



DIETITIANS BOARD

PLEASE READ THIS – IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2005

IN THIS ISSUE

CCP/APC renewals

Code of Ethics

Overseas applications

Board and Committee news

The Website

Miscellaneous

Pie Chart-finances

The Dietitians Board has been operating under the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act 2003, since it came into force in September 2004. The most visible change for dietitians has been in relation to the Continuing Competency Programme, resulting in the credits that must be submitted when applying for an Annual Practising Certificate. Dietitians should be proud of achieving this in the first renewal round.

The workload has increased for the Registrar, Jane de Lisle. I would like to thank Jane on behalf of the profession for being patient and keeping us all on target.

CONTINUING COMPETENCY PROGRAMME (CCP) / APC RENEWALS

Jane de Lisle, the Registrar comments:

Well done to those of you (the majority) who sent their applications, properly completed, by 25 February.

It is a great relief to get the first APC round under the new HPCA Act, completed. Although the date of 25 February seemed very early to many of you, it was necessary so that the applications could be processed in time for the bulk mail out on 22 March. This was so that you would be legally practising from 1 April 2005.

It was encouraging to note how you have all been participating in the CCP. Most dietitians had done over ten credits, and many were well above that amount.

A number of issues arose:

- There seems to be some confusion about when the late APC renewal fee of \$500 is payable. This is payable only by dietitians who are currently practising and miss the 31 March deadline, not for Inactive dietitians.
- Approximately 20% of dietitians had to be asked to complete the Declaration properly, or to send in their Credit Summary form, in order for an APC to be granted.
- Several dietitians gave themselves a lot more work than necessary! You were only asked to send the one page summary form (declaring the number of credits gained) with APC Renewals. The full set is not needed until you send in your audit documentation – this will be requested at that time.
- It is particularly important if you intend to go overseas, or are taking time off, eg. parental leave, to keep up with continuing education activities and retain evidence. The Board recommends that you look at the website regularly.
- We apologise to those of you who have trouble utilising the Credit Summary forms, so you are able to record your CCP activities on them. These forms work on most computers, but not all, and it is a problem the Board is trying to rectify.
- Please keep an eye on the Board's website, under "Maintain Competency" for future changes to these credit summary forms, or email the Registrar to have a copy electronically sent to you.
- A reminder that health practitioners are legally bound to inform the Board of their change of address, and change in marital circumstances - a certified Marriage Certificate is required for the latter. (*Sections 140 and 141 of the HPCA Act refer*).
- We require your email address and preferably a telephone number too. Please send these in if you haven't already done so.
- The next audit round is underway - a reminder for the future that evidence however, is only to be sent in for credits worth three or more.

- Please note that the "Recency of Practice" must be signed on page four of the forms for auditing purposes.
- The Continuing Competency Committee will be meeting at the end of the month to discuss the CCP, including the queries arising from the APC round.
- You are reminded that if you have a significant change in area of practice that you need to advise the Board.

Continuing Competency Convenor Changes

The Board acknowledges Makuini McKerchar's input on the Board. As Convenor of the Continuing Competence Committee she has done an excellent job of steering us in the correct direction.

We are delighted to have Vicki Robinson's expertise, as the new Convenor of the Continuing Competence Committee (both pictured below).



CODE OF ETHICS

The Board has had several requests for clarification or amendment of:

Clause 4 (c) "dietitians do not allow their professional standing to be used in direct endorsement of commercial products", which is of particular concern for dietitians working for nutritional companies, industry and in private practice with commercial interests.

This issue has been considered by the Code of Ethics committee and the Board. The Board has decided to deal with issues as they are raised.

It was agreed that it was not necessary to alter the wording of Clause 4, but that it was important to give guidelines that will assist dietitians to interpret the clause and these will be posted on the Dietitians Board website.

1. A dietitian working for a food company and / or in private practice.

You have been asked by your company to write an article promoting a breakfast cereal.

How do you do this?

Write an article on the benefits of eating breakfast and provide a simple meal plan using a variety of food examples. A company advertisement would be acceptable sitting alongside the article.

There is no endorsement of a branded product by the dietitian.

2. A dietitian working for a company supplying nutritional support products.

a) With the responsibility for informing the Health Sector

Providing information on nutritional products to health professionals **would be consistent with the Code of Ethics** where scientific evidence is provided to underpin the recommendations for the particular use of a specific product.

b) With responsibility for information / promotion of nutritional products to the public by Direct marketing / advertising products in magazines or on TV.

This would be considered **direct endorsement** of a product and **not comply with the Code of Ethics**.

3. Dietitian working in private practice and giving advice to individual clients or to resthome management on the use of particular products.

As a dietitian **you would not be breaking the Code of Ethics**, as it does not prohibit you from discussing and / or advising on specific nutritional product and / or food as you will be advising your client on the basis of scientific evidence. Wherever possible a range of products should be suggested from a variety of companies.

If you have a workplace situation of concern that relates to the Code of Ethics, please contact the Board. The Board's intention is to build a set of illustrative cases, which will be of assistance to dietitians applying the Code of Ethics to their workplace. These will be posted on the website. Your feedback about these issues is welcome.

