



# Dietitians Board

## Te Mana Tohunga Matai Kai

Newsletter to the Profession

### A. Board Appointments Process/ Retirement of Barbara Ryan

### B. Annual Practising Certificate (APC) Renewals 2010

In order to meet the requirements of the HPCA Act, the Board will be putting in place tougher conditions with those who are late paying their APC *renewal* fees, i.e. after 31 March.

**All fees must be paid by 31 March** and APC Applications/APC Credit Summaries received, OR please inform the Board by 31 March that you intend to be *Inactive*.

For dietitians who have not paid their fee by the start of April, the Board intends to send a letter to these practitioners as well as to their employer, stating they are not legally able to work as a dietitian, OR to call themselves a dietitian. Therefore the Board anticipates that these dietitians will be sent home or stood down from their dietetic position, until the application for a new APC and payment has reached the Board.

For those of you in Private Practice this may cause some concern. Insurance companies want all practitioners to have an active APC, otherwise insurance companies may not pay out.

The Board may decide to put a 'valid from' date on APCs from 2010 (this would therefore be either from 1 April 2010, OR from the date the APC was issued).

The Board may also instigate a Professional Conduct Committee against any dietitian who is consistently late in getting his/her applications/payment to the Board.

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The Board is still awaiting confirmation of Board appointments from the Minister of Health for a Dietitian Board member to replace Barbara Ryan and for the confirmation of re-appointments. These appointments / re-appointments were originally to have been listed in this newsletter.

As many of you will be aware, Barbara Ryan retired from the Board (but not from working) in September, when her three by three year Board appointments came to an end. She was a Board member for nine years, and Chairperson since April 2004.

Barbara guided the Board wisely through the complications and legalities of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act) and gave a huge number of hours, voluntarily, to carrying out her duties as Chairperson. She made a huge contribution to the Board and thus to the dietetic profession and will be very much missed.

The Board is pleased to welcome Mary McNab of Whangarei as the new Chairperson and Vernon Tile of Wellington as Deputy Chairperson.



Farewelling Barbara

**Left to right:** Vicki Robinson, Carol Wham, Jane de Lisle (Registrar), Mary McNab, Barbara Ryan, Barbara Cormack, Vernon Tile and Eruera Maxted.  
**Absent:** Avis McIntosh.

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2009**

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Please remember that the APC renewal package will be sent to your last known postal address, in late January or early February, so please start organising payments from the receipt of this package. Payment and applications are the individual's responsibility – even if the invoice is sent to the Employer/DHB to pay.

The APC fee for the 2010/2011 year will remain at **\$450**.

### C. Supervision

The Board wishes to remind all employers/supervisors that when the new Registration Competency Requirements will be in transition from 2010, **all** entry level dietitians will be required to be supervised in their first year of practice. Entry level dietitians will also actively engage in the Board's Continuing Competency Programme, using an experienced dietitian as their mentor.

Please remember to ensure your supervisee's signed supervision agreement is returned completed to the Board at the due date. For overseas trained dietitians, this should be within two weeks of commencing work in NZ.

### D. Continuing Competency (CC) Matters

1. **Continuing Competence Resource People:** The Board is grateful to the Continuing Competency Resource people who continue to work hard advising the profession how best to participate in the CC Programme.

The Board appreciates the huge amount of work that Vicki Paulin undertook as a CC Resource person for five years in the wider Auckland area. Thank you to Susan Lawless, Bridget Little, Alayne Sebire and Rebecca Yortt who are the new CC Resource people for the Auckland area. Their contact details are on the Board's website.

2. **CC Survey:** The 'Summary of the Responses' from the CC Survey that many of the profession participated in, is on the website [www.dietitiansboard.org.nz](http://www.dietitiansboard.org.nz), now under "Practitioners: Maintain Competency".
3. **Cultural Competency:** You are reminded that participation in Cultural Competency activities is now compulsory.

The Board's 'Cultural Competency Standards' and suggestions on 'Cultural Competency' activities (page 11 of the 'Continuing Competency Programme Manual') are on the Board's website under "Practitioners' Information: Maintain Competency". The link to the Cultural Competency on-line course and test is also on this page. You need to contact the Registrar for the enrolment key for the on-line course.

4. **CC Audit:** The Board's eleventh audit is currently under action. All currently practising dietitians, who have been working in NZ for a minimum of one year, should now have been audited or advised of an audit date. The dietitians to be selected for the next audit (30 April 2010), including those who were audited in April 2005, will be notified in late January/early February 2010.

### E. Overseas Trained Dietitians Information Handbook

The Board has recently revised its "Handbook of Information on Registration Procedures for Overseas Trained Dietitians Intending to Practise Dietetics in NZ", which is on the website.

This should make the processes clearer to those from Australia, UK and other countries wishing to apply for equivalency assessment, as well as for Employers. Thanks to Julian Jensen who did a wonderful job of re-formatting this handbook.

### F. Miscellaneous

1. The Board is now issuing a **Certificate of Registration** as part of the Registration Package for entry level dietitians.
2. **Qualifications:** You are reminded that that any qualifications gained since your PG Dip Diet (or whichever qualification(s) is listed on the register) may be sent to the Board as a certified copy for this to be added under your qualifications.



Mary McNab  
Chairperson