



The Royal
Australian &
New Zealand
College of
Psychiatrists

Tu Te Akaaka Roa
New Zealand National Office



Hauora hinengaro
Manatuhia

A warm welcome from
Tu Te Akaaka Roa
the Aotearoa New Zealand Office
of the RANZCP

Nau Mai Haere Mai | Welcome

A warm welcome to Aotearoa New Zealand from Tu Te Akaaka Roa, the New Zealand National Office of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP). As you are considering, or in the process of, applying to work as a psychiatrist in Aotearoa New Zealand, we would like to provide you with some important information about who we are, what we do, and how we can support you in your transition to our beautiful country.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP)

The RANZCP is a binational membership organisation that prepares doctors to be medical specialists in the field of psychiatry. The RANZCP supports and enhances psychiatric practice, advocates for people affected by mental illness and advises governments (State and Federal governments in Australia, and the Aotearoa New Zealand government) on issues related to mental health care. If you would like to learn more about our mahi (work) or RANZCP conferences and events, please see our website (www.ranzcp.org).

With 8400 members, including almost 6000 fully qualified specialists and 2400 trainees, the RANZCP is the peak body representing psychiatrists in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. As a bi-national College, we also have strong ties and associations in the Asia-Pacific region and psychiatric colleges internationally.

The RANZCP is governed by a Board of elected directors, led by the College president (Elizabeth Moore). The board receives advice from a number of dedicated national and binational committees, faculties, sections and networks responsible for executing specific strategic priorities. These include the Overseas Trained Psychiatrists (OTP) Representative Committee which focuses on issues relevant to OTPs.

Tu Te Akaaka Roa, the Aotearoa New Zealand Office of the RANZCP

Tu Te Akaaka Roa, the New Zealand National Office of the RANZCP, is based in Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington). Our office staff provide administrative support to multiple national and binational College committees.

The Aotearoa New Zealand National Committee is based at the Tu Te Akaaka Roa office, it is made up of 5-12 members and is led by our elders Kaumātua Ron Baker and Kuia Moe Milne, our Chair (Dr Hiran Thabrew) and Deputy Chair (Dr Alison Masters). Committee members, including a community/lived experience representative, meet four times a year.

Our Kaumātua and Kuia provide a Te Ao Māori (Māori world view) perspective, advise the Committee across policy, tikanga Māori and appropriate engagement with tāngata whenua. Tu Te Akaaka Roa recognises the status of Māori as tāngata whenua of Aotearoa New Zealand and is committed to [Te Tiriti o Waitangi](#) (the agreement between Māori peoples and the Crown). Our Kaumātua and Kuia guide the committee to ensure our mahi (work) always includes a Māori voice, is culturally appropriate, and in line with Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Tu Te Akaaka Roa, the New Zealand National Committee, is responsible for:

- Working to improve mental health in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Developing the psychiatric workforce
- Supporting members working in Aotearoa New Zealand and working closely with other national and binational College Committees, Faculties, Sections and interest groups.
- Contributing to policy development in the mental health area by providing advice on submissions, through membership of working groups, and extensive inter-agency liaison.
- Addressing inequities in mental health service provision with particular focus on issues affecting Māori, Pacific Peoples, and rural consumers.
- Collaborating with other medical colleges through the work of the Council of Medical Colleges and stakeholders including e Whatu Ora and Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health).
- Ensuring the work of the College reflects the needs of Māori and shows commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

How can we be of assistance?

In Aotearoa New Zealand, the Vocational Educational & Advisory Body (VEAB), appointed by Tu Te Akaaka Roa, reviews applications from internationally trained/qualified psychiatrists makes recommendations to Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa, the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ), regarding the equivalence of international qualification/training and whether any additional training is necessary prior to granting vocational registration by the MCNZ. However, the decision regarding your eligibility to work in Aotearoa New Zealand sits with the MCNZ, not the RANZCP.

In addition to our colleagues at Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (the national health service), Tu Te Akaaka Roa aims to support you as you move to Aotearoa and make the registration processes as smooth as possible and connect you to the right people to help you get settled.

We have set up a network of College-approved mentors who have been through similar journeys and are able to provide one-to-one advice and support on how to navigate the process of registration, getting familiar with the mental health system in Aotearoa and settling into your new home. If you would like to speak with one of our mentors, please let us know by emailing mentoring@ranzcp.org.

Further information and queries

Please take a look at the RANZCP website for further information about our College, or contact the [Overseas Trained Psychiatrists Committee](#). We hope your application process and transition to working in our beautiful country go well. Please feel free to contact us at nzoffice@ranzcp.org at any stage if we can be of further assistance.