

REPORT TO NZAP AGM, JUNE 2022

Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) Committee

Introduction

The past year has been a time of productivity and renewal for the ACP committee.

Committee Membership Changes

We have had a few membership changes. Most notably, Charlotte MacLachlan, after several years with the ACP, has left the committee and the role of registrar. We are very grateful to Charlotte for her good work. David Cartwright has also left the committee. We thank you David for your thoughtful contribution. For much of this year, Alisa Hirschfeld took up the role of registrar following Charlotte's departure, as well as continuing as secretary. We are now delighted that Catriona Cairns has joined the committee and has taken up the role of registrar, with Alisa now being able to focus on the secretary role. In addition, Verity Armstrong has also joined the committee. Sue Morrison has continued as the receiver and coordinator of initial applications to the ACP. I remain as chair, and Diane Zwimpfer remains as a wise and generous committee member. We are delighted that Verity and Catriona have taken up our invitation to join the committee and look forward to their ongoing contributions.

New ACP applicants

The ACP continues to receive increasingly frequent enquiries regarding training within the ACP pathway. Sue Morrison has fielded these many enquiries, with four new candidates interviewed and accepted in late February, March, and April 2022. We are confident that the ACP will continue to receive regular enquiries. We currently have over 20 candidates in training.

Consequences of the pandemic for the ACP

The pandemic has had two significant consequences for the ACP. The first is that with some regret, we decided in the early months of 2022, that panel interviews for the ACP (both initial interviews and final panels) would need to be held online for the first half of this year. This has increased the workload for ACP members in organising these panels but has been a necessary outcome due to the pandemic. In addition, following an enquiry from an ACP candidate and one person preparing to be interviewed, we have made the decision to advise applicants, that in entering the ACP, they need to be aware that there is a new requirement that during their time in the ACP, 60% of their clinical work needs to be undertaken face-to-face with clients. The rationale for this being that, whilst we want to be flexible, and accept the need for candidates to undertake a significant amount of online work during the pandemic, as an ACP committee we also believe that to develop as a psychotherapist, candidates need to undertake a significant amount of in-person work with clients.

National ACP supervisors' group via zoom

The ACP are very pleased that we have now initiated a new National ACP supervisors' group via zoom, to which all ACP supervisors are welcome to attend. This is intended not to replace,

but to supplement, the regional ACP supervisors' groups and to provide additional guidance and support for ACP supervisors and their work. This appears to have been very well received. We have had very good attendance for our first two meetings in 2022, and the group will be meeting once every two months throughout the year, facilitated by Diane Zwimpfer and John O'Connor, with the support of the rest of the ACP committee.

ACP and the Psychotherapy Board of Aotearoa New Zealand (PBANZ)

PBANZ released its finalised accreditation standards for psychotherapy training providers in September 2021. These standards are the standards that will be applied to the process of accreditation of training providers such as the ACP. Overall, the accreditation standards appear at first reading to place significant additional demands, particularly administrative demands, on the ACP as a small training provider. We are hopeful of being able to meet the requirements of these accreditation standards but recognise this will require considerable work and there will be challenges. We have therefore liaised with PBANZ and are pleased that PBANZ offered to meet with representatives of the ACP and Council to explore the requirements of the accreditation standards for the ACP. The Board also offered to meet with representatives of He Ara Māori ACP. However, Waka Oranga, in consultation with John O'Connor, decided not to take up this invitation, but have agreed that John will communicate with Waka Oranga about the meeting with PBANZ. John O'Connor, Verity Armstrong, Catriona Cairns, John Farnsworth, and Gabriela Mercado, as representatives of NZAP Council, and in the case of John O'Connor, Verity, and Catriona, representatives of the ACP committee, met with three members of PBANZ and went over the accreditation standards with the Board. The meeting was collegial and cooperative, and helpful in assisting the ACP to prepare for the accreditation process. In addition, John O'Connor and Verity Armstrong, provided an expression of interest to PBANZ to become members of the Accreditation Assessment Operational Committee. These expressions of interest were accepted by PBANZ, and John O'Connor and Verity Armstrong have been appointed to this committee, with the committee to meet for the first time in July 2022.

Other new ACP developments

Potential new ACP supervisors

In May 2022, John O'Connor and the ACP committee hosted a zoom information meeting, inviting anyone who has an interest in potentially applying to become an ACP supervisor, to attend. We were delighted that 25 people attended, and we will shortly be emailing them with further information, with the aim of growing the number of ACP supervisors available to work with ACP candidates, particularly given the regularity of new enquiries from potential candidates looking for a supervisor.

Preparation for PBANZ Accreditation Process

Diane Zwimpfer is working on provisional draft documentation, in preparation for the PBANZ accreditation process.

Updating of ACP handbook

Sue Morrison is in the process of editing the ACP handbook and updating it, in particular stating clearly the pre-requisites candidates must fulfil prior to application for entry into the

ACP and making more explicit the qualities candidates need to demonstrate at their initial interviews.

ACP moderators

Sue Morrison and Alisa Hirschfeld are stepping into the role of ACP moderators, with the support of Diane Zwimpfer, in consultation with John Farnsworth (we are very grateful to John Farnsworth for his continued availability as a consultant to the ACP).

Conclusion

The ACP committee remains dedicated to maintaining the integrity and standard of the ACP training pathway. The regularity of enquiries regarding this training pathway, and the quality of candidates demonstrated in final panels and in initial interviews, is very satisfying. We are therefore aiming to ensure that the ACP will continue to be a rich and valuable learning process for psychotherapists in Aotearoa New Zealand.

John O'Connor, ACP Chairperson on behalf of the ACP committee.