

# FIRST AID TRAINING MATTERS

Promoting quality in the first aid industry

AECTP



Association of Emergency Care Training Providers Inc.

Volume 9: Issue 1: May 2020

## AECTP 2020 – 10th Anniversary Conference

At its recent meeting the AECTP Board discussed a number of options for delivering this year's conference but, owing to the ongoing uncertainties around meetings and travel, decided to cancel this event. We will miss the buzz of face to face connectivity and networking, but in the current climate we need to remain mindful of our responsibilities to community health and wellbeing and to focus on supporting our members as you re-engage with your learners.

Instead we are developing an education programme which will provide our members with valuable professional development opportunities.

We gathered member feedback on potential education topics at last year's conference but if you have further ideas then please email these to [info@aectp.co.nz](mailto:info@aectp.co.nz) and Kerry will pass these along to the Board.

## Lockdown FA Assessment Proposal

The Board has forwarded an online assessment proposal to Skills Org for use specifically during lock down periods. It includes digital approaches to ensure learner assessments are adequately captured and recorded, eg via recordings. The Skills Org is currently considering the proposal.

## NZQA announces new Chief Executive

On 9 April Dr Karen Poutasi announced that she was handing over the role of Chief Executive of NZQA to Dr Grant Klinkum on 14 April, stating:

"Grant will be a familiar face to many of you, as he was previously NZQA's Deputy Chief Executive Quality Assurance, and was recently seconded for 15 months to the Ministry of Education as Deputy Secretary Graduate Achievement, Vocations and Careers. His detailed understanding of both our organisation and the broader education sector will be a tremendous asset, especially in this time of uncertainty.

E noho rā

Karen

Karen O. Poutasi (Dr)"

Several members of the Board have worked with Dr Klinkum and we welcome Dr Klinkum to his new role.

## Q & A – NZ Resuscitation Council – COVID-19

Q – What is the NZ Resuscitation Council's position on First Aid during COVID-19?

A – During the Alert Level 4 lockdown First Aid training has been discontinued completely. However, Alert Level 3 provides different options.

For further information, NZ Resuscitation Council has put several COVID-19 specific information releases on their website.

You can find these at: [COVID-19 resources](#)

## COVID-19—Technical Information

Kathy Wright has kindly written a useful technical and clinical information sheet regarding COVID-19 for inclusion on our AECTP website. It provides a background summary for providers and learners alike and the references assist with further information. This information appears in a pop-up window on the home page.

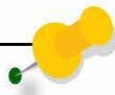
## The First Aid Unit Standards Review

The Skills Organisation FA Unit Standards review, and consultation are still in progress and AECTP have been integral in working with Skills to get the best outcomes for the sector and for learners. Based on the 2019 survey there was overwhelming support for one Unit Standard only and that it would be covered over 12 hours. This is now a reality and the Unit Standard is currently sitting with NZQA. "First Aid as a life skill" has also been updated to give it more "teeth" and the CMR is also being reviewed. As further developments occur, we'll update all our members.

### In this issue

- 2020 10th Anniversary Conference
- COVID-19—Technical Information
- Lockdown FA Assessment Proposal
- The First Aid Unit Standards Review
- NZQA announces new CE
- Q&A—NZ Resus Council—COVID-19
- Letter from the Chair
- Skills Org—NZ First Aid Unit Std consultation
- AECTP 2020 Dates
- NZ Resuscitation Council notes
- AECTP Board Business—2020
- WorkSafe-Mahi Haumatu Aotearoa: First Aid at Work Guidance
- RoVE – a Polytech tutor perspective
- Q&A—What are some of NZQA's TEO Level 4 requests?
- Life in Lockdown— The experience of an independent PTE
- A message on Self Care at this time
- AECTP Contact details/Board members
- AECTP website updates August—Dec 2019

\*\*\*The Board is committed to our members through to the post COVID-19 world, so let us know if you need help\*\*\*



# Letter From The Chair

Greetings everyone

With my first letter as Chairperson, I have the unenviable task of trying to make some sense out of the reality of a COVID-19 bubble. I would like to start by thanking the Board for voting me in as their new Chairperson and to reiterate that my focus is to build on the strong foundation that currently exists. It is my goal for AECTP to develop stronger links with the Skills Organisation (and its subsequent WDC), as well as the New Zealand Resuscitation Council, and to take some clinical leadership regarding such things as the new First Aid Unit Standard content, tourniquets, psychological support for learners who have been affected by traumatic or medical events and so on.

