



## MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUORA O AOTEAROA

# MSC NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

## FROM THE CHAIR

As the incoming new Chair of the Medical Sciences Council, I would like to thank to both Don Mikkelsen and Dr Andrew Warmington for their hard work and contributions to the Council. I hope to continue to uphold the high standard set by them both.

Further, on behalf of the Council, I would like to acknowledge the significant impact the recent pandemic has placed on the healthcare system and its practitioners, especially the Medical Laboratory Science profession. Increasing workloads in terms of preparedness and the scaling up of services at a time where information had been changing almost daily; this in addition to meeting regular demands. That it appears New Zealand has weathered this well, is in no small part to your contributions.

In terms of Council business, work on the Naming of Practitioners Policy is almost complete, with this document expected to be published soon. The Council would like to thank all those who participated in the consultation phase. The outcomes from the consultation document on CPD provider standards has been published on the Council's website.

The replacement degree programme for the AT Diploma continues to make progress, with positive engagement between the stakeholders; updates on developments in this area will be published as they become available. In the interim, the Council promotes keeping yourself updated on COVID-19 regarding your employers' risk management strategies and the information supplied by the Ministry of Health.

The Council's staff have returned to the office on 22 Panama Street and are contactable through all communication avenues.

**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.*

## ***Continuing Professional Development (CPD) – Medical Laboratory Scientist Practitioners***

The Council recognises that throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, practitioners are likely to have had difficulties accessing the usual channels and methods to undertake learning and development activities to meet their CPD requirements.

In recognition reduced opportunities for CPD during 2020 the Council has agreed that not to undertake a CPD audit for MLTs and MLPATs in 2021.

The new CPD requirements Medical Laboratory Scientist Practitioners apply from 1 January 2021. You can view this document [here](#).

### ***2020 Audit – MLT and MLPAT***

The 2020 audit of Medical Laboratory Technicians and Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technicians is underway. The audit covers the CPD completed in 2019.

Practitioners selected for audit must send in their documentation by **Monday 13 July 2020**. Over 50% of those selected have already submitted their documents.

---

## ***Continuing Professional Development (CPD) – Anaesthetic Technicians***

In recognition reduced opportunities for CPD during 2020 the Council has agreed not to undertake a CPD audit for AT's in 2021. The CPD requirements introduced for 2020 still apply.

The biennium will still run from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021. However, the Council will exercise leniency where a practitioner has not completed the minimum 40 CPD hours required.

### ***2020 Audit – AT***

The 2020 audit for the 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019 is underway. The Council would like to thank those practitioners who have already submitted their documents and congratulate them on the standard of their portfolios.

Practitioners selected for the 2020 audit need to email their documentation to the Council by **Monday 13 July 2020**.

## ***Timing of the Changes to the Continuing Professional Development Standards - Medical Laboratory Scientist Practitioners***

The Council agreed to delay the implementation of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Recertification of Medical Science Practitioner policy published in July 2019 until 2021. This delay allows time for providers to apply for approved providers status before 2021 and enable employers and practitioners to finalise agreements relating to meeting the costs of continuing professional development. The CPD for Recertification of Medical Science Practitioner policy has been updated with the new dates and republished on the Council's website.

---

### ***APC Fees***

The Council has agreed there will be no fee increase for in 2021/22. For current fees please refer to the fee schedule.

There has been a change to the APC fees charged for practitioners returning to the workforce. In previous years, a practitioner returning to work after a break e.g. parental leave was required to pay the full APC. Starting this year, if a practitioner returns to work on or after 1 October a reduced fee will apply. Practitioners who are on parental leave are encouraged to delay renewing their APC until a week before they return to work.

---

### ***CPD Providers Accreditation***

The Council invites organisations offering CPD programmes to apply for accreditation. The requirements for accreditation are set out in the Council's policy "Standards for Accredited CPD Programme Providers".

The closing date for applications is **28 September 2020**.

---