

REPORT TO APANZ AGM June 25, 2025

Re: APANZ Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) Committee

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

Date: 25 May 2025

Introduction

The past year has been a productive one for the ACP committee and training pathway, as outlined below.

Committee Membership

The committee membership has remained consistent. Helen Florence has proved energetic and creative, with Helen now the main coordinator of initial enquiries to the ACP. Catriona Cairns has continued as registrar. Sue Morrison continues to assist Helen with coordination of initial applications to the ACP and organising ACP panels. I have continued as chair over the past year 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.

Change of Chair of the ACP at the upcoming 2025 AGM

I have advised Council that I will be standing down as Chair of the ACP at the upcoming AGM. Catriona Cairns has made herself available to be nominated as chair. Council will elect the new Chair, after receiving Catriona's nomination and any other nominations.

I have enjoyed, appreciated, and been enriched by my involvement with the ACP committee and training pathway, and particularly my time as Chair. It has been very satisfying to assist in enabling the ACP psychotherapy training pathway to gain accreditation with PBANZ. This pathway is very thoughtfully administered, and I believe provides a superb apprenticeship pathway for psychotherapists to train to registration in this country. The pathway also has much potential for growth and development, and I am confident I leave the pathway in very good hands.

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 submit for 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, continues to host its 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 new ACP supervisors have recently successfully applied to become ACP supervisors in recent months, 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 we will also be running a further training day for candidates in the second half of 2025.

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.

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.