

## Te Heamana - Te Manahautu

### Message from the Chair and the Chief Executive

Tēnā koutou katoa

It's been a busy time for the Medical Sciences Council (the Council). In this newsletter you'll hear first-hand about operational, as well as strategic, projects that we've been working on. A key achievement during June was the successful launch of our practitioner database. If you haven't already done so we encourage you to log in and look at your new portal.

We've continued to work on the scope of practice project for those working in the medical laboratory science professions and will shortly host a second meeting of the Expert Advisory Group. We're also working on reviewing the accreditation standards. Before decisions are made around these projects we'll consult with practitioners and other stakeholders. It's important that we hear from practitioners so we can make well-informed decisions.

Work has continued following the changes to the anaesthetic technician scope of practice. Thanks to those who took the time to make submissions on our recent consultation for supervision requirements for internationally qualified anaesthetic technicians starting practice in New Zealand. The Council will review the feedback provided at their next meeting in August. Work is also continuing reviewing the sedation guidelines.

Engaging with stakeholders remains a priority and recently Chief Executive Sue Calvert, and our new Registrar Hamish McDouall, attended a series of meetings with professional associations and providers of education. This was a great opportunity to provide updates on Council work directly with these organisations. We, and other representatives of the Council, will be attending upcoming conferences for the medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technician professions. We look forward to talking with practitioners there.

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cont.,

We're waiting to hear about the outcome of the Ministry of Health's consultation: Putting patients first. You can read about it, and our response, here. Once we know the outcome we'll be in touch.

Finally, we acknowledge all practitioners across the motu for the work you do. We understand that winter makes a busy job even busier.

Ngā mihi nui



Ruth Beeston  
Chair



Dr Susan Calvert  
CE Medical Services  
Secretariat

## Meet the new registrar

After Caleb Bridgeman moved on to new and exciting opportunities, the Council welcomed Hamish McDouall to the Secretariat as the new Registrar (for the RAs they support - the Council and the Board) joining us on 16 June 2025.



He came to us after two years as the Registrar for the Social Workers Registration Board. He's a lawyer by trade – having worked in the Treaty settlement space, in community law, and in general practice.

Between 2016 and 2022 Hamish was mayor in his hometown of Whanganui but says he doesn't miss local body politics.

He's had a varied career – working as a journalist, author, an English teacher and even a Parliamentary tour guide after leaving university.

...

Hamish says that while he hasn't worked in the health sector before, he's enjoying the new challenge. He says, "I'm having to find my way around a new Act, which can be a bit of a challenge, but I'm familiar with scopes of practice, competencies, accreditation, and professional standards. I'm enjoying the team at the Secretariat, meeting stakeholders, and planning where I might put my energies to make a difference."

CE Sue Calvert says, "Hamish brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our organisation (and the RAs). He'll be a great asset, supporting and providing leadership to the regulation, professional standards, and education teams. The role of Registrar is a critical role, with responsibilities defined in the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003."

## HPDT decision

A recent decision from the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (HPDT) regarding Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) - practitioner Ms Sejal Rao - has been published and is available on their website [www.hpdt.org.nz](http://www.hpdt.org.nz)

Ms Rao provided false and misleading information to: her regulatory body as part of her application for registration; to her employer; and to a Professional Conduct Committee (PCC). Charges laid by the PCC at the HPDT were established. Further, it was established that her conduct had brought discredit to the MLT profession under ss 100(1)(a) and (b) of the HPCA Act. As a result, penalties have been imposed, Ms Rao's registration has been cancelled, she has been censured, and fined \$13,000.



## Digital change project

We've replaced our practitioner registration system and moved to a new set up.

It allows us to do more of our work online, includes a clear and easy-to-navigate platform that allows users to find the information needed quickly, improved navigation and accessibility, and a clean layout. And yes, it does look different.

### Registered practitioners – things to know

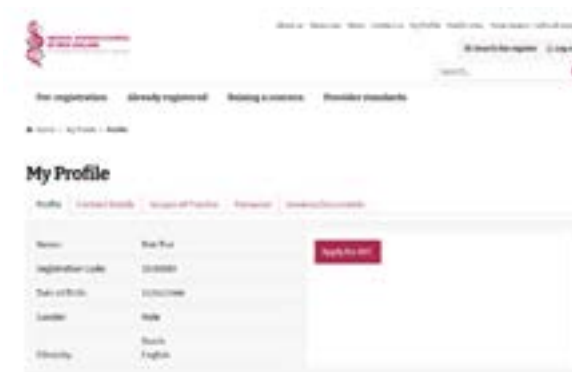
If you haven't done so already, log in and take it for a spin. You'll need to update your password.

Whether you're new to using the system or new to what's changed, take a few minutes to read through the information and FAQs on the website here (under News) – it'll help guide you.

- You'll need to update favourites and bookmarks as links may have changed.
- Use your same email address to log in - you'll need to reset your password.
- Some of our processes have changed - check the website to see what's different.

There's 'how to' information about creating a profile, a couple of short videos that will help with registering in the new system, and a link to 'Was Is' (examples of what it was like before v what it looks like now), for example:

### What it looked like before -



### What it looks like now -



If, after reading the information provided, you're still unsure about what to do and have queries, email [msc@medsci.co.nz](mailto:msc@medsci.co.nz) or phone +64 4 801 6250 ext 1.

## Te Ama Tōtika

Te Ama Tōtika The Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee is made up of representatives from different scopes of practice (as well as lay people) from consumers of health care services. They assist with the review of 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.

