

**SUMMARY OF A MEETING OF THE
PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSION ADVISORY FORUM (PPAF)
HELD TUESDAY 23 MAY 2017¹**

Representatives of the New Zealand Psychologists Board, the New Zealand College of Clinical Psychologists, the New Zealand Psychological Society, the (university training programme) Heads of Department and Programme Leaders, and from the DHB Professional Leaders attended this meeting in Wellington.

Cultural Competence (*Updates re each organisation's cultural competence activities*)

The need for competence in working with New Zealand's rapidly growing Asian population was discussed, and the resources available via Waitemata DHB's "eCALD" website and in the Society's practice handbook were noted.

Reports from PPAF Members

NZCCP

The College reported that:

- They recently made a submission to the Mental Health Act and Human Rights Discussion Document. This was accompanied by another very useful document produced by College members called "Human Rights and Clinical Psychology/ A Comment on the Human Rights Commission's 2016 Review of Seclusion & Restraint in New Zealand."
- They sent a submission last week to the consultation on a proposed investment approach to post-entry training of New Zealand's future health workforce. The key idea of the proposed approach is to progressively offer contestable funding for post-entry training, and to use a 'Pharmac'-kind of model to allocate this funding. Their submission focused on:
 - the fact that psychologists are not specifically eligible for this funding through HWNZ due to the structure of our training model;
 - ensuring that a wide range of professional and stakeholder perspectives are engaged at all levels of decision making;
 - that the process was kept sufficiently simple;
 - that smaller professions and stakeholders are not excluded;
 - that training is funded for sufficiently long enough to be able to maintain its quality and continuity; and
 - ensuring that any changes do not disadvantage Māori and Pasifika people and people from less advantaged backgrounds.
- They are now working on a submission to the Suicide Strategy and are happy to share this with the Society and the Board (if relevant) in the interests of collaborative action.
- Their rep to the Rural Health Association Aotearoa NZ (RHAANZ), attended the National Rural Health Conference in March and is back in Wellington this week for the RuralFest 2017. This is a meeting attended by members of RHAANZ, and the ultimate objective of the day is for members to identify and prioritise challenges and barriers to achieving the Rural Health Road Map goal of growing healthy rural communities in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- The Psychology Workforce Task Force group met again this morning. The group is to have its next meeting at the Ministry in August.
- Next month's 'Trauma' Journal is in production. Planning has started for a 'Leadership' Journal in December and the June 2018 Journal is themed around perinatal mental health.
- They are planning a leadership workshop in early October presented by Marlene Thorne, Dee Ramsel, and Dr Connie Schroyer from the Society of Psychologists in Management (SPIM). This will be free to NZCCP members and presented in Auckland and Christchurch with an extra workshop added to Wellington.
- The timetable for the 2017 NZCCP conference, "*Working with Complexity, Clinical Psychology in the Digital Age*" is now available on their website. Registrations are coming in

¹ **Note: This summary is based on draft minutes that have yet to be formally adopted as a true and accurate record. Each participant has, however, reviewed the draft minutes and no substantive corrections have been proffered.**

now for the conference, which is scheduled for 29 and 30 July in Queenstown, and which includes a preconference workshop on 27 and 28 July, entitled “*Co-existing Problems in the 21st Century/Digital Age*” and presented by Matthew Berry. There is also an impressive list of keynote speakers and other workshop presenters including Dr Mary Aiken who is an Adjunct Associate Professor at University College Dublin, Geary Institute for Public Policy, and Academic Advisor (Psychology) to the European Cyber Crime Centre (EC3) at Europol. Other presenters include Terry Huriwai, Manager, Te Hau Marire Programme, Te Rau Matatini, Associate Professor Simon Adamson, Judge Tim Black, Professor Richie Poulton, Dr Kirsten Davis, and Dr Steven Leicester who leads eheadspace, a national teleweb service providing online youth mental health interventions across Australia.

NZPsS

The Society reported that:

- They have recently made submissions to MBIE (re a change to the ACC Act making psychologists registered professionals under that Act), the MOH (re the proposed investment approach to post-entry education of NZ’s future workforce), and to Parliament (re the Family and Whānau Violence Act).
- They participated in the launch of the Child Poverty and Mental Health report with CPAG.
- They recently met with ACC (along with the NZCCP).
- They recently participated in a meeting of the Allied Mental Health Forum (who are working on the Mental Health Manifesto).
- They will meet with their Institute and Branch chairs in Auckland in June, and will hold an Executive meeting there also.
- Lewin Dickson has been appointed Student representative on the Executive.
- Professional Development (current or upcoming) includes:
 - Working with clients with sexual violence trauma (Kim McGregor) – workshops were held in Dunedin, Nelson, Rotorua, and Whangarei (jointly with ACC). Attendance was excellent.
 - Nutritional therapies for psychological symptoms (Julie Rucklidge) in Rotorua and Christchurch.
 - Organisational development and change (Maree Roche-Auckland) in Wellington and Christchurch.
- The window for submission of abstracts for their annual conference has now closed.
- Planning for the NZPsS 50th Jubilee in 2018 has begun, with working parties meeting at National Office in June.

