

Kia Ora,

Just re-establishing contact with pharmacy technicians that have shown an interest in the New Zealand Pharmacy Specialist Technician (Level 6) programme run by Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT). Enrolments are now open for 2018 with the first course starting on the 22nd January, should you be interested.

The Specialist Technician (Level 6) course is a great opportunity for pharmacy technicians who hold a level 5 certificate to further their professional development, and consequently help the pharmacy industry in its progression to support the implementation of the New Zealand Healthcare strategy. The course is designed for the in work learner, so they can continue to grow professionally whilst continuing working in the sector.

A new development of the Specialist Technician (Level 6) course is that MIT are now able to offer certificates of proficiency. This means students may enrol in up to four courses to complete certificates of proficiency, before needing to enrol in the whole Level 6 certificate. This not only allows you to gain skills in areas you have identified as a need, but allows you to assess if you would like to complete the Specialist Technician (Level 6) course in full.

The aim of the Specialist Technician (Level 6) certificate is to build on a pharmacy technician's current skill set by introducing and developing new skills to assist pharmacists to deliver high functioning, patient centered, fully integrated healthcare services. By the completion of this course the pharmacy technician will have developed skills in:

- *Communication, leadership, operational management, quality assurance and law and ethics especially in the context of application to pharmacy and health care settings.*
- *How the New Zealand healthcare system is structured and the role of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The funding of various organisations and services that support the delivery of patient centered care.*
- *Recognising areas of where development is required within the workplace for themselves and others; and creating or finding resources to assist in the successful education of identified areas.*
- *Critical thinking and problem solving skills due to students being consistently encouraged to answer the 'why' and 'how'. This is threaded throughout the course*

through student self-conducted research of justified information along with various teaching methodologies such as case scenarios.

- *Development of academic writing skills in which pharmacy technicians will be able to write reports, policies, business cases, standard operating procedures and analysis of information found.*
- *From completing three specialist topic courses at the completion of the core courses the pharmacy technician will further develop in a specific skill set identified as an area of interest via the pharmacist, pharmacy technician and lecturer.*

The course has not only been developed by qualified and experienced pharmacy staff working within the educational setting, but also by other healthcare professionals. This collaboration ensures graduates come away with a greater depth of knowledge within the multifaceted environment of healthcare and allows them to show leadership within well-managed, safe work environments and thus ensuring better health outcomes for patients in their community.

Please refer to the Manukau Institute of Technology website for further details of the programme and courses, including specialist topic courses by looking at:

<https://www.manukau.ac.nz/study/areas-of-study/health-studies/pharmacy>

Please don't hesitate to contact by email to nursingandhealth@manukau.ac.nz should you have any questions about this course and how to enrol. Enrolments will be taken up to one week after official start date of the 22nd January.

Looking forward to hearing from you

The Pharmacy Teaching Team at MIT