



**MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**

TE KAUNIHERA PŪTAIAO HAUIORA O AOTEAROA

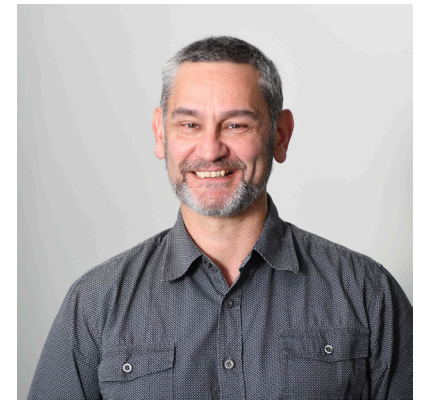
**MSC
NEWS**

TE HEAMANA | FROM THE CHAIR

Tēnā koutou katoa

Winter is making its presence felt, and we can only look forward to warmer seasons as practitioners continue to provide excellence in their efforts on behalf of the New Zealand public.

As the recertification Continuing Professional Development (CPD) audit for the 2022-2023 biennial concludes, we are reminded that our professional competence and safety relies upon our continued engagement with learning and development opportunities. It is pleasing to see a high standard of compliance of our obligations under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA/the Act).



Traditionally winter has also been a time for planning ahead, as well as business as usual. The Council has recently been involved in discussions with the Ministry and other Health profession responsible authorities (RAs) about updates to the Act. This is especially important as innovation and technological changes within healthcare practices can often appear to move faster than the legislation. At the risk of being repetitive, it also underlines the importance of participation and submissions from the professional members during a review period, as these provide the evidence and impetus for meaningful change.

The Council will keep you updated around any changes to the Act as these meetings progress.

Ngā mihi

Brett Besley - MSC Chair

CONTENTS: 2024 CPD AUDIT COMPLETED - PRIVACY AND RAISING A CONCERN - TE AMA TOTIKA - CULTURAL RESOURCES - CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS - ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIAN SCOPE OF PRACTICE CONSULTATIONS - WHO 'WE' ARE

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 with the Council are competent and fit to practise.

Message from the Chief Executive

Kia ora koutou

It has been busy in the Medical Sciences Secretariat (the Secretariat) with a number of key projects and initiatives underway. We have completed a consultation on supervision for new graduate anaesthetic technician (AT) practitioners and are currently in the middle of a second consultation around AT practice (competence standards).



I have been fortunate to attend a number of events recently that discuss practice, including the NZ Hospital Scientific Officers Association meeting in June 2024. Ruth Beeston, the Council Deputy Chair, and I presented an update on regulation at that forum.

Brett Besley, Council Chair, and I also attended the New Zealand Anaesthetic Technicians Society (NZATS) Leaders' forum in Wellington. Again, we presented an update on the consultations and work that is underway regarding the regulation of the ATs. Some of the Secretariat staff, Council members and I attended the NZIMLS* annual scientific meeting in Christchurch during August, where we were able to connect with a large number of medical laboratory practitioners from across Aotearoa. Ruth presented on the work of the Council. There was a lot of interest in the work around the Medical Laboratory science professions scope of practice.

*New Zealand Institute of Medical Laboratory Science

We enjoy the opportunity to talk with practitioners and to share updates on the work that is underway, so please come and talk with us if you happen to be attending similar events in future.

As we are restarting the Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) scope of practice (SOP) review, we welcome any questions you may have about this. Our discussions with practitioners helps to inform our communications with the wider sector. You can also email us any time at msc@medsci.co.nz

Since our last newsletter we have said farewell and thanks to two Council members - Judy Campbell (a lay member), and Angela Dewhirst (an anaesthetic technician). Both played key roles in the Council, providing advice and expertise to inform Council decisions. They have been replaced with Mark Tumai (an anaesthetic technician), and Jujhar (Jay) Randhawa (a lay member), who we welcomed at our August meeting. For more about our Council members view details on the website under 'About us/Council members' [here](#).

A recent highlight for me has been attending a joint hui with Te Ama Tōtika and Te Manu Mātārae – the Māori Practitioner Advisory Committees for the Council and the Medical Radiation Technologists Board (the Board). Both rōpū met recently in Wellington and discussed matters of common interest including the work they have been undertaking for their respective responsible authorities (RAs) in support of policy, data sovereignty and connecting with other practitioners. Te Ama Tōtika and the Council plan to host a hui for Māori practitioners in central Auckland in February 2025. This activity will count as continuing professional development. We will be in touch with more information about that soon.

Further information about the work of Te Ama Tōtika and its membership can be found on our website [here](#) and further on in this newsletter.

I want to thank the Secretariat staff who continue to provide an excellent regulatory service to practitioners. They have not only been working on projects in support of the professions that the Council regulates, but also managing the practitioner audit and registration exams, alongside our regular registration and ongoing practising certificate work.

Ngā mihi

Dr Susan Calvert | **Chief Executive**





2024 CPD Audit completed

We have all but completed the 2024 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) audit with selected practitioners.

