



# Dietitians Board

## Te Mana Mātanga Mātai Kai

PIPIRI 2020

RONGO PĀNUI

### DRIVING THE CREATION OF A WORKFORCE THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING NEEDS OF NEW ZEALANDERS

#### Kia Ora Koutou

Welcome to our Pipiri pānui and a return to almost pre COVID-19 times. We did it! What an amazing achievement for our small country and team of 5 million to have reached this point. Whilst the move to Alert Level 1 at 11.59pm on Monday 8 June now enables Registered Dietitians to provide services similarly to pre COVID-19, caution and care is still recommended.

The Board has been meeting virtually over the last 3 months on a fortnightly schedule and will continue to do so for a while longer. A 2 day in-person hui is planned for 19/20 August 2020. Secretariat staff are now back in the office after keeping 'Business as Usual' going and progressing projects and new mahi streams from home. The Board's Audit team have continued to undertake Audits and the Registration Examination team have pivoted to an online Oral Registration Examination to avoid an extended wait for overseas trained/return to practice dietitians to complete Registration requirements.

The Board was pleased to be able to make some concessions to support practitioners during the Lockdown – in particular extending the time to log CPD activities, submit for Audit and enable scheduler payments for APC's. Practitioners are reminded that the 2019/2020 period on the CPD platform will be locked on 30 June 2020, please ensure you have completed your logs for that period before then.

#### REQUIREMENT TO HOLD AN ANNUAL PRACTISING CERTIFICATE (APC) – POLICY UPDATE

There remains on the Register practitioners practising without holding an APC as well as practitioners unsure of when to hold an APC. The Board recently reviewed current policy on this matter and, in doing so, took legal counsel. You can find the updated policy [HERE](#).

Section 7(2) of the HPCA Act provides that "No person may claim to be practising a profession as a health practitioner of a particular kind or state or do anything that is calculated to suggest that the person practises or is willing to practise a profession as a health practitioner of that kind unless the person— (a) is a health practitioner of that kind; **and** (b) holds a current practising certificate as a health practitioner of that kind."

Section 8(1) of the Act further clarifies that "Every health practitioner who practises the profession in respect of which he or she is registered must have a current practising certificate issued by the responsible authority."

The penalties under the Act for practising without a current practising certificate can be very severe, which reflects just how important the practising certificate regime is as a mechanism to ensure that dietitians are competent and fit to practise the profession. It is important practitioners are aware of how practice is defined and when they should hold an APC.

The [Scope of Practice: Dietitian](#) is a very broad description, and one which likely overlaps with many activities performed under titles such as nutritionist, food service manager, policy advisor, health activator, lifestyle coach, health promoter. Further, there is no limitation under the Act that these services be performed for remuneration or in the context of a clinical relationship or otherwise (e.g., management, administration, education, or research).

Practitioners must be aware that, *as long as they remain on the Register of Dietitians*, they must hold a current practising certificate if they practise (*under any title*) within the scope of dietetics (as described by the Board).

If you have a current entry on the Register but have not made an annual declaration, or have inadvertently made a non-practising declaration when you should hold an APC, please contact the Boards Secretariat to rectify the matter.

## CONSULTATIONS

### Ministry of Health Consultation – Responsible Authority Performance Reviews

The Ministry of Health is currently seeking feedback on draft Terms of Reference and core standards for performance reviews of responsible authorities (for example the Dietitians Board, Nursing Council, Medical Council, Psychologists Board, Occupational Therapy Board, Pharmacy Council et al).

Responsible authorities (RA's) are the organisations mandated under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) to protect the health and safety of the public by ensuring that all health practitioners registered with them are fully competent in the practice of their profession.

When the Act was amended in 2019, one of the amendments (refer s 122A) introduced regular, independent performance reviews for RA's.

A consultation document has been prepared which outlines the rationale for performance reviews, the issues to be addressed, and key points regarding development of the reviews. Terms of reference and performance standards for the reviews have been drafted and the Ministry invites feedback on its proposals.

The consultation document and survey can be accessed at <https://consult.health.govt.nz/workforce/core-performance-standards-responsible-authorities> until **June 26th 2020**.

## CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) – FRIENDLY REMINDERS

1. If you are still to complete your CPD logs for the 2019/2020 practising year the logs must be completed **before 30 June 2020**. Access to this period will be closed at midnight on 30 June 2020.
2. If you have been selected for **Audit** and have completed your logs please go into the **Audit Tab** in your 2019/2020 period and click on **Submit for Audit** – the audit team will then be able to complete your audit.
3. The Board has clarified the criteria for CPD credits and broadened the options for all dietetic practice contexts. Check out the [resource on the CPD platform](#)

## DIETITIAN PRESCRIBERS

### PHARMAC Schedule

The PHARMAC Schedule has been updated. Use the links below to access the latest required copy.

