

AIMS:

The College aims to meet goals in several primary areas:

Identification of Clinical Psychologists. Clinical Psychology should be clearly identifiable to the public as a specialty. Membership of the College provides a way that trained and competent clinical psychologists can be identified and distinguished from others offering mental health services. It is not the policy of the College to attempt to prevent others from legally offering psychological services. Rather, the College's role is to provide positive information about what well-trained clinical psychologists have to offer.

The procedures and processes for attaining membership of the College are outlined in detail on the NZCCP website, (www.nzccp.co.nz). Full members of the College are encouraged to use the acronym "MNZCCP" as a way of identifying for the public and referring agents that they are clinical psychologists.

Education. The knowledge and techniques of treatment that are the basis of clinical psychology are continually being researched and developed. Until the advent of the College there was no systematic arrangement for qualified clinical psychologists to undertake continuing education to keep their knowledge up to date, or to develop expertise and knowledge in new areas. The College works to foster, provide and co-ordinate such training and to promote regular participation by members.

The College also provides training opportunities that assist members of other disciplines to develop an understanding of clinical psychology and to develop the appropriate use of psychological techniques.

Practice of Psychology in the New Zealand Context. The College is dedicated to providing an environment that encourages the involvement of Maori members at all levels. It is also conducive to the involvement of all members, in making a contribution to New Zealand psychology, which is focused not only on Māori and a bicultural nation but also acknowledges and supports the unique diversity of New Zealand as a whole.

Representation. Focused representation of concerns affecting clinical psychology as a profession is essential. The College aims to present and promote the quality and skills of its own members and assist in educating the public about sound standards of practice. Representation encompasses issues such as the following:

- Providing the public with information about the areas of expertise of clinical psychologists to promote informed consumer choice.
- Making public statements on issues relevant to the profession. These may include advocacy and comment on such issues as parenting, violence or sexual abuse, and also legislative change or events in the media that may lead to harmful psychological consequences
- Governmental agencies (e.g. Ministry of Health, ACC, Health Workforce NZ, Mental Health Foundation, Ministry of Social

Development) and other organisations on matters relevant to the profession.

- Making submissions on legislation that are relevant to the mental health of New Zealanders and to the practice of clinical psychology.

Quality Assurance. Three important aspects of quality assurance are:

- **Sound and consistently applied entry criteria.** Training is essential before working as a clinical psychologist. The minimum level of training is to the standard of a Masters level degree and the postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology. The postgraduate Diploma of Clinical Psychology or the Doctor of Psychology (DPsy) are available at six New Zealand universities.
- **Continuing education, supervision and peer review.** This has become increasingly important as more clinical psychologists work outside the public health system and as more are working in isolation from their colleagues. All members of the College are required to be in supervision, and are expected to participate in continuing education.
- **Adequate and effective complaints procedures.** There needs to be an adequate mechanism by which the public can complain about any member of the profession, and have these complaints dealt with. All complaints against health professionals are forwarded in the first instance to the Health and Disabilities Commission, which then pass on their findings and recommendations to the Psychologists Registration Board. The College will then decide on its course of action after the Psychologists' Board has reached a decision. As a condition of membership, all College members are obliged to inform the College of the existence and outcome of a complaint to the Psychologists' Board.

SPECIFIC BENEFITS:

Promotion of the profession. As a professional organisation the College actively and specifically promotes the role of practicing psychologists with clinical qualifications. It clearly promotes Clinical Psychology to the public as a professional specialty. This will have long-term benefits for individuals in the profession and cannot be achieved unless a significant percentage in the profession financially support it.

Signifies high standing. The College consists of members, each being a registered clinical psychologist who, in the view of the National Executive, are of good standing, deemed to be qualified (has a Diploma in Clinical Psychology or equivalent), competent to practise clinical psychology and bound by the Code of Ethics. Some psychologists who are registered under the Clinical Scope of Practice, but who are not deemed by the College as having sufficient clinical training and qualifications, are not eligible for membership of the College.

Professional membership a requirement for some types of work. Many statutory and private agencies (e.g. ACC, Family Court, other insurers) require membership of a professional organisation, such as the College, to be approved to work with their clients.

Collegiality and support. The College will put you in touch with your professional colleagues and thus allows for great networking. Clinical psychologists often work in multi-disciplinary teams and can feel somewhat isolated from like-minded people. Conferences and seminars give opportunities to refresh and reconnect with your discipline.

Access to excellent Indemnity Insurance. Members of the College can purchase membership of the Medical Protection Society, which provides access to legal advice and representation in the event of a hearing. Even working for organisations such as District Health Boards or the Department of Corrections does not mean they will protect you in the event of malpractice complaints. You have enduring coverage for events that happened in the entire time you paid MPS fees so in the case of a retroactive complaint many years after your retirement, for instance, you will be entitled to representation. Student members of the NZCCP are entitled to be covered by the MPS scheme at no cost.

