

Becoming a Council Member

Role of The Council

The Medical Sciences Council (the Council) is one of sixteen New Zealand health regulation authorities appointed by the Minister of Health under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act).

The primary responsibility of the Medical Sciences Council (The Council) is to protect the health and safety of the public, not to represent the medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technician profession.

The Council ensures this by implementing mechanisms that ensures that medical laboratory science practitioners and anaesthetic technicians are competent and fit to practise (e.g. setting the scopes of practice for the professions).

The Council sets the strategic direction and priorities, policies, identifies and manages risk, monitors and evaluates organisational achievements in order to exercise its accountability to the organisation and its stakeholders.

Commitment

Being a member of the Council is a significant responsibility. It is a responsibility that is not confined just to meetings.

Members also need to ensure they have the time and the ability to prepare for key issues, events, meetings, read Council documentation and do committee work.

The Council meets 6 times per annum, with meetings scheduled as 1-2 day events. All up, members need to plan to be in the Council's Wellington office for 10-12 days each year.

Prior to each meeting, members need to plan for an average of 4 hours of preparation time to ensure they are well versed with each agenda and supporting documentation.

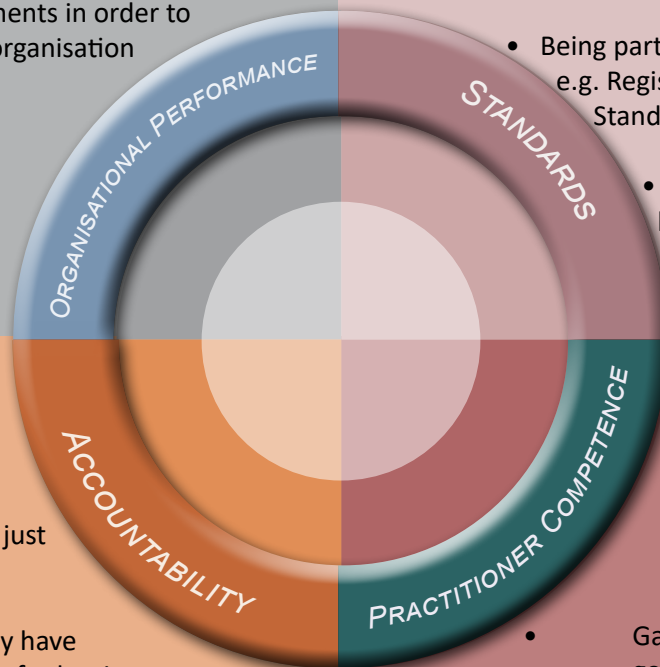
The time required for committee and project work varies according to the Council's annual business plan.

The Role of a Council Member

When carrying out their role, Council members must ensure they are wearing their "hat" as governors. The appointment process is managed through the Ministry of Health with Council members ultimately being responsible to the Minister of Health.

Specific duties of a Council member include:

- Acting in the best interest of the health and safety of the New Zealand public concerning the medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technician professions.
- Developing a working knowledge of the HPCA Act and ensuring that the Act is being complied with.
- Attending Council meetings fully prepared and ready to engage in discussion and decision-making.



- Being part of a Council Committee e.g. Registration, Professional Standards.
- Respect confidentiality, be aware of any conflicts of interest and accepting collective responsibility for decisions.

Development & Remuneration

- Contributing to and being an integral part of protecting the health and safety of the New Zealand public.

Gaining knowledge of the regulation/governance sector of the medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technician profession.

- Networking with other healthcare professionals and the Council's staff.
- An opportunity to serve on the company Board.
- Induction and training by senior Council members.
- Paid travel and accommodation plus paid time for preparation and meetings.
- The Council will pay each member a daily and/or hourly rate for all Council related activities (including but not limited to) – Council meeting preparation, decision making relating to Committee work and Council paper readings.
- Travel and accommodation is arranged and booked by the Council.

Organisational Flowchart

