



Chairpersons report for the BGM 2022

It is a pleasure to present the chairperson's report for 2020 during our Symposium. It has been a difficult few years, that has challenged us all in so many ways.

This is the second time we have had our AGM /BGM via zoom online and we are all looking forward to being able to join each other again soon at the Conference next May year.

I would like to acknowledge all the current committee members; Kim Brooks (Member), Morag McKenzie (Member), Anna Carey (Treasurer), Napat Sirihongthong (Website / social media), Aloha Sisson (Website / social media) and Gayleen Watkins (Secretary) and our PNA Marg Bigsby, who have all worked tirelessly and in complex difficult times to ensure that information remains relevant, current, and forward thinking. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment during this time. I would also like to acknowledge the families / whanau of our committee members who have also support them to attend meetings, review and respond to submissions and complete additional hours over and above their day jobs.

Since the last AGM we have had a busy time both as a college and being involved with the wider NZNO. Some of highlights and achievements that have been completed by the College include

- Joined Industrial representatives at meetings with NZ Aged Care Association leaders to plan joint strategy for improving safe staffing in Aged care
- Contributed College comments about need for safe staffing in Aged Care to national media (NZ Herald 26/02/2022) and NZNO (published in Kaitiaki throughout the year)
- Contributed to submissions on ARC review (November 2021)
- Lobbying continues for College representation on appropriate working groups e.g. Nursing Pre-registration Pipeline working group
- College representation on
 - Ministry of Health Advisory network for supporting the implementation of the End-of-Life Choice Act prior to the establishment of the SCENZ Group
 - HQSC working group for meetings held prior to EOLC Act implementation, to represent views of ARC nurses
 - Health and Disability Review Transition Unit, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for interim NZ Health Plan - Oranga Kāumātua
 - Ministry of Health Working group to develop National Pandemic Response policy and workbook for ARC

The college was invited to present a submission to the Health Select Committee at Parliament in support of the E Tū petition on Safe Staffing - Minimum staffing based on acuity not fixed ratios <https://www.facebook.com/hescnz/videos/408025547892572/>

This work is ongoing, and I warmly encourage you to attend any further local events in the next consultation phase.

The College was contacted to provide representatives for some work with the Health, Quality and Safety Commission with regard to polypharmacy in aged residential care, the report is on their website. Aggression and violence against nurses national working group includes representation from the College. A survey last year uncovered the fact that aged care has some of the highest reporting of aggression and violence against nurses and caregivers – for those of us in the sector not a surprise. We hope that this work will provide some clear guidance on how to manage the stresses and strains of dealing with low level persistent violence and aggression.

A re-launch of the newly updated and revamped Knowledge and skills framework will be delivered at the conference in May 2023. Work is currently being undertaken to update the current KSF.

The committee had joined forces with the Design Factory NZ, based at Wintec in Hamilton to undertake some research to gain a better understanding how we can encourage more expert nurses to work within the Aged Care sector. This was an exciting venture to undertake with the team at Design Factory, and the outcomes provided some insights to the original questions. Further research would need to be conducted to fully comprehend who we can adjust our current thinking and portray the complexity of the Aged Care sector in its entirety.

We have 2 vacancies as currently on the committee due to members standing down and then not filling them due to COVID and the inability to travel nationally. We would like to hear from members in rural areas to diversify our current membership and understand how we can as a college best support other region.

The College of Gerontology is privileged to have Margaret Bigsby- Our Professional Nursing Advisor. Marg has been very supportive and instrumental over the past year providing some excellent strategic advice. Marg's clear sound of reasoning has allowed us as a college to grow and have greater knowledge and understanding of overarching legislation that can impact on how the College responds to submissions, requests to participate in external working groups and remits.

Forumpoint2 have once again provided us their expertise in arranging this symposium and our upcoming conference and we thank them for their support and assistance and willingness to work within a very tight budget. Thank you to all of our sponsors who have made this symposium possible.

The RN care guides and Care Giver guides have been refreshed by the Health Quality and Safety commission. The updated Frailty Care guides are now available on their website and available to be downloaded https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/ARC/PR/Frailty_care_guides/Frailty-care-guide-master-update-3.pdf.

We will no longer be selling any remaining care guides, if you wish to have a copy if available, please contact our email: nznogerontology@gmail.com.

I ask all of you to talk with a colleague and remind them as NZNO members they can belong to up to 3 colleges and sections – join them up to the College of Gerontology Nursing – no charge.

Conclusion

Over the past year or 2 we have become more politically aware, and I believe that we need to continue to grow our presence as the foremost organisation for nurses working with older adults across all sectors in New Zealand. Thank you to all our members for your support over the past few years.

Natalie

Natalie Seymour, Chair

College of Gerontology Nursing NZNO