



New Zealand Nurses Organisation Gastroenterology Nurses College (NZgNC)

AGM Co-Chairperson Report 2025

In 2025 the challenges for the gastroenterology nurse profession have escalated to the point where we are losing amazingly skilled senior nurses to Australia because our health and government leaders continue to undervalue and underestimate what we do and how much value we add to our patients and the NZ health care system. The NZNO has taken some positive steps policy wise towards bringing patient care and safety back into focus and bringing Te Tiriti principles back to the core of health and wellness but there may be no experienced nurses left by the time this is endorsed. There are fewer nursing students; new graduates are forced to look for full time jobs overseas and over-worked/under-paid nurses who have fears for their own safety and mental health are being recruited into other health systems. We have a senior management team who believes any nurse will do, as long as they accept low wages and keep quiet and we are all struggling with pressure to do more for less and accept our lot.

This is quite a dire way to start an annual report but this is the reality for many of us that cannot be ignored. I want to take the opportunity to thank those who are sticking with our specialty and our patients, who often do not understand what we are experiencing but are so grateful to be attending clinics, having procedures and receiving our expert care. For those who read this I would like you to check with at least one colleague next time you are at work, ask if they are OK and thank them for coming to work and being part of the team.

In spite of all this doom and gloom I have felt some moments of lightness and positivity within the NZGNC this last year, mostly because of our members and the amazing nurses I meet at study days, conferences, meetings and workshops. Some of the best are those who are on the main college committee and the members of the Hepatology, IBD and Nurse Endoscopist sub committees. With all the financial, professional, personal and emotional pressure we are experiencing (see above) there are still people who make time to participate in the vital national specialty work that keeps our profession evolving. Our NZGNC committee is:

Karen Kempin - Co-chair and Nurse Endoscopist Subgroup

Emma Deere - Co-chair and Tube editorial

Nicola Caine - Secretary and Hepatology Subgroup

Fiona Williams - Treasurer

Caroline McKeon - Committee and Tube editorial

Nideen Viserio - Committee and IBD Subgroup

Julia Anderson – NZNO Professional Nurse Adviser

Two of the committee members stepped down during the year, Gino Borromeo and Kate Lodge. We would like to thank them for their contribution while they were on the committee and note that we have missed them very much. I would like to express my gratitude to the current committee for stepping up and doing extra roles and projects as they have come up.

This year the NZGNC has provided funding and support to have education study days for gastroenterology leaders, specialty IBD and hepatology nurses and nurse endoscopist association has theirs planned for the day before annual conference in Palmerston North. The committee sees these study days as essential for nurses in specialty practice and form the core of our business year

to year, with the bulk of the money raised from conferences, advertising in the Tube and some sponsorship being spent on these days. Our other main expense is our education fund, providing members with financial assistance to attend meetings, conferences or pay for post-graduate papers. The financial report is available separately to this report but the amounts outlaid for this year in over \$20,000.

The committee also made a commitment this year to participate more in national political and professional actions, with a negative opinion piece on the government's decision to remove funding from the Bowel Screening Programme meant to bring the eligibility age for Māori and Pacific people down to age 50 being published. We have also been responding to PHARMAC requests for professional opinions on potential new funded drugs or changing currently funded medications that our patients need. We have been asked to give opinions on guidance documents including the update Infection Prevention and Control in Endoscopy 2025, the nurse endoscopist training guidance and a new document to assist facilities to manage colonoscopy waitlists.

The NZNO is increasing support for colleges and sections, including providing study days and Zoom meetings where committee members can ask questions and bring concerns of our members to the NZNO board directly. We also sent a representative to the NZNO AGM and conference in September, with a full report available in the October edition of the Tube. We have been invited to a "how to be a committee member" education day in early 2026, which will give people who are new to a representative role the chance to upskill.

2025 has also seen closer ties forming with the Endoscopy Guidance Group New Zealand, Australian Hepatology Association, Australian and New Zealand Gastroenterology International Training Association, Gastroenterology Nurses College of Australia and the New Zealand Society of Gastroenterology, with members of our college sitting on their committees/boards as full and invited members. Being part of these bigger groups ensures the ideas, concerns and views of our New Zealand nurse members are heard and integrated into projects, policies and guidance documents. It also means we can tap into amazing professional expertise and experience when we are considering professional development projects for our college.

2026 is shaping up to be challenging, but looking back on this year and the progress we have made has made me more hopeful that kindness and sense will prevail and we can convince the government that the wellbeing of workers and treating us with respect and concern is important if they want to lead us and engage us with their plans. I look forward to conference and our AGM and meeting many more of you. If you have any queries or issues you feel the college can assist with please get in touch through the secretaryofnznznc@gmail.com email. Look out for committee members as we will be wearing badges with the new NZNO logo on it, just say Hi or have a conversation.

Karen Kempin Committee Co-chairperson

Co-Chairperson's Report – 2025

New Zealand Gastroenterology Nurses College

As we come to the end of 2025, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a challenging year for our nursing community.

I echo Karen's comments about the current state of healthcare, particularly nursing in New Zealand and acknowledge the efforts of the NZNO to refocus towards the values and principles that are most important. Across New Zealand, nurses have continued to face immense pressure amidst ongoing

resource constraints and systemic challenges. I want to acknowledge the incredible resilience, professionalism, and compassion that our colleagues have shown in the face of these difficulties. In particular, I wish to extend my gratitude to those who have spoken out and advocated so strongly for recognition and fair support from the current government. Your voices make a difference, and your courage represents the very best of our profession.

As Karen also mentioned, I am especially concerned about the reduction in resources and opportunities for our new graduate nurses. Supporting and nurturing the next generation of gastroenterology nurses is essential to the future of our field, and I hope through my involvement in the committee I can continue to advocate for them and find ways to provide mentorship and professional growth within our own networks. I am sure we can all agree on the importance of this.

On a personal note, this year has been a particularly busy one for me as I completed my Master's degree and spent time volunteering overseas and working away from home. Despite these external commitments, it has been a privilege to remain part of this dedicated committee. I have thoroughly enjoyed being a member and am deeply appreciative of everyone's hard work, collaboration, and ongoing passion for gastroenterology nursing.

Looking ahead to 2026, I am eager to taking a more active role within the committee and contribute to the work and events we have planned. I truly value the collegial spirit we share and the positive impact we continue to make together.

Thank you all for your dedication and expertise. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Conference and AGM.

Warm regards,
Emma Deere
Co-Chairperson