

DRAFT PROPOSAL: NZAP TRAINING ACADEMY

Brief Background

This proposal responds to increasingly rapid changes within the mental health sector to which NZAP has, as yet, offered no response. Indications from the Ministry of Health's Workforce Development section is that it will announce major new training money for tender. This will reshape the training and funding environment within mental health: it will generate new providers across the sector. Yet NZAP is poorly placed to respond. We increasingly learn that we have limited public profile, the diversity of our work (eg adolescent, family or group work) has declined, the work of psychotherapy work is often and we offer only one long-term training (the ACP). Additionally, dominant narratives (eg Evidence Based Therapy) further disadvantage our profession.

The proposal is designed to address these problems by thinking in an imaginative and radical way. It comes from conversations with a variety of NZAP members, most importantly with the Chair of the ACP. It proposes a professional, self-funding training model that can be flexible, responsive and attractive across different groups. It responds to the slow decline of modality training in our sector

Proposal

1. Establish a Council working group to explore whether a self-funding training body is feasible and sustainable for the Association. For current purposes, this body might be called an Academy
2. An Academy would offer diversified therapy trainings around a central core, available to professionals across the country. Initial offerings are likely to be online, perhaps coupled with face-to-face workshops
3. Its role is to expand the psychotherapy workforce by offering attractive and accessible training related to current mental health sector needs
4. Trainings, unlike the ACP, can be of variable length. They are designed to take advantage of new funding and placement opportunities within the mental health system. Commonly, they would emphasise a psychodynamic, relational approach
5. The working group would consider details around likely intake, interest, trainee background, course variety or length, links with other training providers or professional groups. However, its broad goal is to establish parameters within which a Director would develop course offerings.
6. Seeding money for an Academy would, initially, come from NZAP funds (eg the PDC) to establish a role a part-time role of Director and perhaps two assistants to explore/prepare/develop course structures and materials
7. Additional or further funding would be sought through the Ministry of Health's tender process (GETS)
8. Training and accreditation would be self-funding. The working group to consider whether it should be semi-independent of NZAP or included within NZAP's committee structure
9. An Academy would work in tandem with the existing ACP and be alert to emerging PBANZ and registration issues
10. The Council working group would report to each Council meeting but anticipate a recommendation about the shape or future of this body within two Council meetings

Possible Working Group members:

John O'Connor, John Farnsworth, Victoria Smith, Verity Armstrong (Council); Veronica Watt (+Eric Medcalf?)
NZAP