

NZSSA Sterilising Technology Course Information

Since the foundation of the New Zealand Association of Sterile Supply Personnel in 1974, the idea of a National Training programme for sterile supply personnel has been floated.

In 1977, Bessie Butler who was a foundation member of the NZASSP and actively involved in the associations' affairs as a National Executive member suggested that we should write our own training manual for NZ hospital conditions. Through lack of support, nothing came of it.

David Wheeler re-introduced the idea at the NZASSP Inc Annual Conference in 1985 and called for volunteers. Only four of the original Education and Training Committee formed at that time remained to research, write and edit the manual.

The first NZASSP Sterilising Technology Course was held in June 1988

The purpose of this manual is to educate all sterile supply staff actively involved in processing sterile articles for clinical use.

The intention is that all sterile supply staff will have access to a recognised qualification that may lead to sterile supply staff becoming professional health workers.

MAY 1992

The New Zealand Association of Sterile Supply Personnel was registered as a Private Training Establishment with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. The course and Association are audited annually against NZQA criteria to achieve registration for both the course and the Association as a Private Training Establishment.

AUGUST 1993

The New Zealand Association of Sterile Supply Personnel's sterilising Technology Course gained recognition as a national qualification for the next three years. For the above achievement, an enormous amount of work and effort has taken place since 1990.

The exercise of achieving this was arduous and lengthy but well worth the time and effort.

The following is a summary from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority :

“Considerable time and effort has gone into preparing a comprehensive and well structured course which allows Technicians working with the Sterile Services to apply the related skills and knowledge. The course is widely endorsed and supported”.

1993 through to 1997

Ongoing and extensive updating on some chapters of the course manual were carried out. Updating of assignments and test papers was also completed to include the new material in the course manual.

2000 – 2001

Extensive updating of all chapters of the course manual is undertaken in preparation for a change in the format of the 2002 course.

There will be assignments for each module, followed by an exam covering the information covered in each assignment. After the five modules, there is a final exam for students to sit. Where possible, practical requirements have been included in each assignment. There will also be a practical component that is relevant to each Student's work area.

2003 - 2004

Course material is reviewed to ensure that it reflects the information in the updated AS/NZS 4187 2003 Joint Australian / New Zealand Sterilisation Standard.

2004 - 2005

It was recognised that the NZSSA could not continue to run the Sterilising Technology Course in-house. Letters were sent to various training establishments throughout the country, inviting them to put forward a proposal for administering the course. It was an important goal for the NZSSA Executive Body that whoever administered the course did so with the input and guidance from the NZSSA.

In 2005 The Open Polytechnic in Wellington became the training establishment that would administer the course. A joint partnership was agreed to with input and guidance for all course material being provided by the NZSSA. The course also become competency based and exams were not a part of the curriculum.

2006

The competency based course began with over 130 students. This was the largest of students in

an intake throughout the history of the course.

There have been numerous people involved throughout the many years that the Sterilising Technology Course has been available to sterilising personnel in New Zealand. Below is a list of dedicated personnel who all shared the same vision for trained and qualified sterilising personnel.

Nancy Healy - Wairau Hospital, Blenheim
Jean Taylor - Wairau Hospital, Blenheim
Helena Hannam - North Shore Hospital, Auckland
Joanne Forrest - Middlemore Hospital, Auckland
Daniel Phillips - Southland Hospital, Invercargill
David Wheeler - Te Kuiti Hospital, Te Kuiti
Bev Turner - Christchurch Hospital, Christchurch
Aileen Derby - Waikato Hospital, Hamilton
Alison Stewart - Wellington Hospital, Wellington
Cathy Rackley - Dunedin Hospital, Dunedin
Marilyn Clark - Southland Hospital, Invercargill
Judy Fairgray - North Shore Hospital, Auckland