

COVID-19 – Update 7

15 April, 2020

Dear Practitioners,

Welcome to our 7th update with our latest information and useful links. We will also be placing information on our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

- **Online Register for COVID-19 Special Purpose Scope of Practice:** Our Special Purpose Scope of Practice to help the response for COVID-19 is on [our website](#) and will be updated frequently.
- **Practitioner interviews:** The OTBNZ is doing 30 minute interviews with OTs about their area of work, challenges and opportunities to their practice during the ongoing pandemic. In our first interview, Andrew Charnock, OTBNZ's Chief Executive and Registrar, speaks with Tracey Partridge, a private practitioner based in Christchurch. Watch them talk about her work in community mental health on our [YouTube channel](#)
- **Calling on OTs to support the National Telehealth Service including 1737 line:** In response to COVID-19, Homecare Medical is looking for experienced registered OTs working in mental health to support the community's needs. A work from home option is available providing support to callers of the National Telehealth Service which includes 1737. If you are a good fit and meet the requirements (including experience and IT setup) then you will be on boarded as quickly as possible and given access to some online learning. The training is quick and focuses on our systems and critical processes (no focus on clinical skills training). Interested therapists can email shannon.dockerill@homecaremedical.co.nz to start the process and get more information. Support is being requested for:
 1. relationship issues exacerbated by the lockdown
 2. increasing stress around individual and whānau financial security and jobs/careers
 3. health anxiety re COVID-19 and triggered mood disorders
 4. increased risk presentation (suicide, self-harm, harm to and from others including domestic violence)
 5. individuals experiencing increased isolation without the social support structures/resources to be able to cope
 6. changes to face-to-face support options impacting people's ability to access/maintain treatment
 7. alcohol and other drug related issues
- **Helpful apps:** If practitioners are looking for apps to use with their clients during the lockdown, [health navigator](#) has reviewed apps for many different areas, and gives information about how safe they are from a privacy and client perspective.
- **Updated resources:** The Ministry of Health has updated its [resources](#) for supporting disabled people during the level 4 lockdown

- [OTNZ-WNA](#) has put together a toolkit, and provides education and support related to insurance and professional practice

Kia Kaha,



Andrew Charnock
Chief Executive and Registrar
Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand
+64 4 918 4740