

## **Chair Report MHNS BGM 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

The Mental Health Nurse Section Committee (Helen Garrick, Jennie Rae, Katie Neal) acknowledge that this is a delayed meeting due to the cancellation of events which would have included this BGM and the limitations in our resources.

The Mental Health Nurse Section committee of NZNO encompasses a wealth of knowledge and experience which is well utilized in enhancing the contribution NZNO makes within the mental health and addiction sector. We thank our secretary (Debbie Watson) and Treasurer (Jennie Rae) for their assistance.

I would like to thank the committee, Anne Brinkman and Elisabeth Auchinvole) for their help and support over the past two years.

Debbie Watson and Joy Neilson have recently resigned from the Committee. We have also, since the last BGM, had resignations from Brent Doncliff and Grant Brookes. We would like to thank them for their thoughtful contributions to the committee.

We have recently gained new committee members- Bruce Tomlinson, Michela Fox, Helen Bingham and Brett Smith. They bring a wide variety of mental health experiences to our work. We will be confirming their committee membership in this meeting and look forward to utilizing their expertise in our work.

Contributions to the sector from 2023 to 2025 include-

### **Attendance and Participation –**

- The Mental Health and addiction Policy and Advocacy Forum commencing July 2025. This is a valuable forum to share issues affecting the entire MH system and to lobby for outcomes to enhance the performance of the sector.
- The MoH consultation on developing the long-term pathway for transformation of New Zealand's approach to mental wellbeing.
- Wharaurau Leadership days.
- Elimination of Restrictive Practices.
- Chair and PNA completed HQSC certification for Learning from Harm in 2023.
- Chair continues to represent the section in the MoH Mental Health and Addictions Nursing Pipeline.
- Chair met with the Chair of the Royal Australasian College of Psychiatrists and will do so on a quarterly basis. This meeting arose from an awareness that we had been sharing similar views in the media.
- Chair is part of the collaborative group engaged in the development of the publication on moving Mental Health, Addiction and Disability Nursing into the future. This collaboration involves the NZNO MHNS, TAM NZCMHN and the Directors of MHN. There have been delays in this process due to the unavailability of some participants at times but it will be available in 2026.
- Meeting with Matt Doocey (Minister of Mental Health) to discuss the contribution of mental health nursing in the sector.
- A second meeting with Matt Doocey to discuss the lack of crisis resources and workforce shortages.
- Letter to Matt Doocey to outline the contributions we are able to provide for the sector.

**Consultations include –**

- TV, radio and new site Media responses to mental health service deficits including the lack of crisis services, the development of an assistant psychologist role which is similar to MH nursing, and the Police Staged Withdrawal from mental health.
- Feedback on the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission Psychosocial and Mental Wellbeing plan.
- Written Submission from the committee on the MH CAT Repeal and Replacement consultations. Chair also attended the virtual meetings to discuss the repeal and replacement of the Act and the development of new processes e.g. shared and supported decision making.
- Oral Submission to the Select Committee on the Mental Health Act.
- Submissions to Nursing Council.

**Representations include –**

- Jennie Rae – Membership Committee.

We have completed 3 member surveys during this period. Thanks to Elisabeth Auchinvole for her organization of the surveys and responses. We are looking forward to planning workshops or webinars on the topics selected by our members.

In 2026, we aim to grow our membership further and enhance member engagement, particularly through more regular virtual offerings that are accessible to members across the country.

The MHNS committee welcomes communication from our members – whether by email or Facebook. We look forward to hearing your views and concerns and appreciate your involvement.

Thank you for your attendance at this meeting.

Helen Garrick

Chair MHNS.