

Tēnā Koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa,

Suddenly it is March and the year is in full swing; a southerly is blowing, the moon is full and shadows are lengthening into Autumn.

I hope this missive from Te Poari Kaikorohiti o Aotearoa finds you and your whānau prospering and in robust health. As a healthcare practitioner it is critical that you practice from a base of tranquillity and health, and I sincerely hope your personal situation is allowing this. Please continue to prioritise self-care as an important part of ensuring your professional function.

It has been my privilege to serve as Board Chair for the past six years, and while my Board appointment term will extend into early 2028, I will step down as Chair next year to ensure strong succession in the leadership of the Board.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all.

Ngā mihi arohanui



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

BOARD NEWS

The Board held its first meeting for 2026 on the 19th of February:

Chair and Deputy Chair

Under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance (HPCA) Act 2003, the Board is required to nominate and elect the Chair and Deputy Chair at its first Board meeting each year. At its February 2026 Board meeting the following Board Chair and Deputy Chair were reconfirmed:

- Chairperson – Dr Tim Cooper
- Deputy Chairperson – Dr Edward Benson-Cooper

The Board welcomed new Board member, Alice Cade, who attended her first Board meeting on 19 February 2026. We look forward to working with Alice during her term with the Board.

Committee Structure

The Board approved a revised committee structure, moving from three standing committees (Registration and Recertification; Finance, Audit and Risk; and Policy) to two committees:

- **Regulatory Functions Committee:** registration, recertification and regulatory decision-making processes.
- **Operational Functions Committee:** finance, risk, and organisational matters.

Notifications and Professional Standards

The Board considered several notification matters at this meeting.

Themes arising from discussions included:

- The importance of comprehensive and contemporaneous clinical record keeping

- Clear documentation of assessment, diagnosis, management plans, and patient progress
- Professional communication and workplace conduct

The Board reminds practitioners that good record keeping is essential to safe practice and to supporting care decisions if concerns are later raised.

CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES CONSULTATION

We are seeking your input on a consultation regarding the Board's Code of Ethics and professional boundaries standard.

Key documents and links:

- [Consultation information](#)
- [Link to survey](#)
- [Current code of ethics \(for comparison\)](#)
- [Draft revised code of ethics](#)
- [Draft professional boundaries standard](#)

Please read through the consultation document and complete the survey. Written submission can be submitted to admin@chiropractic.board.org.nz by close of business 20 March 2026. The survey is expected to take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

The Board values your feedback and looks forward to receiving your responses.

PRIVACY ACT AMENDMENTS

Effective 1 May 2026

The Board discussed upcoming amendments to the Privacy Act, which may require organisations to notify individuals when their personal information is collected indirectly (for example, where clinical records are provided to the Board as part of a regulatory process).

Work is underway to update processes, the Board's Privacy Statement, and website information to ensure compliance with the new requirements.

AUDIT OF 2024 & 2025 CPD

Preparation for the audit of 2024 & 2025 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) records has commenced.

Recently, a letter was sent to practitioners who did not meet their 2025 CPD requirements. Of the approx. Of 780 APC holders, 111 had not uploaded some or any of their CPD by the 31 December 2025 deadline.

The letter requested that they upload their 2025 CPD records and provide an explanation for the delay. We appreciate that many practitioners responded promptly. However, several practitioners have yet to respond, and we encourage those practitioners to address this as soon as possible.

If you are unsure whether you have met your CPD obligations, please log into your profile to check your records, or contact us at admin@chiropracticboard.org.nz for assistance.

If you have not completed the required CPD, you may apply for a full or partial exemption. Applications are considered by the Board's Registration and Recertification Committee and are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

As practitioners may be selected for audit, it is important that CPD records are complete, accurate, 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](#) or contact leanne@chiropracticboard.org.nz.

2026/2027 APC RENEWALS

Online APC renewals for the 1 April 2026 – 31 March 2027 practising year is now open.

Please log into the [Board's Practitioner Portal](#), to update your contact details and renew your APC. You are required under the HPCA Act to advise the Board of any changes to your contact details, please check these are up to date and ensure you have provided a full work address.

Additional information

The [Board's website](#) has detailed information regarding:

- Renewing and receiving your APC.
- Health Workforce NZ questionnaire.
- What to do if you experience difficulties with online renewals system.
- Advice on what to do if you are experiencing financial hardship and need WINZ assistance.
- What happens if you don't hold a current APC.
- Options if you don't plan on practising from 1 April 2026.
- Steps to take if you are returning to practice after a period of absence.
- If you do not intend continuing to practice and wish to be removed from the register.

Please ensure you are familiar with this information and follow the instructions to [renew your APC](#).

*Remember your current APC is valid until **31st March 2026**, you are legally not able to practice past that date if you have not renewed your APC. If your previous year CPD activities and reflections have not been uploaded to your online CPD portal, the system will not permit you to renew your APC.*

ROADSIDE DRUG DRIVING TESTING IN NEW ZEALAND

We'd like to inform you of the changes to New Zealand's roadside drug driving testing regime that may affect your patients. From 15 December 2025, NZ Police began oral fluid (saliva) drug testing in the Wellington region, with a nationwide rollout planned for April 2026.

How will roadside drug testing work?

Police are expected to screen for THC (cannabis), methamphetamine, MDMA (ecstasy), and cocaine at the roadside. For saliva thresholds for these four drugs, refer [Summary of Thresholds](#).

A positive drug screening test at the roadside will result in a 12-hour driving ban, and the saliva sample will be sent to a laboratory for further analysis. If the laboratory analysis detects drugs, infringement will be issued to the driver.

How will medical defence work?

Patients who receive an infringement due to prescribed medication use may apply for a medical defense, this process occurs after the infringement notice is issued. More information is available on the NZ Police website: <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/infringement-services/medical-defence>

For more detail about the roadside drug driving testing process, refer [Roadside Drug Driving Testing \(What You Need to Know\)](#) or visit NZ Police website <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/drugs-and-alcohol/new-drug-driving-legislation>.

WORLD FEDERATION OF CHIROPRACTIC

Click below to view the January 2026 edition:

👉 [Read the Quarterly World Report – January 2026](#)

COUNCIL ON CHIROPRACTIC EDUCATION AUSTRALASIA



Call for Nominations – February 2026

Board of Directors

Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia Limited

ABN 91 168 760 067

Closing date Friday 24 April 2026, 5.00pm AEDT.

CCEA is recruiting to fill positions on the CCEA Board in the following categories:

- 1 person who is currently a registered chiropractor in the jurisdictions covered by the Council;
- 1 senior independent person in education, business or the community who represents the public and who is not a member of the chiropractic profession.

Nomination information is detailed below, Interested nominees can also refer to the [News and Media](#) section on the [CCEA website](#).

Nominations close 5.00pm Friday 24 April 2026.

Please contact melanie.jones@ccea.com.au if you have any questions.