



NZACAP

New Zealand Association  
of Child and Adolescent Psychotherapists Inc.

Jacquelyn Manley  
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Dear Jacquelyn

We would like to draw your attention to some concerns held by our association with regard to those people registered under the general scope of practice and working with children.

We understand that the primary role for PBANZ is to ensure the safety of the public and in this regard we appreciate that the board offers a specialist scope of practice for those working with children and adolescents. We understand the core competencies are to be held by all registered psychotherapists and are set at the minimum level required to protect public health and safety, and represent the Board's minimum expectations for the competent practice of psychotherapy.

These extra core competencies (for working with children and adolescents) are protective for our most vulnerable members of society, who are least likely to make complaints to PBANZ. We are wondering how PBANZ monitors who is working with children and adolescents outside of the child and adolescent specialism and whether these practitioners have the level of knowledge required to ensure they are practising in a safe manner?

- How does PBANZ become aware of those who are working under the general scope and working with children?
- Other than the public making complaints regarding the practice of psychotherapists with children and adolescents how will PBANZ know whether a practitioner has the extra skills and knowledge required to work with this specialised group?
- Do Psychotherapists have to indicate to the Board at the time of registration whether they are working with children and adolescents, and if their practices changes how are those changes captured?
- Currently many practitioners could be working with children and adolescents but those members registered under the child and adolescent specialism have more accountability to PBANZ.

Please be aware that we do understand that there are practitioners registered under the general scope who will have the specific skills and understandings required for working with children. We are however concerned as to how PBANZ is able to monitor this and to ensure safe practice from all who are working with these age groups.

We look forwards to your consideration of our concerns and questions. We are happy to talk further around any of these matters.

Regards  
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Sent from my iPad