

Te Heamana - Te Manahautu

Message from the Chair and the Chief Executive

Tēnā koutou katoa

Welcome to 2026. As we are writing this introduction to the newsletter, a consultation to review the scope of practice for medical laboratory science practitioners is underway. Thank you to everyone who has already provided us with feedback – this will help to inform the Council's decision. Once completed we will share the results and the Council's decision with registered practitioners and stakeholders. We recently held a webinar to discuss any questions people had - you can read more about that in the newsletter.

In late 2025 the Council consulted on an update to the Sedation Guidance for anaesthetic technicians. This consultation has now closed, feedback has been reviewed, and work around this will be tabled with the Council.

The 2026/2027 annual practising certificate (APC) renewal round has now commenced. This will be the first time that you have completed the renewal process using our new practitioner management system. We encourage you to make your application early, so you have enough time to familiarise yourself with the new system (you'll also need to reset your password), and review the information provided - including the [privacy statement](#). You can read more about all of this further on in the newsletter.

In 2026, the Council's work will include completing the scope of practice for science professionals and continuing to work with Te Ama Tōtika (our Māori practitioners advisory committee) to strengthen cultural competence and safety for both practitioners and the public. The Council and Te Ama Tōtika are also planning a hui for Māori practitioners in Wellington (please save the date, 19 June 2026) – we'll have more on that once arrangements have been made.

The Council will also review its strategic plan to decide which projects to prioritise over the next few years. This work may be impacted by any proposed changes to the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA/the Act).

Thank you for the important work you do for people in Aotearoa New Zealand, and we wish you a safe and successful 2026.

Ngā mihi nui



Ruth Beeston
Chair



**Dr Susan Calvert -
Chief Executive
Medical Sciences
Secretariat**

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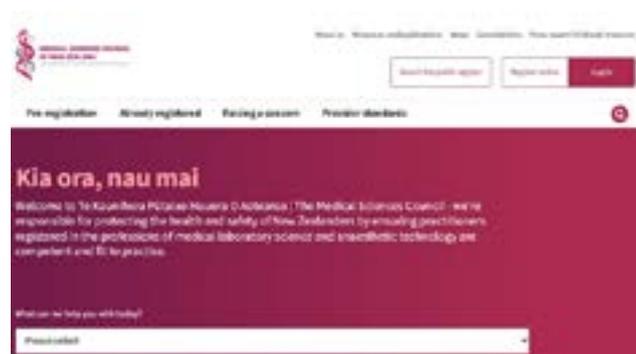
Website updates

When you visit the website, you'll notice we've made some improvements and moved a few things around.

- The website has a refreshed look, using our updated brand style.
- Key links — including Search the public register, Register online, and Log in — are now easier to find.
- We've added content blocks ('On this page') on the left side of main pages so you can quickly jump to important information without scrolling.

Changes to menus and pages

Previously	Now
About us	Still About us , but now includes Contact us and Useful links
Resources	Now called Resources and publications (includes links to news items about annual reports and newsletters)
Contact us	Now located under About us
Useful links	Now located under About us Consultations is a new page with sections for current and closed consultations
News	News items on the homepage look different – you can now see up to nine items without leaving the page
Footer	Now includes a link to our Privacy and security page and statement , plus updated links under About us We've added ' content blocks ' ('on this page') on the left-hand side of main pages so you can more easily find key information without having to scroll down the page



Council members

At a recent Council meeting current emcumbents were reconfirmed as the Chair (Ruth Beeston) and Deputy Chair (Dr Nicola Swain).

Fee changes and APC renewal

Outcome of fees consultation

Thank you to everyone who shared their views on the proposed practitioner fee changes for 2026/2027.

We published the outcome of this consultation in January. If you haven't seen it yet, you can read details on the website under the news items: Anaesthetic technician fees – consultation outcome and Medical laboratory science fees – consultation outcome. The documents also include links to the 2026 Gazette notices.

The new fees took effect from **16 February 2026**.

Get ready to renew your APC

Your current Annual Practising Certificate (APC) for 2025/2026 expires on 31 March this year.

Please renew your APC for 2026/2027 between now and 31 March 2026.

