



NZNO Gastroenterology Nurses College Chairperson report- AGM 2023.

This term our college committee consisted of a balanced quorum of skills to ensure our nursing membership was well supported in their work and professional development. Our nursing college membership has grown this year to nearly 500 across the country.

The 2023 committee included:

Chairperson: Merrilee Williams (CNM Gastroenterology, Dunedin)
Secretary: Holly Weale (Nurse lead, NEQIP and RN Christchurch)
Treasurer: Kirsten Arnold (CNS IBD Christchurch)
Committee members: Marian O'Connor (CNS IBD Taranaki)
Jessica Southall (Hepatology and Endoscopy, Christchurch)
Kiran Joseph (RN Gastroenterology, Dunedin)
Karen Kempin (Nurse Endoscopist, Hutt Valley)
Justin Augustine (Endoscopy, West Coast)
NZNO Professional Nurse Advisor: Julia Anderson

The committee have accomplished much over the year with a focus on improving the connection between our senior nursing leaders in Gastroenterology to share resources and knowledge. This has been through a new email group, the development of a quarterly Pānui, and our annual Nurse Leaders day. The improved connection between our senior nurses has been welcomed, and eased the sense of isolation experienced at times.

Our nurse leader's day was held in Wellington in September where we had some excellent speakers, including Sir Ashley Bloomfield who shared his experience and leadership expertise with the delegates. This is always a valuable day to network, problem solve, and share our successes from our workplaces.

IBD Sub specialty group: Continues to work alongside the NZSG to bring about change and implement future planning to promote our IBD Nurse specialists who are pivotal role in the care of patients with this chronic disease. They are under increasing pressure to provide services to a growing population of people, however FTE provision is not keeping up due to poor business planning, low recognition of the value in this nursing role, and conflicts of nursing time where IBD nurses are often pulled into other roles. This continues to be a challenging time. We welcomed the acquisition of new medications for patients to improve quality of care through extended treatment options, and recognise the joint effort from groups including CCNZ, NZSG and NZgNC to achieve this success.

Hepatology Sub specialty group: The group have nearly completed the first Knowledge and Skills Framework which will be used as a guide new and existing nurses working in this increasingly complex field. This has been a big and important



project, and support was given by the Australasian Hepatology Foundation, further fostering our trans-Tasman links at a professional level.

Nurse Endoscopists sub specialty group: This group consists of current and aspiring nurse endoscopists who are working towards an agreed pathway through which training can be acquired locally resulting in credentialing as nurse practitioners and nurse endoscopists. There has been some time elapsed since our last formal academic pathway, and in this time interest in this career advancement has grown significantly. Support will be sought in the coming time to establish an agreed pathway with our professional body, as well as our NZSG colleagues.

Financially, we stand in good stead to continue to support our membership to attend and undertake education opportunities. The education fund is available for all nurse members to apply for, and will fund full PG paper costs (approx. \$2500ea), \$1800 towards International conference, or \$800 towards National education. We promote the education fund at every opportunity to support advancement of skill, knowledge and enjoyment in our specialty of Gastroenterology. The allocated funding continues to be underutilised, so please promote this to your team at any opportunity, and encourage them to join the college as a member so they can make use of this valuable support.

We continue to publish the Tube journal, which we have reduced to twice yearly, supplemented by the Pānui publication up to 6 times per year. These journals are well subscribed to, with each edition containing scholarly articles from our membership in return for funding from our Nurses Education fund.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank my amazing committee for their hard work, relentless enthusiasm, and dedication to supporting the nurses within our specialty around the country. Thank you also for your support of me as a chairperson, together we have done great things.

Merrilee Williams
Chairperson- NZgNC

NZgNC

NZNO GASTROENTEROLOGY
NURSES' COLLEGE



NZgNC Nurse Leaders day, Wellington, Sept 2023