



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

**MSC
NEWS**

TE HEAMANA/FROM THE CHAIR

Tēnā koutou katoa,

As 2022 draws towards a close, it is fitting to reflect on some of the changes and achievements that have taken place throughout the year.

The foremost I feel is the opportunity to have been invited to present at both the NZIMLS and NZATS conferences, and most recently the NZHSOA conference; I relished the ability to be available to answer questions and connect with the professions in person. I would like to thank these organisations for the experience offered and look forward to future collaborations within the practice of medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technology.

On behalf of the Council, I would also like to thank all those practitioners who contributed to the consultation document on CPD; it was heartening to receive overwhelmingly positive and constructive support, resulting in a significant change to the CPD cycle. A reminder that there will be no audit in 2023, although I would caution practitioners that they are still required to undertake CPD activities for this period.

Also introduced this year was the online examination as a pathway to registration for Medical Laboratory Scientists and Anaesthetic Technicians (replacing the work-based assessment model). Please refer to the 'Online Examination' page on the Council's website for specific information.

Lastly, and most recently, you would have received notification of the consultation document regarding the proposed changes to the medical laboratory practitioners' scope of practice, you will find a link to these documents below. I would urge all practitioners to consider this proposal and the implications for the workforce, and I would also ask that you have your say, as an individual, as a group or part of a professional body as the outcome is applicable to all practitioners.

Finally, I thank you for your hard work, often unseen, and would hope that you have the opportunity to spend a much deserved rest with your friends and family.

Ngā mihi mō ngā tau kei mua i te aroaro
Good luck for the future

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.

Christmas Office Hours

The office will be closed from midday Thursday 22 December 2022 to 9 January 2023. 15 December is the last day for registration applications from New Zealand graduates wishing to be registered. Newly registered practitioners will need to submit their APC applications before 19 December to receive their APCs before the Christmas break.

No Fee Increases

The Council has determined that there will be no fee increases for 2023.

Trainees - Guidance for Employers

The Council would like to remind employers that all laboratory staff who are performing diagnostic (pre-analytical) medical laboratory science tasks must be registered. If employed as a trainee, they must work under supervision until such a time they gain registration. Trainee positions are not a long-term option and it is expected that these practitioners are working towards registration in one of the Council's gazetted scopes of practice.

The Council also understands that there may be some uncertainty as to what titles students or trainees may work under. Employers may wish to consider what protected titles they can use while still accurately representing the practice the student / trainee is working in, such as:

For people training in Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technology:

- Trainee medical laboratory pre-analytical technology
- Trainee phlebotomy
- Trainee donor technology

For people training in Medical Laboratory Technology:

- Trainee medical laboratory technology

For people training in Medical Laboratory Science:

- Trainee medical laboratory science

For people training in Anaesthetic Technology:

- Trainee anaesthetic technology

Employers may use the titles above for trainees and students who are not yet registered with the Council.

Employers may use alternative titles, but it is important that students and trainees who are not registered with the Council do not use the protected titles, listed in the [Gazette Notice](#). The protected titles include Medical Laboratory Scientist, Medical Laboratory Technician, Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician, Phlebotomist Donor Technician and Specimen Services Technician.

New Zealand Resuscitation Councils Core Immediate recertifications

As a reminder, the Council has confirmed that anaesthetic technicians may undertake a core resuscitation course that isn't NZRC, however, the course must be directly comparable to the NZRC core course. This means that the alternative course must cover the same ground, the course must provide the same content, learning outcome must also be equivalent to the NZRC core course.

AT Expanded Practice

As per the Medical Sciences Council's [Expanded Practice](#) policy, the approved expanded practice activities are PICC and PACU. The Council has now approved circulating (Circ 2) as an expanded practice activity. Employers wanting a registered anaesthetic technician to work in the above expanded practice activities must ensure the practitioner has completed a training programme that has been credentialed by the hospital/healthcare facility as meeting the Council's minimum standards for the relevant expanded practice activity.

MLS SOP Review Consultation

The Medical Sciences Council is revising the medical laboratory science scopes of practice. The Council is proposing several changes to the scopes of practice for medical laboratory science practitioners. The proposals have been developed in collaboration with representatives from the New Zealand Institute of Medical Laboratory Science to gauge their expert insights into issues facing the profession. The proposed changes intend to provide clarity and flexibility for the workforce.

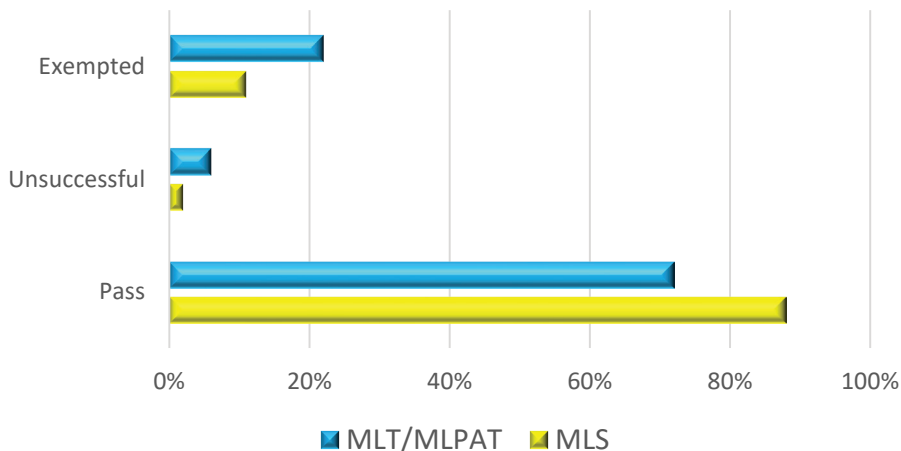
The link to the consultation document is [here](#).

Please submit your feedback via the [online survey](#) by **Monday 16 January 2023**.

CPD Audit Outcomes

The Council called 721 medical laboratory science practitioners and 170 anaesthetic technicians for audit. The below graphs show the CPD audit outcomes for medical laboratory science practitioners and anaesthetic technicians.

Medical Laboratory Science CPD Audit Outcomes



AT CPD Audit Outcomes

