



New Zealand Dietitians Board

Te Mana Tohunga Matai Kai

Newsletter to the Profession

January 2008

Annual Practising Certificates (APCs)

a) **Fees:** The Board advises that, as gazetted, it will be increasing practising certificate fees from **1 April 2008**.

These are as follows:

- Issuing an annual or interim practising certificate – the fee will be increased from \$400.00 to **\$450.00**,
- Renewal of an annual practising certificate (APC) purchased before the 1 April commencement of the APC year – the fee will be increased from \$400.00 to **\$450.00**,
- Issuing an annual practising certificate, if paid **after** 31 March, whilst holding a practising certificate for the previous year – the fee is being increased from \$500.00 to **\$600.00**,
- The fee for the part payment of an annual practising certificate for period 1 December to 31 March in any year, remains the same (**\$240.00**).

Practising Certificate fees have not been increased since April 2004 (i.e. for four years). Practitioners may not be aware that, although Regulatory Authorities (RAs) are statutory bodies, they are **only** funded through the fees charged to their professionals.

Reasons for increasing the Dietitians Board fees for the 2008/2009 year include:

- Costs related to compliance with and administration of, the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA),
- continuing competency audits,
- increased expenditure, which includes the RCR review,
- processing credit card fees for APCs is approximately \$2,000 per annum,
- inflation and cost of living increases, including increased Secretariat expenses.

b) **Forms:** If you do not intend to work as a dietitian from 1 April (e.g. maternity leave), please advise the Board that you will be **Inactive**, otherwise you may be liable for the additional payment. You may then re-apply for an APC any time during the year. You are reminded that you must not practise as a dietitian, or be known as a dietitian without a current practising certificate.

Please note that there is a new category in the APC renewal application form, (under the contact details), for '**Ethnicity**'. Please state one category that best describes yourself. The Board is using the categories, as noted on the NZHIS workforce information, i.e: NZ European/Other European/Maori/Samoan/Cook Island Maori/Tongan/Niuean/Tokelauan/Fijian/Other Pacific Islander/South East Asian/Chinese/Indian/Other Asian/Other.

Thank you for your cooperation.

c) **Manufactured Foods Database:** You will note that the Board has agreed to enclose the letter from the Manufactured Foods Database (MFD) with the APC renewal package.

d) **Email/Postal addresses:** Please always ensure that the Board has your **current** main email address, so that information can be emailed as necessary. You are reminded that you are legally obliged to inform the Board promptly of any change of residential, postal or work address, and to inform the Board of a change of name within one month.

Registration Competency Requirements (RCR) Review

As you are already aware, the Board is currently undertaking an important review of the Registration Competency Requirements.

The Board was very pleased with the responses to the surveys – i) the NZDA Branch responses, ii) stakeholder responses and iii) the 195 completed responses to the online survey, which had worked well. Thank you all for your participation.

Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA) Review

The Ministry of Health is undergoing a review of the HPCAA. As well as Regulatory Authorities and other stakeholders being given the chance to make submissions, through the Ministry of Health, all health professionals in New Zealand have the opportunity to answer a questionnaire on their experiences with the HPCAA to date, by mid February. The link is now <http://www.moh.govt.nz/mohsurveys.nsf/SurveyStart/Regulated+Health+Practitioner+Survey>.

Continuing Competency

a) The links and instructions to participate in the Cultural Competency on-line course and test are on the home page of the website: www.dietitiansboard.org.nz.

b) Audit letters will shortly be sent to those being 'selected' for the next Continuing Competency Audit round of 30 April.

Annual Report

The Annual Report to the Minister of Health for the year ending 31 March 2007 is now on the Board's website.

Best wishes.

Handwritten signature of Barbara Ryan in black ink.

Barbara Ryan
Chairperson