2020 will also see the introduction of the new First Aid Unit Standard – one Unit Standard for the whole of NZ. All current First Aid Unit Standards will be retired meaning that anyone accessing First Aid training through a provider will have the same course – same length and same name. AECTP has contributed heavily to this process and are delighted that most of our recommendations have been included in the final product.

However, the current focus has to be on the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board understands the impact that this has had on the sector with classroom closures and lack of income, as well as the difficulty of having a fully online programme due to the practical assessment requirements. We have been working hard to develop an alternative programme that will allow for live streaming assessment using modified equipment, and I would personally like to thank Graham Dennis for leading this project for us. We will keep you updated with developments in our work with Skills and NZQA to make this process a success.

Getting back to reality though, this newsletter highlights COVID-19 and the view from a number of different perspectives that I am sure many of you will be able to identify with. Articles range from a clinical perspective through to providing links to external financial support that can be accessed by providers who are facing financial losses because of the Alert Level 4 lock down.

I wish you all the very best at this time – both personally and professionally. I am so proud to be a New Zealander and so proud how we have come together as a country to fight this virus. Our behaviour (on the whole) has underlined the ethos and spirit of our country – we believe in the good of the whole – individuals, families, whanau, communities and the country, and we are committed to protecting them all.

Well done NZ!! The world looks to us admiringly and wishes that they had found the courage to shut down and stamp out the virus as we have.

Take care all and stay safe in your bubbles.

Best wishes

Kathy Wright, AECTP Chair, 2020

## AECTP 2020 Dates

*Members wishing to attend contact EO.*

### 2020 AECTP Board Meetings

- *Approximately monthly, CHCH*
- *Further dates yet to be confirmed*

### NZQA Peak Body Forums 3 monthly

- *Mar, June, Sept, Dec*
- *MOE— with MOE, NZQA, and TEC*

### 2020 Conference -TBC-Tues 24 Nov

- *Details and updates will be provided*

## NZ Resuscitation Council

### **2020 COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- **29-30 June 2020, Zoom**

*The Council continues to put their COVID-19 updates on their website and updates for our sector.*

*Please also note that the Council is keen to hear from those keen to be involved as Subject matter Experts for technical updates of guidelines including, Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Life Support (ALS), Paediatric, First Aid, Acute Coronary Syndromes (ACS) Education Implementation and Training (EIT), and Newborn Life Support (NLS).*

*Include a reference to contact details—website or similar.*

*Teghan Mear is Council's new Communications Officer.*

*<https://www.nzrc.org.nz/>*

## **AECTP Board Business**

- *Planning our tenth year anniversary AECTP's annual conference, 10-4.30 pm, Tues 24 Nov 2020, Auckland*
- *Ongoing consultation with Skills Organisation for the one New Zealand First Aid certificate*
- *Skills Org—issues for COVID-19*
- *AECTP Website development: [www.aectpnz.org](http://www.aectpnz.org)*

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## WorkSafe - Mahi Haumatu Aotearoa: First Aid at Work Guidance

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Following on from our last newsletter, the Worksafe NZ First Aid at work Guidelines now been released (February 2020). AECTP was asked to provide feedback to the Worksafe Guidance and Education Development team for these updated Guidelines. This was perfect timing as the Board had also been working on the updated unit standard for First Aid training. Lesley Kidd represented the Board in these discussions.

Along with our submission, Worksafe asked AECTP for advice for clarification around the time frame for the Revalidation Certificate (two years) as it had been suggested to Worksafe that a three-year period was sufficient.

We were able to put forward that the two-year, with three months grace, period was written into the original Department of Labour document in 1996 and followed through to the First Aid for Workplaces – A Good Practise Guide August 2011.

