

Professional Nursing Advisor Report NZNO College of Gastroenterology November 2023

Thank you to the College of Gastroenterology committee who continue to show leadership and professional engagement throughout 2023. The committee's contribution to the gastroenterology sector is tireless. NZNO greatly values your effort and commitment to both nursing, your specialty and sub-specialties. Big thanks go to the committee members for organising this year's Leaders Symposium and participating again in ensuring a nursing voice is heard at the Annual Scientific Meeting 2023.

NZNO relies on the input of member volunteers and acknowledges the work completed on behalf of the College by the committee over and above their own personal and professional commitments. Their voluntary work makes a significant difference to gastroenterology nurses' professional standing, and is complemented by personal growth, and rewarded with the friendships formed.

I extend my thanks to Merrilee Williams who has led the committee over the past few years. Merrilee has maintained her supportive, resilient leadership style encouraging the College committee to raise the profile of Gastro nursing and the specialty practice areas across the Gastroenterology sector. Thanks also to the committee members who have all shown real commitment and energy for the committee outcomes for the year. The Committee is well organised and is raising the voice and presence of gastroenterology nurses through social media presence, submissions, networking and growing sub-specialties focus and determination. They all deserve your recognition!

NZNO News

You will all have heard about NZNO currently shaping itself around **Maranga Mai!** activity [Maranga Mai - Rise Up!](#) that was launched by NZNO's Board of Directors on 12 May 2022, soon after the commencement of Paul Goulter in the role of CE. **Maranga Mai!** means 'Rise Up!' and this campaign is a call for **NZNO members, whatever sector they work in (and their communities), to come together and take united action. The aim is to win the political and resourcing commitments needed to address the nursing shortage crisis permanently – and across the whole health sector. As Paul Goulter wrote on 4 March, "We need to show the politicians they need to make the lack of health resourcing a number one issue and that we will not go away as we take our campaign to the streets."**

The campaign is based on the simple charter of demands (or 'The Five Fixes') that includes:

1. te Tiriti actualised within and across the health system
2. more nurses across the health sector
3. pay and conditions that meet nurses' value and expectations
4. more people training to be nurses
5. more Māori and Pasifika nurses.

See <https://maranga-mai.nzno.org.nz/> for more detail on Maranga Mai! activity

- NZNO Membership - As of 30/03/2023, there are 57,711 members, which includes 2806 students. This total is up from 55,202 members at 31/03/2022.

ICN launched the Charter for Change on 12 May 2023.

“Nurses are key to healthier communities, responsive societies, thriving economies and powerful nations. Now is the time for policy makers, national and local decision-makers to take decisive steps to build and optimise an enduring, strong and sustainable nursing workforce. The International Council of Nurses’ Charter for Change presents 10 policy actions that governments and employers must take to create and sustain health care systems that are safe, affordable, accessible, and responsive and shift nurses from being invisible to invaluable.” https://www.icn.ch/system/files/documents/2023-05/IND_2023_Charter_EN.pdf

The ten policy actions of ICN’s **Charter for Change** are:

1. Protect and invest in the nursing profession to rebuild health systems (fixes 2, 3, 4 & 5)
2. Urgently address and improve support for nurses’ health and well-being by ensuring safe and healthy working conditions and respecting their rights. (fix 3)
3. Advance strategies to recruit and retain nurses to address workforce shortages. Improve compensation for nurses to ensure fair and decent pay and benefits, and uphold positive practice environments (fixes 2, 3, 4)
4. Develop, implement and finance national nursing workforce plans with the objective of self-sufficiency in the supply of future nurses. (fixes 2, 5)
5. Invest in high-quality, accredited nursing education programmes to prepare more new nurses and advance career development for existing nurses. (fixes 2, 4)
6. Enable nurses to work to their full scope of nursing practice by strengthening and modernising regulation and investing in advanced nursing practice and nurse-led models of care.
7. Recognise and value nurses’ skills, knowledge, attributes and expertise.
8. Actively and meaningfully engage national nursing associations as critical professional partners in all aspects of health and social care policy, delivery and leadership
9. Protect vulnerable populations, uphold and respect human rights, gender equity and social justice. (fix 1)
10. Appoint nurse leaders to executive positions of all health care organisations and government policy making.

In summary, we all know that the health environment is complex and is in the process of undergoing challenging structural changes which take time to implement and create uncertainty in the interim. It is essential that nurses become increasingly aware and involved through

- networking and sharing stories of issues in health care delivery
- accessing and absorbing media messages with critical analysis
- understanding the possible impact of decisions on patient outcomes.

NZNO is here to help nurses have their voice heard so that it is listened to with respect. This has not always been the case. It takes patience and practice to gain confidence in speaking up. I encourage you to extend your knowledge of the evolving health system and emerging opportunities so that the profession of nursing is at the table for all discussions about the care that nurses give.

Wishing you an interesting and satisfying year ahead.

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