

# **REPORT TO APANZ COUNCIL, OCTOBER 2024**

## **From the APANZ Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) Committee**

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

**Date:** 2 October 2024

### **Introduction**

The past few months have 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 apart from the recent departure of Emma Green who has contributed thoughtfully to the committee over the past year. We wish her well. Helen Florence has 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 become ACP supervisors in 2023-2024, further growing the strength of the ACP supervision group.

### **Additional ACP candidate's support**

Catriona continues to facilitate the optional ACP candidates Zoom group to support candidates learning, and Catriona and Sue have also run a two-half day training for candidates in the second half of 2024, with affirming feedback received from the candidates who attended.

### **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 successful outcome of our PBANZ accreditation application we have announced 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 (now named Nexus) 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.

**John O'Connor**

ACP Chairperson