

REPORT TO NZAP COUNCIL, OCTOBER 2022

From the Honorary Secretary

The ebb and flow of membership continues – notably some very experienced and long serving NZAP members moving into retirement. Our good wishes have been sent to each.

At the other end of the spectrum, Luisa gets enquiries from people interested in becoming psychotherapists and wondering about training options. If requested, I'm available to talk to the enquirer and think through their options. I've had two conversations (one person from Wellington, one from Christchurch) about what might be available in their area, and in particular how to become registered, although of course some of that is up in the air currently.

Luisa plans to contact branch convenors (or area representative), to see whether someone would be willing to be a contact for anyone local wishing to find out about psychotherapy training in that geographical area.

I think this is a good way to form connections and hopefully encourage potential new members to link in with future colleagues.

The question of students being listed on the NZAP website register was raised at our last meeting. I've drafted some initial thoughts in consultation with Claire and Luisa (see below).

Finally, two pieces of correspondence to Council at this meeting relate to non-registered psychotherapists' membership of NZAP.

One from Linden Cooke regarding accountability for supervision, and the other from David Wilkins suggesting a member's registration status should be indicated on the register.

These tricky questions highlight the issue of NZAP's role – balancing support for members, as well as some kind of accountability to the public.

Since sending out the reminder for members to begin thinking about awards, two people have been in contact wanting to know the process for nominations, so that is heartening to see.

My thanks to Luisa who is warm, diligent and a pleasure to work with.

Catrina

Student members and the NZAP register

This issue was raised as some students are surprised to discover they are not eligible to be on the NZAP register until they become provisional or full members.

Their comments are around how difficult it is to find clients, and how to build up the numbers required for their training hours, and that being listed on the register would be one way to advertise their availability.

We could potentially have a separate area on the register designated to Student members, with some kind of qualifying statement, or they could be listed in the general register with an indicator that they are students.

While we want to be welcoming and supportive of student members, and encourage them to be part of the Association, there is reason for caution.

As I see it, there are at least two issues to consider:

- As it is we don't always know when a student withdraws from their training, although hopefully we have tightened up these processes. But we can't guarantee that we will be up to date.
- Considering the piece of correspondence this meeting received relating to the registration status of members, our register is something in which the public should be able to have confidence, and adding student members especially at the early stage of training may undermine that.

I understand that students would like NZAP support to begin their psychotherapy practice, but I think there are other ways to achieve this.

One option which goes some way to meeting the need is to prepare a document to go with their confirmation of student membership, which outlines options for advertising (e.g. Talkingworks), and encourages them to connect with their local branch or provide a contact person, to get to know others who may then refer to them as appropriate.

Catriona