



**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 Council*

2017 has been a busy year for the Council and MSS. The Council would like to thank you for your participation in the various consultations published this year and Council workshops you may have been involved in.

As 2017 comes to an end the Council would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year along with safe travel on your holidays.



### *MSC Xmas Office Hours*

Please note the Council's office will be closed on the 22nd December, and will re-open on Monday the 08th January.

The Council wishes you all a happy and safe holiday.



### *MSC Annual Report*

The Council is pleased to present its annual report for the 2016-2017 financial year.

[Click here to view](#), or visit the Council's website to download a copy.



### COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY

*The primary responsibility of the Medical Sciences Council is to protect the health and wellbeing of the New Zealand public by ensuring registered practitioners are competent and fit to practise.*

## Administration Staff Changes

The Council with the Medical Radiation Technologists Board (MRTB) jointly-own a not-for-profit company; Medical Sciences Secretariat (MSS), through which all business support services are provided. MSS have had a number of recent staff changes and would like to take this opportunity to introduce the MSS staff team and their contact details.

<b>Mary Doyle</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Margaret Steel</b>	Registrar
<b>Victoria Nelson</b>	Finance and Administration Manager
<b>Glenys Davies</b>	Communications and Strategic Projects Coordinator
<b>Varsha Parsotam</b>	Registrations Coordinator
<b>Leanne Bartlett</b>	Registrations Coordinator
<b>Anita Alcock</b>	Finance and Office Administrator
<b>Anna Lockett</b>	Office Administrator



### CONTACT DETAILS

T: 04 801 6250

ext 1 Registrations Team

ext 2 Administration and Finance

ext 3 APC queries

ext 4 CEO/Registrar and Deputy Registrar

E: [mls@medsci.co.nz](mailto:mls@medsci.co.nz)



### 2018/2019 APC Renewal

Soon it will be time to renew your APC for the 2018/2019 year and the Council would like to take this opportunity to remind you all to ensure your contact details are up-to-date. Instructions on how to renew your APC will be emailed to you closer to the time.

Don't forget there is a late fee if you apply for your APC after the 07<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

### APC FEES

There has been no changes to 2018/2019 APC fees:

Scope of practice	APC renewal fee	APC renewal fee late payment fee (after 7th April)
MLS		
MLT	\$260.00	\$364.00
MLPAT		
AT	\$345.00	\$483.00



## New Zealand Graduates for 2017

As the end of the year is fast approaching, it is timely for the Council to remind New Zealand graduates and employers of their obligations to ensure all newly employed medical laboratory science practitioners and anaesthetic technicians are registered and hold a current practising certificate.



### PRACTITIONER RESPONSIBILITY

You are required to notify the Council of any change 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.

### EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

As an employer it is your responsibility to ensure all medical laboratory scientists, technicians and anaesthetic technicians are registered with the MSC and hold a current APC.

#### **Note:**

New Zealand graduates can apply for registration with the Council at any stage, but the Council cannot approve your registration until confirmation from your education provider has been received.

We endeavor to process your application as soon as possible.

### NEW ZEALAND GRADUATES:

#### NEEDING TO BE REGISTERED AND HOLDING AN APC BEFORE CHRISTMAS?

If you need to be registered and holding your practising certificate (APC) the Council will need to have received your completed registration application and payment before the 15<sup>th</sup> December.

There are no guarantee applications received after this date will be processed before the Christmas break.

All APC applications must be received before the 20<sup>th</sup> December.



# *New Zealand Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (HPDT) Decisions*

PRACTITIONER: Ms A

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST

## *Charge Characteristics:*

Legislation – breach of Misuse of Drugs Act 1975

Following convictions of supplying Class B Controlled Drug

## *Charge*

On 9 December 2016 the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal heard a conviction charge laid by a Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) appointed by the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand against Ms A, a medical laboratory technician (the Medical Laboratory Technician).

The Medical Laboratory Technician was convicted of two criminal charges of offences against the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 and sentenced by the District Court to imprisonment for 2 years and 6 months.

The background to the convictions concerned a supply by the Medical Laboratory Technician of the Class B Controlled Drug, namely Oxycodone Hydrochloride to victims who were of teenage years, initially supplied free of charge but later the Medical Laboratory Technician charged for these.

The hearing proceeded on the basis of an Agreed Summary of Facts.

## *Finding*

The Tribunal found that the acts by the Medical Laboratory Technician were of the highest order of misbehaviour which reflects adversely on her fitness to practise. The Tribunal noted that significant trust is placed by people in a health practitioner that they will be properly and comprehensively cared for. They trust the health practitioner to do what is right for them and follow the advice given to them. That means that the health practitioner must show self-restraint in their own activities and lives and particularly how they deal with other people and with drugs to which they have access. That is emphasised even more so in respect of vulnerable youth.

## *Penalty*

The Tribunal cancelled the registration of the Medical Laboratory Technician, censured her and ordered her to pay \$6,000 towards the costs of prosecution and the hearing of the charge.

The Medical Laboratory Technician was granted permanent name suppression so as not to compromise the suppression order of the District Court.

The Tribunal directed publication of its decision and a summary.

[Link to reference on HPDT website](#)

PRACTITIONER: Ms R

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST

*Charge Characteristics:*

Records - inappropriate access

*Charge*

On 31 March 2017 the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal considered a charge laid by the Professional Conduct Committee against Ms R, registered medical laboratory technician ( the Medical Laboratory Technician).

The charge alleged that the Medical Laboratory Technician obtained unauthorised access to laboratory records of a work colleague and disclosed the results to other work colleagues and this amounted to professional misconduct.

The hearing proceeded on an agreed summary of facts basis.

*Finding*

The Tribunal was satisfied that the charges were made out and professional misconduct had been established in this case that warranted disciplinary sanction.

*Penalty*

The Tribunal censured the Medical Laboratory Technician and imposed conditions to apply for a period of 12 months on resumption of her practice. The Tribunal ordered the Medical Laboratory Technician to pay costs of \$6,300 towards the Tribunal and the PCC.

The Tribunal directed publication of its decision and a summary.

[Link to reference on HPDT website](#)

PRACTITIONER: Ms C

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST

*Charge Characteristics:*

Practising without a current practising certificate

*Charge*

The Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal considered a charge of practising without a current practising certificate, laid by a Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) appointed by the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand against Ms C, a medical laboratory scientist (the Medical Laboratory Scientist).

The charge alleged that during the period 1 April 2016 to 19 March 2017 the Medical Laboratory Scientist practised her profession of medical laboratory science while not holding a current practising certificate, in breach of section 199(1)(d) of the Health Practitioners Act 2003 (the Act).

The hearing proceeded on the basis of an Agreed Summary of Facts.

*Finding*

The Tribunal found that the Medical Laboratory Scientist did practise in breach of section 100(1)(d) of the Act. The offending was at the lower end of the scale but it was over a period of almost 12 months which warranted some penalty.

*Penalty*

The Tribunal censured the Medical Laboratory Scientist and ordered that she pay a fine of \$1,000 and a contribution of 20% of the costs of and incidental to the hearing.

The Tribunal directed publication of its decision and a summary.

[Link to reference on HPDT website](#)