

Aotearoa College of Diabetes Nurses NZNO, chairperson's report 2021 -2022

It seems a repeat of the last two years in that we have all been affected by COVID and the last 8 months being the most challenging of this period. Whilst we were not able to have a study day attached to NZSSD conference and had to have the AGM on Zoom in 2021. This year we are planning to have a half day study day virtually and an AGM prior to NZSSD meeting which will be a hybrid meeting in Wellington. When holding the zoom AGM last year we waited 30 minutes before we achieved a quorum. Hopefully this year holding it on the study day will mean we will achieve quorum easily. The study day is going to be on Zoom and it is hoped that many people will join us for the interesting program.

The committee have predominantly been in contact via email and zoom with I imagine, like everyone else, coping with increased workload due to COVID either working from home or deployed, or covering for their team members who are deployed or have had to stand down due to getting COVID or being a close contact and not able to come to work. Overall it has been a very challenging time for everyone.

The committee will have one vacancy as Anne Waterman will be stepping off having been the secretary and been on for 5 years on the committee. So thank you Anne for all your hard work. Solita Rose has stepped on but has just had a baby so will be taking some time off. So we are still looking for another committee member.

Good news about medications – finally have gazette notice about the ability to prescribe the newer medications for the management of diabetes which designated prescribers are now allowed to prescribe all diabetes medications and cardiovascular medications along with pharmacy only medications and those on general sale. Please be aware as you need to know whether it is fully funded or there is a part charge for the particular prescription and let your patient know about this. Designated prescribers are able to prescribe pump consumables but only specialists and nurse practitioners are able to prescribe the pump and its consumables in the first instance and when renewal of special authority is required. Designated prescribers are also able to prescribe under special authority; you just have to get the special authority permission via your organisation. Nursing Council now think that Nurse Practitioners are able to supervise designated prescribers provided they have the expertise to be able to do this. They are working on a pathway for development of prescribing and increasing RN ability to prescribe more medications perhaps taking into account prior learning. They are working with the Ministry of Health to simplify the process of adding new medications as we still are not adding classes of medications to the list but rather named medications.

Despite COVID we have managed to maintain accreditation. Amanda de Hoop is coordinator for the accreditation program and says that overall accreditation numbers have remained stable, with a net loss of two accredited nurses since 2021. We have 42 specialist RN's, 7 specialist NP and 4 proficient RN's. Applications each round include new applications, evidencing interest in the accreditation programme. Reminder emails are sent to those nurses due renewal to encourage maintenance applications. Amanda's full report will be presented at the AGM. Kate Smallman continues in the role of external moderator, and has done so since June 2019. We have 11 current assessors. Concerns about confidentiality breaches are ongoing.

Membership remains fairly static at 416, 49 of whom are accredited. Sue Talbot is our membership coordinator and in charge of the professional development grants. Professional development grants are available but due to COVID demand has been low. We also support those who are applying for

accreditation or re accreditation. We have changed the wording to allow the support for accreditation to be separate from application for professional development grants.

Sue has also been involved, as part of the health workforce working with diabetes, in providing feedback to Waka Kotahi (NZTA), who are currently reviewing their 'Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive' document. The document is still under review and yet to be finalised.

We have continued to produce the newsletter quarterly, aided by Michelle McGarth coordinating the articles at present. So do you have a passion for writing and would be interested as we are looking for someone to write the newsletter and coordinate it – this person does not have to be on the committee if you do not feel able to do this and attend meetings? However it would be great if you could.

Belinda Gordge is in charge of working with NZNO to update the website so let her know if you see anything out of date or not working. Vicki McKay is our hard working secretary and Nana Tweneboah-Mensah our treasurer. I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work in these trying times.

Bobby Milne
Chairperson ACDN