

New Zealand Nurses Organisation

# Strategy for Nursing

Advancing the  
health of the nation

Hei oranga  
motuhake mō ngā

whānau, hapū, iwi

**2018 – 2023**

# NZNO Strategy for Nursing and IMPACT

NZNO National Gerontology Section Conference 2018

*E Gilbert*

*NZNO Project Lead*

*Visibility of Nursing*

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## NZNO Vision

- **Proud to nurse - freed to care**
- **NZNO National Gerontology Nursing Section**  
**- visible and valued -**
- *Gerontology nursing is a specialty practice that addresses the unique physiological, psychological, developmental, economic, cultural and spiritual needs related to ageing and care of older adults.*

# NZNO Strategy: sections and themes



## NZNO Strategy for Gerontology nursing: two major themes

- Utilise Gerontology and EN sections to support the emerging science of frailty, in particular nurse-sensitive indicators.

# What is frailty exactly?

Age related decline in physiologic systems

- **Progressive loss of reserve, resilience**
- **Increasing vulnerability to insults, e.g: injury, infection**
- **Uncertain potential for, and longer time to, recovery.**

# Frailty Syndromes

- Falls
- Immobility
- Delirium
- Incontinence
- Medication (adverse reaction).

# What does frailty mean for us?

- Increasingly prevalent with age; largely irreversible
- Severity predicts falls, disability, dependency and death
- Not disease or system-specific
- Programmed senescence and final common pathway of increasing dependency towards the end of life....
  - *(Senescence: the condition or process of deterioration with biological age)*

# Vulnerability of frailty

- Diminishing physiologic reserve
- Diminishing capacity to respond....
- Clients can live with advanced frailty states for a long duration (greater than 6 months and often up to 4 years).

## What does this mean?

- This is nursing at its heart
- The emerging science of frailty authenticates nursing responses
- Frailty is nursing business.

The number of frail older people x the duration of frailty  
+ increasing number of elderly poor

.... is an absolute call to action.



# Nursing sensitive indicators

- InterRAI
- DHB core data set
- ACC data
- Health safety and quality commission
- Wonderful !!
- However what is the overall picture ??

# What is the IMPACT of our work?

- Nursing sensitive indicators demonstrate the IMPACT of nursing work
- There is a co-relation between nursing sensitive indicators and staffing levels
- There is a relationship between nursing sensitive indicators and resources required – human, technical, and fiscal
- Evidence PLUS Impact ( on older person and the nurse).

# Back to the beginning

- **Proud to nurse - freed to care**
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**- visible and valued -**

**Advancing the health of older people in Aotearoa / New Zealand**  
**Advancing the Nurses who advance the health of older people.**