



Child and Adolescent Recertification Programme

Background information

- The Osteopathic council of NZ (OCNZ) is charged under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act) with protecting public health and safety by ensuring that osteopaths are competent and fit to practise their profession
- In 2010, the Council commenced a project to explore the nature and extent of child and adolescent osteopathic practice in New Zealand, and to consider the necessary capabilities required for osteopaths wishing to treat child and adolescent patients.

Issues Identified during the research

- Undergraduate training in child and adolescent health in New Zealand, the UK and Australia does not appear to provide graduates with a sufficient knowledge base, at both theoretical and clinical training levels
- Current knowledge of child and adolescent care ranges significantly across the profession
- The Council has mandatory CPD provisions and within this CPD model osteopaths choose their CPD, this has not, to date, been monitored for relevance to practice
- Insufficient core training, unspecified CPD requirements in this area of practice and the potential for occasional exposure to this age range, may heighten potential risk for the younger patient

Central Government Requirements

- With the release of the government's Children's Action Plan and the implementation of the Vulnerable Children Act 2014 there is increasing expectation from government for accountability of health care providers in relation to the protection of children.
- This includes the establishment of a government multi-agency taskforce that has begun work on the development of a "core competencies framework" for the children's workforce – including health providers

Issues identified (1)

- Critical thinking
- Case history-taking, information retrieval, tests and screening
- Ethics in child health care
- Basic health programme provision in New Zealand health care
- Child health systems and support networks;

Issues identified(2)

- Management of the health needs of the under one-year olds across a wide spectrum of needs
- Maori paediatric health care issues
- Adolescent health issues
- Communication and interpersonal skills in an integrative health-care arena
- Mental health issues for children

OCNZ overview of the issues

- The Council's view is that the areas of concern identified within the research are not about clinical skills in osteopathy.
- The issues relate to the knowledge of, and ability to work within, the wider healthcare context when delivering child and adolescent health care.
- That is; it is not the act of providing hands-on treatment to the child that is in question – rather, the process of deciding how best to assess and plan appropriate care for the child.

Recertification programme... what is it?

- A recertification programme under the HPCAA is a requirement of all practitioners that are holding an annual practicing certificate to complete a specified programme in a specified period of time
- This is not optional for registrants, however previous study that meets the specified programme may be accepted by council as having equivalency, this may result in a registrant being exempt from the recertification programme

The recertification programme content

- Successful completion of the Ara course *Infant and young child health essentials* GCHE700
- Successful completion of the Ara course *Child and adolescent health essentials* GCHE701
- Each course contains 50 hours of learning – meaning that the total input required is 100 hours of learning. The programme will be online only, registrants will have three years to complete both courses

Infant and young child health essentials

GCHE700

- Key differences between children and adults; Holistic assessment
- Red flags
- Child development
- Safe sleep/SUDI prevention
- Crying/irritability/colic/purple crying
- Restraint and holding
- Communicating with infants and young children

Infant and young child health essentials

GCHE700

- Nutrition, including breast feeding
- Oral health
- Māori and Pacific Island health issues related to infants and children
- Child Protection/Vulnerable Children
- Family violence
- Immunisation
- Neonatal issues
- Well Child Services/Midwifery care

Child and adolescent health essentials

GCHE701

- HEEADSSS Assessment (Online – Werry Centre)
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- Communicating with Children and Adolescents
- Māori and Pacific Island Health Issues related to children and adolescents
- Ethics, Consent and Privacy issues
- Nutrition, including obesity

