



2016 Follow-up Survey of Graduates from 2012 & 2013

Size of survey

College records indicate that the classes who completed their studies at the end of 2012 and 2013 totalled 65 graduates. During the winter of 2015, telephone interviews were conducted with 16 graduates.

Those 16 graduates were contacted in April 2016, and during the winter and spring of 2016, to ask whether they would be prepared to participate in a follow-up telephone interview. Nine of them responded in the affirmative, and telephone interviews were conducted with them. Participants to date constitute approximately 14% of total graduates for the two cohorts.

Further research online indicates that the remaining seven individuals who were interviewed by telephone in 2015 continue to be profiled as practising Naturopaths in an online search conducted in January 2017.

Themes

- Current situation
 - All respondents working in Natural Health, three or four years after graduating with the BNatMed degree.
 - Most working in clinical roles.
 - Two in retail roles.
- Satisfaction with SPCNM continues to be very positive.

Discussion

Conversations took place by telephone with eight graduates practising in NZ, and by Skype with one who has moved overseas.

The respondents were generally very positive: their situations had changed for the better, although one is having to restrict clinical activity due to family [new parental] circumstances.

The conversations suggest that each of these graduates had been able to analyse their circumstances, identify potential changes for the better, and to take action to generate positive outcomes for change.

Everyone has made some changes to their situation, relating to their location of practice, or to their role within the organization in which they work. They are all positive about the way their careers are progressing.

Whilst the respondents are confident in their skills, and in their ability to manage as professionals in the natural health environment, it's clear that generating a living income as a self-employed practitioner remains a major challenge

Comment

Given the small number of participants, the discussion is necessarily quite broad in order to avoid disclosing detail that would make it easy to identify individuals.

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