

Professional Nurse Advisor Report: Nursing Leadership Section 2021

I would like to thank all the Nursing Leadership Section committee members for their hard work and dedication to their roles over the previous year. I would especially like to thank committee members, Teresa Fisher (treasurer extraordinaire) and Vina Singh who are both sadly leaving the committee at this year's AGM. The committee will miss you both and I wish you well in your future nursing and leadership ventures.

It has not been an easy year for nurses and nurse leaders in the current pandemic environment and the committee have done exceptionally well to maintain their drive and enthusiasm for the work of the section. I want to especially thank the conference organising committee as this is the second year in a row they have planned this conference and we are all hoping that the conference can go ahead. I am also very pleased that plans to begin a Nurse Practitioner sub-group have begun with Siān Munson (NP based in the Manawatu) agreeing to help get this group started.

It has been an interesting year both in healthcare in general with the global pandemic and at NZNO with the negotiation of different MECAs, change in the way members are engaged during negotiations and strike action. From an employee perspective, NZNO is feeling a lot more settled and we are concentrating on providing the best service and services to members that we possibly can amidst all the disruption. Kaitaiki has changed format and is now available both in hard copy and online. Members are able to opt out of the hard copy and go exclusively online if they wish. NZNO has been focussing on equity within the organisation and out in the wider health care system. Staff have attended equity workshops run by Dr Heather Came.

Below are some of the activities of the Professional Nursing Advisor (PNA) team of NZNO over the last year, interspersed with some related activities of the wider professional services and industrial services staff.

1. NZNO Response to Covid-19 continues

- a. Meeting with the Chief Nurse and MoH as well as with DHBs at a national and local level
- b. Supporting individuals/ single facilities/ Sectors of healthcare
 - i. to be informed of MoH PPE guidance
 - ii. NZNO contribution to MoH development of *Aotearoa New Zealand Pandemic Response Toolkit for Aged Residential Care*
 - iii. Advocacy for members working in the Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities worksites in various locations around the country

2. Care Capacity Demand Management (CCDM) activity progresses towards the goal of full implementation by 30 June 2021, for NZNO representatives, DHB staff and other union partners. All PNAs are engaged with CCDM programmes alongside organisers and member delegates. Efforts are being made to ensure NZNO members are also represented on the council and working groups at each site.

3. Medico-Legal forums and national professional forums are held on alternate years. The 2020 medico-legal forum focussed on "Scope of Practice", held in 7 regions and attended by 775 delegates. And in 2021 the **Nursing Professional forum** on the topic "**Every Nurse is an Advocate – Influencing outcomes through Advocacy**" was held in Christchurch on Monday, 23 February and planned for Wellington on 10 March. Unfortunately, our Auckland forum was cancelled due to Covid lockdown restrictions. Participants have had the option of registering to attend either, in person, or as an online participant at each forum. Evaluations will inform whether a hybrid conference has merit for future planning.

4. **PNAs have continued to support members of NZNO's 20 Colleges and sections nationally.** These important nursing leadership groups are actively planning their operational activities for the 2021-2022 year. Annual conferences, leadership and mentoring courses, triage courses are an example of the events you'll find on the NZNO calendar [Event calendar \(nzno.org.nz\)](https://nzno.org.nz)
5. **NZNO Addressing Violence Against Nurses** working group continues to focus on safety of members. A MSC call pathway has been developed and a member education package for health and safety and duty of care resources.
6. PNAs are active in **NZNO working groups for the range of health sectors** including **DHB sector** (including having a PNA on NZNO's team for NZNO/DHB MECA bargaining to articulate professional practice concerns); and **Aged Care Sector** (focus is on lobbying for improved staffing levels in ARC), **Primary Health Care Sector** – advisory and projects groups such as Staffing in Corrections facilities, General Practice Leaders Forum and the **Private Hospital Sector**.
7. PNAs continue to **work with members to respond to proposals for change in workplaces** and to **individual members seeking support with professional topics** (e.g. performance Improvement plans, dealing respond to positive, forward focussed enquiries (e.g raising an issue with the MOH about a barrier to nursing practice)
8. **Belinda Tuari-Toma** commenced in the position of **NZNO Policy Advisor Maori** in January 2021. She is based in the National office. Leanne Manson who has been in that role for 13 years left to take up an exciting new position of Pou Tohu Mātāmua Te Whaioranga, Principal Advisor Te Whaioranga with PHARMAC.
9. Mairi Lucas, current Professional Services Manager has being appointed as Acting Chief Executive from 26 February, covering until a permanent CE is appointed and starts in the role.
10. Kate Weston has been appointed as the Associate Professional Services Manager role as she has been over the past 11 months.
11. During COVID lockdown Kaitiaki Nursing NZ moved to a simple electronic format and in Feb 2021 the fuller format has been launched and accessible here. <https://kaitiaki.org.nz/>

On the 23rd of August, I begin a new role at NZNO as the Nursing Competency Advisor. I have asked to remain as the PNA support for the Nursing Leadership Section and look forward to supporting the committee in the coming year.

Ngā mihi,

Wendy Blair

Professional Nurse Advisor/Competency Advisor