



ALLIED HEALTH

Aotearoa New Zealand

PUBLIC SUMMARY OF MEMBER MEETING

Wednesday 7 June 2017

1	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
2	GUEST SPEAKER Lucy Sandford-Reed, Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers Social Workers as Health Practitioners As of June 2017 approximately one third of social workers were engaged in health settings. Despite being deemed health practitioners under the Health and Disability Commissioner Act 1994 (which has the same meaning as in section 5 of the HPCA Act 2003) and registered with the Social Workers Registration Board, Social Workers have great difficulty in being recognised as health practitioners within DHBs. The Children, Young Persons and Their Families (Advocacy, Workforce and Age Settings) Amendment Act 2016 The Children, Young Persons and Their Families (Advocacy, Workforce and Age Settings) Amendment Act 2016 removed references to social workers and replaced these with the chief executive. The intention was to enable a broader range of professionals to perform a wider set of functions to help identify and meet the needs of vulnerable children and young persons. However, in practice this means that the chief executive must specifically delegate powers under the act to social workers or they cannot act under the State Sector Act 1998. Additionally, the chief executive can delegate powers to people other than social workers. The requirements for qualifications, training, experience and interpersonal skills of such people are not specifically outlined within the act, nor are the specific contractual obligations for such people. Registration of Social Workers Social workers have been voluntarily registered under the Social Worker Registration Act 2003. However of the approximately 18,000 people calling themselves social workers in the 2013 census, there are only 6,132 who met the minimum criteria for registration (which includes qualification or depth and breadth of experience for those before 2003, competence to practice, competence working with Maori and people of different ethnic and cultural groups, and the ability to speak, write and understand written and spoken English). The Social Services Select Committee conducted an inquiry in 2016 into the operation of the Social Workers Registration Act 2003 and recommended mandatory registration of social workers. This mandatory registration would allow protection of the title of social workers with a gazetted scope of practice and definition of social work. Social workers would be deemed competent by virtue of graduation from a recognised programme or being registered in a country of origin. All social workers would need to meet CPD requirements, including cultural competence, including those overseas qualified social workers. The Social Workers Registration Board would only recognise social work programmes that produce graduates with cultural competency and communication skills required to practice in New Zealand. The Social Workers Registration Board would also define the criteria for ‘fit to practice’ and streamline the complaints and disciplinary procedures. Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers (ANZASW) Priority Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide a strong voice for tau iwi and tangata whenua members, the profession and the people with whom we work.• To promote and provide opportunities for continuing professional development.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and grow the membership of ANZASW.
3	ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS UNDERTAKEN
4	<p>INFORMATION EXCHANGE</p> <p>Members shared good discussion on a range of issues and matters relevant to the current allied health environment and associated workforce.</p> <p>Members also received feedback from the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health; and National Directors of Allied Health.
5	<p>GUEST SPEAKER</p> <p>Joe Ashgar welcomed Sue Ineson from the Council of Medical Colleges who gave a presentation on the Choosing Wisely campaign aiming to help clinicians and patients engage in conversations about unnecessary tests and treatments and make smart and effective voices to ensure high-quality care.</p> <p>Choosing Wisely New Zealand campaign focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care that gives little or no benefit to patients. Care where the risk of harm exceeds likely benefits. Care where the costs do not provide proportional benefit. <p>Choosing Wisely is all about quality care and harm reduction with the core principles being:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Health Professional Led; Patient-Centred; Multi-professional; Evidence-based; and Transparent.
6	<p>PROGRESS REPORTS</p> <p>Members notes a number of updates with respect to the work of the Executive Director and Executive Committee, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing to the Incoming Minister Development of the Political Health Questionnaire Influencing Policy and Writing Submissions Symposium Development of Telehealth Guidelines for allied health Thought Leadership Development Submission on the Health Workforce NZ Proposed Investment Approach
9	<p>FUTURE MEETINGS and OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Future meetings agreed.</p>