

REPORT TO NZAP COUNCIL, JUNE 2023

From the NZAP Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) Committee

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

Date: 22 May 2023

Introduction

The past year has been a productive one for the ACP committee, with a number of new initiatives, as outlined below.

Committee Membership

The committee membership has altered somewhat. We are pleased to welcome Emma Green and Helen Florence who have joined the committee and are already proving energetic and creative contributors. Welcome Emma and Helen. Catriona Cairns remains as 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, Alisa Hirschfeld and Verity Armstrong both resigned from the committee, both having offered much to the work of the ACP. In her time with us Verity was a generous and thoughtful contributor particularly in relation to cross cultural matters and matters relating to te ao Māori. And Alisa, in her roles as registrar and secretary, skilfully, thoughtfully, and creatively assisted us to think more deeply about ACP matters and has been a very valued contributor. We miss both Verity and Alisa and are very appreciative of their time with us.

New ACP applicants

The ACP continues to receive regular and frequent enquiries regarding training within the ACP pathway. Sue Morrison has fielded these and we are confident that the ACP will continue to receive regular enquiries. We have had a number of new candidates join the ACP over the past year. In addition, we are pleased to have had three candidates successfully pass their final written assessments in November 2022, one of whom, in March 2023, also completed the final panel successfully: two further panels are scheduled for later in the year. We are very grateful to the markers and observers of the marking process for their contribution to these assessments. We currently have over 20 candidates in training. We are also pleased to be able to return to in-person panel meetings, following the disruptions of Covid.

National ACP supervisors' group via Zoom

The ACP, as previously reported, has initiated a new National ACP supervisors' group via Zoom, to which all ACP supervisors from June onwards are required to attend. It is a requirement of being an ACP supervisor, that when supervising an ACP candidate, supervisors need to be attending an ACP supervision group meeting on a regular basis throughout the year. In earlier years ACP supervisors have fulfilled this requirement by attending a Regional ACP Supervisors' meeting in their local region. However, over recent years many of these regional groups have not been operating or operating only sporadically. With the development over the

last 14 months, of the National ACP Supervisors Group, the NZAP ACP Committee have therefore made the decision that from the June 12 (7 PM to 8:30 PM) National Supervisors Group' meeting onwards, it will be a requirement for ACP supervisors, when they have an ACP candidate they are working with, to attend the National ACP Supervisors Group meetings, in order to fulfil the requirement of being in an ACP supervisors group. We continue to have good attendance to these meetings, 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.

In addition, as an optional extra, ACP supervisors are encouraged to form their own smaller peer groups, given that the National Supervisors Group is larger and may not always be able to offer the more intimate attention that a smaller peer group might offer. These peer groups no longer need to be regional. Regional groups can still of course form and continue and have the advantage of being able to meet in person. Membership of a small peer group is now entirely optional.

Written ACP supervisor guidelines

A document has been developed by the ACP Committee giving some written guidance on the roles and tasks of an ACP supervisor. We understand that Supervisors have found this written outline helpful in guiding their work as an ACP supervisor.

Additional ACP supervisors training

In September 2023 the ACP will host a half day training day for ACP supervisors, which will be optional for ACP Supervisors to attend, and which is intended to assist in deepening supervisors understandings of the roles and tasks of ACP supervisors.

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

As previously reported, John O'Connor, Verity Armstrong and Anna Fleming have been appointed to the Assessment Operational Committee of PBANZ. The committee, which also comprises the former Chair of PBANZ (currently now an ordinary member of the Board), the Registrar, a consumer representative, and several colleagues from other training providers, who have met four times over the course of 2022-2023, the last two meetings being hosted at John's house. These meetings have been productive, creative, and collegial, and we have 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. John O'Connor and one other committee member were appointed to review the draft assessment template, and at the February 2023 meeting this draft was largely well received. This assessment template has now been sent to all gran-parented training providers, and training providers have been advised that the assessment process will be open for applications from 1 July 2023. The process will remain open for applications until 1 March 2024. The ACP committee, and particularly Diane's Zwimpfer, have already drafted an initial application, which John O'Connor is now fine tuning. We anticipate submitting the ACP accreditation application by the end of September 2023. I remain encouraged by the degree of collaboration and collegiality between fellow training providers, and Board representatives 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. Since then, we have received nine applications from potential new ACP supervisors, all of which have already been processed and approved, with one further potential application in process. We are pleased to be growing the number of ACP supervisors.

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.

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 discussed this at the November ACP meeting, and we will talk more with the Academy team about these potential new initiatives in relation to the Academy and the ACP as the Academy team progresses its work.

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 continue to aim to ensure that the ACP is a rich and valuable learning process for psychotherapists in Aotearoa New Zealand.