



Chair Report MHNS BGM 24th March, 2023

Please note this BGM has been delayed due to events such as Covid Lockdowns and lack of a quorum at the 2021 Zoom BGM. This report covers the years 2020 to 2022.

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 secretaries over this period (Margaret Daniela and Brent Doncliff), current Secretary (Grant Brookes and Treasurer (Jennie Rae) for their hard work on behalf of the committee.

I would like to thank the committee, Anne Brinkman and staff from NZNO (including Christine Clapcott, Natalie Ford and Elisabeth Auchinvole) for their help and support over the past three years.

The following committee members who all made valuable contributions, have resigned over these 3 years.

- Philip Ferris -Day
- Margaret Daniela
- Brent Doncliff
- Cecil Williams
- James Mather

We welcomed Fiona Mc Nair, Grant Brookes and Katie Neal.

The MHNS Committee has, like other colleges and sections, been affected in terms of being able to meet face to face over the last 3 years. Most meetings have been virtual, and some have been a combination of virtual and Face to face because of the Auckland lockdown.

Contributions to the sector from 2020 to 2022 include-

Attendance and Participation –

- Chair and PNA attended Leading Sustainable Change National workshop hosted by Te Pou, and the Werry Centre. The workshop discussed systems change recommendations from key leaders in response to He Ara Oranga: Report of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction, and to prepare for change by introducing a framework to support the sector to implement sustainable change.
- Chair attended the MoH consultation on developing the long-term pathway for transformation of New Zealand's approach to mental wellbeing.
- Chair continues to represent the section in the MoH Mental Health and Addictions Nursing Recruitment Campaign. This campaign launched in March 2022.
- Chair attended the Te Ara Tūpuna Rangatira | Celebrating Leadership national workshop.

- 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. This document (Destination 2030 Mental Health, Addiction and Disability Nursing) outlines discussion papers which aim to provide a future direction for MHAD nursing education, leadership and practice in Aotearoa. It is currently with the MHNS Committee for draft feedback after which it will be sent to all MHNS members for feedback.
- Meeting with Anne Brebner (MOH) to discuss the future of the mental health nursing workforce.

Consultations include –

- Media responses to mental health service deficits including Stuff and Newsroom articles on inpatient MH care and violence in mental health services.
- Feedback on the He Ara Oranga framework produced by the Mental Health Commission and the Kia Kaha Psychosocial and Mental Wellbeing plan.
- Consultations including feedback on the He Ara Awhina framework produced by the Mental Health Commission and some members of the committee attended virtual small group consultations with the MOH Mental Health Directorate on the repeal and replacement of the Mental Health Act. The committee also submitted written feedback to the proposed legislation changes. This significant change to compulsory assessment and treatment provisions will have a major impact on mental health and other areas of nursing such as emergency and primary care.
- The MHNS continues to be concerned about the lack of priority service provision for people with acute mental health issues and high and complex needs.
- Submission on Harmful Digital Communications.
- Submission on Mental Health Commission.

Representations included –

- Philip Ferris – Day and Jennie Rae – CCDM Mental Health Advisory group.
- Cecil Williams – NZNO AVAN working group
- Brent Doncliff and Jennie Rae- Constitutional Review Advisory Group. This review group arose from a MHNS and Cancer Nurses collaborative remit which was passed in 2020.

Our Newsletter continued to be well received by nurses. A new section was added which gives brief updates on topical mental health and addiction issues and changes. Grant Brookes has taken up this role and is including journal articles and committee updates.

Following on from our successful 2019 MHNS “Into the Future” Forum in Wellington, the committee had planned a forum in Dunedin in August 2021 – “Capacity and Duty of Care”. We postponed this forum until 2022 but the postponements continued until March 2023.

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.

We welcome new committee members – the Mental Health and Addiction sector is very overwhelmed at present therefore it is difficult to consider volunteering time and energy. However, this is your chance to contribute to the improvement of the sector for nurses, service users and their whanau.

As of Monday 20 March 2023 there are 438 members in the Mental Health Section.

Therefore 22 members need to attend to achieve quorum.

Thank you for your attendance at this meeting.

Helen Garrick

Chair MHNS.

