



Dietitians Board

Te Mana Tohunga Matai Kai

Newsletter to the Profession



Barbara Ryan
Chairperson

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A. Reminder: New Contact Details for the Board

The Board now shares premises and administration with four other small Boards/Councils, at:

Level 3
195-201 Willis Street
Wellington

Email: dietitians@dietitiansboard.org.nz.

Fax: 04 474 0709

Please note that the previous fax number and email address no longer exist.

Please inform any dietitians you know of, who are not currently practising, to check the contact details on the website before contacting the Board.

B. APC Credit Summaries – Significant Change from 2009/2010

From the 2009/2010 annual practising year, dietitians will no longer be required to write in the *number* of credits on the APC Credit Summary, BUT will be required to *sign a declaration* stating:

‘I declare that I have achieved at least ten credits, or pro-rata, in the Continuing Competency Programme in the past year’.

C. Continuing Competency

1. All dietitians are reminded that from September 2009, you are required to complete one ‘Cultural competency’ activity each year and one ‘Treaty of Waitangi’ activity, at least every five years.

Discuss with your supervisor, mentor or employer about opportunities to achieve these activities.

2. If you are unsure how you might achieve ‘practice review’, please discuss this with your supervisor, mentor or employer, to allow time as well as opportunities, to complete.
3. The Board has audited 370 dietitians to date and has recently notified a further 50 dietitians they have been selected for the 31 October 2008 audit.

Reminders from the auditors:

- Please limit credits submitted in future audits, to a maximum of 150 credits for 5 years,
- Executive summary pages rather than full documents can be used as evidence. Huge folders are not necessary.
- Aim to submit at least one 3+ activity in both ‘continuing education’ and ‘practice review’ annually, and provide evidence that your own practice was reviewed, i.e. ensure you provide a peer review component in the ‘practice review’ section.
- In general, most dietitians are achieving Continuing Competency well.

Dietitians who have returned to the NZ dietetic workforce after practising overseas, can expect to be audited within 2-3 years.

4. To make your transition back into the workforce easier, having taken time out, dietitians are strongly recommended to keep up their Continuing Competency. If you are considering a move to Australia, maintaining competency will help provide evidence to make obtaining a current APC and therefore credentialing, easier, (refer to D).

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5. The Board's 'return to work' procedures are outlined on the website under "Practitioners Information: Returning to Work". Please note that decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, and those who have been at least ten years out of the NZ dietetic workforce, will likely be asked to enrol in some distance learning papers before being granted a practising certificate.

D. Mutual Recognition – One Year On

After nearly one year of 'Mutual Recognition' with Australia, three dietitians from each side of the Tasman, have applied for and been granted registration/credentialing. You may be interested in the 'Mutual Recognition Profiles' on the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) website.

A reminder for dietitians considering moving to Australia, that *only* registered dietitians who hold a current Annual Practising Certificate *without* conditions on their scope of practice, and who have practised for more than one year in New Zealand, are eligible for 'Mutual Recognition'.

E. Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA) Review – Open Workshops in September

The Board has been participating in the HPCAA review and representatives will be attending the October workshop for Responsible Authorities. If you are interested in attending one of the following open workshops organised by the Ministry of Health, please contact the Registrar for the registration form/further details, or email: hpca@moh.govt.nz.

9.30 – 2.30	18 September 2008 James Cook Hotel, Wellington
9.30 – 2.30	23 September 2008 Crowne Plaza Hotel, Auckland
9.30 – 2.30	26 September 2008 Chateau on the Park, Christchurch

NB: Registrations close 15 September.

F. A Second Prosecution Under Section 7 of the HPCA Act

You may be interested to read the following article received from Dr John Marwick, Manager, Workforce, Ministry of Health on 21/8/08, regarding the second prosecution under the HPCA Act:

Man fined for claiming to be a chiropractor.

A Nelson man has been fined over \$4000 after repeatedly claiming to be a qualified and registered chiropractor.

James Michael Dawson was convicted and fined \$4,200 including court costs in the Nelson District Court, after being found guilty of claiming to be practising a profession as a registered health practitioner, an offence under Section 7(2) of the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act 2003.

The offending took place over a four-month period during 2005, and continued despite Ministry officials contacting Dawson to inform him he was in breach of the Act.

The Ministry of Health's Workforce Manager Dr John Marwick says the sentence sends a strong message that anyone misleading the public by claiming to be a registered health practitioner will be severely dealt with.

"This is not the first time we've had to deal with this type of offending, and in the interests of public safety, it's vital these individuals are dealt with appropriately. New Zealanders have the right to expect excellent treatment from qualified, registered professionals, and these type of prosecutions under the Act serve as a reminder to the sector that this behaviour will not be tolerated."

G. Other

1. Congratulations to **Lyn Gillanders** of Auckland who was recognised for her service to dietetics in the recent Queens Birthday Honours. Lyn, a past Chairperson of the Board, was awarded the Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit. The Board congratulates her.
2. The **RCR Review** is progressing and is nearing completion. Thank you to all those who sent submissions. The Board was very pleased with the huge response from dietitians and other interested parties.
3. A reminder that you must **legally** inform the Board *in writing*, and promptly, of any change of addresses: this may be done by e-mail, but not over the telephone. When you notify the NZ Dietetic Association of changes of address, you must therefore remember to inform the Board also. Email address changes are in your interest, as well as the Board's.

Best wishes

Barbara Ryan

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Chairperson