

Progress report for the Committee and Membership of the ASCVP on the current position regarding Registration of New Zealand Perfusionists.

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At last year's AGM I explained the changes occurring in New Zealand law with respect to Health Practitioners.

To summarise:-

A Bill was before Parliament with the aim of registering all Health Practitioners who were in a position to cause harm to a patient. All interested parties were given the opportunity to make submissions. Tim Willcox and I did this, at very short notice, on behalf of New Zealand Perfusionists. We were given the support of the ASCVP.

There were two aims. One, to be accepted as a 'Profession' under the new legislation and two, to propose that the ASCVP/Board become our registering 'Authority' as required under the Bill. Our presentation went well and is still remembered by people in the Ministry for its interesting content and professionalism. i.e. they remember my name whenever I call about progress etc. It has been made very clear to me that our Society /Board would not be a suitable registering 'Authority' for the reason that it was not a wholly New Zealand body, and as such could not be subject to the dictates of New Zealand Law, or the Minister of Health. They were very firm about this even though I pointed out that the Committee was one hundred percent behind us and willing to accommodate some of the changes that would be required with respect to NZ perfusionists. For example we will require Annual Practicing Certificates like nurses.

Since then the wheels of government have turned slowly. My prediction that by this AGM, New Zealand Perfusionists would be registered has proven to be overly optimistic. Upon requesting what we should do next, I was told to wait until the Bill became law. The legislation has been passed and is now The Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act. We were then to make an application to the Minister that we be added as a listed Profession under the new Act. That has been done. Basically a revision of our original Subcommittee application has been lodged with the Ministry. I have received acknowledgment that it has been received. Along with that submission was a request for assistance in helping us with/or appointing an 'Authority'. Since the ASCVP/Board were not considered appropriate and that there are very specific requirements of that body that would make it unrealistically expensive to run. For example a minimum of five people required on the Authority, including two 'Lay People' (for just 26 members!) and the legal liabilities alone. The Authority will have disciplinary duties including recommendation for re-training and even suspension of Practicing Certificate, which can be challenged in the Courts. This

is specifically mentioned as an avenue for members who wish to change any ruling of the Authority.

I had previously been advised to approach the Medical Council to be included under their 'umbrella'. Whilst the meetings with the Registrar of the Medical Council were cordial, the Council after some lengthy consideration, declined us.

So now we wait for the next move by the Ministry. I am told it is receiving consideration from the appropriate people. And so we wait..... and still we wait!

In conclusion, then, our current position is that of Limbo. I will keep on nudging the people at the Ministry, whilst trying not to antagonise. We need them on our side.

If there is an explosion of activity or news, I will notify all it will affect, and Darryl so that it can be published in the Gazette.

Len Cooper.