

# **Ethics and Professional Standards Committee's Report to the Association of Psychotherapists Aotearoa New Zealand (APANZ) AGM 2026**

**19 May 2026**

**Kate Dent Rennie**

## **Committee Members**

The members of the Ethics & Professional Standards committee are Kate Dent Rennie (chair), Penny Kennett, John Savage and Jo McKenzie.

## **Work done in the past year**

In the past year, we have been at work on a project to collect useful ethics-related information and FAQs and make these available to members on the APANZ website.

So far information has been uploaded on:

- Complaints processes
- AI Guidelines (prepared by APANZ member Brigitte Viljoen) and
- Responding to requests for clinical notes (prepared by Duncan Cotterill Lawyers)

Thanks to Carmel and the Digital Communications committee for your support with this work.

Coming up next, we are working with APANZ member Fleur Newton-Edwards to provide members with guidelines for preparing a "clinical will" – a document with detailed instructions of steps to be taken in the event of a therapist's sudden death or incapacitation – a mechanism for fulfilling our duty of care to clients that many psychotherapists are not aware of.

Aside from this work, the Ethics & Professional Standards committee has continued to provide support, information and advice to association members around ethics issues, including potential or current ethical complaints, and has continued in our role of moderating posts to the Connect email group. This year there have been no posts to this group that have breached community standards and the APANZ Code of Ethics, so no action from us has been required.

Thanks to Penny, John and Jo for your work and support.

Kate Dent Rennie

Chair, Ethics and Professional Standards Committee