

## **Request for Expression of Interest: Refresh/Review Competencies for Registration, Continuing Practice and Code of Ethics**

The Occupational Therapy Board / Te Poari Whakaora Ngangahau o Aotearoa (the Board) is undertaking a refresh/review of the Competencies for Registration and Continuing Practice (the Competencies) and Code of Ethics (the Code). It will also be important to consider the relationship between the Competencies, Code and Scope of Practice (the Scope) and whether changes to the Scope will be required.

### **Background**

The Competencies and Code were last reviewed in 2014/2015. At that time the previous 7 Competencies were refined into the current 5 Competencies and published by the Board in 2015. The main change was the inclusion of competency 2 – Practising appropriately for bicultural Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Scope was published in September 2004.

The ePortfolio has provided an opportunity to understand how practitioners are responding to the Competencies. The research we have conducted into the ePortfolio indicates there is need for further clarity of the performance outcomes, in particular of competency 2. However, the refresh/review will look at all the Competencies and Code. There has also been significant change since 2015 in the uptake and focus on digital health, work force capability and expectation of health practitioners to be actively addressing the large inequities that exist in health outcomes for some sections of the population. The changes suggested in the Health and Disability Services Review will have an impact on the profession of occupational therapy.

### **Why are we doing this?**

One of the Boards functions described in the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA) is to:

*to set standards of clinical competence, cultural competence (including competencies that will enable effective and respectful interaction with Māori), and ethical conduct to be observed by health practitioners of the profession*

(HPCAA section 118(i))

The highlighted section above is an amendment to the HPCAA following its review in April 2019. The Board needs to respond to this amendment and a refresh/review of the Competencies, Code and Scope provides a mechanism to do this. The findings from the Wai 2575 the Health Services and Outcomes Inquiry into health inequity for Māori will need to be addressed.

Section 118(ja) of the HPCAA states:

*to promote and facilitate inter-disciplinary collaboration and co-operation in the delivery of health services*

Section 11 of the HPCAA requires the Board to describe the scope of practice for the practice of occupational therapy.

The practice of occupational therapy does not stand still it is evolving as evidence based practice and societal factors identifies changes. Reflected above are some of the legislative changes that have taken place and to which the Board must respond.

The Board accredits and monitors educational institutions offering degree programmes for occupational therapy practice (section 118 (a)). The curricula for pre-registration are based on the Competencies and Code enabling graduates to work within the Scope of Practice: Occupational Therapy. It is important that these programmes meet the Competencies and Code enabling graduates to register and practice safely within the Scope.

### **Establishment of *rōpū***

We propose to establish a small *rōpū* (*working group*) made up of:

- occupational therapist – tangata whenua
- occupational therapist - tangata tiriti
- layperson
- Board's Professional Advisor

The make up the group must be fifty percent tangata whenua and fifty percent tangata tiriti.

### **Practitioners - *rōpū***

The practitioners will need to be registered and hold a practising certificate and preferable have at least 10 years' experience in the profession. They must be of good standing in the profession and have an understanding of the breadth and depth of the scope of occupational therapy practice. Prior experience with regulation, education and professional leadership would be an advantage.

### **Layperson - *rōpū***

The layperson should preferable have consumer experience from using health and social care services. An understanding of regulation would be an advantage.

### **Board support**

The *rōpū* will be supported by the Boards, Chief Executive/Registrar, Tikanga Advisor and clerical support.

### **How will the work be done?**

Once established the *rōpū* will be able to manage how it wishes to undertake the work following agreement from the Chair of the Board and Chief Executive/Registrar.

A plan of how the project will be undertaken will be submitted for approval by the Chair of the Board and Chief Executive/Registrar.

The Board will receive and provide feedback on project progress reports from the *rōpū*.

It is important that the project considers the following:

- A review of the literature which has been completed by the Boards Professional Advisor.
- The relationship of the Scope of Practice to the Competencies and Code.
- Consultation with a range of practitioners across Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Specific consultation, but not limited to:
  - The Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand governance/operational
  - The Boards Tikanga Advisor
  - Heads of OT schools in New Zealand
  - National OT leaders area network
  - Occupational Therapy New Zealand/ Whakaora Ngangahau Aotearoa
  - Occupational Therapy Key Strategic Stakeholders
  - World Federation of Occupational Therapy
  - Responsible Authorities
  - Health Workforce New Zealand
  - Chief Allied Health Professions Officer
  - NGO leadership
  - Corporate providers
  - Sole Traders
  - Health Informatics NZ
- Use a range of mechanisms to collect information, for example:
  - Online surveys
  - Structured interviews with individuals and groups
  - Workshops in the main centres and with key stakeholders
  - Webinars

### **Timeframe**

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|-----------------|---|
| • January 2021  | calls for expressions of interest                       |
| • February 2021 | membership of rōpū agreed                               |
| • February 2021 | project plan approved                                   |
| • March 2021    | project commences                                       |
| • April 2021    | rōpū reports to the Board                               |
| • May 2021      | consultation on changes to Competencies, Code and Scope |
| • June 2021     | agreement and publication by the Board                  |

### **Funding and fees**

The project will be funded by the Board.

### **Contracting**

Members of the rōpū will receive individual contractual agreements from the Board.