

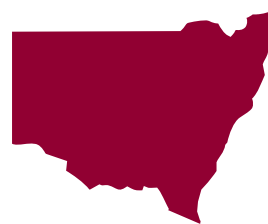


**Physiotherapy
Council
of NSW**

Physiotherapy Council of NSW

Annual Report 2017-18

President's Message



**Physiotherapy
Council**
of NSW

I am delighted to present the 2017/18 Annual Report for the Physiotherapy Council of New South Wales, my first report as President.

The Council has managed a record number of complaints and notifications in the 2017/18 year, largely reflecting the growing number of physiotherapists registered in NSW and the increasing awareness of mandatory notification requirements by registered health professionals. Pleasingly, however, physiotherapy remains among those professions with a relatively low rate of complaints and notifications.

This year has also seen considerable change in the Health Professional Councils Authority staffing and structure, but the support provided by the HPCA staff to the Council has been consistently professional and collegial. Thank you to all the HPCA staff who have enabled the Council to continue to operate effectively and efficiently during this time of change.

During the course of the past year, the Council has finalised the development of an online video educational resource which will shortly be available to practitioners. This resource is comprised of a series of contemporary ethical dilemmas which physiotherapists may encounter in their clinical practice, covering potential complaints ranging from social media and professional boundaries, to the ramifications of inadequate record keeping. The aim of this resource is to assist registered physiotherapists and physiotherapy students to recognise and avoid situations which may lead to complaints.

The hard work of all who contributed to developing this resource, especially Council practitioner member Associate Professor Martin Mackey, former practitioner member Ms Jenny Aiken, and the staff of the HPCA, is gratefully acknowledged.

This year has seen considerable change in the membership of the Council. In July 2017 we welcomed Dr Hassan Kadous as a new practitioner member to the Council and at the end of June 2018 a number of members complete their term of appointment. Associate Professor Martin Mackey steps down from the Council. Martin has ably chaired the Council's Health Committee over the past four years and his considered input will be sorely missed. The Council also farewells Ms Karen Thomas, legal member, and Ms Babette Smith, community member, who have both made substantial contributions to the work of the Council.

The end of the year also marks the end of the presidency and the outstanding contribution of Mr Michael Ryan. The Council and the public of NSW have indeed been very fortunate to have had Mike as a practitioner member for the last nine years and as President for the past three years. The Council wishes Mike all the very best and thanks him for his sustained dedication to the protection of the NSW public.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge the critical contributions of the many other physiotherapists and professionals on various Council panels, committees and in other designated roles during the course of the last year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Rivett', written over a light grey oval background.

Professor Darren A Rivett

President

Physiotherapy Council of New South Wales

Regulation of Physiotherapists in 2017/18

SNAPSHOT



Practitioner information

9,279

physiotherapists registered in NSW

4.3% more than last year

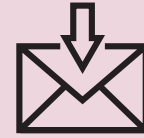
29% of registered physiotherapists in Australia

51

NSW physiotherapists had complaints made about them

30.8% more than last year (n 12 more)

0.5% of registered physiotherapists in NSW



Complaints received

54

new complaints were received

31.7% more than last year (n 13 more)

4 complaints were mandatory notifications

38.9% of complaints were about clinical care (n 21) followed by:

- boundary violation – 9 complaints
- National Law offence – 7 complaints

50%

of complaints were from patient (n 27) followed by:

- member of the public, other practitioner and relative – 6 complaints each



Complaints managed

25

complaints were managed directly by the Council

12 more than last year

11

assessments and hearings were concluded

1 more than last year

6

immediate actions were considered or taken by Council

4 more than last year

1

outcome for closed complaints involved cancelled or suspended registration

3 involved conditions on practice

5 involved counselling or interview



Practitioners monitored

8

cases were being actively monitored at year end

3 conduct

2 performance

3 health

New initiatives

The Physiotherapy Council developed a series of educational videos depicting clinical scenarios which may confront physiotherapists in their professional practice. The videos were designed to educate and provide professional guidance to prevent unprofessional conduct in the specific areas highlighted.

Council Members

Ten members sit on the Physiotherapy Council as prescribed by the National Law.

Registered Physiotherapy practitioner members

- Mr Michael Ryan BAppSc (Phty), MHLthSc (ManipPhty), FACP
- Professor Darren Rivett PhD, MAppSc (Manip Phty), BAppSc (Phty), Grad Dip ManipTher, MAICD
- Dr Hassan Kadous DBA, MPhty, BAppSc (EXSS)
- Mr David Gonzalez BAppSc (Phty)
- Ms Elizabeth Ward BSc, PGD (Phty), MPH, MHLthSc (Phty), GAICD
- Dr Martin Mackey PhD, MSafSc, BAppSc (Phty), BEc ,Grad Cert Ed (Higher Ed)

Legal member:

- Ms Karen Thomas Dip Law, Dip Radiography

Community members:

- Ms Janene Eagleton GAICD,FGIA, MBA, BHA, RD
- Ms Babette Smith OAM, BAarts, FDRP, Accr Mediator
- Ms Marie Clarke RN, RM, DipNEd, DipNAdmin, BBus, GradCertMgmt, FACN

The NSW Governor appointed Mr Michael Ryan as the President and Professor Darren Rivett as the Deputy President of the Physiotherapy Council.

