

# **Mobility & Common Standards**

## **Aotearoa New Zealand & Australia**

**INPTRA Conference, Singapore, May 2015**

**Janice Mueller, Chair of the Physiotherapy Board**  
**Kathy Grudzinkas, Board member, Physiotherapy Board of Australia**

# Where are we?



# Mobility



# A Snapshot

	Aotearoa New Zealand	Australia
<b>Population</b> <i>as at 10/04/15</i>	<b>4,579,509</b>	<b>23,784,137</b>
<b>Registered Physiotherapists</b> <i>as at December 2014</i>	<b>4,361</b>	<b>27,278</b>
<b>% Overseas Qualified Registrants</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
<b>No. Applying under TTMR</b>	<b>17</b> <i>In 2013/14</i>	<b>121</b> <i>01/07/10 – 01/02/15</i>
<b>Cost of TTMR Application</b>	<b>NZD \$230</b>	<b>AUD \$318</b>
<b>Cost to practise annually</b>	<b>NZD \$356.50</b>	<b>AUD \$159</b>
<b>No. physiotherapy programmes</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>41</b>

# Aotearoa New Zealand Regulation Framework



## **Physiotherapy Board**

- All members are appointed by the Minister of Health under the HPCA Act
- 5 physiotherapists & 2 lay members

## **Funding**

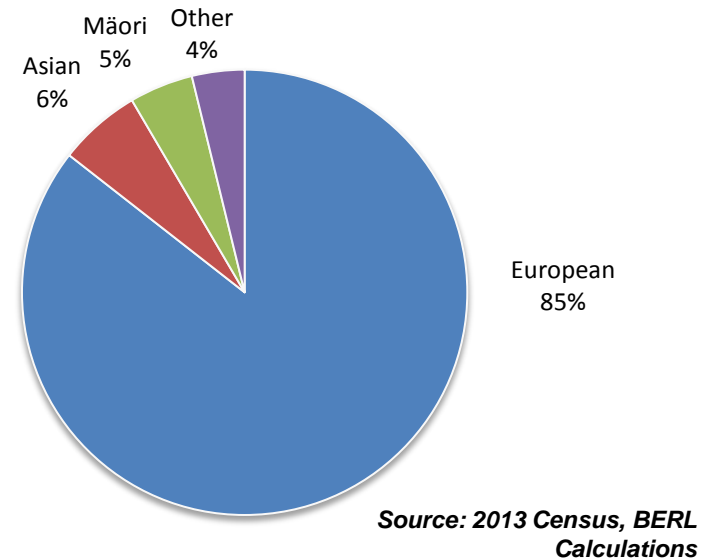
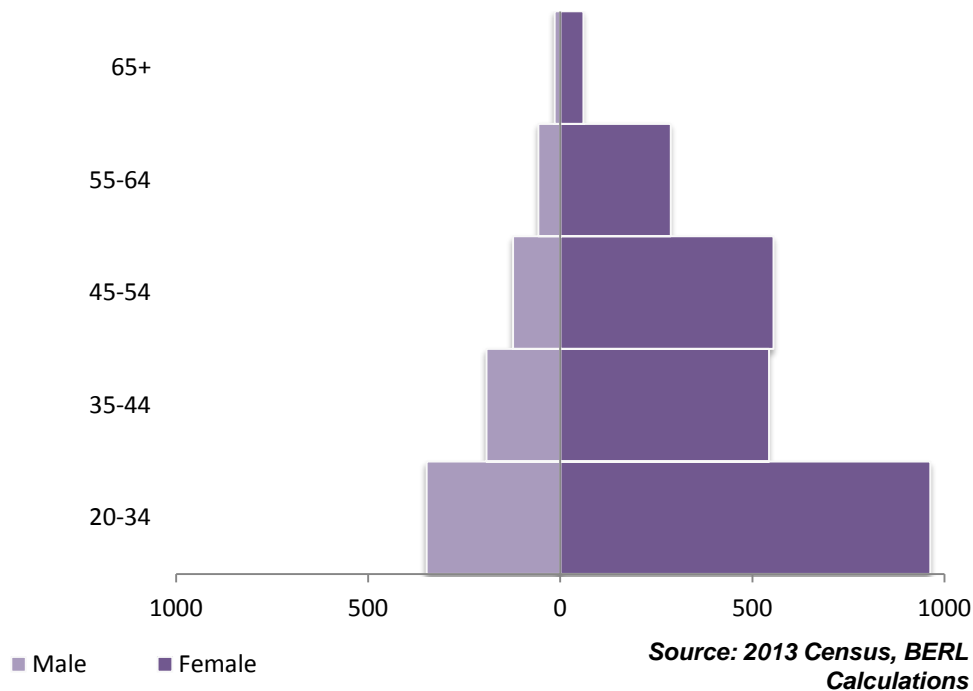
- Self funded through registration and annual renewal fees

