

Professional Development **Report 2009**

2009 has been a very busy and productive year for Professional Development for Anaesthetic Technicians.

After two years of research, a national survey and a lot of draft copies being developed with the NZATS committee, the Portfolio Template has come to life.

Following the 2007 conference in Auckland City it was decided a National Portfolio Template was an important first step to facilitate the development of Anaesthetic Technicians into the professional era.

The Portfolio was developed around the HPC, Nursing and Allied Health templates, we took the best aspects from each to create a unique document.

This document is divided into two sections, the first consists of the following requirements:

- A copy of your job description.
- A set of your objectives made for the year, these are set against your job description. The following year your portfolio will consist of not only the objectives you set the previous year but, also an evaluation of how you have performed during the previous year and documentation of those objectives you have achieved.
- Documentation of everyday practice, how do you meet the national standards of practice set by the NZATS committee?
Many of us take for granted the importance of everyday duties and do not realise how easily we achieve the standards.
- A set of annual competencies, this is where the survey sent to all the Charge Technicians was an important exercise. We had to ensure that the competencies could be achieved by all Technicians in New Zealand, whether you work in a 15 theatre suite or you are the sole Technician in a one theatre unit.
- Education. Again this is linked to meeting the Standards of Practice from NZATS. Have you continued to develop as a Technician by participating in Education?

Section two is for those who wish to develop further skills as an Anaesthetic Technician.

This section consists of:

- A case study (which can be submitted to the Newsletter or Covidien Award)
- Projects – have you seen a process you think needs changing, describe how you went about it. What was your plan and outcome? How did it change the department etc.
- Committees, you can outline how many meeting you have attended and what contributions you have made.

- Teaching and being a Work Place Assessor.
- Presenting lectures to Nursing staff, Trainees and other groups within the hospital. Outline what you learnt yourself, list objectives you want the trainees to learn and the time spent on research.
- Professional Practice, changing the world around you by participating in Regional and National projects. Submitting articles to the newsletter.

I have spent time around the country throughout the year presenting this template to the Charge Technicians and Educators at each of their national meetings.

The initial feedback has been positive and encouraging.

This Template has been published on the NZATS website for all to utilise.

If you have any queries while writing your Portfolio please feel free to contact me via the NZATS website.

I wish to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of the Portfolio template.

The future projects for Professional Development will be to look at further educational opportunities for Qualified Anaesthetic Technicians once the "Extending Scope of Practice for Anaesthetic Technicians" document has been sent for consultation to the membership.

I look forward to another exciting and busy year in Professional Development in 2010.

Kylie Parry