**Chair Report MHNS BGM 24th November 2026**

**Commencing this report with an acknowledgement that a BGM was held on the 18th December 2025, however we were unable to achieve a quorum. This report therefore covers the 3 years 2023 to 2026.**

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 previous secretary (Debbie Watson) and previous Treasurer (Jennie Rae) for their assistance.

I would like to thank the committee, PNA Anne Brinkman and Administrator Elisabeth Auchinvole for their help and support over the past three years. Anne Brinkman resigned from NZNO in October 2026. We thank her for her input over her years on the committee and wish her well. We have welcomed Michelle McGrath as our new PNA and appreciate her enthusiastic input into the section.

Since the last BGM, we have farewelled Debbie Watson, Joy Neilson, 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.

Current office holders –

Chair – Helen Garrick

Secretary – Michela Fox

Treasurer – Katie Neal

Membership and Communications – Brett Smith

**<u>Contributions to the sector from 2023 to 2026 include-</u>**

**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.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and/or Reducing Substance Harm Plan consultation discussion.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Information Session. Youth Consultation Session: MHW & Strategy. MHA Workforce: MH&W Strategy Consultation
- Chair presented at National Framework for Mental Health, Addiction & Disability Nursing: Twenty-Year's On (2026)
- The MoH consultation on developing the long-term pathway for transformation of New Zealand's approach to mental wellbeing.
- Meetings with Chairs of College of Emergency Nurses and College of Primary Health Nurses
- Wharaurau Leadership days.
- Chair and PNA completed HQSC certification for Learning from Harm in 2023.
- Chair represented 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 representatives from the NZNO MHNS, TAM NZCMHN and the HNZ Directors of MHN. The framework will be published as distinct papers on the NZNO and TAM websites.
- Meetings with Matt Doocey (Minister of Mental Health) to discuss the contribution of mental health nursing in the sector.
- Letter to Matt Doocey to outline the contributions we 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 ( graduates due in 2027) 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.
- Communication to MPs and written submission regarding the physical and mental health effects of Move On orders (Summary Offences (Move-on Orders) Amendment Act 2026) on unhoused members of the mental health and addiction community.

**Representations include –**

We have completed 5 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.

We aim to increase our membership further and enhance member engagement, particularly through more regular virtual offerings that are accessible to members across the country. Our Facebook Moderator (Brett) has been actively encouraging member participation through Whats App and Facebook.

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

Finally, we have committee vacancies and welcome expressions of interest from members.

Thank you for your attendance at this meeting.

Helen Garrick

Chair MHNS.