



OCNZ Newsletter July 2020

Board members for the Osteopathic Council

On behalf of Hon Dr David Clark, Minister of Health, the Ministry of Health is currently seeking applications/nominations for the following positions:

- two health practitioner vacancies

Applicants for a health practitioner member positions must hold a current practising certificate. The applications close on **24 July 2020**.

These are important strategic positions appointed by the Minister to ensure the Council remains focused and connected to its regulatory role, where public safety is at the heart of decision making. The Council welcomes Board member diversity and supports equity for Māori in governance roles. Taking on a governance role requires a shift in mindset from everyday management to influencing and monitoring at a strategic level. The commitment to a governance role also brings about opportunities to connect with the profession through the development of policy and setting standards. The functions of the Council are set out in section 118 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act.2003.

The link to the application process is

<https://careers.health.govt.nz/jobs/MOH-1462644>

What it's like to be on Council

Lara Sanders Osteopath on Council

I was first appointed to Council in 2015. I originally applied because I've always thought regulation makes us a stronger profession, giving us standards to uphold, accountability in the eyes of our patients and protecting the title of osteopath.

As osteopaths at work, we often don't see much beyond what goes on in our clinic room, but the work on Council has given me a whole different perspective and at times has been really thought-provoking. We oversee the changes happening in areas like education and professional development, while monitoring what is going on in the wider regulatory environment.

We have six paid meetings per year in Wellington. There are six osteopaths and two laypersons on Council, and our meetings are a really open, friendly environment, with robust discussion and differing points of view welcome. It's important to really explore all sides to the story before we make any decisions, and my eyes have really been opened to different perspectives on many occasions.

Our meetings are also attended by the Registrar and Deputy Registrar who provide us with all our documentation. They are basically the professionals in regulation with an amazing wealth of experience with the relevant legislation. At each meeting an action list is produced and the Registrar and her team then work towards completing the tasks.

There is some work for Council members to do between meetings, such as replying to emails and reading the material provided for the meetings. We do attend professional development events. For example, I recently attended a financial governance training day which has been helpful in knowing the questions we should be asking when looking at our accounts.

We have a number of really interesting projects going on in the OCNZ currently, so the next few years will be a great time to be involved.

Kaunihera Whakanao Uaiwi

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