



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL  
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

**MSC  
NEWS**

## TE HEAMANA/FROM THE CHAIR

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Once again, the start to the year has come with significant disruption and challenges - loss of livelihood, homes and tragically, loss of life. Being the small country that we are, it is near impossible to not feel the effects of Cyclone Gabrielle through our communities on a personal and professional level. It has been heartening to see resilience, compassion and generosity coming through, including dedication of practitioners who continue to operate in the healthcare sector whilst also managing personal loss from the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle.

On that note, the Council welcomes and offers congratulations to recent anaesthetic technician and medical laboratory science graduates, we look forward to working with you. Please contact our friendly staff team on 04 801 6250 or at [msc@medsci.co.nz](mailto:msc@medsci.co.nz) for any registration and annual practising certificate related queries, or any other queries you may have.

I would like to acknowledge the retirement of our long-serving CEO, Mary Doyle. Mary retired in January 2023 after 17 years of service. Mary originally began working for the Medical Sciences Council in 2006 as Registrar/CEO, before becoming solely CEO in 2017. During this time, Mary guided Council members through the regulatory framework to set standards and guidelines for practitioners in line with the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. I would like to express my gratitude for tasks well done and it is with sadness at seeing a long-term colleague depart, that the Council and I wish her well with her well-earned retirement - Kia hora te marino, Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana, kia tere te Kārohirohi i mua i tōu huarahi.

The Council now welcomes the new CEO, Dr Sue Calvert. Sue joins us from her previous role as CEO at the Midwifery Council and has worked in the health sector for over thirty years.

This year is shaping to be a busy and possibly transformational year for the professions and we look forward to working with the professions and relevant stakeholders during this time.

Ngā mihi,

Brett Besley  
MSC Chair

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

*Once you are registered, you have a legal requirement to notify the Council of any changes to your residential, postal or work address within one month of the change. You can do this by logging into "My Profile" on the website.*

### COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY

*The primary responsibility of the Council is to protect the health and safety of the New Zealand public by ensuring practitioners registered in the professions of medical laboratory science, and anaesthetic technology are competent and fit to practise.*

## Introduction from the CEO

Kia ora koutou

Ko Sue Calvert tōku ingoa / My name is Sue Calvert and I have recently been appointed as the Chief Executive of the Medical Sciences Council. I am honoured to take up the role and would like to acknowledge the great legacy that the Council's long-serving previous CEO, Mary Doyle left.

I have come to this role with a background in health and regulation. After graduating from the University of Canterbury in the 1980's, I started my working life in the business sector. However I very quickly changed direction and have been working in health for more than 30 years. I have worked as a midwife in a number of roles across the clinical practice, research and education areas. Over the last 14 years I have held a number of regulatory leadership positions including professional advisor, registrar and Chief Executive. I come to this role at the Medical Sciences Council with a solid understanding of the health professional regulatory environment and the importance of public safety.

As regulators our purpose is to protect the public by ensuring that practitioners are competent and fit to practise their profession. We do this by setting standards for entry to the profession and requiring clinicians to engage in ongoing development. Having identified the demands on clinicians and the changing and complex clinical environment in which they practice, my doctorate focussed on how a group of practitioners maintained their ongoing competence to practise their profession. My research highlighted, at the time, that clinicians identified areas in which they needed to develop their practice and managed issues such as resourcing and availability of education in order to maintain their competence. I am aware that the past few years have brought more challenges to health professionals. It has also highlighted the crucial role that you play in the provision of care to the public. I was recently at function where I was able to speak with students from a number of health professions. Their energy enthusiasm and desire to make a difference to the experience of whānau was inspiring.

In order to be effective in my role as Chief Executive I see it is vital to create and maintain effective relationships across the sector. While I have only been in this role a few weeks, I am considering strategies that can enhance stakeholder engagement and communication. The Council has a solid workplan which includes work on cultural competence as well as a review of the scopes of practice frameworks and I look forward to engaging with you as we progress this work.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge those of you who have been impacted by the recent weather events that have led to the state of emergency. I also want to acknowledge those who have provided assistance in support of colleagues. We are currently in the midst of our practising certificate renewal cycle and my team are doing a great job of processing your applications. While many of you have already applied for and been granted your APC, if you have been impacted by the cyclone, please do not hesitate to contact the Council if you need to speak with us about your application.



Dr Susan Calvert | Chief Executive

## APC renewals

The renewal process for your 2023/2024 APC opened on 14 February 2022 and remains open until COB 31 March 2023.

### RESETTING YOUR PASSWORD:

If you have forgotten your password, you can use the "Forgotten Password" option to reset it. There are two ways you can reset your password:

- via the email address registered with the Council and we will send you a link to reset your password; or
- via text message.

If you have forgotten your password and you do not have access to the email address registered with the Board and/or your mobile number is not up to date, email the Council's staff at [msc@medsci.co.nz](mailto:msc@medsci.co.nz) and they will update your details.

### MAKING A PAYMENT:

There are two ways you can pay for your APC:

- Credit card;
- Internet banking (enter your registration number in the reference box)

### A REMINDER TO PRACTITIONERS REGARDING APC RENEWALS:

The staff are working hard to process your applications, but it can take up to two business days to respond to your queries about your application. If you have already sent an email regarding your application, please do not send further follow-up emails.

**For supervisors:** Please remember to use your online profile to confirm or reconfirm the practitioners under your supervision.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during our busiest time of year.

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## MSC Audit Reminder

As a reminder, there will be **NO AUDIT** in 2023. The next audit will be completed in 2024, and will cover the 2022-2023 biennium. However, all practitioners are still required to engage in CPD. In readiness for the 2024 audit, practitioners must ensure their two years of CPD for 2022 and 2023 meets the minimum hours requirement:

- Medical laboratory scientists: 40 hours over the biennium. A minimum of 15 hours must be completed in any one year.
- Medical Laboratory Technician or Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician: 24 hours over the biennium. A minimum of 9 hours must be completed each year.
- Anaesthetic Technicians: 40 hours over the biennium. A minimum of 15 hours must be completed in any one year.

What you would need to do for the 2022-2023 biennium:

- Undertake the full amount of CPD hours specified (40 hours for MLS and ATs, 24 for MLT /LPAT); and
- Ensure you keep a clear record of the activities you have undertaken.

E.g., if you are an MLS or AT and have only completed 15 hours of CPD in 2022, you will need to complete 25 hours in 2023, in order to meet the 40 hours required for the 2024 audit.

If you are an MPLAT or MLT and completed 9 hours of CPD in 2022, you will need to complete 15 hours of CPD in 2023 in order to meet the 24 hours required for the 2024 audit.

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## Protected Titles

The Council encourages employers to carefully consider how to title a role, especially when protected titles are at risk of being used inappropriately. The use of protected titles: Medical Laboratory Scientist, Medical Laboratory Technician, Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician, Phlebotomist, Donor Technician, Specimen Services Technician and Anaesthetic Technician are titles that are only reserved for practitioners who are registered with the Council and hold a current annual practising certificate. Having the correct title is important because it informs patients and other healthcare professionals who is providing care and in what capacity.