

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

### February 2021



Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa

February is flying by and it's fast forward for HASANZ. This year we're firmly focused on showcasing the value of our professions; raising awareness among businesses of specialist capability right across all HASANZ Members, so there is better understanding of "who we are and what we do". I'm also really excited about our conference in September – the flagship event for our industry. As always, it promises to be outstanding!

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### Measuring awareness

To support our work in showcasing the value of our health and safety professions, HASANZ has contracted an independent research company to help measure the level of awareness of different health and safety disciplines in "business land". For instance, have business leaders heard of Occupational Hygienists? If the answer is yes, the researchers will probe deeper into respondents' understanding of the scope of their expertise. The survey will be

carried out in March and the findings will provide a baseline of current market perceptions.

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## HASANZ Conference



Registration for HASANZ CONFERENCE 2021 opened on 1 February. Members get a \$300 discount and there's a further saving if you [register at the early bird rate](#) before 30 June. There's a stellar line-up of keynote speakers who will inspire you, move you and expand your knowledge – [check them out!](#)

Plus there's another 18 presentations to choose from in our popular concurrent sessions. The call for papers for these presentations is open now. We've allowed until after Easter – 9 April – to give you ample time to submit an abstract using the easy [online submission process](#). We're looking for presentations across disciplines that build professional capability and contribute to our conference theme "Sharing know how/Growing how to". Presentations with a practical focus, like case studies, are preferred.

This year, for the first time, we're running a [best poster competition](#) with a \$1000 (incl. GST) prize. The content should relate to a case study or original research (in progress or completed) by an academic, student or in your line of work. Remember that good design is key – viewers should get the gist of a poster in 30 seconds!

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An ACC/HASANZ production



It's great to have ACC's support to help raise awareness of how health and safety professionals can help businesses. With ACC funding, HASANZ has produced a series of six videos called "Build a better business".

They promote the ACC Workplace Injury Prevention (WIP) subsidy and each features a different business sharing their experience of how a HASANZ Registered health and safety adviser has helped them build a better business. It's interesting to note the benefits that the business managers bring into the conversation – everything from peace of mind, to competitive advantage and employee engagement. The ACC WIP subsidy is available to businesses operating in the manufacturing and residential construction sectors that employ between 6-99 employees. It supports businesses to work with a HASANZ-Registered health and safety professional to come up with a health and safety action or improvement plan.

[Watch the Axiom Plastics video](#)  
[Find out more about the subsidy](#)



Human factors and ergonomics (HFE) professionals advise on the design of products, processes, environments and work systems, to enhance wellbeing and performance.

Demand for HFE advisers is increasing and HASANZ is working with the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of New Zealand (HFESNZ) and WorkSafe to grow the number of fully qualified and competent HFE professionals across all levels, and to attract new people into the HFE discipline. Initiatives include building improved and sustainable education and development pathways, HFE related upskilling of current practitioners and those from associated health and safety disciplines, and refreshing the HFE competency framework. In addition, WorkSafe is funding three HFE Scholarships to undertake study in this specialist area. More information will be provided when applications open in March. If you are interested in broadening your skills to include HFE, please email [info@hasanz.org.nz](mailto:info@hasanz.org.nz) with "HFE Scholarships" in the subject line.

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## Hazardous developments

Another workforce development programme that HASANZ is progressing, with the support of WorkSafe and the relevant Member associations, aims to increase the number of compliance certifiers in New Zealand. Hazardous Substances Professionals New Zealand (HSPNZ) and the New Zealand Institute of Hazardous Substances Management (NZIHSM) have jointly lent their expertise to agree a competency framework that hazardous substances professionals must meet. This will benefit both people seeking to enter the discipline and businesses seeking to evaluate the quality of advice they receive. Hats off to NZIHSM and HSPNZ on this achievement; it's an excellent example of cross-sector collaboration for the greater good. Our attention is now turning to developing content for training courses on hazardous substances management with an education provider. In addition, we are seeking input from subject matter experts on specialist strands. If you are interested in being a content contributor, please email [info@hasanz.org.nz](mailto:info@hasanz.org.nz) and put "Hazardous substances" in the subject line.

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## Go OTs!



It was wonderful to see the benefits of occupational therapists being listed on the HASANZ Register articulated so well in the latest (February) issue of their association's flagship magazine, *OT Insight*. Congratulations to Pam Mitchell, Randa Abbasi and Fiona Johnston on their insightful articles (pp 6, 15, 22 and 32).

The newsletter also published a very helpful Guide for HASANZ Registration, including recognised competencies for members of **Occupational Therapy New Zealand - Whakaora Ngangahau Aotearoa (OTNZ - WNA)**. Pam represents OTNZ-WNA on our Governance Group and I wanted to share her description of the positive contribution OTs make to workplace health and safety:

"Occupational Therapists play a significant role in health and safety at work,

largely under vocational rehabilitation contracts, the misuse of substances, driving assessment fatigue and sleep management. As members of the health and safety team, our role is to ensure that client's individual 'physical' factors are considered in the context of other psychosocial factors, such as work design, work environment, relationships, health and safety leadership, risk management, and ongoing worker participation. The ultimate goal is to identify and minimise risk."

As she and Randa emphasised, for Occupational Therapists, being HASANZ Registered "offers the opportunity to be seen, heard, and recognised as leaders in the field of workplace health and safety, both as a profession and as individual practicing clinicians". I couldn't have said it better myself!

HASANZ wishes Pam well in her new role as a team leader in the Occupational Health and Safety Team at Waitemata District Health Board.

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### Hot webinar picks!

One of the ways HASANZ adds value to members is through our popular, free webinars. [Sign up now](#) for the next instalment which includes:

- **Monday 1 March, 12pm "Working in and around vehicles programme", presented by Ruth Cook, Engagement Lead from WorkSafe**

Vehicles are related to 73% of work fatalities. Ruth will talk about WorkSafe's "Working in and around vehicles" programme, providing you with an opportunity to engage first-hand with the regulator and to better guide your clients on this important safety issue.

- **Friday 5 March, 12pm "Examining the use of Māori cultural values in improving the perception of risk in workplaces", presented by Vance Walker, HASANZ Poutama Scholarship recipient**

Vance will talk about the case study which is central to his doctoral thesis, focusing on heightened awareness of levels of risk, improved safety behaviours and increased morale by Māori workers using the norms of *kia tūpato, ako* and *manaakitanga*.

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## HASANZ team change



We said farewell to Kathryn Maloney and Maëlle Thevenon and welcomed back Mia Hradský who has returned from maternity leave. Mia is now our go-to person for HASANZ Scholarships. Our Office Manager Ruth Hefford continues to be the first point of contact for the HASANZ Register. We are currently advertising for a new [Senior Advisor](#). Applications close this week so please alert anyone you know who would like to join our hardworking, fun team. Many thanks to Kathryn and Maëlle for their valued service to HASANZ.

Ngā mihi nui



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