



Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa
NEW ZEALAND NURSES ORGANISATION

Professional Nursing Adviser Report

Perioperative Nurses College of NZNO AGM 2026

I am grateful to the national, regional, and Dissector Editorial and Professional Practice Committees for your continued dedication to the college. I thank Lucy Middleton for leading the college and ensuring the voice of perioperative nurses is present in the NZ health system. Thank you for your ongoing commitment, leadership, and professional engagement. I thank the various committee members who ensured that PNC continued to advance its objectives and engage internationally on behalf of PNC members. I thank the leaving committee members across the PNC network for their participation in promoting and advancing perioperative nursing practice in NZ. None of the college's objectives would have been achieved without your dedication.

We continue to advocate for and attract nursing graduates to perioperative nursing by ensuring that nursing students have a diverse range of clinical placements within the perioperative continuum and by enabling the existing nursing workforce to showcase their practice through roles as mentors and preceptors. Challenges are emerging in perioperative departments as new roles are introduced to replace traditional nursing positions. We must ensure that the nursing workforce is fully utilised.

The Ministry of Health released a document called "Putting Patients First – modernising the health workforce." This document undermines the nurse's role, prioritising political mandates over public safety and replacing the profession's core values with government priorities. NZNO objected to this attack on health workforce regulation. The Ministry of Health's analysis of this document revealed political overreach in regulating health practitioners. The Minister introduced the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act to the House of Parliament before the House rose for this election cycle. Perioperative nurses should note the potential issues that may emerge from the new legislation regulating nurses.

I appreciate the national committee's responsiveness in engaging with national issues, including the Nursing Council of NZ's consultation requests, and NZNO activities that have influenced the nursing profession.

NZNO's Maranga Mai strategies and initiatives are progressing well. The comprehensive Maranga Mai! campaign aims to secure political support and resources to permanently resolve the nursing crisis across the entire health sector. Maranga Mai! is a rallying cry for every nurse and the wider community to "rise up" and support our cause. <https://maranga-mai.nzno.org.nz/>

The NZNO 2025-2026 Annual Report is available on the NZNO website, accessible within the member login area.

Here are some of the activities of the Professional Nursing Adviser (PNA) team of NZNO over the last year, interspersed with some related activities of the wider professional and industrial services staff:

1. **Care Capacity Demand Management (CCDM):** All PNAs are involved with Te Whatu Ora CCDM programmes, working with organisers and member delegates.
2. **Providing advice to lawyers and NZNO staff**—such as organisers—on risks to nursing practice and patient outcomes. All NZNO members are required to seek advice on statements, investigations, and inquiries related to patient care. It is also strongly recommended that nurses carry indemnity insurance.
3. Nursing advisers continue to **assist members with workplace change proposals and provide support on professional matters**, including performance improvement plans, ethical concerns, and breaches of standards.
4. **The implementation of the College and Section forums and orientation** sessions has been successful, enabling members to connect and share expertise. NZNO funds attendance at these meetings, with the 2026 and 2027 meetings linked to Employment Relations Education Leave (EREL). The annual NZNO college and section forums and induction meetings are now central to our activities, and participation is vital.

Suzanne Rolls

Professional Nursing Adviser

October 2026