- [Online Pharmaceutical Schedule](#)
- [Collated Schedule](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Schedule Update](#)

The latest Section H of the PHARMAC Schedule has also been updated. Use the links below to access the latest required copy.

- [Online Hospital Medicines List](#)
- [Collated Hospital Medicines List](#)
- [Section H](#)
- [Section H Update](#)

### New Prescriber Training

The University of Auckland and Massey University have made an application to deliver a New Prescriber Training Course for Registered Dietitians. This is in the final phases of approval with the Board. The Course will be delivered both online and as a face to face workshop (planned date for workshop being 14 August in Auckland). More information will be available soon, in the meantime if you wish to register your interest please contact the Board's office in the first instance.

### Annual MOODLE Prescriber Update

The Annual MOODLE Prescriber Update 2020/2021 is currently under development with a 'Go Live' date expected from 3 August 2020.

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH UPDATE – COVID-19

The Ministry of Health has updated its [information for the Community Allied Health Workforce](#).

The following are recommendations from the Ministry of Health for the Allied Health Workforce:

1. Enable contact tracing e.g. NZ COVID-19 tracer app
2. Discourage patients to attend appointments when they are sick e.g. screening prior to appointment, public messaging
3. Good infection prevention control measures should remain in place such as frequent hand washing and cleaning
4. Physical distancing is not required but is encouraged where possible

As indicated in earlier communications Dietitians working **within a DHB** will have their own set of guidelines and protocols.

## Screening for COVID-19 prior to in-person appointments

Whilst it's now business as usual for in person consultations it is recommended you undertake a risk assessment prior to the consultation - the patient/client should be asked the following screening questions before scheduling an appointment:

1. Do they have new or worsening respiratory symptoms including one of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, coryza (runny nose) or temporary loss of smell, with or without fever?
2. In the last two weeks, have they been in contact with others who have been unwell with respiratory symptoms or fever, or are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19?

If the patient answers yes to either of these questions, you should not hold an in-person appointment. If you must do so, ensure the appropriate infection prevention control measures are in place.

## New app for health workers

The Ministry of Health has developed [a new mobile app](#) (Āwhina), where health workers can access COVID-19 information from their mobile device. The emergence of COVID-19 and the response required by people working in the health and disability sector highlighted the need for a tool to provide easy access to the up-to-date information relevant to their area of work.

The Ministry developed the app with feedback from people working in the health sector. It lets people quickly filter content so they can find what is relevant to them and it also sends a notification when new or updated content is available. People can save content in the app to give them quick access to it again later.

The information in the app is publicly available; no registration is required and no personal information is stored. The app is available for free from the Google and Apple app stores.

## DIETITIANS NEW ZEALAND – A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DIETITIANS

Dietitians NZ offers many professional development opportunities and these are now being recorded so that members can access them any time. Recordings from sessions this year are available on the Dietitians NZ website.



For more information and general enquiries about this professional association for the dietetic profession contact **Kath Fouhy, General Manager**. Kath is available via email at [ceo@dietitians.org.nz](mailto:ceo@dietitians.org.nz) or call her on +64 21 1044 416.

## BOARD MEETINGS 2020

The Board has changed its meeting format to a Zoom platform. Currently it is meeting fortnightly to progress work and policy development.

Meetings in 2020 over the next few months are:

<b>10 June Zoom</b>	<b>24 June Zoom</b>
8 July Zoom	22 July Zoom
<b>5 August Zoom</b>	<b>19/20 August In-Person</b>

If you have a matter you would like to raise with the Board please contact the Board's office at least 20 days prior to a meeting, to ensure it can be added to the agenda.

---

*Should you have any questions about information held by the Board or about registration, holding an APC, CPD or supervision requirements please contact the Board's office.*

*Staff are happy to assist you meet your regulatory obligations and have their finger on the pulse of current policy and legislation.*

**Heoi anō tāku mō nāianeī - Ngā manaakitanga**

**Jennifer Pelvin Chair of the Board - Sue Domanski Registrar**

---

## Our aspiration

**to become a Te Ao Māori informed Board that is culturally capable and regulates a dietetic workforce that improves whanau wellbeing**

**New Zealand Dietitians Board**  
Te Mana Mātanga Mātai Kai

DDI: (+64) 4 474 0746  
Level 5, 22 Willeston St (courier deliveries)  
PO Box 9644, Wellington 6141, NEW ZEALAND  
Email: [administration@dietitiansboard.org.nz](mailto:administration@dietitiansboard.org.nz)  
Website: [www.dietitiansboard.org.nz](http://www.dietitiansboard.org.nz)