

REPORT TO NZAP COUNCIL, November 2023

From the NZAP Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) Committee

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

Date: 30 October 2023

Introduction

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

Committee Membership

We are pleased to welcome Helen Florence and Emma Green who have been part of the committee in recent months. Catriona Cairns remains as registrar. Sue Morrison has continued as the receiver and coordinator of initial applications to the ACP. John O'Connor remains as chair, and Diane Zwimpfer remains as a wise and generous committee member.

New ACP applicants

The ACP continues to receive regular enquiries regarding training within the ACP pathway. Sue Morrison has fielded these many enquiries. We are confident that the ACP will continue to receive regular enquiries. We have had two new candidates join the ACP pathway. In addition, we are pleased to have had two candidates successfully pass their panel assessments in September 2023. We currently have over 20 candidates in training. We are 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 2023 have been 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. With the development over the last 20 months, of the National ACP Supervisors Group, the NZAP ACP Committee have made the decision that from the June 12 2023 (7 PM to 8:30 PM) National Supervisors Group' meeting onwards, it is 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, 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.

Additional ACP supervisors training

In the second half of the year, we successfully held an online optional half day training day for ACP supervisors, in September and which attendees reported was very helpful in learning more about their ACP supervisory role.

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

As previously reported, John O'Connor, Verity Armstrong and Anna Fleming are members of the Assessment Operational Committee of PBANZ. The committee comprises the Chair of PBANZ, the Registrar, a consumer representative, and several colleagues from other training providers; 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. The Board has now invited Training Providers to make an application for accreditation, and John O'Connor is currently finalising the ACP application for accreditation with the Board as a training provider, which he will review with the entire ACP committee at their meeting on 18-19 November before it is submitted to the Board.

Other new ACP developments

New ACP supervisors

We have received three applications from potential new ACP supervisors in 2023, all of which have already been processed and approved, with one further 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,

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. The ACP will talk more at their November 2023 meeting about these potential new initiatives in relation to the Academy and 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, 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.