



Professional Nursing Advisor Report NZNO College of Gerontology Nursing BGM 2022

I am grateful to the Committee for your continued commitment to the college and for the college's ongoing commitment, leadership and professional engagement in gerontology nursing. I thank Natalie Seymour for leading the college and ensuring the voice of gerontology nurses is present in the NZ health system. Natalie has led the college during the pandemic's difficult years and enabled members to remain connected and have a voice. All the various committee members have ensured that the college has continued advancing its objectives and engaging on behalf of college members. NZNO as a member organisation depends on volunteers, and I acknowledge the huge commitment made by each of you in all the committee roles in addition to your personal and professional commitments. I thank the committee members who are leaving their roles, for their contribution in promoting and advancing gerontology nursing practice in NZ.

Natalie has already detailed the achievements of the college. Here, I have summarised some highlights from NZNO's year taken from the 2021 to 2022 NZNO Annual report:

NZNO's annual report [2021/22] is available on the website with your member login. See

<https://www.nzno.org.nz/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=yYCBZTcQ-Wg%3d&tabid=109&portalid=0&mid=4918>

NZNO membership numbers have significantly increased – as at March 31 2021 NZNO had 50,900 members. Membership as at March 31 2022 was 55,202. There is also a significant increase in Registered Nurses from 39,593 to 43,196.

This year NZNO received requests for medico-legal advice from 330 members, down by 74 requests in the previous year. Of these requests, some could not be assigned to the medico-legal lawyers as the requester was not a member at the time of the incident in question, and therefore was not covered by the indemnity policy held by NZNO on behalf of members. It is imperative that members keep up their financial membership and indemnity coverage.

Files were opened for 270 members in relation to:

- 41 coronial matters – some of which will involve a full hearing inquest and others will be determined on the papers
- 82 Health and Disability Commissioner complaints by consumers
- 39 Nursing Council Professional Conduct Committee investigations, regarding conduct or criminal convictions
- 39 Nursing Council Health Committee matters
- 2 Nursing Council full council meetings, regarding suspension of a practising certificate for competency issues
- 11 Nursing Council assessments
- 4 Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal hearings (charges brought by a PCC of the Nursing Council or the Director of Proceedings)
- 2 Human Rights Commission matters
- 2 criminal investigations by police of a member
- 24 criminal investigations by police requiring the member to provide a statement/give evidence as a witness or a victim
- 1 Midwifery Council matter
- 18 serious adverse event reviews or other employer led inquiries
- 2 ACC matters
- 1 District Inspector matter

- 2 witnesses in other types of court proceeding.

Competency advisory referrals since August 2021 are related to medication errors, failure to assess patients, adequate communication, and inadequate documentation. It was challenging providing support to members with the full competency review process over Zoom instead of face-to-face at that time.

International Nurses Day 2022 launched the Maranga Mai! Campaign introduced by NZNO CEO Paul Goulter. 'Maranga Mai!' means 'Rise Up!' and this campaign is a call for NZNO members, whatever sector they work in, to come together and take united action. We want to win the political and resourcing commitments needed to address the nursing workforce crisis permanently – and across the whole health sector. At the NZNO AGM, members came together to workshop critical components of the campaign. <https://maranga-mai.nzno.org.nz/>

The Pae Ora Act 2022 created two health authorities. Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand) and Te Aka Whai Ora (Māori Health Authority). Increasing health inequalities and delays in health services were experienced by communities, so an interim New Zealand Health Plan is being developed which will set out the first two years of action for Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand and Te Aka Whai Ora - Māori Health Authority.

The plan will outline how those authorities will deliver on the health reform intentions in the interim Government Policy Statement, including being dynamic in responding to Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations. The plan will also deliver on the intentions of the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act, unifying the health system to simplify decision making, and working with partners to focus collective effort on improving the health and wellbeing of New Zealanders. We especially look forward to seeing how the needs of older people will be addressed in the plan

NZ has the highest rate of internationally qualified nurses in the OECD. NZ is not retaining or increasing the nursing graduate workforce. In response to the 2020 Covid-19 and the International Supply of Nurses Report for the International Council of Nurses (ICN), the ICN recently called for more robust codes for ethical recruitment and investment in nursing education. In the 2022 report 'Sustain and Retain in 2022 and Beyond,' Howard Catton, Professor James Buchan and Dr Franklin Shaffer revealed how the COVID-19 pandemic has made the fragile state of the global nursing workforce much worse and suggested up to 13,000,000 more nurses will be required over the next decade. <https://www.icn.ch/system/files/2022-01/Sustain%20and%20Retain%20in%202022%20and%20Beyond-%20The%20global%20nursing%20workforce%20and%20the%20COVID-19%20pandemic.pdf>

ICN's position statement on international career mobility and ethical nurse recruitment "supports the rights of nurses to pursue professional achievement through career mobility and to better the circumstances in which they live and work" but "condemns the targeted recruitment of nurses from countries or areas within countries that are experiencing a chronic shortage of nurses and/or a temporary health crisis in which nurses are needed" and "acknowledges the adverse effects that international migration of nurses and other health professionals may have on healthcare quality in countries seriously depleted of their nursing workforce". <https://www.icn.ch/news/icn-calls-stronger-codes-ethical-recruitment-nurses-and-investment-nursing-education>

I wish the college and members' success for the forthcoming year and look forward to working with the committee to achieve your goals. We have more to do!

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