



## Formation of a New Zealand Sexology Organisation

### Background:

Organisations representing the profession of sexology/sexual health/sex therapy are well established internationally e.g. American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists (ASSECT); Society of Australian Sexologists (SAS); World Association of Sexology (WAS) and in the UK, the College of Sexual and Relationship Therapists (CORST).

The purpose of this meeting is to gather together individuals working in this field in order to explore potential interest and share ideas around the formation of a national organisation. This organisation would aim to be interdisciplinary and to represent health professionals working in the field of sex therapy including psychosexual therapy, sexual health and sexual medicine.

As a background and to assist in beginning these conversations, a summary of the broad aims, roles and functions of international bodies is outlined below.

### General principle and functions:

- To promote understanding of human sexuality and healthy sexual behaviour through the development and advancement of the field of sex therapy/sexology.
- To provide an ethical framework for the profession of sex therapy that acknowledges, respects and values diversity and difference in relation to sexuality and is free from prejudice and discrimination.
- To develop and maintain the highest standards of professional practice through training, research, dissemination of knowledge and regulation.
- To enable the public to have access to the most effective therapeutic treatments.
- To provide self-regulation of the practice of sex therapy through accreditation and recognition of training and experience.
- To support and enhance the practice of professionals working in the field of sex therapy through membership, professional development, supervision and accreditation.

The aims for this meeting are to broadly consider the following:

- To gauge potential interest in a National organisation and if so, the creation of a national group with a working committee of multidisciplinary professionals.
- To consider the benefits, barriers and obstacles to such an organisation
- To consider the purpose, structure and roles of a national organisation
- To consider an interdisciplinary approach to the practice of sex therapy/sexual medicine/sexual health.
- To consider the functions of an organisation for both professionals and the public.
- To consider the practicalities at a local/national level
- Invite feedback
- Consider next steps and action plans

We look forward to meeting with you.

Mary, Helen, Paula and Ally.

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