## **Relationship to other professional organisation**

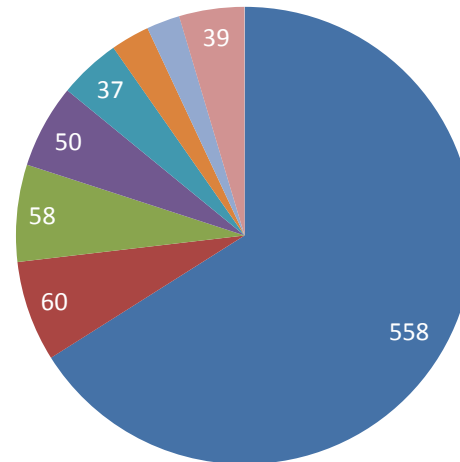
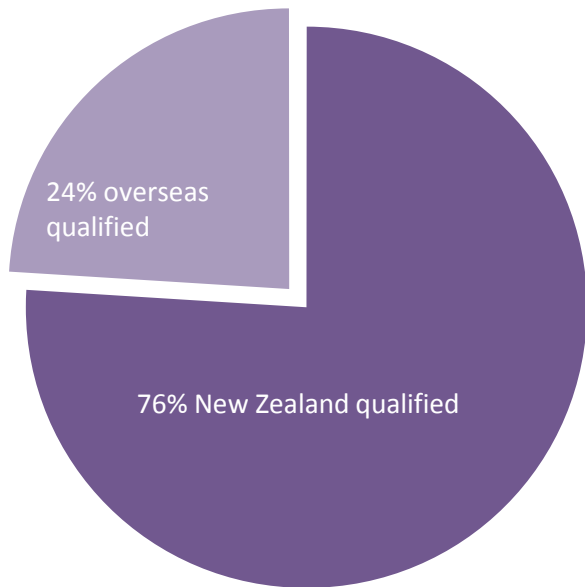
- The Physiotherapy Board is a separate entity from the New Zealand Physiotherapy Association (PNZ)
- PNZ is the voluntary national professional membership organisation