APPLICATIONS FROM DIETITIANS TRAINED OUTSIDE NZ

The Board has been receiving a steady stream of applications from overseas trained dietitians.

Since February, seven dietitians have been issued with registration and granted Interim Practising Certificates with conditions, to enable them to start working in New Zealand. There are currently another twelve applications recently received or at various stages of assessment. The time it takes to assess and inform an applicant, is at the very minimum, seven weeks from the time that ALL documentation has been received. Whilst most overseas trained applicants are intending to be in New Zealand long term, and will sit the Overseas Candidates Registration Examination, some are here for less than one year to work as a locum or on an exchange.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE NEWS

The Board is very sorry that Makuini McKerchar is resigning from the Board at the end of May and thanks her for her huge input.

A replacement on the Board is currently being sought, but because it is election year, the process will however take up to six months. Nominations can be sent to: Rachel Caddick, Ministry of Health, P O Box 5013, Wellington.

Sue MacDonell has joined the Continuing Competence Committee. Ien Hellemans and Mary-Louise Hannah have recently joined the Registration & Assessment Committee. We are pleased to welcome these dietitians.

The Board is extremely grateful to the input by past committee members who have stepped down for various reasons – Penny Field, Jane Cartwright, Lyn Gillanders and Heather Spence. Thank you to all of these people for their contributions.

THE WEBSITE

- The **Register** is linked on the website. Dietitians who have not yet renewed their APC, or informed us in writing that they will be “Non-Practising” for the 05/06 year, are marked on the Register as “No APC. Please check your details.
- The website will be updated regularly, particularly in the area of “Maintain Competency”-www.dietitiansboard.org.nz

- The website has a link to the **NZDA** website. The NZDA’s prime function is to support and serve you, the dietitians.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Please send your correct email address to the Board. The Board’s intention is to send group emails of newsletters in future.
- The Board resolved at the last meeting to reduce the APC fee for the last four months of the year. Applications received after 1 December in any year, will incur a charge of \$240.00, not \$400.00. This should be of considerable benefit to those wanting to start work again before the end of the financial year, to overseas applicants, and to new graduates.
- Health Practitioners Index (HPI). Many of you will have already read about this Ministry of Health initiative. This is a central database of core information about all registered health practitioners, which will be collected and maintained by the Ministry. The Dietitians Board has agreed to provide to the HPI the information which is held on the register and is available to the public, i.e. practitioner’s name, qualifications, scope of practice, conditions on the scope of practice and whether the practitioner holds an APC or IPC. In the future you may be asked if you object to other information held on the Board’s Register, which is not public, being given to the HPI.

Barbara Ryan

Barbara Ryan (Chairperson)

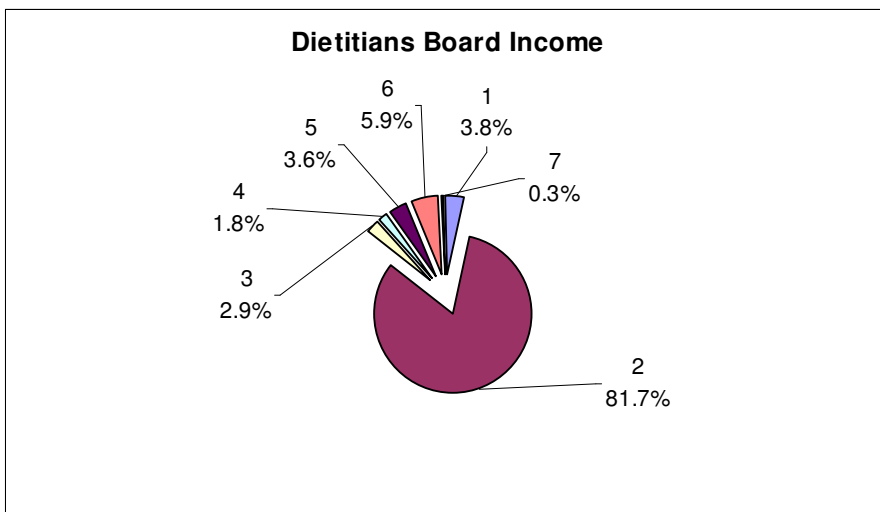


The Registrar-Jane de Lisle

BOARD FINANCES

Board Income

1. Registration
2. Practising Certificates (APC's & IPC's)
3. Equivalency Assessment of Overseas Qualifications
4. Registration For Overseas Applicants
5. Examination Fees
6. Interest Income
7. Miscellaneous



Board Expenditure

With reference to clause 118 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the functions of the Dietitians Board are as follows:

1. Qualifications - Promote the education and training of dietitians, and prescribe qualifications for dietitians (Parts a and k)
2. Registration - Consider APC & IPC applications and authorise registration (Parts b and c)
3. Continuing Competence - Set up a continuing competency programme and review dietitians competence (Parts d and e)
4. Discipline - Protect the public; consider incompetence and institute disciplinary action (Parts f, g and h)
5. Code Of Ethics (Part i)
6. Liaison With Other Health Authorities And The Government - Liaise with other health authorities and exercise the powers defined by the Government (Parts j and m)
7. Public Relations - Promote public awareness of the authority (Part l)

