



21 March 2018

CHAIR'S UPDATE TO MEMBERS

Leadership continuity

This is my last update to you as Chair of HASANZ. I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on the importance of HASANZ, as well as bringing you up to speed with business matters.

We are currently in the process of appointing a new Independent Chair and HASANZ will let you know as soon as the person is confirmed. I am confident my successor will build on HASANZ's solid achievements, as well as bringing a fresh set of skills to the job. As advised previously, the role of HASANZ Chair has been reshaped to focus on governance, with executive duties being passed to the new Executive Director, Philip Aldridge. Over the last month I have worked closely with Philip to provide leadership continuity and have had the pleasure of introducing him to many of our strategic partners and the wider HASANZ community. He hit the ground running, developing a draft Business Plan for 2018/19 for discussion with the Leadership Team this month.

HASANZ Register applications

At the time of writing we've received more than 80 applications to be on the HASANZ Register. Congratulations to the first person to register – Susan Edwards – and everyone else who has taken this step towards greater professionalism. We can't launch the Register until there is a good spread of services available to businesses so please make sure you're on it!

We're well aware that there have been some traffic jams in the application processing queue, due to the need to double-check some evidence of qualifications with multiple associations. Thank you for your patience with this. Please hang in there because listing on the Register will reap real dividends for your business, as well as contributing to the professionalism of the workplace health and safety sector.

Conference call for papers open

HASANZ CONFERENCE 2018 promises to be unmissable. Already, there's an impressive line-up of international [keynote speakers](#) including Safety II guru Dr John Green, workplace mental health advocate Geoff McDonald (he's advised everyone from the Pope to Prince Harry), Perth hygienist and GP Dr Julia Norris, and immediate Past President of INSHPO Eldeen Pozniak. Registration opens on 9 April and we are pleased to offer a reduced rate to HASANZ members.

If you want to give a paper at the conference that is relevant to raising the bar for professional standards, or know someone who would be good value, you have until Friday 4 May to submit your abstract online – see the [call for papers info](#) on our conference website. Shoulder tap your contacts now.

The value of HASANZ

This is a happy/sad time for me. I'm happy to be gaining more time to spend with family, but I'm sad to say goodbye to you and HASANZ. However, I can look back with some satisfaction on what we've achieved together.

We have built a cohesive and effective national community of practice. The value of HASANZ is the multiple perspectives we weave together to provide one strong voice for health and safety professionals – a voice that is listened to and heard – by our Minister, by the regulator and by many influential business bodies, tertiary institutions and public sector agencies.

Our member associations have demonstrated an outstanding ability to collaborate for the greater good, while vigorously representing their members' interests. As an example, there has been an absolute collective commitment to not compromise on registration standards. This means that, if you are listed on the HASANZ Register, you have really earned your place there as a qualified health and safety professional. I am particularly proud of the work of the HASANZ Membership Committee, which has rigorously applied the standards for attaining Full Membership of HASANZ. The fact that not one member association got through the application process, first time, is a testament to our commitment not to compromise on quality.

Today, HASANZ is a key player in the health and safety sector. We are thought leaders, invited to the table to contribute to the new national health and safety strategy, the Government Health and Safety Lead, and ACC initiatives to reduce workplace harm. We spearheaded the first New Zealand Health and Safety Professionals Survey with PWC and we are "at the front" of the conversation on workforce development.

Growing professional capability and capacity across the sector is an absolute must and something I would like to see HASANZ continue to champion. There is already a shortage of competent health and safety professionals to meet workplace demand, especially in the occupational health field, and we need to act now to resource capability requirements in the future. The lack of a comprehensive workforce development strategy is a glaring gap we need to work with the sector to address. It's critical that we look forward 20 years and plan for the world of the person who is born today.

Thank you

Thank you for the opportunity to lead HASANZ. It has been a privilege to serve you.



Craig Smith
HASANZ Independent Chair