

# Critical Comment

## New Zealand College of Critical Care Nurses



### Message from the Chair

Welcome to the first edition of Critical Comment for 2018. It seems that we have all had a very busy summer with lots of sick patients and high workloads. I hope that you managed to get a break or at least some good rest during that time.

The committee is about to have its first meeting of the year and with four new members to replace the five that have left it will mean a lot of changes to roles for the committee. We will still be very much focusing on the education standards this year, plan for the next education workshop and provision of scholarships for our members.

The NZ Regional ANZICS meeting in April 2018 hosted by PICU was a fantastic meeting with a stimulating scientific programme. The evening social line-up was excellent, a great opportunity to network.

The NZCCCN General Meeting was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018. During the meeting we welcomed the new members to the national committee, provided the Chairpersons and financial reports, and updated members on the education standards progress.

So now I welcome the four new members to the committee:

Lara Millar an ICU and flight nurse from Nelson Hospital.

Sacha McMillan an ICU nurse from Christchurch Hospital.

Carrie Wilhelmsen an ICU from Dunedin Hospital.

Rachel Yong an ICU nurse from Whangarei Hospital.

That means however that we sadly have people leaving the committee. These people have given a lot of their own time and energy to the NZCCCN and have been committed to developing the college to provide education and support to critical care nurses. I thank them all and wish them well:

Dayle Pearman a Charge Nurse from DCCM, Auckland Hospital.

Lyn Maughan an Educator from Palmerston North Hospital.

Leah Hackney an ICU nurse from Christchurch Hospital.

Rodney Bowen an ICU nurse from Dunedin Hospital.

Elinore Harper-Spiller an Associate Charge Nurse Manager from Wellington Hospital.

I am looking forward to the coming year and the work that we are wanting to achieve in this time. We will continue to keep you updated of the progress we make and any activities we have as they are developed, both on our website and in this newsletter.

I hope that you all keep happy and well.

Steve Kirby

## Letter from the Editor

This will be my last edition of the Newsletter as editor as I will be handing over the reins to another member of the committee so I can focus on the role of chairperson.

What do want to say is that I had a really good time at the ANZICS ASM in Auckland. The programme was packed with excellent speakers and in particular I thoroughly enjoyed the sessions on education for the nurses caring for paediatric patients, the sessions on mindfulness and resilience and the feedback from a child's mother on her experience in the hospital. These insights into behavior and emotional intelligence and ethics I found really enlightening.

NZCCCN sponsored two members of the college to attend the conference and they both found it very beneficial to attend.

I hope that those of you that were able to attend also enjoyed it and that you enjoy this newsletter giving a glimpse of what was discussed.

Steve

### NZ College of Critical Care Nurses [NZNO]

#### 2018 national committee members

Position	Name	Term	Region
<b>Chair</b>	Steve Kirby	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Northern
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Rachel Yong	1 <sup>st</sup>	Northern
<b>Secretary</b>	Sarah Rogers	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Midlands
<b>Treasurer</b>	Erin Williams	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Midlands
<b>Membership</b>	Sacha McMillan	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mid-South
<b>Website/Newsletter</b>	Carrie Wilhelmsen	1 <sup>st</sup>	Southern
<b>Consultation Documents</b>	Lara Millar	1 <sup>st</sup>	Central
<b>NZNO Liaison</b>	Margaret Cain		

## Conference report: “Size Does Matter”

Grace Mahon, ICU Christchurch Hospital.

The annual ANZICS conference, themed “Size Does Matter” was held in April this year, hosted by Starship’s PICU. A frequent topic of discussion was the care of paediatric patients in predominantly adult intensive care units. Due to the dynamic nature of the growth and fluidity of population throughout New Zealand, there may be an increasing demand to keep appropriate paediatrics patients in their local tertiary adult intensive care units. When combined with other dynamics of PICU such as an increasing patient group requiring extended admissions, local models of care are having to adapt.

Each acute paediatric admission to an adult ICU is assessed by local intensivists in consultation with paediatric intensivists as to whether the child requires a PICU admission. This may only be temporary until Starship’s transport team arrives or if appropriate, such as a child with single organ dysfunction and/or an illness with an expected trajectory, the child may be kept in the adult ICU for the duration of their illness.


A presentation by Dr Tony Williams and Pam Culverwell from Middlemore ICU highlighted key

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[http://www.nzno.org.nz/groups/colleges\\_sections/colleges/new\\_zealand\\_college\\_of\\_critical\\_care\\_nurses](http://www.nzno.org.nz/groups/colleges_sections/colleges/new_zealand_college_of_critical_care_nurses)



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points of caring for paediatrics in a predominantly adult ICU. It goes without saying that effective, supportive communication between all health professionals involved is paramount to good outcomes for the child. Some of the challenges identified included: 1) the tendency to treat paediatric patients as little adults - the physiological and psychological differences are significant and require specialised knowledge, equipment, and clinical skills; 2) maintaining a strong skill-mix with specialist tertiary education - particularly since specialised tertiary level professional development for paediatric ICU usually requires the student to work in PICU and is not offered by all post-graduate education providers; 3) barriers to continuing professional development; 4) intermittent experiences working with paediatric patients - due to the seasonal nature of acute paediatric admissions; 5) environment – which is paramount to catering to the psychosocial requirements of paediatric patients; and 6) models of care – for example, family centered care can be

a shift of thought in predominantly adult ICUs.

Despite the challenges discussed, it is an exciting time to work in a mixed adult/paediatric ICU as we are given the opportunity to expand our knowledge and provide quality care to this (cute) cohort of patients.



## Calling all new graduate nurses working in ICU

New graduate nurses can be employed in intensive care units and may quickly become involved in the end of life care (EOLC) of such patients. The EOLC of ICU patients can be complicated and emotionally challenging for all staff, but especially perhaps for new graduate nurses. This is an area that has not been widely explored and I am keen to learn more about the new graduate experience towards being able to understand how they could best be supported in such circumstances.

My name is Jo Speirs and I am a registered nurse with a background in critical care nursing. I am working on a research project for my masters of nursing degree through Massey University, supervised by Dr Claire Minton and Professor Jenny Carryer. I am hoping to interview new graduate nurses who are currently working in critical care environments throughout New Zealand. Interviews could be conducted via zoom, telephone, or in person - subject to mutual agreement. If you are interested in participating in this research please email me at [jo.speirs@yahoo.com](mailto:jo.speirs@yahoo.com) for further information.

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Massey University Human Ethics Committee: Northern, Application NOR 18/23.



# NZCCCN

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- ✓ Join a large community of likeminded nurses
- ✓ Scholarships available for courses and education
- ✓ Discounted registration to ANZICS conferences
  - ✓ Critical Comment Newsletter
- ✓ Support education and safe staffing standards



For more information or to join, visit our website:

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or



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### Update your NZNO or NZCCCN Membership

If you move address, change your name, change your job/position, or no longer want to be a member of a college of section please update your details with NZNO. You can do this by emailing Sharyne Gordon: [SharyneG@nzno.org.nz](mailto:SharyneG@nzno.org.nz) with NZNO number and a simple request to alter your details or remove you from the membership database.