



Report of the NZ IBD Nurses Committee as sub-committee to NZgNC

Committee:

Donna Howe (Chair)
 Kirsten Arnold (Co-chair)
 Nideen Visesio (Education lead)
 Tania Fairbairn (secretary)
 Lisa Griffiths & Samantha Wilkinson – committee members

Report Date: November 2025	Prepared By: Kirsten Arnold
Reporting Period: Nov 2024 to Nov 2025	Prepared for NZgNC AGM 27 Nov 2025
The NZIBDNG committee has met regularly in this year (every 4-6 weeks virtually via zoom), on behalf of our membership. The following is an overview of our work in this past year. EDUCATION: IBD Nurses Meeting • Our annual NZIBDNG Education Day and networking took place on the 5th & 6th of Sept 2025 at North Shore Hospital • We are grateful for the education grant provided by NZgNC and sponsorship from pharmaceutical partners, including Pharmaco, AbbVie, Takeda and Johnson & Johnson as this combined support has made it possible for this education day to take place. • The education day is limited to nurses working as IBD specialist nurses / CNS's and to a maximum of 30 – please see below link for full terms and conditions. www.nzno.org.nz/groups/colleges_sections/colleges/nzno_gastroenterology_nurses_college/ibd_subgroup • We received very positive feedback from the participants and this education/networking is highly valued by our members. Please see the full report on our Education day which has been written by Fleur Dawick (IBD CNS @ North Shore) GENCA & IBDNA • NZIBDNG has strong collaborations with IBD Nursing Australia (IBDNA). IBDNA is a subgroup of Gastroenterological Nurses College of Australia (GENCA). Registering to become a member of GENCA allows discounted prices to such education programmes, access to resources, ability to apply to grants, up to date with information on current issues affecting gastroenterological nursing, and you will receive a quarterly journal J.GENCA featuring research, case studies, reports and articles. Visit www.genca.org for more details. We are extremely grateful to have access to specialised IBD Education services that IBDNA offer. • <u>GENCA Conference 2026</u> 15-17th May, Sofitel Melbourne See link for further details www.genca.org/education/2026-national-conference/	

- The Foundation School is an online learning opportunity for nurses who are either new to IBD nursing or interested in becoming an IBD nurse. The Foundation School is very popular and has now been completed by over 350 delegates in over 15 countries. Many NZ IBD nurses have now completed this course.
- The Advanced Nursing School is aimed at advanced IBD nurses. It is a clinical skills development course to further prepare senior IBD nurses for advanced practice. It combines self-paced online modules, service development projects, case-based group work, and mentorship from a multidisciplinary panel of experts. The 2025 Advanced School, face to face was held on 19 September in Melbourne just prior to AGW. This year three IBD Nurses from New Zealand attended the Advanced School.

WORKFORCE DATA

- We are in the process of collecting and writing up the workforce data for 2024 which was presented by Kirsten Arnold at the ASM 2024 (first three quarters), with a plan to publish a report in the TUBE and article submission in GENCA Journal
- This data has been shared with CCNZ and was discussed at the CCNZ National IBD Working group who plan to update the Burden of Disease report that was published in 2017. This is in line with Australia who have recently updated their 2016 report.

RN PRESCRIBING LIST REVIEW BY NURSING COUNCIL

- NZ Nursing Council have taken the decision to review the current RN Prescribing list and asked for submission this year from both SMO's and Nurse practitioners as well as speciality groups. NZIBDNG submitted a proposal to allow for continuation prescribing of immunosuppressants medications (including Azathioprine, Mercaptopurine, Tioguanine and Methotrexate) as these patients are routinely follow-up in the IBD SN / CNS's clinic for monitoring. We were delighted to hear that these medications will be added to the formulary.

NZSG IBD WORKING GROUP

- Kirsten Arnold remains a representative on this committee. Dr James Fulforth from Waikato hospital is the current chair. We were delighted that Upadacitinib was funded by Pharmac from 1 May 2025 as a second line alternative for IBD patients who have failed anti-TNF therapy or vedolizumab.
- The NZIBDNG was asked to give nursing feedback on the IBD surveillance guidelines written by Dr Caroline Jiang and Dr Raj Patel. These have been produced in response to updates by BSG announced at their conference in Glasgow in June. Caroline and Raj have adapted the recommendations to suit the NZ Healthcare system, and these guidelines will now be endorsed by the NZSG.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Marian O'Connor has stepped down as chair, after completion of her tenure. The committee thanks her for her significant contribution to the success of the committee.
- Dona Howe has now taken over as chairperson, with Kirsten Arnold as co-chair
- We are delighted to welcome Tania Fairbairn as secretary who is new to the committee and she joins Lisa Griffiths and Samantha Wilkinson