On Mr Ryan's retirement as President in July 2018, Professor Rivett commences as President and Ms Ward commences as Deputy President.

Executive Officer

Mrs Maricel O'Farrell is the current Executive Officer for the Physiotherapy Council. Ms Sarah Carroll and Ms Rebecca Greenwood also provided Executive Officer support to Council during the year. Their work is acknowledged with thanks and appreciation. The Executive Officer leads a team that works directly and indirectly with the Council as part of the HPCA Combined Councils Team.

All staff working both directly and indirectly with the Council are employed by the HPCA as an executive agency of the Ministry of Health. Councils cannot employ staff under the National Law.

Council Meeting Attendance

The Physiotherapy Council met eleven times.

Table i: Member attendance at Council meetings, eligibility to attend and term of office

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Date of First Appointment	Current Term of Office
Mr Michael Ryan - President	11	11	26-Nov-08	1 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2018
Professor Darren Rivett – Deputy President	9	11	1-Jul-14	1 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2020
Dr Hassan Kadous	7	11	1-Jul-17	1 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2020
Mr David Gonzalez	11	11	1-Jul-15	1 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2018
Ms Elizabeth Ward	9	11	1-Jul-15	1 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2018
Dr Martin Mackey	10	11	1-Jul-12	1 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2018
Ms Janene Eagleton	7	11	1-Jul-14	1 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2018
Ms Babette Smith	7	11	1-Jul-15	1 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2018
Ms Marie Clarke	8	11	1-Jul-15	1 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2018
Ms Karen Thomas	9	11	1-Jul-15	1 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2018

Council members are appointed for a term up to three years and may be reappointed up to a maximum of nine years.

Regulatory Committees and Panels

The National Law sets out the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

- Assessment Committee
- Impaired Registrants Panels (IRP)
- Performance Review Panels (PRP)

The Council appoints regulatory committees and panels as needed.

The Council acknowledges and thanks the practitioners and lay members who assist with panels and hearings.

Council Committees

Councils may establish committees to assist with Council functions. Committee members are not necessarily Council members.

The Physiotherapy Council appointed one committee during the year.

Complaints and Notifications Committee

The Complaints and Notifications Committee considers new complaints in collaboration with the HCCC and recommends to Council the course of action for each matter.

Table ii: Physiotherapy Council Committees and Membership

Complaints and Notifications Committee	
Chair:	Professor Darren Rivett – Deputy President
Council Members:	Ms Elizabeth Ward – Practitioner member
	Ms Karen Thomas – Legal member

Meetings and Events

The Physiotherapy Council was represented at the following meetings and events during the year.

Table iii: Physiotherapy Council representation at meetings and events

Name of Meeting / Event	Attended By
National Board Chairs and NSW Council Presidents joint meeting	Michael Ryan - President

Overseas Travel

The Physiotherapy Council did not incur any overseas travel costs during the year.

Remuneration

Council members received the following remuneration.

President	\$2,336 per annum
Deputy President	\$1,752 per annum
Council Members	\$1,752 per annum

Council members also receive sitting fees for conducting Council Inquiries, attending committee meetings and undertaking other regulatory activities if these are on a day other than the regular Council meeting.

Council members are reimbursed for expenses when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Panel and Tribunal members receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses related to Council business.

Education and Research Account

The Physiotherapy Council maintains an Education and Research account. This helps fund activities that promote better understanding of professional standards and compliance, issues that can lead to complaints and how complaints are managed. The account may also be used to fund relevant research activity including both Council specific initiatives and collaborative projects.

Education and Research account expenditure this year included \$10,909 paid to Conceptavision Pty Ltd towards the development of an educational video series.

The project, which is due to be completed in the 2018/19 financial year, will result in an overall investment by the Council of approximately \$40,000.

Financial Management

The Physiotherapy Council's accounts performance was reported in the Financial Statement as follows.

Accounts Performance 2017/18	\$
Revenue	641,186
Operating expenditure	416,527
Gain / (loss) on disposal	(1,680)
Net result	222,979
Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)	1,562,719

* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of \$186,320.

The Physiotherapy Council's budget for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 is as follows.

Budget 2018/19	\$
Revenue	634,501
Operating expenditure	583,719
Net result	50,782

Full financial statements are presented in Part 3 of this report 'Financial Statements for NSW Health Professional Councils'.