



Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa NEW ZEALAND NURSES ORGANISATION

Chairperson's Report 2025-2026

It is with great pride and admiration for my predecessors that I deliver my first Chairpersons report. The last year has been a roller coaster, but the challenges and achievements have been equally satisfying.

Perioperative Nurses College (PNC) saw a period significant growth in terms of education and national membership, positively impacting their collective ability to advocate for the profession. The introduction of NZNO College/Sections National Forums have built a foundation for nursing organisations and gives all specialities the ability to work collectively for a better workforce.

We continue to actively pursue education opportunities for our members using our allies from other NZNO College/Section groups to achieve this goal for 2027 and beyond. PNC Conference 2027 in Auckland is heading to be a penultimate event in the calendar with multiple well known keynote speakers confirmed. I want to thank the organising committee for their dedication and commitment to provide the perioperative profession with a high-quality programme.

PNC faced multiple challenges, particularly with the introduction of new workforces in the perioperative space and the significant limitations to new graduate positions. Our ability to keep the spirit of nursing true and continually deliver safe practice and protect our patients for safe surgery has been an amazing effort.

I especially would like to thank the national committee and sub committees of Perioperative Nurses College. Without these groups of dedicated professionals, we would struggle to continue to achieve and succeed at many levels. National committee has had several meetings, both zoom and face to face. As a collective we have learnt that we can adapt, modify and use our voice within national regulatory bodies to support perioperative nurses in New Zealand. Our contributions include;

- Nursing Council Code of Conduct consultation
- Nurse Practitioners & RN prescribers' consultation
- Paramedic prescribing submission
- Dermatology nurse guidelines
- Medical Sciences Council review and response to AT changing workforce
- International meetings with IFPN and AORN
- Anaesthetic Nurse: Knowledge and Skills Framework- update 2026

With the current economic environment and ongoing personal and professional commitments seen across the workforce we have been contemplating the future of Perioperative Nurse College. With a strong history of pioneering the foundation of the perioperative nursing workforce in New Zealand we believe it was necessary to future proof the viability and sustainability of the college. Our proposed strategic plan that has been distributed to members outlines options moving forward. I encourage you all to please have a voice as with your support I believe Perioperative Nurses College- NZNO will have a strong future in the perioperative workforce.

I would like to thank all committee members, presenters and nurses who continue to represent our specialty with great pride and professionalism. I stand ready to continue the progression and succession of perioperative nursing in Aotearoa.

Ngā mihi nui

Lucy Middleton