

# REPORT TO NZAP AGM, MARCH 2019

## Ethics and Professional Standards Committee

It is with some sadness that I write this report as the end of my time in this role draws near. I have completed six years and have found it a very rewarding experience and am very grateful for the opportunity to serve our organisation and profession in this way.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to liaise about ethical situations with so many members in such a variety of settings and have found this and the experience of being on Council with many amazing people enriching. Over this time I know we have done a lot of hard work and achieved so much but as I write this the memories that come to mind are all social. My mind is flooded by a myriad of moving or enjoyable moments in fabulous locations in central Wellington or at the NZAP Conferences I have been supported to attend each year. I have had a very good time – thank you to all involved.

I thank and farewell Susan Hawthorne from her role of Complaints Convenor and agree with her highlighting in her last report three current and ongoing issues: early involvement of lawyers in complaints and the challenge of balancing the legal and therapeutic issues; the relationship with Waka Oranga and the place of Maoritanga in the complaints process; and whether NZAP continues with a complaints process at all. There will be opportunities to consider these in the planned Review of this part of our organisation.

We are fortunate to welcome Barbara Basset into the Complaints Convenor role. I also acknowledge the personal support and input this year of the EPSC members: Margot Solomon, Sean Manning and our new member, Katherine Stewart.

During this time updating guidelines, role descriptions and completing the review of the Code of Ethics have been great achievements. I hope these will help those who take over our roles to launch themselves more confidently into the initial situations and issues they will be required to engage with. They of course will in time be able to make their unique contributions to these, ensuring they are comprehensive and relevant documents. I look forward to finding them all easily on the new website.

Behind the scenes this year I have also worked with Nikky, our Executive Officer, to update and improve the storage and security of documents related to this role and to the Complaints Process. I can assure people involved in Complaints Processes that the privacy and confidentiality of information related to you is a high priority and our way of managing this is much improved.

Winding down one role leaves time for others and so I have now put my hand up to represent psychotherapists working in the Auckland District Health Board who are members of the APEX Union. I am about to be part of the negotiation team trying to gain not only a pay increase but better working conditions for psychotherapists. My personal hope is that we will make some headway in getting conditions closer to those of clinical psychologists – a bigger and historically more powerful group. For many years I have worked alongside clinical psychologists doing essentially the exact same job, with far less experience, being paid \$40k less than them with a quarter the amount of professional development allowance available to me. It would give me a great deal of satisfaction before I move on from this work to see that start to shift to be fairer and for positions in the Public Health sector to be more attractive for psychotherapists.

Stephanie Forde  
Chair, Ethics and Professional Standards Committee