

Our Vision

Fostering Excellence in Physiotherapy

Physiotherapists Actively Making a Difference

Our Values

The Board will be:

Kaitiaki: Custodial

We take our responsibilities seriously and are protective of these.

Kōrerorero: Engaging

We will engage with our stakeholders as we value their input

Takatū: Adaptable

We acknowledge that we need to plan and adapt to meet future needs

Whakamārama: Accountable

We are proud of what we do and take a quality assurance approach to how we do it

Our Purpose – Protection

To protect public health and safety by ensuring physiotherapists are safe, competent and fit to practise.

Our Regulatory Principles

- ensure only those who are suitably qualified and fit to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered
- the primary consideration is protection of the public based on risk to provide timely responses
- identification of the risks – assess the likelihood of consequences of the risk and respond with the minimum regulatory force to manage the risk to the public and not punish the practitioner
- maintain public confidence by development, promotion and upholding of standards
- work with consumers, stakeholders and practitioners to achieve outcomes that protect the public.

About the Physiotherapy Board

The Physiotherapy Board is a “responsible authority” created by the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act). We are part of a system of independent regulators tasked with protecting the health and safety of the public by ensuring that health professionals are competent and fit to practice.

Our overriding concern is the health and safety of the public, not to protect the interests of physiotherapists. Where action is required in the public interest, we will take it.

We have an obligation to perform our functions in ways that are fair and as such we operate within our legal powers and also by engaging directly with practitioners and stakeholders.

We work alongside:

- the professional association (Physiotherapy New Zealand – “PNZ”)
- employers
- other regulators
- practitioners
- practice owners
- members of the public
- ACC
- Ministry of Health
- Health and Disability Commission (statutory responsibility).

How we operate

The HPCA Act determines, provides legal powers and shapes the policies, processes and decision-making in terms of how we work with physiotherapists and members of the public.

We operate in ways that are:

- transparent
- consistent
- proportionate
- fair
- efficient / timely
- risk based.

What we do

Our functions are set out in section 118 of the HPCA Act, our core responsibilities being:

- setting the standard for clinical and cultural competence, and ethical conduct, to be met by all physiotherapists before and after they enter the register
- prescribing qualifications and accrediting educational institutions and programmes so that graduates have the necessary competencies and attributes to be registered physiotherapists
- registration and recertification of physiotherapists so that only those with the skills, competencies and fitness to provide safe, ethical care are able to practise
- ensuring ongoing competence and fitness to practise, investigating their conduct or health where there are concerns about performance and taking appropriate action to protect the safety of the public.

Our strategic framework

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Our strategic priorities

1. Risk based protection
2. Health equality and equity for Māori
3. Stakeholder engagement
4. Education and lifelong learning
5. Innovation.

Our strategic direction

The purpose of this document is to set the Physiotherapy Board's strategic direction for the period 2017- 2022. The intention is to:

- provide clear statements and articulate what the Board is focussing on over this period
- provide signals to the profession, the public and key stakeholders
- set out the timelines for implementation
- provide a basis for measuring achievement.

The vision, values and purpose are set for the long term, the areas of focus, priorities and actions are designed to respond to the changing environment and respond to new opportunities.

Over a decade has passed since the HPCA Act was introduced into legislation. While the Act itself has changed little in that time, the wider environment in which physiotherapists are practising has. It continues to evolve, the public expectations are changing and technology is changing – the public have more choice and more information is available to them. Change is rapid and the gap between changes is shrinking – how the Board takes this into account is challenging.

Health inequities remain between Māori and non-Māori – the Board is setting a stake in the ground that it will use all the regulatory tools within the HPCA Act to close this gap. It is 2016 and we do not want this continued conversation in 2020. The Board's commitment is to stop looking at this and actually do something clear and definitive to help close this gap.

The patient – physiotherapist relationship will change and the Board intends to remain contemporary in its strategic direction and regulatory responsiveness to this future patient/member of the public.

There are challenges for physiotherapists as the environment changes – social media, interactive consultations, online information, fiscal sustainability, as well as complexity of patient profiles for the aged population and an emerging well / fit focused population who are “on line”.

Our objective is to ensure standards, practice thresholds (competencies), education, recertification, scopes of practice and enforcement measures are robust and sufficiently responsive to assure the public that we are doing our job – to protect them.

We do have a number of tools available within the HPCA Act. These will continue to be utilised based on risk. For high risk areas the Board is moving from a purely reporting culture to using the knowledge on data and implementing an appropriate, proportionate and targeted regulatory response.

Our relationships with stakeholders has continued to strengthen, this will continue further as we recognise having cohesion on the common areas of focus and outcomes that provide a stronger basis to achieve the primary purpose of protection.

We will refine the data we have into information to continue to assist the Board in its decision-making.

Our strategic priorities

1. Risk based protection

The Board has data and information; this will be used to assist the Board in the analysis of risk so that targeted and proportionate responses can be determined.

2. Health equality and equity for Māori

The health inequity for Māori is well documented. The Board will utilise all the regulatory tools in its power to reduce the gap of health between Māori and non-Māori.

3. Stakeholder engagement

The Board has and will continue to focus on stakeholder engagement. This includes reaching out to consumers as well as our key stakeholders.

4. Education and lifelong learning

What the Board means by this, is it intends to take a targeted approach to education and the expectations of learning as part of continued professional development requirements.

5. Innovation

This means we will make investments in technology to assist in the Board's operations, to improve efficiency of Board processes and to optimise the organisational operations.

The priorities do not cover everything the Board plans to do over the next five years, nor do they include the "business as usual" activities. The strategic priorities are areas of focus and activity of particular significance. These will change over time to encompass challenges, opportunities and circumstances.