

REPORT TO NZAP COUNCIL, NOVEMBER 2023

From the Chair of Public Issues

Mental Health and Addictions Committee:

Our group has become depleted with the loss of 3 members in the past 2 months. However, the 4 remaining members have continued to brainstorm and attempt to move forward.

I am in the process of setting up an in-person meeting with the Allied Health Chief of the Ministry Martin Chadwick. This will be attended by myself, Clare Greensmith and Andrew Jones. We have continued to comment on public mental health issues when possible either through X (formerly Twitter) or increasingly through our LinkedIn page.

In our last committee meeting we discussed the idea of approaching a journalist who has an affinity with Mental Health issues to possibly do some work in promoting the role of Psychotherapy in Public Issues. I have some ideas for who we might approach and will discuss this more in the Council Meeting.

AHANZ:

I have continued to attend the AHANZ meetings on behalf of NZAP.

The August meeting was attended by the Health Representatives Ricardo Menendez March (Green Party) and Dr Anae Leavasa (Labour Party) about their parties' health manifestos. Sadly, there was no representation from National or Act which now that I have seen the degree of importance placed on advertising for health in their campaigns, it is not surprising but also somewhat depressing.

October 13 was World Allied Health Day and AHANZ held a webinar which was chaired by Sandra Kirby AHANZ, with Martin Chadwick (Chief Allied Health Professions Officer, Te Whatu Ora), Carlton Irving (Chief Clinical Officer Allied Health, Te Aka Whai Ora) and Daniel Roitman (Deputy Chief Allied Health Officer, Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care) as guests. It was very interesting to hear that Australia faces similar issues with work force and they are particularly concentrating on attempting to build treatment partnerships across Allied Health practitioners.

I remind Council that I will be withdrawing from AHANZ in June 2024.

ACC:

I have continued to attend the Sexual Violence Panel meetings which consists primarily on hearing from the team and adjunct teams who are building the new ISSC contract which will go live in November 2024. All suppliers and any new suppliers will need to re-apply for this contract. Attached to this report is a letter from Selena Dominguez, the contract lead in response to a letter from me. It is clear from this letter that the team at ACC are committed to hearing the ideas and requests from the contract holders and workers and primarily the survivors who request the services. The new contract is still to viewed by and signed off by the ACC Board.

Selena Dominguez, Manager Operations Integration ACC, and Jennifer Linney, ISSC Portfolio Manager, recently ran an information session for Psychotherapists to which myself, Jo Doyle from the Child and Adolescent Psychotherapists Association and Janet Hay Chair of PBANZ were invited. This was very interesting as although the Sexual Violence Panel have been informed of many of the impending changes, there were also many that I was not aware of. These changes will be live on the ACC website within the next two weeks.

I remind Council that my term on the Sexual Violence Panel will come to an end in June 2024. Criteria for representation at ACC has changed and there is no guarantee that NZAP will continue to be represented there.

Victoria Smith
Chair of Public Issues