You may apply for an APC at any point during the year, but all APCs expire on 31 March, no matter when you apply.

Make sure your APC is current

You must hold a current APC to practise as a laboratory scientist or anaesthetic technician in Aotearoa New Zealand. Without one, you are not legally allowed to work.

Don't leave it to the last minute

Because we receive up to 9,000 applications during the renewal period, we strongly recommend applying and paying early so there's enough time for your application to be processed before the 31 March deadline. We expect most applications will be processed immediately, however, some can take longer. Before contacting us with questions, check the website first - unless the issue is urgent.

The practising year runs from
1 April to 31 March the
following year.

We have recently updated the online practitioner system, so you will need to reset your password before applying.

- The practising year runs from 1 April to 31 March the following year.
- Details about APCs, including FAQs, forms, and documents on how to apply, the practitioner privacy statement, and the practising certificate policy are on the website [here](#).

We've emailed registered practitioners and stakeholders with more details, and updated information on the website. This includes:

- how to renew your APC (there's also a brief video)
- what happens after you apply
- Links to key documents you need to know about
- FAQs (including information about fees, what to do if you have an issue, what to do if you're on leave, why you need an APC, and more).

Bulk billing update

Some employers pay for their staff's practising certificate using bulk funding. While we have offered this payment option before, we regret to advise it won't be available for the 2026/2027 renewal period. We are looking into whether we can bring it back in the future.

Te Ama Tōtika

Te Ama Tōtika | The Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee is made up of practitioners from the different professions, and some lay members. They assist with reviewing key standards and codes of conduct, inform the Council about policy changes required to ensure practitioners have the competencies to enable effective interaction with Māori, and advise on related matters as per section 118 of the Act. For more about them, view our website details [here](#) under About us/Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee.

Consultations and outcomes

Secondary legislation | Gazette notices

The Council has power to develop secondary legislation, such as defining the scope of practice, and the Code of Ethical Conduct. This usually involves the Council holding a consultation (with relevant practitioners and stakeholders) to get feedback that will help inform the official documents.

Secondary legislation/notices: A type of law made by someone (or an organisation) who's been given the authority by Parliament to create it.

Consultation in progress

The Council is carrying out a consultation to review the **Medical Sciences Council scope of practice – medical laboratory science (MLS) and inviting feedback about how it manages advanced-extended practice**. Registered practitioners and stakeholders (anyone interested in healthcare) are invited to take part. **The consultation closes on Friday 27 March 2026**. For more details, view the website news item [here](#).

We recently held a Zoom webinar to discuss the MLS scope of practice consultation. We'll update FAQs about this on the website soon.

Exam committee members

Let us know if you would like to be considered as an exam committee member. Go to the news item on our website for details, and how to express interest.

Consultation outcomes

Since our last newsletter in November, we've emailed/published the following consultation outcomes:

- [Medical laboratory science fees – consultation outcome](#)
- [Anaesthetic technical fees – consultation outcome](#)

We have a new system

In June last year we went live with our **new practitioner management system**.

When you log in for the first time (as a registered practitioner), **you'll need to reset your password**. Use the same email address that you used in the old system.

For more information view details on our website [here](#) under News/new practitioner system LIVE.



Recertification (CPD) audit 2026

Continuing professional development (CPD) - is a critical part of the Council's recertification programme – it's one way for health practitioners to retain competence and keep updated on the most current practices. It's also a way to support ongoing development.

Every two-years the Council audits selected practitioners to make sure this is happening. The last audit was done in June/July 2024, so it's time to do it again this year.

It's always a good reminder, before being selected for the audit, to find out what's required. You'll find details on the website [here](#) (declarations, filling in a logbook, providing evidence and reflective statements, how to submit documents for audit, resources, FAQs).

Heads-up

Even though it's not yet time for the audit, it's worth keeping a record as you go so that you're not scrambling to try and remember what you've done when it comes to report on this later.

The Medical Sciences Council (MSC) is one of 18 health responsible authorities (RAs). Members are appointed by the Minister of Health under the **Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003**.

The Council makes sure that medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technology practitioners are competent and safe to practise.

