

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2019

Barbara Findlay, Southern Regional Council Chairperson reports

The Southern Regional Council (SRC) celebrated the end of 2018 with a Christmas meeting and dinner in Dunedin.

SRC is calling for nominations through the regional council structures for the position of Chair of the SRC as I will be standing down at the end of my term in April.

Social media – love it or loathe it – is here to stay and therefore needs to be viewed for the amazing medium that it is. Comments can be made about all manner of topics and are instantly viewed by millions. A reminder to all NZNO members to think carefully before writing comments on social media. Comments can be hurtful, discriminatory and insight strong feelings. As an individual, members need to be accountable for what is written and realise that there can be dire consequences to a hastily written blurb.

You may wish to view/print NZNO’s publication - **Guideline: Social media and the nursing profession, 2019**. This can be found on the NZNO website www.nzno.org.nz



In safe hands campaign

NZNO and Etū have joined together in a campaign in the aged care sector called “In Safe Hands: safe staffing for aged care”.

Together they are asking for a review and update on the 2005 guidelines “Aged Care Safe Staffing Standards”, which also need to be mandatory.

As an NZNO member we ask that you support this campaign for safer staffing levels for our seniors living in aged care facilities by signing a petition at

<https://www.insafehands.co.nz>

You may be interested in attending:

NZNO Southern Regional Council Professional Issues Forum

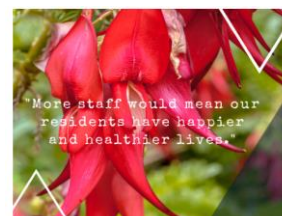
Saturday 6 April 2018,
at the Otago Polytechnic, Dunedin

Ngaio Fulton Nurses Trust Fund

Funding is available to RNs, ENs or student nurses who reside within the old Otago Hospital Board boundaries and are NZNO members.

If you require funding to attend a conference, hui, study day, or for books and publishing costs, please apply to the Ngaio Fulton Nurses Trust.

For further information re the above please contact Jenny on 0800 28 38 48 or email: jenny.mccullum@nzno.org.nz



The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 is a powerful piece of NEW legislation introduced in the wake of the Pike River coal mine tragedy, where 29 miners lost their lives in a series of preventable underground explosions. It's important that as NZNO members, you are aware of your rights under this Act.



Here are some of the key points:

Under The Act, your employer is now referred to as a “Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking” (PCBU) and the individuals who “exercise considerable influence over the management of the business” are known as “**officers**”. A PCBU and its officers must ensure, as far as is reasonably practical, the health and safety of its workers - this is called “**The Primary Duty of Care**” A PCBU has a **duty to engage** with workers in matters relating to work health or safety. Failure to do so may result in **significant fines**.

- A worker has the **right to cease or refuse to perform unsafe work** if the worker **believes** there is an “**immediate or imminent exposure to a hazard**”. If the work already carries an inherent risk, the risk must have “**materially increased**”.
- While at work, a worker must take **reasonable care** for his or her **own** health and safety and the health and safety of **others**.
- If there are 20 or more workers in an area, any worker has the **right to request an election** for a Health and Safety Representative (**HSR**). The prescribed minimum ratio for HSRs is **1 representative for every 19 workers**.
- The PCBU must allow an elected HSR **2 days’ paid leave per year** to attend Health and Safety Training. The HSR may **choose** his/her training provider in **consultation** with the PCBU. NZNO recommends “**Worksafe Reps**” as the preferred training provider: <http://worksafereps.co.nz>
- An HSR trained to **NZQA Unit Standard 29315** has the authority to **direct workers to refuse or stop doing unsafe work** and can issue a **Provisional Improvement Notice** requiring a remedy if he/she believes a person is contravening any provisions of the Act. An HSR can be removed should a **simple majority** of the members of the workgroup resolve to do so.
- An HSR has a number of **powers** and is **protected** from civil and criminal liability as long as he/she is acting in **good faith**
- If an issue about work health and safety arises, the parties to the issue **must make reasonable efforts to resolve the matter**. Failing this, a party to the issue may formally ask the official regulator, Worksafe, to **appoint an inspector** to assist the parties in resolving the issue. The website for more information is: <https://worksafe.govt.nz/>

2019 – Upcoming Events and Meetings

Thursday 28 March	Southern Regional Convention and SRC AGM/meeting
Thursday 4 April	Te Runanga Te Tai Tonga Rohe Hui
Saturday 6 April	Southern Regional Council study day, Dunedin
Sunday 5 May	International Day of the Midwife
Sunday 12 May	International Nurses Day
Thursday 16 May	Southern Regional Council meeting