

Academy Training Working Group

Report to the NZAP Council Feb 2022

Introduction

The first meeting of the working group had an enthusiastic tone: it reflected both a broad unanimity of purpose and a clear focus towards developing a working model with some speed. With only one meeting so far, this is an update for the Council with the likelihood of a more extensive report for the next Council meeting.

Summary Points

There was general agreement that it was best to start with a small model and expand modules and offerings as time, interest and resources allowed. There was a consensus to plan an online trial module by July this year, with a clear intention to expand offerings later in the year. The goal is to offer one well-delivered module in the first instance. More generally (and see the graphic illustration on page 2):

- Modular designs can vary in length, level and audience: they can mix online, face-to-face or both. Together, these provide a ‘marketplace’ of module suppliers and consumers. This provides for maximum flexibility of offerings and interests
- The primary focus is professional development; the group currently has less interest in offering course credits because of the extra difficulty, complexity and consistency they involve.
- We discussed catering for different interest groups: first, NZAP (existing and new members); second, the wider mental health workforce; third, attracting other professional groups
- It was best to trial modules with members, then consider later cross-fertilization with other professions
- To extend beyond a psychodynamic focus: to ‘integrate’ approaches across the spectrum to encourage diversity.
- A ‘marketplace’ approach for the Academy needs management, yet to be explored.
- We discussed opportunities beyond NZAP/psychotherapy:
 - ACC; the plans for Health New Zealand and Maori Health; new mental health workforce trainings through government tenders
 - The Ministry of Health’s Workforce Development team has been informed of the Academy model in case of future funding possibilities
 - We discussed providing some reduced cost ‘scholarships’ to provide for access and diversity
- There was a clear focus on integrating the Academy and the ACP through specific modules
- There was discussion about whether the NZAP website or a separate site was best
- Discussion of how the Academy would be self-funding: ongoing
- Bicultural offerings and integration with Waka Oranga is a focus for further discussion
- Early consideration of how to promote the Academy to members to maximise participation
- We expect to discuss a broad vision for the Academy at our next meeting

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Online Modules: Illustrative Diagram

