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Media release

INAUGURAL HASANZ SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

The [Health and Safety Association of New Zealand \(HASANZ\)](#) has awarded [18 inaugural scholarships](#) for tertiary education in workplace health and safety in 2019.

HASANZ Scholarships include funding to support full or part-time study for up to two years, plus practical experience and mentoring.

The [HASANZ Scholarship Programme](#) was established in September to encourage more people to build a career in workplace health and safety and increase the capability and capacity of New Zealand's professional health and safety workforce.

HASANZ received over 100 applications which were evaluated by a panel including representatives from tertiary institutes, HASANZ member associations and the wider health and safety sector.

"There was an overwhelming response and the calibre of the applicants was high," says evaluation panel member Dr Felicity Lamm, who is Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Centre for Occupational Health and Safety Research at the Auckland University of Technology (AUT). "It shows that people are taking the profession of workplace health and safety seriously, because they see its future."

Seven general scholarships were awarded to people who already work in health and safety and want to upskill with a relevant diploma or degree.

A further 11 scholarships were awarded for postgraduate study in a specialist field of workplace health and safety. These include five scholarships earmarked for study in occupational hygiene to help address the acute shortage of occupational hygienist skills in New Zealand, with the support of WorkSafe New Zealand.

Inaugural HASANZ Scholarship sponsors include: Air New Zealand, Z Energy, Fonterra, KiwiRail, SafetyApp.Pro, Safe 365, Treescape and PwC New Zealand.

"The number of applications we received far exceeded our expectations and reflects a latent demand for health and safety qualifications," says HASANZ Executive Director Philip Aldridge.

These scholarships help remove a barrier for a number of practitioners who have years of experience in health and safety but don't have spare funds for further study – it can be a luxury when you have a family to support and a mortgage to pay," says Philip Aldridge. "With money on the table, these people have a bridge to move from "thinking about it" to "doing it". The HASANZ Scholarship programme has been a catalyst for action.

"The HASANZ Scholarships programme is one of those programmes that lights a candle – it will help people recognise and realise that health and safety is a rewarding career."

Ends

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Notes for editors

HASANZ is an independent, not for profit organisation representing workplace health and safety professions in New Zealand. It aims to raise the standard of the health and safety advice provided to businesses so that our workplaces become safer and healthier.

Demand for qualified health and safety advisers outstrips supply in many areas, and New Zealand's health and safety workforce is ageing – a survey conducted by HASANZ and PwC in 2017* indicated that more than 50% of workplace health and safety professionals are over 50 years old.

“The Report of the Independent Taskforce on Workplace Health and Safety 2013” identified capability gaps among New Zealand's health and safety professions. For instance, there are just seven certified occupational hygienists currently practising in New Zealand – they assess and advise businesses on managing health risks associated with workplace noise and air quality, among other things.

The HASANZ Scholarship Programme is part of a raft of initiatives to develop New Zealand's health and safety workforce, led by HASANZ in collaboration with business and sector leaders, tertiary institutions, and government agencies.

HASANZ Scholarships will be awarded annually to people already working in health and safety who want to expand their skills by undertaking a higher-level qualification, and to graduates who want to pursue a career in health and safety.

*[HASANZ Health and Safety Professionals Survey 2017](#)

More information

- [List of 2018 HASANZ Scholarship recipients \(*being developed*\)](#)
- [Members of HASANZ Scholarship evaluation panel](#)
- [HASANZ Scholarships flyer](#)