The updated Guidelines reads, in part, as follows: *“WorkSafe recommends workers be trained in first aid by an organisation accredited by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority”. When each first aider has completed the course, the training provider will issue them with a first aid certificate which is generally valid for two years.*

*After two years, first aiders should get refresher training to keep their certificate current and to update their knowledge”.*

While there is no reference to the 3-month grace period for revalidation certificates there is reference to AECTP *“If you need more information about first aid training, contact the Association of Emergency Care Training Providers: <http://www.aectpnz.org/FAQs-and-Resources>”*. This website link gives AECTP the opportunity to guide people in making choices around training time frames and also provides learners with member contact details if they are seeking training.

To be able to be a part of this process was a great opportunity to work with Worksafe NZ and to have AECTP recognised as the Peak Body working for its members. Having AECTP referred to in this document further fosters a great working relationship with Worksafe New Zealand and promotes quality in the first aid sector.

To read the complete First Aid at Work Guide please click the link below.

<https://worksafe.govt.nz/managing-health-and-safety/businesses/general-requirements-for-workplaces/first-aid/>

**Lesley Kidd – AECTP Board**

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### RoVE Update – a Polytech perspective, by Janet Jamieson—Deputy Chair AECTP

At this stage Rove has not had as large an influence on my work at a Polytechnic compared to the impact the Covid-19 Pandemic has had on our working lives.

As most of our AECTP members will be, we are looking at different methods of reaching out to and fulfilling our commitments to the students who are currently enrolled. Most of our trade’s programmes have a certain or fixed amount of theory to complete before being permitted to practise on the machinery or with the tools of their chosen trades. The staff in these programmes have been able to work remotely with our students to help them complete the theory components during this time at Covid-19 Alert Level four.

However as you will all know (as fellow providers) First Aid is a law unto itself, for most of our delivery and even more importantly assessment at this stage is practical.

Most of my working days now are spent in online meetings with both work and AECTP, completing pre and post moderations and writing new assessment and programme materials for a variety of different programmes and supporting other tutors. I can honestly say I have never been busier and it has been fun learning new subjects. They say that education surely broadens the mind, and mine is becoming broader by the day.

Polytechnics are looking to the future for what we need to put in place when we leave Alert level four and progress back to normality. For example—how do we manage social distancing, will there be a need or expectation for this to continue, and for how long? As many of our learners have school age children, when will the schools reopen, and will they have to bring children with them? **This also can affect distancing numbers in an area?**

Most Tertiary Staff are feeling positive about the future under ROVE as we are beginning to see a clearer unified direction with a high level of support, less competition to attract students which means less emphasis on funding. It will give us more time to concentrate on our students and their welfare. One of the points made by the NZIST Council Chair is that there will be an increased emphasis on staff supporting and teaching learners. What we have already seen through the lead up to ROVE, has been increased support and communication to all staff.

I for one am looking forward to the future of Tertiary education.

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## The worth of AECTP – a personal reflection

A short 9 years ago (March 2011), an idea was hatched to form an organisation that could promote quality within the first aid sector; establish a code of ethics and values; and at the same time work cohesively for the betterment of our industry.

After 12 years as the Head of Education and Training for New Zealand Red Cross, I am about to retire, so this is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the AECTP journey and to consider the merits of the initial decision to establish the Association.

Looking back, the dream was always to seek a level playing field within the first aid sector, which had become fragmented and lacked some basic standards of consistency, particularly after some of the changes in legislation and removal of the former Department of Labour Guidelines. Did we create a level playing field? Well, in my view, I give this a tick of about 80%. We have come a long way with AECTP being recognised as a Peak Body by NZQA, and the positive relationship that we have with Skills Org. The remaining 20% still leaves a challenge for those in the sector that are passionate about quality and standards as there are still a few first aid training programmes that could be regarded as questionable.

The public do not know what they do not know, and naturally have assumed that first aid training is all the same, regardless of who provides it. Courses of 6, 8, 12, 16 hours are not all the same in content, so there has been a swing towards shorter courses on the false precept that the student is learning the same material. We all know that this is not true, and one of the major changes that AECTP will have achieved was to be proactive in the development of a 'single' first aid course based on the 6400-unit standard series. For me, this will be the single greatest achievement of AECTP, and demonstrates the value of a professional and co-ordinated approach.

The annual conferences have also evolved well over the 9 years. Initially, the idea was simply a workshop which could assist providers in meeting their professional development obligations. The last conference held in Auckland had well over 120 attendees and has been widely hailed as 'the best'. Long may these continue, albeit the COVID-19 environment could make this more of a challenge.

