Chairperson's Report
New Zealand Gastroenterology Nurses College
November 2026

It has been a privilege to serve as Chairperson of the New Zealand Gastroenterology Nurses College over the past year. As I come to the end of my term, I would like to reflect on what has been a productive and rewarding year for the College.

This year saw a relatively new committee, including a new Chairperson, come together and learn the workings of both the College and NZNO governance processes. While there was a significant learning curve, I am incredibly proud of how well the committee worked as a team to establish priorities and develop plans. Throughout this process, we have been fortunate to receive ongoing guidance and support from Rachel, our new NZNO Professional Nursing Advisor, whose knowledge and assistance have been invaluable.

During the year, the committee held two successful face-to-face meetings, providing important opportunities for planning, collaboration, and relationship building. We also supported a range of educational opportunities for members, including Leaders' Day and subgroup education events such as the IBD Study Day. These initiatives continue to promote professional development and strengthen connections within our specialty.

Supporting our members' access to education and professional growth remained a priority. Funding was provided to assist nurses to attend conference events, helping to ensure opportunities for learning, networking, and sharing best practice across gastroenterology nursing.

The committee has also continued to focus on developing the College's social media and online presence. While there is more work to be done in this area, important foundations have been laid to increase engagement, visibility, and communication with members.

One area that required considerable attention this year was financial management and planning for the future. As a committee, we recognised the importance of ensuring robust systems were in place to monitor and manage College finances. With the support of Rachel and Maraea from the NZNO Accounts team (and Michelle as Treasurer!), we have begun exploring improved processes and gained a much better understanding of the College's financial position and reporting requirements. This work will provide a strong foundation for future committees.

As I step down from the Chairperson role, I do so because I have left the gastroenterology specialty and returned to oncology nursing. After seven years in gastroenterology, and for much of that time living and breathing the specialty through my work at the MacMurray Centre, it was not a decision made lightly. However, I have thoroughly enjoyed embracing new challenges, a different pace of work, and this new stage of my professional and personal life.

Serving on this committee has provided me with invaluable insight into committee governance, the workings of NZNO, and the broader gastroenterology community. I am grateful for the opportunity to sit alongside such knowledgeable, experienced, and passionate nurses who are committed to advancing our specialty and supporting one another.

I would like to sincerely thank all committee members and College members for their ongoing support, commitment, and encouragement throughout the year. Your willingness to contribute your time, expertise, and enthusiasm is what enables the College to thrive.

As we move into the coming year, I look forward to seeing a refreshed and energised committee return after the holiday period, ready to build on the foundations established this year and continue developing the College to its full potential.

Wishing everyone a restful holiday period and a happy new year.

Emma Deere
Outgoing Chairperson
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