

COVID-19 – Update 5

April 6, 2020

Dear Practitioners,

Welcome to our 5th update. We will also be placing information on our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

- **Recertification (re-licencing):** Thank you to all those who applied and received a new practising certificate at this unusual time. As of 6 April, we had 2,836 practitioners with a practising certificate
- **[Special Purposes Scope of Practice-Responding to COVID-19:](#)** The Board has established a special scope of practice. This provides occupational therapists who do not currently have a practising certificate to apply for a special scope of practice. The scope lasts for 6 months. If any therapists are looking for extra support during the COVID-19 crisis, please contact enquiries@otboard.org.nz and we will put you in contact with a therapist who has this scope.
- **Telehealth Guide:** Thank you to Sally Wallace from Enable NZ for sending through information on how to use telehealth. You can access the guide [here](#)
- **[Self-care and support for New Zealanders during COVID-19:](#)** With the support of the Ministry of Health, [Melon](#) has launched a web based platform which has psychosocial resources, peer support and self-care tools to help people struggling with anxiety or loneliness during the lockdown period and beyond. They also have daily live webinars at 10am. This may be of help to practitioners and clients.
- **Working in acute mental Health inpatient facilitates:** The National Association of Psychiatric Intensive Care and Low Secure Units have produced some guidance on [managing acute disturbance in the context of COVID-19](#). Although this is UK guidance it may have some relevance to practitioners working with mental health.
- **[Update from ACC:](#)** This latest update from ACC contains information on:
 1. Process and plan for distribution of PPE through DHBs
 2. Telehealth rates for allied health providers, including back pay
 3. More telehealth services approved
 4. Correction – essential services – spinal cord injury rehabilitation and training for independence
- **Business as usual at OTBNZ:** The Board and its staff continue to work as usual. All team members are connected and are working remotely from home. We are still available on our Wellington direct number
- **Resources:** There are an increasing number of resources being made available. We have listed a number here which practitioner may find helpful

1. OTNZ-WNA has a public free [Covid 19 Tool kit](#) on home page and [for members](#) continues to provide additional practice advice and links to in services and training
2. [COVID-19: Information for disabled people and their family and whānau](#)
3. [Alert Level 4 for disabled people](#)
4. [Guidance for people on Individualised Funding](#)
5. [Ministry of Health advice to disabled people and whānau who are directly employing staff](#)
6. [Funded Family Care payments](#)

Kia Kaha,



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