

Tēnā koutou katoa,

I am pleased to present my report as the President of Te Ohu Pūniho Ora o Aotearoa - the New Zealand Oral Health Association for 2022-2023.

Achieving the formation of NZOHA has been a historical movement in the uniting of our collective voices and combining resources. Since the inception of NZOHA, the Executive team have dedicated countless voluntary hours to the day-to-day running and representation of the association.

Advocacy has also been an extremely important aspect for the betterment of each individual profession and scope of practice we represent; dental therapy, dental hygiene and oral health therapy.

As I think about the year ahead, I cannot help but reflect on the past and how many changes our professions have gone through over the past couple of years. Some only being small steps and others seem like huge milestones. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the key accomplishments and initiatives.

Reflecting on key changes and successes:

- > Dental hygienists no longer require direct supervision from a dentist
- > A signed working relationship is also no longer required for all three professions we represent, a move that recognises our unique clinical skill set, training and education as independent practitioners
- > Verified CPD hours have been replaced by DCNZ recertification plans and PDP's
- > An extra-oral radiography course has been set up by the University of Otago and approved by DCNZ
- > Botox and dermal fillers can now be administered by dental hygienists and oral health therapist in a dental setting following appropriate training

Upcoming potential key changes:

- > Pending Approval of Sodium Diamide Fluoride (SDF) by Phamac
- > Potential change to the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act to include dental hygiene, dental therapy, and oral health therapy one umbrella to reduce APC costs
- > Initial discussions with Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and ACC to have our professions register as ACC treatment providers
- > Restorative care for over 18s for oral health therapists / adult scope courses for dental therapist being developed by AUT and University of Otago
- > Potential formation of an NZOHA union to support members with employment issues and collective bargaining.

Our association has witnessed a remarkable increase in membership during the past year. Our membership has increased by 45%. This growth in membership has further strengthened our collective voice and enhanced our ability to advocate for our shared interests. We have actively engaged in advocacy efforts at various levels throughout Aotearoa New Zealand to address important issues affecting our professions both directly and indirectly. Our association has collaborated with policymakers, industry experts, and stakeholders to influence and support the growth and development of our sector.

Recognising the importance of continuous learning and skills development, we have organised numerous professional development webinars and training workshops. This level of education has equipped our members with the necessary knowledge and hands on skills to excel in their clinical practice.

We also continue to strengthen relationships with educational institutions, international associations, and industry leaders to provide our members with access to cutting-edge resources and opportunities for career advancement. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated members of the NZOHA Executive; Samuel Carrington, Lizelle Koen, Melody Martin, Chris Han and Anishma Ram you all bring different strengths and experience to the team, you work tirelessly to make our association a success for members. Thank you to you, the members for your ongoing support of the NZOHA. I also extend my appreciation to our valued partners, staff and sponsors for their continuous support.

Together, we have achieved significant milestones, and I am confident that our association will continue to thrive in the coming years. Let us keep our eyes on the future with renewed energy and enthusiasm, embracing the opportunities that lie ahead.

Sincerely



Anna Holyoake
NZOHA President