

## FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Tēnā koutou whānau

I trust this finds you ready for the year ahead with a modicum of sand still between the toes and a dash of salt water in the ears, or some leaves in the hair and the scent wood smoke still in the nostrils depending on your preferred recreational pursuits.

As we have for the last two years the Board looks to the year ahead uncertain of what challenges will arise but certain we have the resources to rise to them. For my part I look to New Zealand following International trends with the diminishing of Covid-19's influence on our social, economic and professional health and the move out of a Pandemic state with a rapidly diminishing need for the current Public Health Orders.

The New Zealand Chiropractic Board, with you, will continue to ensure the safety of the New Zealand Public when seeking Chiropractic care and we are looking forward to doing it free from the cloud of Covid-19.

I am under no illusion as to how difficult practice as a Chiropractor has been over the last two years for the majority of the Profession. I offer my thanks for the work you all do to dramatically enhance the health and well-being of the people of New Zealand.



Dr Tim Cooper BSc, BSc(Chiro)

Chair, New Zealand Chiropractic Board

### APC Renewals for the 2022-2023 practising year

Online APC renewals for the 2022-23 practising year will open on Monday, 21 February 2022, you will receive an email shortly inviting you to renew your APC. With the removal of the Disciplinary Levy for the 2022-2023 period, the APC fee is \$1003.25.

APC applications can be completed via <https://apc.chiropracticboard.org.nz/>.

Once you have completed the renewal application and paid the fee, your APC and receipt will be available for you to download from your online profile at any time once issued. If you intend practising from 1 April 2022, please ensure you have completed your APC renewal before 31 March 2022.

If you do not intend practising from 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023, please select the non-practising option and complete your Registration Maintenance application, the annual fee is \$150.00. Should you wish to return to practice at any time through the year, you can apply for your APC online and the Registration Maintenance fee will be deducted from the APC return to practice fee. Please note the Board's [Return to Practice Policy](#).

## Health Workforce Data Collection Questionnaire

Things will look a little different when you log in to renew your APC this year. The Board included a short Health Workforce NZ questionnaire regarding your practice:

- ✚ total hours worked;
- ✚ average hours per week;
- ✚ your employment status;
- ✚ your intentions for continuing to practice;
- ✚ how many roles you are employed in;
- ✚ a couple of questions about insurance and professional memberships.

This questionnaire should only take a couple of minutes of your time to complete, then you will be able to move onto the business of renewing your APC for the 2022-2023 practising year.

## Continuing Professional Development

### CPD for 2022-23

The new CPD programme cycle commenced 1 January 2022, please review your CPD plans and objectives and update them for 2022. Please ensure you are logging your 2022 CPD activities into your online profile and are familiar with the revised [CPD Policy](#).

The CPD requirements from 01 January 2022 are:

- All chiropractors holding an APC must complete 20 hours of CPD each year.
- As the Board agreed to remove the previously defined two categories of CPD activities (Group A & Group B), onus for ensuring a variety of CPD activities are completed falls on individual practitioners.
- Audit of CPD activities will continue to be conducted every two years with the first audit on these revised standards scheduled for 2024.
- Over the two-year period practitioners must complete at least one identifiable cultural awareness activity.

### CPD Audit

The audit of 2019-2021 CPD scheduled to occur in early 2022 will go ahead as planned. All practitioners randomly selected for audit will be notified by the end of February 2022. In the meantime, please ensure you have your 2019-2021 CPD records complete, and evidence of attendance saved in case you are called for audit and requested to present this to the auditors.

## Omicron and all things COVID related

### Guidance for critical health services during an Omicron outbreak

New guidance has been published on the Ministry of Health website [here](#). Please ensure you are familiar with the information provided.

### COVID-19 Mandate Compliance Process

Late in December 2021 the Board received an update from Martin Chadwick, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer with information on how to respond to notifications of health practitioners who are non-compliant with the COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

All non-compliance notifications received by the Board will be referred to the Ministry of Health Enforcement team. We will be providing them with the following information:

- ✚ Full name and current registration status of the health practitioner
- ✚ Details of any alleged offending including time, date, and place
- ✚ Details of the person who has provided the information including any notes of conversations

The Enforcement Team will investigate if there is any breach and respond accordingly. This may result in an infringement notice being issued to the individual practitioner and the Board being informed.

### Mandatory Vaccination Boosters

The COVID-19 vaccination Order has been altered to include a requirement for boosters. All practising chiropractors are required to follow the mandate which requires you:

- ✚ Are fully vaccinated AND have received the booster OR
- ✚ Have a valid exemption OR
- ✚ Are not working in a role where you are contact with the public or any other workers subject to the mandate.

If it has been six-months or more since you were fully vaccinated, then you must receive the booster by 15 February 2022. If it has been less than 6 months since your last COVID-19 vaccination, then the booster must be received six-months from the last dose. Please note the updated [current advice](#) is to receive your booster after 3 months.

For more information, including information about exemptions please see the Ministry of Health site [here](#).

### Mask Mandate

Workers who are mandated to be vaccinated [will need to wear a medical grade mask](#) when working in public-facing roles.

## Consultations in 2022

The Board will consult on several standards in 2022. It is important you take the time to look at the consultations. Consultations provide you with an opportunity to have a say on important policies and standards that may affect your practice.

### Consultations planned for 2022:

1. **Professional standards policies:** The Board is developing policies for the management of competence, fitness to practice and conduct notifications.
2. **Competency Based Professional Standards for Chiropractors:** The Board is currently reviewing the Competency Based Professional Standards for Chiropractors and will be sharing the updated policy with the profession in early 2022. Please take time to submit your feedback on the proposed amendments when they are released.

3. **Advertising policy:** With consultation on the Therapeutic Products Bill underway, a Bill which will supersede the Medicines Act, the Board views it timely to review its Advertising Policy.
4. **Code of Ethics:** Once the competency-based standards review is completed, the Board plans to review its Code of Ethics



*The Board and Secretariat wish you and your whānau  
all the best for a happy and healthy year in 2022.*