



Chair Report MHNS BGM 9th September 2021

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 (Margaret Daniela) and Treasurer (Jennie Rae) for their assistance in keeping a group of mental health nurses on track. We also thank Phillip Ferris - Day and Brent Doncliff for their excellent moderation of our Facebook page.

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

Cecil Williams has resigned from the Committee due to family and work commitments. We would like to thank Cecil for his thoughtful contributions to the committee including his advocacy for the health and safety of mental health nurses on the NZNO AVAN group. Cecil also played a significant role in the preparation and planning for our 2021 forum. His work has been much appreciated and we look forward to meeting up with him again when we finally host the forum.

Contributions to the sector from 2019 to 2021 include-

Attendance and Participation –

- Chair attended the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM) Mental Health summit.
- 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.
- Chair attended the Te Ara Tūpuna Rangatira | Celebrating Leadership national workshop.
- Chair and Phillip Ferris -Day are 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.
- Liaison with Mental Health Foundation and Te Ao Maramatanga.
- Meeting with Toni Dal Din (MH Nurse Advisor MOH) and Sophia Haynes (Programme Manager Mental Health, 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.
- Submissions on the MH CAT Amendment Bill 2021 and Draft Revisions to the Guidelines for the Mental Health Act.
- Submission on Harmful Digital Communications.
- Submission on Mental Health Commission.

Representations include –

- Brent Doncliff and Jennie Rae – Membership Committee. Brent represents colleges and sections.
- 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.
- Phillip Ferris -Day - Safe Staffing Project Team.

Our Newsletter continued to be well received by nurses throughout 2019 – 2021. A new section was added which gives brief updates on topical mental health and addiction issues and changes. Unfortunately, this newsletter ceased when the editor resigned from this work in July 2021 therefore, we are currently engaged in investigating how we might continue this service.

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”. This forum was to focus on legal and ethical aspects of mental health nursing with speakers including Professor John Dawson – Otago University, NZNO, Alison Douglass – Barrister / Author and Jeff Symonds – Nurse Practitioner / DAMHS. The committee thanks James Mather and Cecil Williams for their “on the ground” planning. Unfortunately, Covid 19 intervened, and we have had to postpone this event, but look forward to the conversations which will arise from the speaker presentations –when we reschedule -hopefully early 2022.

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.