Finally, the move to take on a professional secretariat has proved its worth. The Board members are all volunteers and funded by their respective employers, so the work of our Executive Officer is now crucial to our future.

As I step away, I will sleep easy knowing that the decision to establish AECTP was the right one, and the achievements are there for all to see. The future is yours as a professional body, so I am confident that the next few years will see even greater achievements – all for the good of the first aid training sector. I wish you all well for the future – it is yours, so take advantage of the foundations laid for you nine years ago.

**Graham Wrigley (retiring Board member)**

Thanks Graham. I have been working with you since day 1 of AECTP. We shared responsibilities as Chair and had a great tag team act going across the conferences that have been held. Always got a straight answer, always appreciated the input and wisdom imparted. Thanks for your support into AECTP and for your dealings in support of the wider First Aid training industry. Enjoy the next chapter. Cheers, Julian Price

I have always appreciated the welcome and support I received from Graham during my time on the board and have also respected his calm, compassionate and common sense approach to all matters, he will be sorely missed and I for one feel grateful for having had the change to work and learn from his example. Enjoy your retirement Graham. Janet Jamieson

When I became a board member two years ago I was in awe of the team and especially Graham. He was not only the Board Chair, he was also the head of education and training for Red Cross. I am honoured to have had the opportunity to meet Graham and work with him for the members of AECTP. His quiet manner and his ability to listen and speak when he had thought things through have taught me a lot. I wish Graham all the best in his very deserved retirement. Lesley Kidd

Graham your knowledge and wisdom have made working alongside you a real pleasure – thank you and all the best in your well deserved retirement. Shirley Kerr

What a great inspiring leader you've been for us all. Thanks so much, Yvonne Gray

Graham thank you for all your valuable input over the last ten years. It really was pioneering work that bought a bitter and heavily suspicious industry together. Your efforts have helped lay solid foundations for the industry which for those that follow you have made their job easier thank you sir and have an awesome retirement. Graham Dennis.



## COVID-19 lockdown – AECTP alternative First Aid assessment response

When it first seemed as if New Zealand was following the rest of the world and was “importing” the COVID-19 virus, we knew that something really bad was about to happen. We had seen that other countries had gone into “lockdown” and knew that to beat this we would need to do the same. It was at this stage that AECTP – led by Graham Dennis – began the process of developing an alternative First Aid (FA) training and assessment package that could be used by members forced to suspend classes during the lockdown. This would allow member providers to continue to have some form of revenue stream albeit less than usual. It would also allow companies to maintain legislative requirements for holding current FA certificates as well as allowing learners to complete qualifications requiring FA.

At a Peak Body meeting the week before lockdown, MOE/TEC/NZQA were exhorting providers to develop alternative means of training delivery and assessment – including practical components. We were told that if we could come up with an alternative that met the required standards, NZQA would endorse it. Board member conversations with NZQA reinforced that we would be wholeheartedly supported – but only if Skills supported it.

Our programme consisted of an online learning and assessment package with CPR and airway obstruction management being demonstrated through live streaming using common household items to mimic the qualities of a mannikin. There had been many hours of experimentation to get this right! The principles were launched at a meeting with Skills on Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Although they did not appear supportive of anything that did not involve face to face and hands on assessment for FA, they were willing to look at a demonstration of the same. That afternoon, the government announced the move to Level 3 and ensuing jump to Level 4 within 2 days. The New Zealand Resuscitation Council (NZRC) then announced that all FA training providers should cease classroom delivery immediately. Although this countered the advice that had been given to the sector by the MoE, many took it as being gospel, including Skills who then announced on their website that we must all stop. Interestingly, none of the major providers chose to follow Skills or the NZRC’s edict.

Skills cancelled the demonstration meeting and refused to consider any further conversation regarding the package. Board members then went to work on the programme. It was pre-moderated, both internally and externally, more times, by more experienced current and ex-moderators, and in more depth than any piece of assessment has ever been pre-moderated in the history of pre-moderation. It was finally deemed ready to be submitted.

We had canvassed member providers as to whether or not they would use such a programme and the response was extremely positive. There was also much support for an initiative to provide free First Aid training to regional and local Civil Defence Groups following the Prime Minister’s public announcement that it was critical that this group have FA training.