Testimonials: The Medical Council’s recent publication on the use of testimonials was noted, and the value of a similar publication for psychologists was discussed. The Board will add this to their list of possible future Best Practice Guidelines.

Family Court concern: A Society member recently raised a concern about being told to hand over their notes to the lawyer for one of the parents. This is clearly not in keeping with the current Family Court Practice Note. The Board offered to make an approach to the Principal Judge of the court, should the member still have concerns.

Online Register: Concerns had been raised by some psychologists about the use of the term “delinquent” on the Board’s online Register. The Board agreed to revisit this decision, and to see if another term or phrase could be used.

HoDs and PLs

The HoDs and PLs reported that:

- The clinical training programmes meet once a year, and there are currently no troublesome issues (other than the perennial ones around internships).
- The HoS/HoD group has not met in recent times, and had not sent along any messages to PPAF on this occasion.
- There is an increasing emphasis on “work integrated learning”, so programmes will be looking for more opportunities for students to interact with employers (including early in the training process).

DHB Professional Leaders

The DHB Professional Leaders reported that:

- The PLs continue to meet every six months.
- The group is working well at present.
- They have had a fair amount of interaction with APEX lately, around various issues (including SPEC training and CPD).
- They are exploring options for making external supervision more available.
- CAMHS teams may be expected to take on responsibility for the diagnosis of autism, and the PLs are looking at what support can be offered through this discussion.
- They continue to work with the MoH around cloud-based storage of health data and the use of online psychometrics.
- They are discussing the role of psychologists in MDTs.

Psychologists Board

The Board reported:

Updates:

- *Neuropsychology scope consultation (next step)* – The Board will launch a final round of consultation re core competences and grand-parenting in the coming weeks.
- *Scope consultation re Health Psychology* – The Board will consider a draft consultation document at their meetings later this week. It is hoped that the first round of consultation will follow soon thereafter.
- *Best Practice Guideline development* – The resource document on “Coping with a Client Suicide” is currently on the Board’s website for consultation. Small changes are also being considered this week for the “Supervision” guidelines. And, as noted above, two other guidelines will be revised to address the issues of cloud-storage and the use of online psychometrics.
- *Board appointments 2017* – Bev Burns’ term on the Board ends in August, and the Ministry of Health has issued a call for nominations. The deadline for nominations is May 25th.

Electronic administration of psychometrics – A quick overview of developments to date on this issue was provided. The Ministry of Health have simplified the risk assessment process somewhat, but it still involves a fair amount of work. It is hoped that a central list of approved tests and/or test publishers will be developed as a resource for all practitioners, and that smaller providers can piggy-back on the work of the DHBs in this regard. The Board will be considering changes to its related Best Practice Guidelines later this week, to help guide the profession in regard to these developments.

Diverse sexes, sexualities and genders – Anne Goodhead provided an update on her work connecting practitioners who are interested in being part of a reference group and/or developing a resource document (e.g., a position statement that could stand alongside the Code of Ethics) to help guide psychologists working with gender and sexual/sexuality minorities (GSM). The idea of such a position statement received support in principle, but it was also agreed that it should be the reference group who determine how best to proceed. Anne will continue to act as a liaison between the nascent group and PPAF.

Introduction of new Deputy Chief Executive and Deputy Registrar: Frances Hamilton – Frances introduced herself to the group, and Steve Osborne (CE/Registrar) briefly outlined her role. She will be a regular attendee at PPAF.

Draft constitution for Asia Pacific Psychology Alliance (APPA) – A draft constitution has been produced by the APPA working group. The Board are pleased to see that the original objective of strengthening regulatory organisations and promoting safe practice are reflected in the draft. Some questions remain about categories of membership and the rights and obligations of those with “affiliate” status. Enquiries have been made to try to clarify these issues ahead of the submission deadline (May 30th).

Possibilities for future Best Practice Guidelines – The Board continue to develop a list of possible future Best Practice Guidelines, including: working with gender and sexual minorities (GSM) communities, working with Pasifika, working with religious and spiritual diversity. They would welcome suggestions from others as well.

Next meeting

The next PPAF meeting will be held on 22 August 2017.

Prepared by Steve Osborne (NZPB CE/Registrar) on behalf of PPAF. Released 06/07/17.