# Snapshot of the New Zealand Physiotherapy Profession 2013/14

## Age, gender and ethnicity



# Overseas qualified / New Zealand qualified Physiotherapists



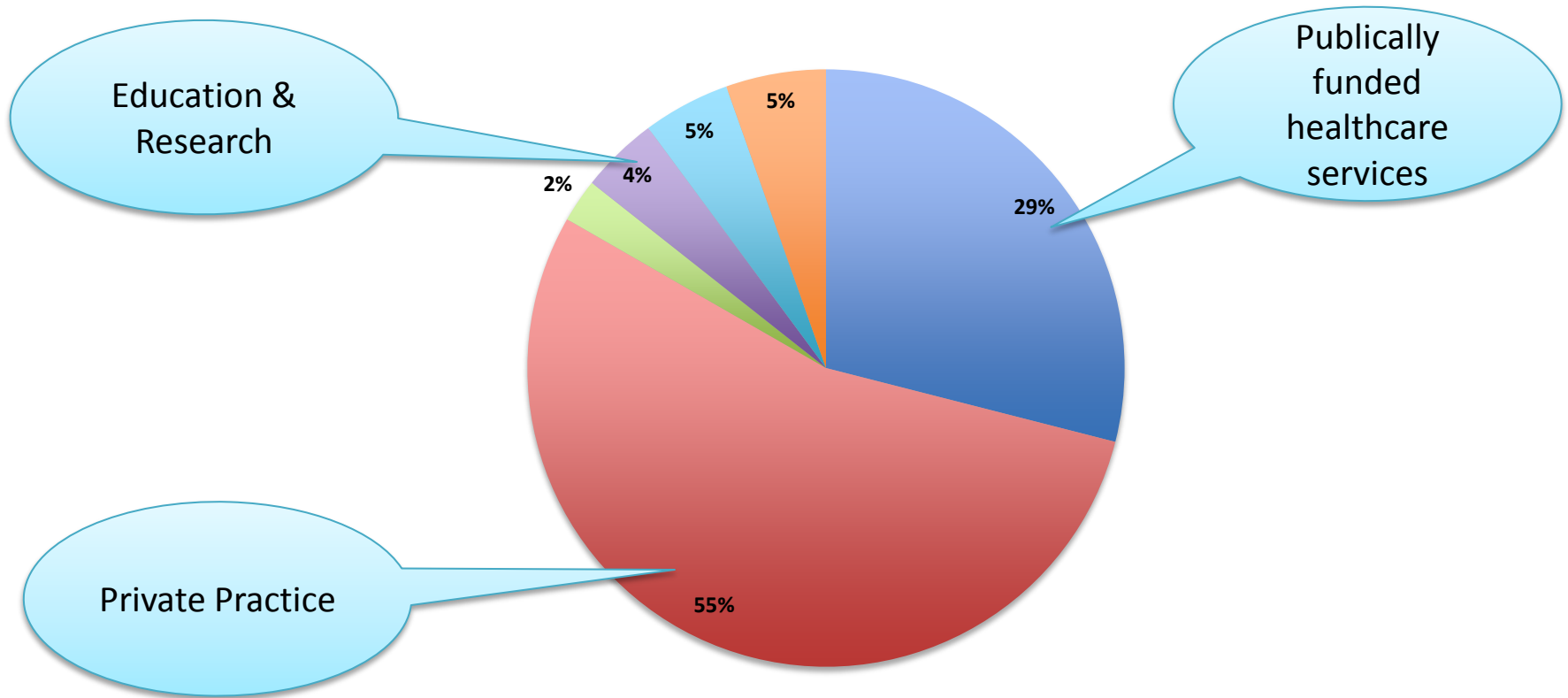
- United Kingdom
- Ireland
- South Africa
- Australia
- The Netherlands
- Canada
- USA
- Other

Source: 2013 / 14  
workforce survey

Source: 2013 / 14  
workforce survey



# Places of work







# Australian Regulation Framework

## **Physiotherapy Board**

- Appointed by the Ministerial Advisory Council
- 8 physiotherapists (1 from each jurisdiction) & 4 community members

## **Funding**

- Self funded from fees

## **Relationship to other professional organisations**

- The Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) is the voluntary national professional membership organisation
- The Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC) is an independent national body engaging locally and globally in oversight of the guidance, development and assurance of standards for health professional practice in the public interest

# Legislation

## Legislation

Aotearoa New Zealand

Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (HPCA ) 2003

Australia

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009

Both Countries

Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Act (TTMR) 1997

## Principal Purpose / Objectives

Protect the health and safety of members of the public by providing for mechanisms to ensure that health practitioners are competent and fit to practise their professions.