Access to free confidential counselling service. The Medical Protection Society also facilitates a free EAP style counselling service for members who may be having difficult-ties or issues in their personal or professional lives.

Access to free online psychology database. The EBSCO Publishing online Psychology Research Database is now available free to all College members. This provides unlimited remote access to their Core Psychology Research Package containing Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection, MEDLINE with Full Text, and Mental Measurements Yearbooks with Tests in Print.

Seminars/courses at reduced costs. Membership gives you entry to the continuing education programme coordinated by the College in your region, often at a reduced cost. The organisation is non-profit making and much of the organising of the education is done voluntarily by enthusiastic and committed members, enabling us to have high standard overseas speakers at relatively low cost. The College works to foster, provide and co-ordinate such training, and to promote regular participation by members. Ongoing education assists in the process of continued development and updating of professional skills.

Letters after your name, which identify a standard of training and professional practice. Membership entitles you to use the letters MNZCCP after your name as a way of identifying, for the public and referring agents, that you are a clinical psychologist, have undergone a recognised training programme, and practise to a recognised standard.

An avenue to effect changes in the profession. Membership will provide an avenue for you to express your opinion about important issues affecting the profession. Full and Associate members have voting rights at the AGM.

Advice about ethical and work-related queries. Individual members can ask for ethical advice from the College Ethics Committee and other information from the National Council or NZCCP office.

Being kept informed of current issues, useful book reviews, job vacancies, courses and seminars, etc., specific to Clinical Psychology in N.Z. Each member receives regular publications, Journal NZCCP and ShrinkRAP.

Pamphlets available to members. These include, "A Guide to Seeing a Clinical Psychologist", and "Supervision Guidelines for Clinical Psychologists and their Employers".

Active support for students. During the period of clinical training, membership is free and you receive both publications. Prizes are awarded for student presentations at the NZCCP conference. In some areas the local branches support students from their area to attend the NZCCP Annual Conference. The College also has annual student awards.

Reduced rate for new Associates. Associate members have a reduced fee for up to two years or until they achieve full membership status of NZCCP. After two years an Associate member is required to pay the full fee.

Referrals nationwide through our Private Practice list. Those interested in private referrals are added to our "Find a clinical psychologist" resource, which is posted on the College website. This is an excellent resource if you wish to refer clients to someone of good standing when the client changes location. It also serves to generate referrals for interested clinicians.

Further identification of high standing. The College has two higher levels of membership - Fellowship and Life Member - awarded to those members who have made a significant contribution to the profession.

As well as these specific benefits the College has a range of awards to value, recognise and encourage members' contribution to the profession.

These include:

- The **John Dugdale Award** for best student presentation at the annual College Conference.
- The **Olina Carter Award** for best student poster at the annual College Conference.
- The **John Bushnell Award** for leadership in Clinical Psychology.

(Olina Carter, John Dugdale and John Bushnell are all past Presidents of the College).

- The **NZCCP Award for Contribution to Clinical Psychology.** This award of \$500 is for current members of the NZCCP who are recognised as having made a significant and pre-eminent contribution to clinical psychology in the last year.
- The **NZCCP Research/Study Award**, of up to \$6,000, is offered annually to a full or associate member of the College to assist them to undertake travel or a similar specific activity to further their education or interest in a clinical or research activity related to clinical psychology.
- **Te Karahipi Oranga Hinengaro Te Karahipi Māori** is a support pathway to the value of up to \$1500 to assist Māori students. This forms part of the Puna Waiora fund recently established by NZCCP for Māori Psychology students and practitioners in their ongoing journey of knowledge and skill development in Psychology.
- **President's Award**, of up to \$1,500, is offered annually to a student member of the College who is recognised as performing well in their training and as likely to make a positive contribution to Clinical Psychology in the future. The purpose of this award is to assist the student member to undertake the development of their knowledge and skills in Clinical Psychology and its application.
- **NZCCP Travel Grant.** Up to four NZCCP Travel Grants of up to \$1,000 are provided annually to Full, Associate, or Student members of the College to assist them to travel to and attend a continuing education opportunity (such as a Conference, Workshop, or substantial organised site visit) either in New Zealand or overseas.

BENEFITS OF THE COLLEGE

NZ College of Clinical Psychologists
PO Box 24088 Wellington 6142
Phone: 04 801 6088
Fax: 04 801 6086
Email: office@nzccp.co.nz
Web: www.nzccp.co.nz