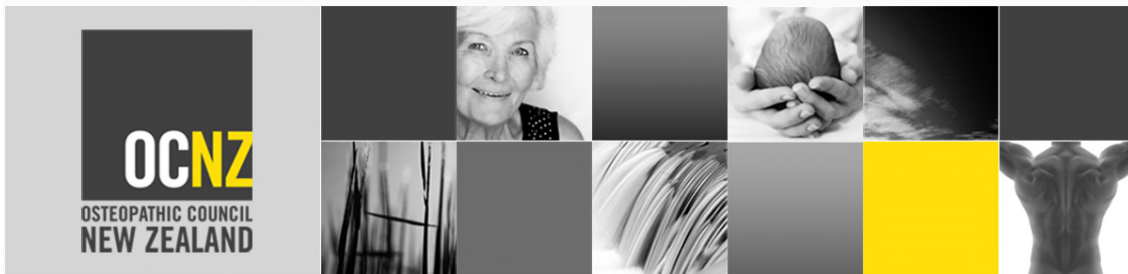


OCNZ Newsletter May 2021

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Kia ora

We have a few important updates in this newsletter, so please do take the time to read it.

As always, if you have any questions, you are welcome to contact us by phone **04 474 0747** or email osteoadmin@osteopathiccouncil.org.nz.

New leadership in Council

At the first meeting of each year, Council must hold elections for its Chair and Deputy Chair. Following elections during the February Council meeting, Lara Sanders has been elected Chair, and Tim Friedlander (immediate past Chair) has been elected Deputy Chair.

Read on to see our new Chair's first message to the profession.

Introducing the new Chair of Council – Lara Sanders

I'm an osteopath living in Wellington with my partner and children, and I'm pleased to be chairing the excellent group of people who make up the OCNZ.

I was first appointed to Council in 2015 and have observed strong leadership and learned immensely in the years since my appointment, under the previous chairs Emma Fairs, Martin Lambert and most recently Tim Friedlander. I'm grateful to Tim for agreeing to stay

on as Deputy Chair this year, to offer his advice and assistance as I settle into the role.

We have several projects on track for 2021, including the continuing development of our cultural safety work to honour our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We will be sharing some interesting and thought-provoking stories and resources on this topic at the OCNZ virtual conference in October.

We've also been working towards building the general public's knowledge of the OCNZ and what we do. We're currently developing some resources that we hope you will share with your patients, so keep an eye on your mailbox.

We also have several current projects that are crucial for our role as a regulator but are less applicable to life in practice, including a review of the Osteopathic Education Standards, preparation for an external review of the OCNZ by the Ministry of Health, and an overhaul of our Governance Administration Policies.

I'd like to personally thank the Council members whose official terms have expired, in particular Emma Fairs and Melinda Sweeney, who have continued to attend meetings, allowing to us to undertake our statutory obligations as we await new appointments by the Ministry of Health. Thank you to all the applicants for Council roles, we hope to welcome some new members this year and will strive for a smooth transition and the ongoing development of the OCNZ.

Wishing you all a fulfilling and enjoyable year ahead.

Lara Sanders

APC renewal

We know some of you had trouble renewing your practising certificate on our new online system. We want to say thank you for your patience and professionalism as we worked through the issues.

All applicants who made an effort to renew their APC before it expired on 31 March 2021 had their APC dated from 1 April 2021. If your application was late for reasons other than database issues, your APC is valid from the date it was issued.

If you were one of the applicants who had trouble renewing, you will have been in touch with our fantastic administrator, Shona Jefferies, who did an amazing job through the renewal process, despite the issues that popped up. Shona will have already let you know the effective date of your APC, and has also been liaising with ACC if there have been any questions about your authority to practise from 1 April.

If you have any questions about your APC, please get in touch with Shona at osteoadmin@osteopathiccouncil.org.nz.

COVID-19 vaccinations

A few osteopaths have asked whether, as primary healthcare providers, they can be vaccinated early. The Council is not involved in the Ministry of Health's roll-out plan; however our understanding is that the first wave of vaccinations was for "front-line" workers as opposed to all primary healthcare providers. Front-line workers are (for example) people working at the border, in COVID-19 vaccinations centres, and in DHBs and general practices where people who are acutely unwell (including people with flu-like symptoms) seek help.

Latest Ministry advice is that the roll-out is on track and the last (and biggest) group – the general population – will start being eligible for vaccination from July, which is just a couple of months away now.

Osteopaths as vaccinators

We have also had queries from some osteopaths about whether they can be vaccinators. We have had no indication from the Ministry that there is a need to call upon groups of primary health care providers other than those already approved.

The list of health professions currently authorised to provide vaccinations is available on the [Immunisation Advisory Centre's](#) website, and does not include osteopaths. Should the Ministry indicate to us a need to access the osteopathy workforce for vaccination purposes, we will work with the Ministry on this and let the profession know.

If osteopaths want to contribute to the vaccine roll-out, they may register their interest for non-vaccinator roles on the [Ministry of Health's](#) website. If you do register and are offered a role, please consider whether it fits within your scope of practice, and within your individual skill-set.

Continuing Competence Programme

We hope you have read the guidance provided on the new [Continuing Competence](#)

[Programme](#) and that you are developing your learning plan for this cycle. The new programme recognises many of the activities that you will already be doing, such as researching the various conditions your patients present with, and case discussions with your colleagues, alongside traditional CCP activities such as courses and conferences. You need to record these activities to count them, and templates for recording are available in the documents we have provided.

You must complete 50 points over the two year cycle, with a minimum of 10 points completed each year. A percentage of the profession will be audited every year.

Changes in Council staff

You will have received an email from us recently advertising a vacancy for the Registrar role. Until now, that role has been serviced by Clare Prendergast, however, we have some ambitious projects in the pipeline and both we and the Nursing Council recognise that we need more dedicated resource, which the Nursing Council cannot provide from its existing staff.

The Nursing Council is working with us to employ a new Registrar into a .6 FTE (24 hours per week) role. This is a significant increase on the resource we currently have, and we are excited about the opportunities this will provide us to drive our project work forward.

In the meantime, we have contracted with Rachael Heslop from Nous Consulting to support Clare and Shona while we recruit. Rachael has many years' experience in health regulation, having worked in Registrar and other senior roles for several authorities. You may hear from Rachael over the next few months if you are involved in any project work with Council, or if she needs to chat to you about any regulatory issues. Rachael will also assist in the induction and training of the new Registrar.

We are incredibly grateful for Clare's collegial and expert input during her time in the role, and we look forward to continuing our strong working relationship with the Nursing Council.

A thought for the year

We know that 2020 was a difficult year for many osteopaths, and we very much hope that 2021 is looking more positive for you. With that in mind, we want to share the following whakatauki:

E huri tō aroaro ki te rā, tukuna tō ataarangi ki muri i a koe.

Turn and face the sun and let your shadow fall behind you.

Kaunihera Whakanao Uaiwi

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