

## DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

**Tēnā Koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa,**

I sincerely hope this missive finds you, your whānau and your loved ones well, happy and enjoying the warm sunshine that is spreading across Aotearoa heralding the start of summer.

As a year of Board activity draws to a close and we look back upon a year of work I find myself with the wish that you, the field practitioner could truly understand the inner machinations and nuances of regulation. It is also a science, philosophy and art and materially supports and enhances the outstanding work you are doing for the public in your communities every day.

It is sometimes perceived that the Board as the regulator stands between you and your patients, clients and practice members. In truth we are three degrees removed from this relationship, and you are the fundamental insurer of public safety for those that seek your services. It is your skill, judgement, experience, values and principles that primarily ensure the safety of the human in front of you.

Thank you for the aroha and care you give in your communities to the people of Aotearoa New Zealand.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Dr Jesse Cleave for his contribution to Board work and deliberations. As Chair I have appreciated his mana and gentle wise input particularly around appropriate practitioner competency. Ngā mihi maioha Jesse.

Hūtia te rito o te harakeke,  
kei hea te kōmako e kō?  
Kī mai ki a au,  
'He aha te mea nui i te ao?'  
Māku e kī atu,  
'He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata.'

If the flax heart is pulled out  
Where will the korimako [bellbird] sing?  
Ask me,  
'What is most important in this world?'  
And I will reply,  
'People, people, people'

Please take time out as you are able over the summer season, recharge your batteries in the sunlight. Enjoy our oceans, our forests and bush, put your bare feet on the earth, look at the stars and listen to the wind in the trees.

Nga mihi arohanui



Dr Tim Cooper BSc, BSc(Chiro)  
Chair, New Zealand Chiropractic Board

## BOARD NEWS

Ministerial appointments for Board members have been published, and we are pleased to advise that Tim Cooper, Chad Esaiah, and Tyler Dunkel were all reappointed.

Sadly, we farewell Jesse Cleave. We extend our sincere thanks to Jesse for the diligent work he undertook during his time on the Board and wish him every success for the future.

We are pleased to welcome a new Board member, Alice Cade, who will attend her first Board meeting in February 2026. We look forward to working with her.

## 2025 CPD

The 2025 CPD programme **closes on Wednesday, 31 December 2025**. You are reminded to log in to your practitioner portal and ensure all CPD activities and reflections for the 2025 cycle are complete before this date. The CPD programme will end at midnight on Wednesday, 31 December 2025.

APC renewals for the 2026/2027 practising year will open on Tuesday, 24 February 2026. Please note that failure to upload your CPD activities and reflections may impact your ability to renew your APC for 2026/27.

If you have not completed the CPD requirements, you may apply for an exemption (full or partial). These requests are reviewed by the Board's Registration and Recertification Committee and may not be approved. As practitioners may be selected for audit, it is important that CPD records are complete and up to date.

If you have questions about your CPD responsibilities, please review the CPD policy and resource documents available on the Board's website: <https://chiropracticboard.org.nz/resources-and-publications/board-policies/> or contact [leanne@chiropracticboard.org.nz](mailto:leanne@chiropracticboard.org.nz).

## NOTIFICATIONS

At some point in your career, it is possible you may be involved in a complaint or notification. If this occurs, it is important to fully engage with the process and to communicate openly and honestly with Secretariat staff so all relevant information can be accurately recorded.

There is a widely held misconception within the profession that a notification will frequently result in suspension or restrictions on practice. In reality, the Board is required to act fairly and proportionately when considering complaints and is committed to a compassionate regulatory approach. Where there is clearly no intent to harm the public interest, outcomes are far more likely to involve an educational response, such as mentorship or clinical practice advice, rather than punitive action.

The Board acknowledges that complaint matters can take time to progress and understands how stressful this period can be for practitioners. We appreciate the patience and professionalism shown by those involved and assure practitioners they will be kept informed and provided with opportunities to respond throughout the process.

Information about competence, conduct, and health reviews is available on the Board's [website](#).

## INFORMED CONSENT

The Board has seen an increase in notifications relating to informed consent and practitioner–patient communication. These situations can be stressful for everyone involved, and we encourage

practitioners to ensure they are familiar with, and consistently applying, the Board's Informed Consent guidelines.

Key points to remember:

- Informed consent is founded on honest, clear, and timely communication.
- Patients are entitled to receive the information a reasonable patient in their circumstances would expect, to enable them to make an informed choice about their care.
- This includes an explanation of the diagnosis, recommended treatment, expected benefits, relevant risks (including rare but serious risks), alternatives, and likely costs.
- Informed consent is an ongoing process, not a one-off event or simply a signed form.
- New or updated consent is required where there are changes to the treatment plan, costs, or the patient's condition or risk profile.

### Documentation

While written consent is not required for every treatment, practitioners must clearly document in the clinical record that informed consent was obtained, along with a summary of the discussion. Good documentation helps demonstrate that appropriate information was provided and protects both the patient and the practitioner.

For more information and to ensure you are meeting the required standards for informed consent and patient communication, please read the Board's [Informed Consent guidelines](#):

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OFFICE CLOSURE

The Board office will be closed for the Christmas & New Year period from Friday, 19 December 2025 reopening, Monday, 5 January 2026.

We wish you all a very happy holiday.

**MERI KIRIHIMETE**