Child and adolescent health essentials

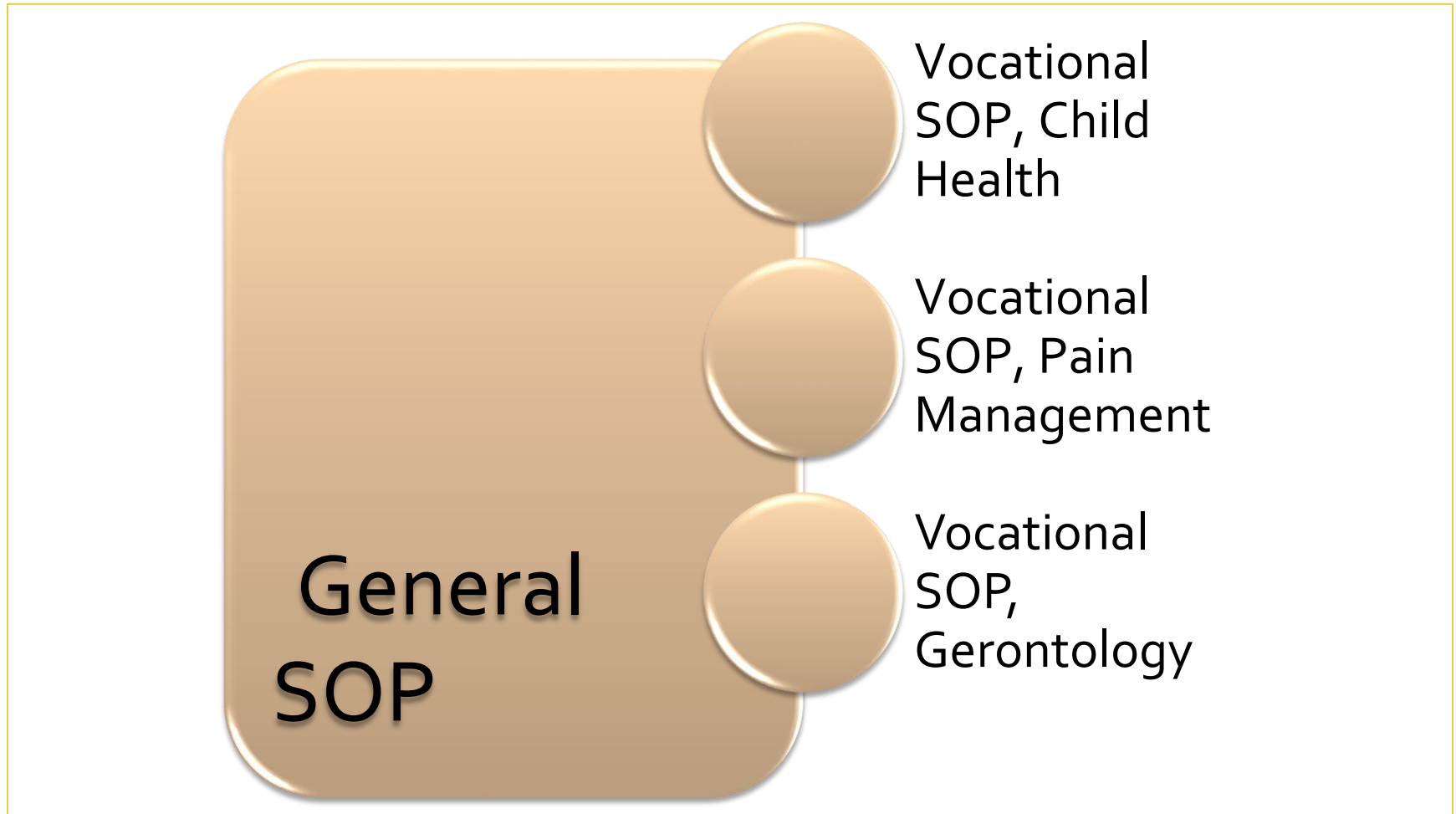
GCHE701

- Pain Assessment
- Abdominal pain/IBS
- Asthma/Eczema
- Health Promotion/health literacy
- Referral
- Oral health

Recertification programme

Both programme's are highly contextual to the NZ health care landscape and within the learning platforms there are links to other resources for practitioners that wish to understand more in a particular area. The programme's have been developed to support and assist practitioners whilst ensuring the areas of weakness identified are addressed.

Vocational Scope of Practice, Child Health



AUT's Postgraduate Diploma in Child Health, the prescribed qualification

- During the course of the research into this area of practice the profession noted that they wished for council to develop a Vocational SOP in Child Health.
- Council will be gazetting this VSOP in the near future and the qualification level is set at a post-graduate diploma.
- This will allow for members of the public to access the skill sets they require, rather than the register continuing to remain undifferentiated in this important part of practice