

## **Professional Nursing Advisor Report – Julia Anderson NZNO, College of Gastroenterology Nurses AGM November 2021**

Tēnā koutou katoa

At an annual meeting, it is important to take time to reflect on the achievements of the past year and to aspire to meet new challenges in the coming year.

Thank you to the committee who continue to lead in advancing nursing and for their efforts on behalf of the College membership to enhance the specialty of Gastroenterology nursing.

Despite the ongoing challenges of the global pandemic and the disruption to personal and professional lives, the committee has this year continued to work together facilitating communication, offering education opportunities, and engaging with others. The impact of your work is substantial and far-reaching. Thank you!

Here, I have summarised some highlights from NZNO's year taken from the 2020 to 2021 NZNO Annual report:

**National professional forums** are held on alternate years to medico-legal forums. This year's professional forum focussed on Advocacy and was held in 3 regions (both in-person and online for the first time) attended by many delegates. Professional Nursing Advisors provide a variety of further forums across the regions and nursing schools with members (and non-members for a fee).

**NZNO research activity** – seven different research reports were published and NZNO researchers collaborated with two external teams for projects on fatigue risk management in nursing (Massey University Sleep/Wake Centre), and ascertaining PPE access and availability (McGuinness Institute). It was announced at the NZNO AGM this year that the proposed evaluation of the CCDM programme by NZNO would be cancelled due to competing reviews underway from the Safe Staffing Unit and the Ministerial Inquiry into CCDM.

**Media** activity has continued with 47 media releases across the year and an intense media campaign led by the Kaiwhakahaere, Associate Professional Services Manager and Industrial Advisor addressed issues members were facing with access to PPE, etc. This involved many interviews across all media platforms.

**Kai Tiaki** publishes 11 issues each year. NZNO launched a digital Kai Tiaki journal in March 2021. Coverage in the past year has been dominated by COVID-19 as well as other highlights.

**NZNO Library** supports members by providing access to 13 databases as well as providing information services to staff and members via a range of resources.

NZNO supported 17 members through the **Nursing Council competency review process** with advice and support, as well as further members whose progress meeting NCNZ requirements from previous year was disrupted by pandemic conditions (e.g. access to professional development).

**Medico-legal new cases (303) during the year included:**

- 50 Coroners cases (some will proceed to an inquest, others will require documentation support)
- 91 HDC complaints by consumers
- 2 cases of support for members as regulatory authority witnesses
- 1 NCNZ full council meeting representation
- 17 Nursing council assessments, complaints, conduct, disciplinary, inquiry and other matters
- 19 cases with the Professional Conduct Committee investigations
- 2 Nursing Council Registrations Committee matters
- 54 Nursing Council Health Committee matters
- 6 Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal hearings
- 1 Human Rights Commission matter
- 2 criminal investigations of members by Police
- 33 Police Witnesses or victims
- 2 Midwifery Council enquiries
- 22 serious adverse event review
- 30 of these cases outsourced to external legal providers.

And 238 ongoing cases opened prior to the 2020-2021 year for members that continue to require support until the matter is concluded.

**Employment** – new cases:

- 6 collective agreement interpretation disputes involving over 2000 members
- 24 Personal grievances
- 3 wage arrears matters involving around 500 members

*\* Further activity in full report*

NZNO **Membership Support Centre** (MSC - 0800 28 38 48) took an average of 425 calls weekly and 155 emails.

Of those calls:

- 46% were Industrial, including pay issues and agreement interpretation, disciplinary matters, leave and holiday queries,
- 41% were Membership,
- 9% were Professional,
- 3% were Administration, and
- 1% were Miscellaneous.

**Pay Equity:**

Work to progress the NZNO/DHB Pay Equity claim has continued throughout pandemic disruptions and is close to concluding. The application date of the outcome remains 31 December 2019 (will be backdated for eligible members).

We are proud that members stood in unity for a quality public health system, were active, vocal and visible on marches and picket lines, and provided life-preserving services during disrupted strike action in 2021. There was strong public and patient support.

**Member Remit activity:** A working group 'Addressing Violence and Aggression to Nurses,' (AVAN) held a workshop for staff and members of the reference group representing key stakeholders (Mental health nurses, Nurses working in Aged Care facilities and Emergency Nurses. This workshop identified ways to use Health and Safety legislation to ensure member safety from violence. An education module has been created that will be rolled out in coming months. Unfortunately, an application for ACC grant funding to significantly progress this and other preventative work was unsuccessful.

Overall, it was another momentous year for Nursing in Aotearoa New Zealand and we are proud to be a part of it, working together to achieve our collective aspirations. Supporting the work of NZNO Colleges and Sections is a particularly satisfying part of my PNA role. I have enjoyed working alongside the current Gastro committee this past year. I acknowledge the tireless efforts and calm measured leadership shown by Karen Clarke and wish Karen well in her future endeavours. My congratulations go to all for the college's achievements across 2021.

Ngā manaakitanga

*“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot nothing is going to get better, it's not” Dr Seuss*