Overall, we had a great response and received some very well thought out and put together CPD submissions for the 2024 Medical Sciences Council CPD audit.

CPD is so important in:

- being a way for health practitioners to retain competence and keep updated on the most current practices
- supporting their ongoing professional development
- providing assurance they're practising safely, effectively, and legally within their evolving scope of practice.

For more information about the CPD audit – what it's about, the process, and FAQs, view information on the website [here](#) under [Already registered/Continuing Professional Development](#).

Privacy and raising a concern

We are currently reviewing our privacy policies and processes to make sure practitioners are aware of how their information is managed and used. As soon as that work is completed, we'll update the policy on our website.

There's information on our website about 'raising a concern' if you're a member of the public, a registered practitioner or an employer [here](#). It contains details about what you need to know as a member of the public, an employer, colleague, or health practitioner, if you become concerned about a practitioner's competence or conduct.

If you have any queries about 'raising a concern', please email us at pro-standards@medsci.co.nz or phone 04 801 6250.

You can view information on the Health & Disability Commissioner website, including videos, on 'respecting your rights' [here](#) - education for health practitioners [here](#) – and details about the HDC Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights [here](#).

FREE online learning

The Privacy Commissioner has several FREE online courses that may be of use to practitioners wanting to improve their privacy knowledge and ensure they're meeting their obligations under the Privacy Act.

This includes "Health ABC" and "Health 101" courses, Office of the [Privacy Commissioner | E-learning](#)



Te Ama Tōtika

Te Ama Tōtika | The Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee represents all the different scopes of practice, as well as lay people from consumers of health care services. Their role is to assist with reviewing key standards and codes of conduct.

They also provide advice to the Council who, under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act), is responsible for setting standards of clinical competence and cultural competence (including competencies that will allow effective and respectful interaction with Māori).

Recently there have been a few changes to the committee. We farewelled (with thanks) Judy Campbell and Angela Dewhirst, who were the Council representatives, and welcomed Mark Tumai (Anaesthetic Technician).

Two other committee members are Aysha Willis and Dayna Hoey-Samuel.



Aysha is a Medical Laboratory Scientist with a background working in the Department of Corrections as a correctional officer.

The decision was made to change careers and she attended the University of Otago where she achieved a Bachelor of Physiology, a diploma for graduates in Anatomy, and a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science.

Since graduating Aysha has worked in Cytology and recently achieved her VRPCC. Aysha was part of the COVID-19 response after only being in the job for three months. Aysha says she has seen a disproportionate number of Māori in corrections facilities and worse outcomes in health. She is determined to help make changes that will benefit Māori, and all New Zealand citizens.



Ko Ngaati Wai, Ngaati Hine, Ngaati Hauaa, Aitanga-a-Mahaki nga iwi.

Ko Ngaati Rehua te hapu. Ko Motairehe te Marae.

Ko Dayna Hoey-Samuel ahau.

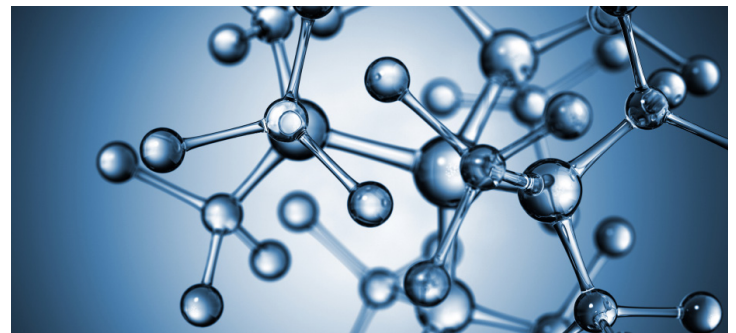
Dayna was appointed as a member of Te Ama Totika in July 2023. She is a Pre-Analytical Medical Laboratory Technician in the Waikato. She's currently completing a Master of Applied Indigenous Knowledge through Te Wananga o Aotearoa - going into her final year in 2025.

Since the beginning of 2023, as part of her Masters, Dayna has been working on designing a bicultural resource for Phlebotomy kaimahi that will be launched at the end-of-year exhibition in November 2025.

Dayna was born in Tāmaki-Makaurau and raised in the area between Great Barrier Island and Waharoa. She has worked in both the public and private sectors as a Psychiatric Assistant. Dayna also spent time working remotely in Alice Springs, Australia in a special needs school as a special education support officer.

For more information

You can view details about Te Ama Totika and the other committee members on the website under 'About us/Māori Practitioners Advisory Committee [here](#).



Cultural resources

Another area we're looking at updating/expanding on the website is around cultural resources.

If you have any ideas about content for that section, please email us at msc@medsci.co.nz

Currently you'll find '[Useful links](#)' to information under 'careers and immigration', and 'continuing professional development' which includes:

- **Mauriora:** foundational courses in 'Cultural competency' and 'Healthcare and the Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi'
- **Ao Mai te Rā:** works across the health system to increase access, achieve equity and improve outcomes for Māori
- **Te Tāhu Hauora Co-design:** FREE e-learning courses about co-design in health; supporting consumers, whanau and communities to contribute to co-design; engaging Māori and Pacific consumers in co-design and, how to be involved.