Protect the public  
*+ 5 other objectives*

A non-treaty agreement between the Australian Government, State and Territory Governments and the Government of New Zealand

# TTMR Act 1997

- **A good that may be legally sold in Australia may be sold in New Zealand, and a good that may be legally sold in New Zealand may be sold in Australia. This is regardless of differences in standards or other sale-related regulatory requirements between Australia and New Zealand; and**
- **A person registered to practise an occupation in Australia is entitled to practise an equivalent occupation in New Zealand, and vice versa, without the need for further testing or examination.**

*“Mutual recognition is a feasible alternative to harmonisation for Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand because of their similar history, culture and objectives.”*

Ref: Australian Productivity Commission Issue Paper, January 2015

<http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/mutual-recognition-schemes/issues/mutual-recognition-2015-issues.pdf>

# **Registration of Overseas Physiotherapists in Aotearoa New Zealand**

- **The current application fee is NZD \$1,532.50 (non-refundable)**
- **There is no accreditation of overseas courses. Each application is individually assessed**
- **The information required is extensive and there is no guarantee of registration**

<http://www.physioboard.org.nz/overseas-qualified>

# Registration of Overseas Physiotherapists in Australia

- **The Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC) carries this out on behalf of the Board**
- **3 Stage Process**
  - Initial Assessment of qualification
  - Written Examination
  - Clinical Assessment \* 3 (held in Australia)
- **Fees 2015/16**
  - Stage 1 AUD 1100
  - Stage 2 AUD 1900
  - Stage 3 AUD 4125

<http://www.physiocouncil.com.au/assessment-1>

## In Practice

- **There are some practitioners who travel to New Zealand to avoid the costly and lengthy Australian assessment process**



# Overseas Qualified Registrants Gaining Registration in Australia



Practicing Year	No. gained Registration in Australia under TTMR	... within 6 weeks of NZ registration	... within 10 weeks of NZ registration	... within 6 months of NZ registration
2010/11	149	25 (17%)	19 (13%)	17 (11%)
2012/13	108	23 (21%)	14 (13%)	19 (18%)
2014/15	69	20 (28%)	9 (13%)	11 (16%)

# Common Standards





# The Physiotherapy Practice Thresholds in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

- **Both Boards are concerned with:**
  - registration of physiotherapists and
  - accreditation of programs of study leading to registration
- **The Boards have established shared statements that describe the entry level of practice to the physiotherapy profession in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand**
- **The statements represent:**
  - the first and only internationally shared statements for the physiotherapy profession; and
  - will provide assurance to both countries when registration occurs via TTMRA

# Project Timeline

Dec 2011

- **Establishment of Steering committee with representatives from both boards**

Aug 2011 &  
Feb 2013

- **Signing of initial and updated Memorandums of Understanding between the Physiotherapy Boards of Australia and New Zealand**

Sept 2013

- **Development of request for quote document. Release of document to both Boards websites**

Oct/Nov  
2013

- **Tender evaluation, probity checking, resulting in the appointment of project manager from tender process (Arete Pty Ltd.)**

Dec 2013

- **First meeting of steering committee and project manager**

April 2014

- **First meeting of Project Manager and Expert Reference Group (group established through appointment of nominees of key stakeholders)**

April 2014  
– March  
2015

- **Project undertaken in five stages, with regular meetings with Steering Committee**

March  
2015

- **Final draft document is approved by both Boards. Decision made by each Board to publish identical documents**

