



Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Board Post-Meeting Communiqué **Meeting 22, 31 March-1 April 2022**

Meeting 22 of the Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Board was held on 31 March and 1 April 2022 by videoconference. As well as considering applications from attorney candidates and professional conduct matters, the Board discussed several ongoing strategic activities, and considered how it can best position itself to provide support and guidance for the IP attorney profession.

Communications and outreach activities

The Board adopted its first communications plan, which sets out a variety of activities that it will undertake over the next year. As part of this plan, the Board will increase its involvement in continuing professional education activities, including trialling Board-facilitated CPE activities.

Beta testing of the Board's new website will commence soon, with the final website expected to launch in the second half of 2022. The Board is looking for volunteers to test and provide feedback on the new website. If you would like to be one of the first to see the new site and can spare up to an hour of your time, please contact mail.ttipab@ipaaustralia.gov.au to register your interest.

Review of the Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Regulatory Regime

The Board heard an update on the review of the Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Regulatory Regime. Public consultation for the review finished in February. 7 submissions were received from across Australian and New Zealand in addition to an independent report prepared by Dr Vivienne Thom.

IP Australia and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) are currently analysing the submissions to prepare recommendations for the Australian and New Zealand Ministers. The outcomes from the review will be shared with the profession in coming months.

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

The Board reviewed Professor Andrew Christie's report on the Code of Conduct, which included recommendations for enhancing the Guidelines to the Code to assist attorneys to meet their professional responsibilities, as well as various recommendations for other actions to increase awareness and understanding of the Code. The Board committed to publishing Professor Christie's report and their response publicly in April, and will notify all registered attorneys when the documents are available.

Professional conduct

The Board considered two professional conduct matters. One matter related to proceedings which are currently underway before the Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Disciplinary Tribunal, regarding the inadequate provision of advice to a client. The other matter related to reports of a registered attorney allegedly carrying out work that they were not qualified to do, which the Board will investigate.

Applications for approval of academic qualifications and exemptions

Of the 31 applications for approval of academic qualifications or exemptions for knowledge requirements before the Board, 26 were approved.

The Board also extended delegations to the Secretary to approve academic qualifications applications for trade marks attorneys, which will help trade marks attorney candidates gain registration faster.

Annual accreditation surveys

Every year, the Board undertakes a survey of Board-accredited courses to monitor student numbers and course outcomes. In 2021, there were 766 enrolments across 32 courses delivered in Australia and New Zealand. The Board noted that Victoria University of Wellington is not delivering accredited courses in 2022, but intends to return with a refreshed offering in 2023.

The Board would welcome any feedback on this communique or any of its other activities, which can be provided to mail.tipab@jpaustralia.gov.au. To keep up to date with the Board's activities, follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

Elizabeth Hopkins

Chair