



Australian Government



New Zealand Government

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Board Post-Meeting Communiqué

Meeting 20, 18-19 November 2021

Meeting 20 of the Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Board was held on 18-19 November 2021 by videoconference. The Board discussed several ongoing strategic activities, considered applications from candidates for registration and for accreditation, and considered professional conduct matters.

Review of the Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Regulation Regime

The Board discussed the review of the regulation regime and heard an update on the consultation being undertaken by MBIÉ and IP Australia, including from Dr Vivienne Thom AM, IP Australia's consultant for the review. The Board encourages all IP attorneys to read the consultation paper and consider providing a submission via [IP Australia's website](#) or [MBIE's website](#). Submissions close on 2 February 2022.

The health check of the Code of Conduct for Trans-Tasman Patent and Trade Marks Attorneys

The health check of the Code of Conduct is intended to determine whether the Code is operating as intended. Professor Andrew Christie provided an interim report including insights from his research and consultation. Professor Christie has met with attorneys from Australian and New Zealand firms of varying sizes, as well as a small number of IP rights filers. Professor Christie's final report will be delivered to the Board by the end of 2021.

Communications and outreach activities

Reflecting its commitment to communication and outreach (see [open letter to the profession](#)), the Board discussed ideas to help them communicate more actively and effectively with the profession and other stakeholders. The Board also saw early drafts of the updated TTIPAB website, which is expected to be delivered in 2022. Prior to launch, the Secretariat will be seeking expressions of interest from members of the profession for participation in beta-testing of the website.

Applications for approval of academic qualifications and exemptions

Of the 22 applications for approval of academic qualifications or exemptions for knowledge requirements before the Board, 20 were approved.

Applications for accreditation

The Board approved an application from the University of Auckland for accreditation of two courses. One course covers TTIPAB topic groups A1, A2, B, and the other covers TTIPAB topic group C. The University of Auckland joins the University of Technology Sydney, the University of Melbourne, and Victoria University of Wellington as a provider of Board-accredited courses.

Discipline

The Board discussed two conduct matters arising from complaints to the Board. One matter involving an alleged conflict of interest was finalised as the Board determined that it did not involve unsatisfactory professional conduct or professional misconduct. For the other matter, involving the

inadequate provision of advice to a client, the Board resolved to initiate proceedings before the Disciplinary Tribunal.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held in March 2022. To keep up to date with the Board's activities, follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

Elizabeth Hopkins

Chair