

REPORT TO NZAP COUNCIL, OCTOBER 2022

From the NZAP Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) Committee

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

Date: 17 September 2022

Introduction

The past few months have been productive for the ACP committee.

Committee Membership

The committee membership has largely remained stable. Alisa Hirschfeld continues as secretary. As previously reported, Catriona Cairns has joined the committee and has taken up the role of registrar. 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. Sadly, Verity Armstrong has had to resign from the committee, in order to maintain her focus on her work with Waka Oranga. In her brief time with us, Verity has skilfully assisted us to think more deeply about bicultural matters in relation to the ACP. We will miss Verity and are very appreciative of her time with us.

New ACP applicants

The ACP continues to receive regular enquiries regarding training within the ACP pathway. Sue Morrison has fielded these many enquiries. In addition, we have three candidates submitting the final written case study and work practice description submissions for marking in the latter part of this year. 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

As previously reported, the pandemic meant that in the early months of 2022, panel interviews for the ACP (both initial interviews, and final panels) would need to be held online for the first half of this year. We successfully conducted three interviews for initial applicants, and one final panel, in the first half of this year, and undertook these successfully. This has increased the workload for ACP members in organising these panels but has been a necessary outcome due to the pandemic. We are hopeful that we will now be able to return to in-person panel meetings, given the reduction in risk levels in relation to the pandemic.

National ACP supervisors' group via Zoom

The ACP, as previously reported, has 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 continue to have good attendance, and the group continue to meet 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)

As previously reported, 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. John O'Connor, and Verity Armstrong, along with Anna Fleming, 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, Verity Armstrong and Anna Fleming have been appointed to this committee. The committee, which also comprises the chair of PBANZ, the registrar, a consumer representative, and several colleagues from other training providers, met for the first time in July 2022 in Auckland. The meeting was productive, creative, and collegial, and we received clear messages from board representatives of the desire to support this committee and training providers generally, as we approach the assessment process for accreditation of training providers. Since then, the committee has also met once by Zoom, and the registrar has developed a template which will guide assessors of training providers. John O'Connor and one other committee member were appointed to review this draft template, and will be reporting back to the committee at the end of September. I anticipate the formal process of accreditation of training providers will probably not commence until the beginning of next year, 2023. I am encouraged by the degree of collaboration and collegiality between fellow training providers, and board members in this endeavour.

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. Since then, we have received five applications from potential new ACP supervisors, three of which have already been processed and approved, with two further applications in process. We are pleased to be growing the number of ACP supervisors.

Preparation for PBANZ Accreditation Process

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

Updating of ACP handbook

Sue Morrison has been regularly editing and updating the ACP handbook, and 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 continuing in their development as 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).

The ACP and the Academy

We are very appreciative of John Farnsworth and his Academy team, and their creative thinking regarding how the Academy might support the learning and work of the ACP candidates and supervisors. John Farnsworth has suggested a range of creative ideas that we think will be very supportive in providing learning experiences and resources for ACP candidates. We will be discussing these potential new initiatives in relation to the Academy and the ACP when the ACP committee meets next in November.

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. We anticipate the ongoing accreditation process with PBANZ is, and continues to be, an important step in the development of the ACP.