

College of Emergency Nurses New Zealand - Chairperson Report September 2025

This year has again brought significant pressures across healthcare, and emergency departments have felt these challenges sharply. Despite the difficulties, emergency nurses have continued to show resilience, professionalism, and commitment to patient care. The College of Emergency Nurses New Zealand (CENNZ-NZNO) has remained focused on supporting our members, advocating nationally, and progressing key pieces of work to strengthen emergency nursing practice.

Ministerial Hui – Advancing the Emergency Nursing Voice

In late July, representatives from the CENNZ National Committee met with Hon. Simeon Brown, Minister of Health, at Parliament. The purpose of this hui was to highlight the realities faced in emergency departments and to advocate for improvements in safety, equity, and workforce support.

Discussions covered a range of issues, including:

- The need for consistent implementation of CCDM in emergency departments to ensure staffing is aligned with demand.
- Recognition that emergency nursing requires specialist skills, and that workforce shortages are compromising patient care.
- Rising violence and aggression in EDs, and the call for trained, 24/7 security presence.
- Concerns about equity, including the disproportionate outcomes for Māori and Pacific patients, and the need to adopt equity-focused measures such as the 10-day post-ED mortality rate.
- The importance of supporting Māori nurses through initiatives such as Te Pai Tāwhiti and ensuring government strategies reflect these priorities.

- Overcrowding and system pressures that affect flow, and the need for an “all-of system” approach to Shorter Stays in ED targets.

The meeting was constructive, and CENNZ reinforced the urgent need for investment in both the emergency nursing workforce and culturally safe, equitable models of care.

Knowledge and Skills Framework (KSF)

Work has continued on the review and refresh of the Knowledge and Skills Framework. The revised document incorporates updated nursing competencies and embeds Pae Ora principles, ensuring equity and responsiveness are central to professional development pathways. This refreshed framework is to be published soon and will provide stronger guidance for nurses in the emergency care setting.

CENNZ Triage Course

The CENNZ Triage Course remains central to national education and has continued to evolve following the redevelopment work undertaken last year. Feedback from participants has been positive, and the course continues to provide the consistency needed in triage practice, as well as essential revenue to support wider CENNZ activities.

Equity and Pae Ora

CENNZ has advanced its Pae Ora strategy, which has now been published. This work has included incorporating Māori health frameworks into the KSF, developing education opportunities, and increasing access to grants for Māori nurses. Strengthening equity remains a central priority for the committee.

Grants and Member Support

CENNZ has again distributed grants and awards to members this year, supporting education, research, and professional development. Providing these opportunities remains an important way that the College invests in our profession and supports the growth of emergency nursing.

Looking Forward

Planning is progressing for the 2026 CENNZ Conference- Te Pai Tāwhiti, in Auckland. The event will provide an opportunity for learning, networking, and recognition of the important contribution emergency nurses make across Aotearoa.

The National Committee remains committed to strengthening safe staffing, embedding Pae Ora in our work, supporting advanced practice pathways, and ensuring the voice of emergency nursing continues to be heard nationally.

I would like to thank all members of the CENNZ committee for their contribution over the past year. The commitment, expertise, and time given to our work is greatly appreciated, particularly alongside the demands of clinical practice. I also acknowledge and welcome our new committee members who will be joining us in the coming months and look forward to the perspectives they will bring to our work.

On behalf of the committee, thank you for your continued dedication and support. It is a privilege to represent emergency nurses and to work together for the future of our specialty.

Lauren Miller
CENNZ Chair