



4 April 2022

Tēnā koutou all past NZDHA and NZDOHTA members,

RE: Regional Representatives

As you are aware, the New Zealand Oral Health Association – Te Ohu Pūniho Ora o Aotearoa (NZOHA) was recently ratified and incorporated with New Zealand Societies and the New Zealand Dental Hygienists' Association (NZDHA) and the New Zealand Dental and Oral Health Therapists Association (NZDOHTA) are both in the process of being dissolved. Having one unified association means more support for all oral health professionals in Aotearoa New Zealand.

With the formation of the NZOHA, the members of the now almost dissolved NZDHA and NZDOHTA and the Interim Executive Committee re-designed the structure of how the NZOHA will run. Our aim is to reach all members throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. To do this, we have created three advisory groups, one for each scope of practice. Each of these three advisory groups will be comprised of one representative from the four regions in Aotearoa New Zealand. These regionals include the upper North Island, lower North Island, upper South Island and lower South Island. These regions are modelled off the incoming Health New Zealand and Māori Health Authority regional structures. For more information about the advisory group structure, you can follow this link: <https://www.nzoha.org.nz/nzoha-structure/>

These advisory groups will be charged with liaising with the Advisory Groups Director, who sits on and reports back to the Executive Committee. Part of this new process will mean the phasing out of the NZDHA and NZDOHTA Branch Chairs/Presidents.

We would like to take this time to thank each and every member who held office roles over the years for all your hard work in representing your region on our associations. Your passion and commitment to our professions has meant we all have a voice at the regional level throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

Openings for the regional representatives' positions to join the advisory groups will be advertised soon and we would welcome your application to these roles. More information will be sent to members over the coming months on these exciting new roles for our unified and stronger association.

Naku iti noa, nā

The NZOHA Interim Executive

Anna, Chris, Erin, Lizelle, Mel, Samuel, Anishma, Nafiz and Toni