Tokowaru nga tangata o Te Ama Tōtika. Ko rātou ngā māngai o nga momo hōkaitanga katoa (me nga tangata reimana hoki) mai i nga kirtaki o nga ratonga hauora, hei awhina i te arotake i ngā paerewa matua me nga tikanga whakahaere. He kaitohutohu hoki ratou ki te Kaunihera.

For more about them, view website details [here](#) under About us/Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee.





## Consultations - outcomes and updates

### Anaesthetic Technician (AT)

The AT scope of practice and competence standards came into force on 1 April. We've been reviewing associated policy since then to ensure it's aligned with the new standards. Please check the website to make sure you have the current versions of any policies and documents you're using.

Thank you for feedback provided to the recent supervision for internationally qualified anaesthetic technicians policy consultation. The results are being collated, and we'll decide next steps at the Council meeting in August. We'll share any updates with you following this.

We're also currently reviewing the guidance for safe sedation by Anaesthetic Technicians and will look to consult on the guidance before it is published.

### Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) scope of practice

We've established an expert advisory group to support us in progressing the review of the scope of practice and competence standards for Medical Laboratory scientists, Medical Laboratory Technicians and Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technicians.

We're considering several options as part of the review to help make sure the scope of practice, and competence standards, reflect practice - now and into the future.

We'll be in touch with the profession and stakeholders as this work progresses.

## Registration and APCs

### How to apply for registration

You can now apply through the online portal. It's easier and more straightforward. If you're an Aotearoa Graduate or internationally qualified, you'll find out what documents you need to apply on our website.

### How to apply for an APC

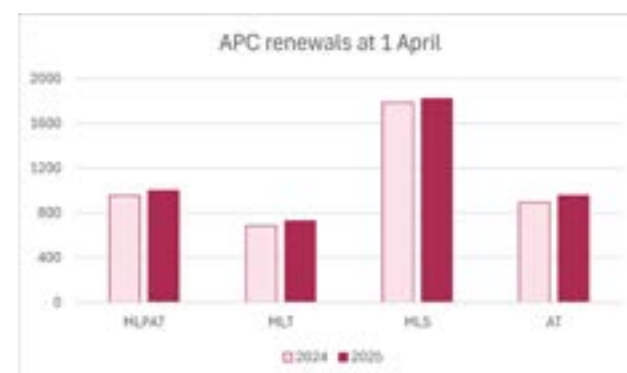
You can apply for an APC through your portal (on the Council website). We've provided a step-by-step guide on 'how to apply for an APC' under Resources/Recertification. You can also track the status of your application on the 'My submitted applications' tab of your online portal.

### Changes - how APCs look

You may have noticed some changes to the way an APC looks. For example, we've decided not to include registration numbers on APCs. There have been some incidences in other professions where publicly available registration numbers have been used to support fraud. Consequently, we're no longer including that information on APCs or our online register.

### APC results

Here's a comparison of APCs applied for, and renewed, in 2024 and 2025 for each scope of practice.



## Tell us what you want to know, and how

How do you know what's going on, what's new, what's changed, comment on consultations about proposed regulation or policy changes? Is it word-of-mouth, emails from the Council/Secretariat staff, the Council website - maybe these newsletters?

To make sure you're getting important information when and where you need it, please take a few minutes to do the Newsletter survey - it's multi choice, anonymous and includes options to leave comments.

[Click here to do the survey](#)

## Who 'we' are

The Council is responsible for administering the Act, and protecting the health and safety of New Zealanders by ensuring practitioners registered in the profession of medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technology are competent and fit to practise.

The Council is a joint owner of the Te Rangatapu Pūtaiao a Rongoā Medical Sciences Secretariat (MSS/the secretariat) a company that provides regulatory services. This arrangement with the Te Poara Ringa Hangarau Iraruke | Medical Radiation Technologists Board (MRTB/the Council) enables the Council to achieve efficiencies in terms of costs. Through collaboration, the Secretariat model enables the Council to support consistency in regulatory standards.

Using the services of a Secretariat to manage business services for the Council means we're able to keep fees at the lower end of the scale, achieve efficiencies and consistency in regulatory standards, manage key initiatives and business goals.

The Council has defined six scopes of practice for registration in the profession of medical laboratory science.

## Medical laboratory science

The scopes are:

- Medical Laboratory Scientist - Provisional (MLS)
- Medical Laboratory Scientist - Full (MLS)
- Medical Laboratory Technician - Provisional (MLT)
- Medical Laboratory Technician - Full (MLT)
- Medical Laboratory Pre-analytical Technician - Provisional (MLPAT)
- Medical Laboratory Pre-analytical Technician - Full (MLPAT).

Note: Provisional = New registrants who require supervision to support them into practice.

## Anaesthetic Technology

The Council has also defined the scope of practice for anaesthetic technicians (AT).

During this last financial year -

- 4022 registered practitioners were issued with a practising certificate
- there were 555 approved registrations across the six scopes of practice - of those 330 (59%) were New Zealand graduates and 225 (41%) were internationally qualified practitioners.

## Our responsibility is...

To protect the health and safety of the New Zealand public by ensuring practitioners registered with the Council are competent and fit to practise.

## Getting in touch

Phone +64 4 801 6250 - email [msc@medsci.co.nz](mailto:msc@medsci.co.nz) - check the website for more information [www.msccouncil.org.nz](http://www.msccouncil.org.nz)

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