredited each calendar year.
- Wherever possible, team members are drawn from the same or a similar scope of practice as the qualification being assessed.
- Assessment Teams review a programme both on the papers and through an onsite visit.
- Appointment to the panel does not guarantee assignment to a particular Assessment Team.
- Members selected onto an Assessment Team are paid at an hourly rate for the work completed.

About you | Kōrero mōu

We are looking for people who bring:

- experience and expertise in your field of psychology;
- a sound understanding of a particular scope of practice and the competencies within it;
- familiarity with the prescribed qualifications that lead to registration as a psychologist;
- the ability to analyse information critically and impartially; and
- good standing with the Board.

How to apply | Me pēhea te tono

Please email Jane.Freeman@nzpb.org.nz with **AT PANEL** in the subject line, and include:

- a covering letter; and
- a current CV.

If you would like to know more before applying, Jane is very happy to have an informal conversation with you.

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

18th September

11th & 12th November

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

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