Sadly, Skills refused to put it forward for pre-moderation. From what was stated (and quoted) in their rejection email, it appeared that this was similarly supported by NZRC. What was also apparent was that they had not taken the time to even look at the package which included a video of an actual assessment with an external and independent learner. Through phone calls and emails we again asked that a) Skills took the time to look at what we were asking to be pre-moderated and b) send it on to a moderator. Again this was denied.

AECTP then sent it on to NZRC – “Yep,” they said, “we’ll look at it. We have an education council meeting next week and we’ll look at it then”.

We have now received their response and regrettably the assessment for chest compressions did not meet the required technical standards. Both Skills and NZRC have indicated their willingness to work with AECTP to develop alternative forms of assessment over the coming weeks. We have been in contact with them to discuss this and will let you know the outcome as soon as we do.

## COVID-19 Financial Support Packages

The government has made available a range of financial support packages for businesses impacted at the COVID-19 Alert Levels 3 and 4. These can be found on the COVID-19 website <https://covid19.govt.nz>

### TEO Site Closures and related NZQA requests relating to Alert Level Four

During the Alert Level 4 lockdown period NZQA have been requesting various reassurances that training providers and learners alike are keeping safe. QAD emails have requested information, feedback and also provided support for those PTEs who need it. For the First Aid sector, one of the issues may be access to and bandwidth for learners who may be wishing to learn remotely or utilising webinars. Another was a request for reassurances was that no staff or learners were going onsite. As each of the Alert Levels are unique, the NZ Resuscitation Council website also provides useful information.

#### Life In Lock down - The experience of an independent PTE

As you are aware it happened quickly and in terms of time frames, with little warning.

One day we were trading and then next – turn out the lights, lock the doors and go home!

Prior to the level 4 my initial thoughts were, OK we can do this, team meetings held, plans in place, procedures established, people notified, hand sanitiser ordered – or at least on back order.

Within an hour that had all changed.

My thoughts then turned to disbelief, panic and lack of control – it was not my choice to walk away from the business – what happens next??

Fortunately I had applied for the wage subsidy, and received it, before the lock down. At least I knew I could pay the team something. We are a very small team and loyalty is very strong amongst us. It was my job to support them.

The first few days were totally lost; feelings of lack of control, sleepless nights and number crunching. Would we survive (the business).

As a Board member I was fortunate enough to be involved in the development of the temporary assessment tool for AECTP members. This was most likely my saving grace as it gave me something to focus on. Something that was not only going to help other providers to give alternatives to training, but also give some sort of lifeline to my own business. An option to offer learning and assessment during this time, which in turn, will keep our clients compliant with their First Aid training and give some sort of cash flow to the business; a way forward into the great big unknown!

Thank goodness for technology; we have all most likely been on a fast learning curve in that area. ZOOM and House Party, all ways of connecting with work, family and friends, and all the frustrations that go with that when the technology freezes!!

Now the focus is on what happens after level 4 is lifted and what is that going to look like for us. So many questions; when can we start training sessions being the main one – when can we get back to our business of helping people to help others? What will our 'new norm' look like?

No answers yet, they will come in time and for all of us that may look different to what it did a few weeks ago.

Life gives us a few curve balls; this one is a doozy. We just have to run with it, nothing stays the same and we will be up and running sometime soon – it just may be a different type of run.

**Lesley Kidd, Links Training Ltd**

**Take care; look after yourselves and others wellbeing; acknowledge your feelings; stay connected.**

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#### AECTP Board Members 2020

Graham Dennis, Independent

Yvonne Gray, New Zealand Red Cross

Janet Jamieson, Independent

Shirley Kerr, St John

Lesley Kidd, Independent

Julian Price, St John

Kathy Wright, Independent

Graham Wrigley, New Zealand Red Cross

#### AECTP Website updates: Jan – April 2020

##### 2020 Pre Hospital Emergency Care AECTP Conference:

- Celebrating 10 years of Pre-Hospital Emergency Care conference

##### Dec 2019 AECTP Newsletter

- December 2019 newsletter has been added to the website

##### News and Support pages

- COVID-19 Special – an technical update on COVID-19 with a Technical Overview, Signs and Symptoms, and Prevention, written by Kathy Wright