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## DIETITIANS BOARD

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### Newsletter - January 2006

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#### 1. Annual Report

The 2004/2005 Annual Report is on the Board's website. Copies are also available from the Registrar if requested.

#### 2. a. Restricted Activities

The Ministry of Health gazetted six Restricted Activities, (reference: page 2396 of the NZ Gazette of 30 June 2005), which came into force on 1 August 2005. The website is <http://www.moh.govt.nz> - search for Restricted Activities – no.5).

It is illegal for anyone other than a health professional registered under the HPCA Act to perform any of the restricted activities listed on the MOH website.

The Dietitians Board was pleased that their submission of Restricted Activity of "Prescribing of enteral or parenteral nutrition where the feed is administered through a tube into the gut or central venous catheter" was accepted. Guidelines proposing the use of Restricted Activities are currently being developed by the MOH, with the Boards' assistance.

#### 2.b. TMVI

The Board has also made submissions on Transmittable Viral Infections (TMVI).

The Board much appreciates the assistance Lyn Gillanders has given in relation to submissions on Restricted Activities and TMVI.

#### 3. Health Regulatory Authorities NZ (HRANZ)

One of the functions specified in the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, is that the Dietitians Board "liaises with other authorities appointed under the HPCA Act about matters of common interest". The registrars of the fifteen Regulatory Authorities in NZ meet regularly to discuss problems, policies and issues of mutual interest. Chairpersons and registrars now meet twice a year. Two issues recently dealt with were Restricted Activities and TMVI. HRANZ is currently examining having a common English Language standard.

#### 4. Annual Practising Certificate Renewals

You cannot practise as a dietitian after 1 April, if you have not applied to renew your Annual Practising Certificate (APC).

It would help the Registrar process APC applications and APC Credit Summary forms, if you ensure that all forms are filled in correctly, signed and returned as requested.

**Practice Review** - This is compulsory only for your 5 yearly audit.

However, you are highly recommended to do some Practice Review each year, and record this on the APC Credit Summary form.

The CC committee apologises to those dietitians who were incorrectly informed that Practice Review would be compulsory for APC Renewals.

**New graduates** – New graduates are reminded that the 'Statement of Registration Competency Requirements' state "Entry level dietitians will actively engage in the Continuing Competency programme, using an experienced dietitian as their mentor. The mentor will identify with the entry level dietitian developmental supervisory requirements". Your mentor needs to sign your APC credit summary form.

#### 5. Returning to work within 3 years of practice

Dietitians who have been, for example on maternity leave, and found it difficult to keep up with the Continuing Competency Programme, now have the option of directing their future

learning, by submitting a Learning Plan to be approved by the Continuing Competence Committee, when they return to work.

## **6. Continuing Competence (CC)**

(from the Convenor of the CC Committee-Vicki Robinson)

### **A. October 2005 Audit:**

Fifty two Continuing Competency Audits were completed in the audit. It was evident that dietitians are committed to this process and have taken considerable time and care to document CC activities. The auditors noted that the evidence and other material submitted, was appropriately selected and generally well presented.

### **B. Clarification on CC Requirements**

Quality of Learning Statements (Reflective Statements). As noted in the September 2005 newsletter, and in the letters to those to be audited, a short self-reflective summary is to be submitted with audits to reflect the four quality learning dimensions.

Practice Review - Please always include the name of the person reviewing your work.

If claiming less than 3 credits, evidence is not required.

Practice Review evidence provided, when more than 3 credits are claimed, should be signed by the reviewer.

Cultural Competence - Cultural competence will soon be made a compulsory part of Continuing Competency. It is recommended to now include activities relating to cultural competence in your CC Programme every year.

One activity in every five years must relate to Treaty of Waitangi competence under any category, to be assessed in the five yearly audit, not annually.

Details on suitable activities will be outlined in a future edition of "News and Views".

### **C. Significant change in area of practice**

Remember, if you have had a significant change in area of practice in your dietetic work, you need to notify the Registrar.

A significant change of practice is defined as one from Clinical/Community Dietetics to Food Service Management or Public Health or vice versa, or from Management to one of those areas. Dietitians moving from one of these areas, to another, need to inform the Board and subsequently find a mentor and submit a Learning Plan for approval.

### **7. Employer responsibilities**

Employees are reminded that they must inform their prospective employers of their registration status.

Employers also must check the registration status of employees, particularly overseas trained dietitians and graduating students.

### **8. Change of names**

Marriage certificates (of NZ trained dietitians) do not now have to be certified, but they are still required by law (Section 141 (2) of the HPCA Act), to be sent to the Dietitians Board within one month of change. The website has been upgraded accordingly.

### **9. Website**

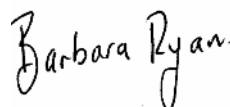
The Board recommends that you check the website from time to time. From March, you should notice a changed, easier-to-use website.

### **10. Miscellaneous**

A. The Board is currently producing a leaflet outlining its role and the benefits of employing a registered dietitian. This will be on the website and sent to NZDA, employers including District Health Boards and Primary Health Organisations.

B. The appointment process for a new Board Member, to replace Makuini McKerchar, is progressing and we are awaiting notification from the Ministry of Health.

Best wishes



Barbara Ryan - Chairperson