May 2015

- **Document officially launched**

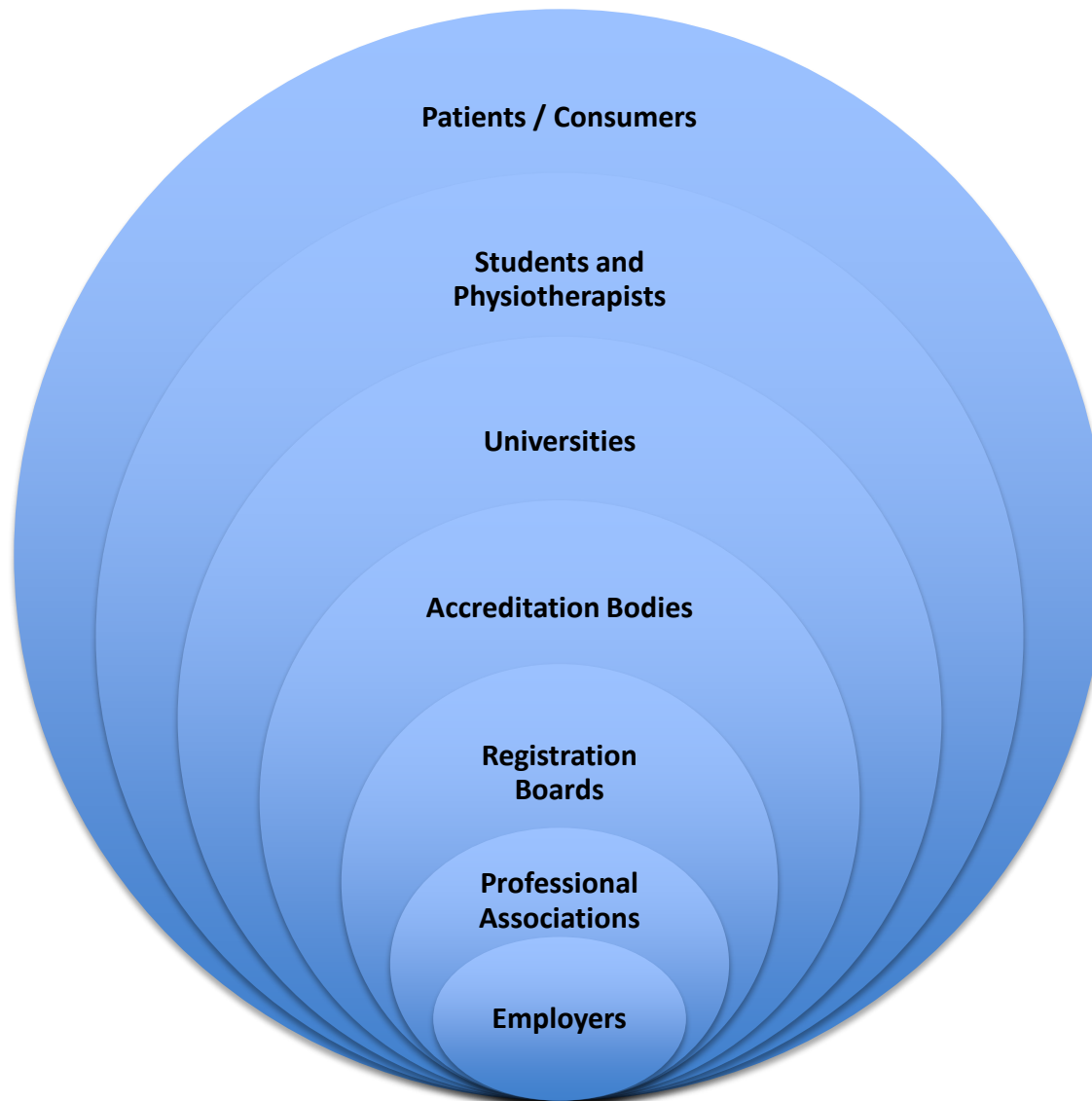
# The Physiotherapy Practice Thresholds in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

**Format adapted from framework for physicians in Canada ('the CanMeds approach') and endorsed by both Boards in March 2015**

**Seven roles are described, with aligned key competencies and enabling components:**

- 1. Physiotherapy practitioner**
- 2. Professional and ethical practitioner**
- 3. Communicator**
- 4. Reflective practitioner and self directed learner**
- 5. Collaborative practitioner**
- 6. Educator**
- 7. Manager leader**

# Stakeholder Consultation



## What Worked Well

- **Close collaboration between stakeholders in New Zealand and Australia**
- **Engaged stakeholders**
- **Development of non-prescriptive tender document**
- **Regular contact with the project manager**
- **Evidenced based approach**
- **Recognition and incorporation of cultural competence**

## Challenges

- **Consulting timeframes spanned University break times**
- **Consultation across jurisdictions**
- **Differences in legislative requirements regarding cultural competence**

# Is a Single Standard Possible?

- **Would need a clear international understanding of the attributes of the entry level practitioner**
- **Our final document will be available for review from each Board's website from 8th May 2015**