

Report to Council for March 2022

Ethics and Professional Standards Committee

Complaints

Information regarding the ending of the NZAP Complaints process has since been published on the NZAP website. Thanks go to Helen Packard for her ongoing work in the new role of Complaints Liaison assisting contacts in approaching HDC where appropriate. We have one current active complaint which was initiated before the ending of the complaints process. This is now in its final stages with some actions required which are being followed up now and will be in progress for the year.

EPSC Review Update

The full committee has had two Zoom meetings, largely focussed on discussing the remaining recommendation of the EPSC review:

- Reformulating the NZAP Code of Ethics into guidelines and deferring to the PBANZ Code of Ethics for the association.

This recommendation was one which the EPSC had declined to action as noted in my July 2021 Council report. At that meeting, Council requested the EPSC to engage with the Ethics review committee to seek clarification and any additional rationale or commentary beyond that mentioned in the review document which Roz Broadmore helpfully provided. After much discussion, the Ethics committee remains of the view to decline this recommendation. A brief summary of our reasons follows:

1. Firstly, considerable effort and collective mana is embodied in the NZAP Code of Ethics. The committee believes that withdrawing our own code would diminish the Ethics Chair and EPSC's ability to advise on matters of ethics and to encourage professional standards. Reference to the NZAP Code of Ethics has been very relevant to the many ethical dilemmas brought about by the ongoing COVID pandemic.
2. Secondly, while the many NZAP members who are registered with PBANZ are also regulated under the PBANZ Code of Ethics, approximately 14% of NZAP members are unregistered. The NZAP Code of Ethics is valuable in offering guidance regarding ethical and professional standards for such members.
3. Thirdly, any complaints against non-registered practitioners would be directed to HDC and given the diverse range of health professions that the HDC regulates, it reportedly often looks to the code of ethics of the respondent's professional body to further inform its process.

Ethics and Professional Practice Education

Work to develop an education programme around ethics and professional practice is ongoing. An NZAP branch has recently come forward to suggest a group discussion on a topical question regarding ethical practice and two members of the Ethics Committee, Stephanie Forde and John Savage, have made themselves available to attend over Zoom. At our next committee meeting, the committee will review any feedback from the event and consider how we might move forward.

Paul Wilson, EPSC Chair