

VCNZ update – 2 December 2016

VETERINARY COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri o Aotearoa



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Election results

Voting for the VCNZ elections closed yesterday. The independent Returning Officer has declared Nick Twyford, Ben Davidson and Rachel Gebbie elected to the Veterinary Council of New Zealand.

The final numbers were:

TWYFORD, Nick	606
DAVIDSON, Ben	588
GEBBIE, Rachel	536
ROBERTSON, Ian	507
GRIMMETT, Jeff	448

Out of 2,888 vets eligible to vote, 1,004 of you voted. This is 34.76% of you (just a fraction higher than last year). Thanks for having your say.

We're very pleased to welcome Ben and Rachel to Council and we look forward to working with them and having their skills around the Council table.

We farewell Ian and Jeff and thank them for their work over the last 3 years.

CPD auditing

Are your CPD records up to date?

The minimum CPD requirement is 60 relevant and verifiable CPD points over the previous 3 year period, with a minimum of 15 points in each of the Collegial Learning and Continuing Veterinary Education areas.

When you apply for your next annual practising certificate (APC) in early 2017 we'll ask you to record the number of CPD points you accumulated in the year ending 31 December 2016.

If you declare less than the prorated requirement of 20 points, we'll look at your declarations for the previous 2 years and contact you if it seems you haven't met the overall 60 point requirement.

You need to keep sufficient and credible records of your CPD activities for 7 years. If you haven't been maintaining records of the CPD you've been engaged in, you need to start gathering this information together now. Don't leave it to the last minute.

You can use the [templates](#) on our website or the systems offered by NZVA or your employer, but this isn't a requirement. Your record can be as simple as an exercise book in which you record your reflections on self-directed and collegial activities. Details of conferences and seminars, online course outlines and copies of receipts can be pasted in or kept in a separate file. Set regular calendar or phone alerts to remind you to record your CPD as it happens.

Click [here](#) for more information.

CPD compliance monitoring for the issue of your 2017/18 APC

We'll be phoning some of you in the next few weeks to let you know that you've been selected to have your CPD records for the last 3 years audited. We'll be following up this call with an emailed letter and detailed instructions.

Most of the audit pool has been randomly selected, with a smaller number selected on the basis of:

- a recent complaint or concern raised where recommendations were made around upskilling
- failure to meet the audit requirements in last year's CPD compliance monitoring.

In the meantime, please make sure you can easily provide details and verifying evidence of your CPD if you're asked to. Remember that for audit purposes you only need to show compliance with the minimum requirements. We prefer that you record all of your CPD; but if selected for audit you don't need to provide verification for activities you've completed beyond the minimum points requirements. Allow some leeway in case your auditor questions some of the activities you've recorded.

Minimum practising standards checklists

Before issuing an APC the Council needs to be satisfied that the veterinarian meets minimum practising standards. To date the Council has prescribed minimum practising standards in relation to:

- Fitness to practise
- Competency – including recency of practise
- Continuing professional development
- Professional requirements - the *Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinarians (Code)*

As part of their APC application veterinarians declare that they understand the requirements of the Code. To better inform this annual declaration and remind you of the key requirements, we've developed a number of minimum practising standards checklists detailing the standards considered most necessary to protect the public interest.

In our [October 2016 Update](#) we explained that during the 2017/18 APC renewal round we'll start piloting the checklists. **This will only apply to veterinarians in clinical practice this time around.**

We're starting with the [Communications and Informed Consent](#) and [Records](#) standards checklists because communication, informed consent and record keeping are recurring themes in many complaints. In future we plan to focus on 2–3 different standards each year and to extend these to non clinical areas of practice.

If you're in clinical practice **and you're selected to have your CPD records for the last 3 years audited**, we'll ask you to send us your completed checklists. Veterinarians who haven't been selected for a CPD audit won't need to send us their checklists.