

REPORT TO NZAP AGM, MARCH 2020

Public Issues

Earlier in the year I had an accident on my bicycle and this has limited my capacity to think and write until recently. I'm grateful for the support of Council members, Victoria's steady holding of the ACC Liaison group and the Allied Health and Allied Mental Health relationships. Thanks to Geraldine Lakeland for her work with the Allied Mental Health group. Thanks also to Roy Bowden. John Farnsworth has over the last three years offered his terrific capacity to absorb large amounts of information, to synthesise, integrate and think systemically and strategically about the challenges facing us as an association in relationship with the larger Mental Health sector. Thank you John.

Press releases

Four press releases were uploaded to Scoop:

- Anna Fleming outlined the determinants of wellbeing for children in Te Ao Maori as a response to the uplifting of Maori children into State care;
- I wrote one on multi-disciplinary health hubs with Roy Bowden;
- I also wrote one on climate change as a call to strengthen the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill;
- One was written in conjunction with Alayne Hall on the government decision that Oranga Tamariki must partner with Iwi to provide safe homes for children in state care;
- And the most recent provided information regarding the strike by psychotherapists in the Waitemata and Auckland DHB over conditions of work such as access to supervision and professional development.

Mental Health and Addictions Working Group

In July Council agreed to recognise and fund a budget for a Mental Health and Addictions Working group comprising John Farnsworth, Andrew Jones, Matt Harward and Cherry Pye under the Public issues portfolio. John put together a professional and attractive proposal to the Ministry of Health (MoH), *Designing Mental Health Delivery*, that was made available to members on our NZAP website. This document proposed:

- Decentralised wellbeing delivery in contrast to the centralized RFP conduit.
- Collaborative partnership models developed through simulation labs. The model is regional and designed for translation across regions. A simulation was successfully trialled in Dunedin in September.
- Growing apprenticeships through place-based opportunities and apprenticing qualifications. This proposal links to the ACP path to membership and ultimately to registration as a psychotherapist.
- Secondary care: linking in-person and telehealth – e.g. in aged care and remote sectors.

Throughout the second half of the year John has been meeting with Robyn Shearer and other leads from MoH to advocate for the ideas that we first presented in our submission to the Mental Health and Addictions Enquiry in 2018. We recognised from the start that forming and sustaining relationships with MoH stakeholders and attempting to influence MH&A service delivery is a long game.

The Working Group has discovered that speed of development in mental health delivery is fast-moving, and is also highly contested by big interest groups. MoH recently released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for youth primary mental health and addiction services. Those of us who work in

smaller agencies or in private practice find it hard to imagine how we might participate in the GETs bidding system and many local practitioners have spoken about their disillusionment with the apparent bias toward established and big national corporate businesses and organisations. Some of us are asking where is there room for local innovative relational treatments and work with families and groups, when two years ago we were lead to believe that there would be a once in a generation opportunity to redefine mental health in Aotearoa. It is disconcerting to see how of the new roles that are being created to work with young people and children are tagged to nursing qualifications.

NZAP now faces a future in which having PBANZ continue to recognise our ACP qualification and registration itself have become so much more significant to maintaining our mana and with it opportunities for employment for psychotherapists within the mental health sector. The larger mental health system will be changed by the models of care that are funded and what these limit or make possible. John Farnsworth, in particular, has put extraordinary effort into building the conversation with Ministry staff and time is running out on our opportunities to influence the primary care stage of the change process.

The Mental Health and Addictions Working Group is still hopeful that we may see more recognition of the role of psychotherapy and possibilities of work for psychotherapists when the Ministry starts to fund and roll out contracts for secondary and tertiary services. However, sustaining the incredible voluntary work load that has gone into this may be challenging.

Child and Whanau Advocacy Group

The resignation of Sarah Robins from portfolio lead for the Child and Whanau Advocacy Group left a gap that has not yet been filled.

Joy Hayward and Anna-Michele Hantler offered two workshops on their innovative work with Child and Family Therapy for our Pre-Conference Workshop. To date we have 26 registrations and an exciting programme to deliver. Liaison with the Conference Committee for the WellingtonConference has been a delight. Matt Harward and Jill Clarkson are assisting with hosting and welcome for those attending this event. It is common for us to receive registrations from allied health professionals.

The continuity of the Child and Whanau Advocacy Group now depends on us finding someone to take over the organisation of this group, which is primarily about curating and convening the pre-conference workshop and could be extended to include running other professional development events in conjunction with the Professional Development and Conference Committee. The Child and Whanau Advocacy Group comes under the Public Issues Portfolio but it has its own small budget to assist with organisation of pre-conference and/or professional development events.

Lynne Holdem
Chair, Public Issues

ACC

For the past year I have attended a number of meetings at ACC.

ACC MENTAL HEALTH LIAISON GROUP

I have continued to be part of the ACC Mental Health Liaison Group. This group acts as an advisory and focus group for all the Mental Health areas within ACC. This includes the Sensitive Claims Unit that many of our members contract to, but also Head Injury, the Incapacity Assessments, Physical injury etc. Throughout 2019 there was a strong focus on the development of improved services to Maori, particularly in the rural areas.

I have also been attending the Voice of the Customer group which met twice in 2019 due to lack of staffing at ACC. New initiatives were presented to this group, including new IT initiatives that have been developed for all ACC clients which it is hoped will make making claims easier. They have consulted on the use of language in their written communication with clients. Whilst some changes have not been welcomed or appreciated, I continue to be impressed by the enthusiasm, skill and commitment of the ACC staff.

We were informed that the current ISSC contract with Suppliers will be rolled over for another 2 years without Suppliers having to reapply, which has been a huge relief to those of us who are Suppliers as the application process was very time consuming and difficult.

Whilst attending these meetings is time consuming I believe that it is very important that NZAP has some input into decisions that are being made at ACC. One of the main issues I have continued to try to have ACC address is the issue of Providers having to send non-password protected documents to ACC. Their system cannot accept them. No easy ways have been found to date and I have raised this issue on many fronts.

A couple of times a year I meet with a Liaison person from ACC. Gillian Pow has now stepped down from that role which has been taken up by Susan Calvert.

ALLIED HEALTH GROUP

This group is made up of many different Allied Health Organisations. The Ministry of Health over the past year has made clear that they are wanting Allied Health Professionals to work together rather than all pushing their own agendas. Ministry representatives also attend this meeting. This group made submissions to the Mental Health Enquiry, and regularly makes connections and hears from groups attempting to further health initiatives to government.

ALLIED MENTAL HEALTH FORUM

Geraldine Lakeland attended this group for a couple of years; however, Roy Bowden has now taken over this role and attended his first meeting in February 2020. I liaise with Roy regarding this group.

Victoria Smith