We'll be including a glossary of terms/phrases/information about Te Reo and Te Ao Māori, including some definitions to help guide practitioners. For example:

- **Mana whenua** refers to the authority and guardianship that Māori have over a particular area of land. This authority is derived from whakapapa (ancestral) connections and is held by the iwi (tribes) or hapū (sub-tribes) who have historical and ongoing ties to that specific land. Mana whenua involves both the rights and responsibilities to care for the land, resources, and people within that area. For example, 'Mike' was born and lived for many years in the Wairarapa, but he doesn't have whakapapa connections to the Wairarapa. So, he's tangata whenua in the Wairarapa but not mana whenua.
- **Tangata whenua means** 'people of the land' and are those who belong to the land through whakapapa (genealogy) connections to the original inhabitants of Aotearoa.

- **Tangata Tiriti** means 'people of the Treaty' and refers to non-Māori; those who have settled in New Zealand because of the agreements made in Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This term emphasises the rights and responsibilities of non-Māori under the Treaty, acknowledging their place in New Zealand society as partners with Māori under the Treaty framework. Tangata Tiriti are those who have come to Aotearoa New Zealand and live here in accordance with the principles of the Treaty.

Key differences

- **Mana whenua** relates specifically to the authority and custodianship over land held by certain iwi or hapū.
- **Tangata whenua** is a broader term that refers to all Māori as the indigenous people of New Zealand.
- **Tangata Tiriti** refers to non-Māori New Zealanders including new immigrants, recognising their rights and responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.



Conferences and forums

We hope to see you at upcoming conferences – if you're there, please look us up:

- New Zealand Anaesthetic Technicians' Society (NZATS / ASM Conf) 7-9 November, Auckland.

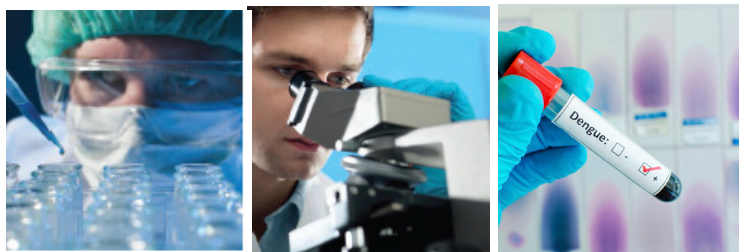
Anaesthetic technician consultations

Thank you to those who found time to participate in the consultations and provide feedback (do the online survey) on the Anaesthetic Technician (AT) Scope of Practice (SOP) - Standards of Competence, and Supervision.

- The AT supervision consultation closed on 14 August 2024. We received 97 responses. Once information has been reviewed, we will publish details on the website.
- The consultation on AT SOP Competence Standards closes on 26 September – so far, we have received 60 submissions there's still time to put in a submission/do the survey (details are on the website [here](#)).
- Thanks to those who managed to attend the AT SOP Competence Standards webinar on Tuesday 27 August. Check the website for updates to our existing FAQs [here](#) soon.

We will publish more information about the consultations (including feedback) and 'what next' after 27 September 2024. You can view details about the consultations on our website under 'News' [here](#).

Who 'we' are



We are Te Kaunihera Pūtaiao Hauora o Aotearoa | Medical Sciences Council (the Council/MSC).

Our role, as a responsible authority, is to protect the public of Aotearoa | New Zealand through the regulation of the medical laboratory science and anaesthetic technology professions which includes the following scopes of practice:

- Medical Laboratory Science: Medical Laboratory Scientist, Medical Laboratory Technician, Medical Laboratory Pre-Analytical Technician
- Anaesthetic Technology: Anaesthetic Technician.

We're responsible for protecting the health and safety of the New Zealand public by ensuring practitioners registered with us are competent and fit to practise. We manage practitioner registrations and the processing of annual practising certificates, (APCs), ensure compliance with obligations under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, provide advice, manage the website www.msccouncil.org.nz and CPD audits – amongst other things.

We work very closely with another health responsible authority, Te Poari Ringa Hangarau Iraruke | the New Zealand Medical Radiation Technologists Board (MRTB/the Board). Together we set up Te Rangatapu Pūtaiao a Rongoa | Medical Sciences Secretariat as a jointly owned company. Sharing the Secretariat arrangements enables us to achieve efficiencies in terms of costs and consistency in regulatory standards. The Secretariat staff provide regulation and business services on our behalf.

You can get in touch by emailing msc@medsci.co.nz or phoning 04 801 6250 and/or visit the website for more information:

www.msccouncil.org.nz

If you have any feedback or questions - about the newsletter and/or anything else - please contact us by emailing

msc@medsci.co.nz

or phone us on

+64 4 801 6250