REPORT TO NZAP AGM, JUNE 2024

From the Chair of Public Issues

ACC:

I have attended numerous meetings of the Sexual Violence Customer Advisory Panel during the past year. Most of these meetings have involved presentations by ACC staff on the plans for the new ISSC contract that is currently in the Tender stage and will be rolled out in December 2024. All Suppliers and Providers are required to re-apply and the process for Suppliers is extremely onerous. SVCAP panel members also assisted with the online stake holder meetings that ACC held through-out the past year. ACC genuinely sought our opinions and have attempted to pull together the needs that were articulated by the diverse groups that attended the meetings.

I will stand down from this panel after the AGM. NZAP will then no longer be represented at ACC. There may be further chances for representation under the new contract as ACC go through their own change process, but this is yet to be decided.

AHANZ:

I have continued to attend the AHANZ meetings. These were held bi-monthly and each meeting took an entire afternoon. One meeting in September 2023 included a meeting with MP's who were standing for the election.
This organisation represents over 60,000 allied health providers and therefore carries some weight in their representations to government and in particular to Manatu Hauora (Ministry of Health).

AHANZ ran Te Tiriti workshops for organisational management teams. One was held in Wellington and the other in Christchurch. No NZAP Council members attended.

AHANZ is run by a very active and diverse executive who attempt to improve the conditions for their member associations and therefore the clients of these associations.

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS COMMITTEE:

I took over as chair of this committee during the year, when John Farnsworth needed to step back in order to continue his work on the Academy project. It has been difficult to make headway in this area with all the changes that have occurred at the MOH and the health system overall. Lack of progress has resulted in the majority of the members of this committee resigning. However, a very successful meeting was held with Dr Martin Chadwick the Allied Health lead at Manatū Hauora with Clare Greensmith and I meeting with him in December 2023. At that meeting he made a commitment to include NZAP in future discussions regarding the sector.

I will resign as Chair of Public Issues at the 2024 AGM. There is a need like never before to maintain a voice on Public Issues as Mental Health funding is reduced, and the need increases. A Media strategy is required with robust and timely statements/comments on current issues in Mental Health and Public Issues. I encourage all Psychotherapists to make

their voices heard, to educate about the profession and about the needs of our clients. The work we do is invaluable and remains largely unrecognised.

It has been a steep learning curve for me to lead these roles and also a privilege. I thank John Farnsworth, Lynne Holdem, Claire Miranda, Andrew Jones, Clare Greensmith and Veronica Watt for their participation, thoughts and efforts, as we struggled to find our way through such challenging, changing times.

Victoria Smith