REPORT TO NZAP AGM, JUNE 2024

From the NZAP Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) Committee

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

Date: 21 May 2024

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 remained consistent. Emma Green and Helen Florence have been with us now for over a year and have proved energetic and creative contributors, with Helen now the main coordinator of initial enquiries to the ACP. Catriona Cairns remains as registrar. Sue Morrison continues to assist Helen with coordination of initial applications to the ACP and organising ACP panels. I remain as chair, and Diane Zwimpfer remains as a wise and generous committee member. Catriona and Sue also act as moderators of the ACP marking processes, for written submissions. The committee is hard-working, very cohesive, collegial and a pleasure to engage with. Thank you to everyone.

New ACP applicants

The ACP continues to receive regular and frequent enquiries regarding training within the ACP pathway. Helen and Sue have fielded these, and we are confident that the ACP will continue to receive regular enquiries. We have had several new candidates join the ACP over the past year. In addition, we are pleased to have had candidates successfully pass their final written and panel assessments. We are very grateful to the markers and observers of the marking process for their contribution to these assessments.

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 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. With the development over the last two years of the National ACP Supervisors Group, as a requirement for ACP supervisors, when they have an ACP candidate they are working with, to attend the National ACP Supervisors Group meetings, this fulfils 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.

We are delighted that several new ACP supervisors have successfully applied and become ACP supervisors in 2023-2024, further growing the strength of the ACP supervision group.

Additional ACP supervisors training, and candidate's support

In September 2024 the ACP will host a half day training day for ACP supervisors, which is intended to assist in deepening supervisors' understandings of the roles and tasks of ACP supervisors. In addition, Catriona continues to facilitate the optional ACP candidates Zoom group to support candidates learning, and Catriona and Sue will also be running a one-day training for candidates in the second half of 2024.

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

As previously reported, John O'Connor (until recently), Verity Armstrong and Anna Fleming have been members of the Assessment Operational Committee of PBANZ, over 2023-2024. 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 met several times over the course of 2023-2024, 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 approached the assessment process for accreditation of training providers. Subsequently in February of 2024 the ACP Committee submitted its application to be accredited as a Psychotherapy training provider by the Board. We anticipate hearing from the Board about the outcome of our application prior to the NZAP AGM in June 2024, and will announce the outcome of our application at the AGM or prior to the AGM, depending on when we hear the outcome. All committee members contributed to the considerable work involved in preparing this lengthy application, with John, Sue and Diane taking the lead. Many thanks to all who contributed. We remain encouraged by the degree of collaboration and collegiality between fellow training providers, and Board representatives in this endeavour.

Other new ACP developments

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. Upon hearing the outcome of our PBANZ accreditation application we will also announce further refinements to the ACP training process, all of which enhance the training process while retaining the integrity and heart of our apprenticeship training pathway. Many thanks to Sue for her dedicated work on the 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 Academy team have previously suggested a range of creative ideas that we think will be very supportive in providing learning experiences and resources for ACP candidates. We look forward to talking 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.