



Snippets from NZ College of Primary Health Care Nurses' National Committees meeting

23rd February 2018

At the last meeting of the PHC National committees in Wellington, the attendees were pleased to have Jill Clendon, the Acting Chief Nursing Officer in the Ministry of Health join the meeting.

Jill outlined changes happening in the Ministry of Health and Chief Nursing Office. Jill will be Acting Chief Nursing Officer until a replacement is found as Jane O'Malley who has been in the role since 2010 has become the first Chief Nurse at Plunket New Zealand (NZ). There will be a new Director General of Health and a new position, Advisor to the Primary Health Care Team is being created to advise Chief Medical Officer.

Jill spoke about the Primary Health Care review which will take place later this year. Jill has made recommendations of primary health care nurses to be members of an advisory group.

Primary health care nurse leaders across the country have begun preparing for the review to ensure the consumer voice is represented and improving access to primary healthcare is a key consideration. Primary healthcare nurses work in urban, rural and provincial New Zealand and in sectors such as Aged Care, Mental Health and Youth Health services. These are all government priorities.

Concerns were raised with Jill relating to the staff and remuneration of midwifery colleagues. The Midwifery Council has presented its co-design project recommendations to the Minister. There is no indication of how this has been received.

Jill made reference to Lord Crisp's NHS Triple Impact of Nursing (2018) report. This report shows how developing nursing can lead to health improvement, gender equality, and strengthening economies. A global campaign for nursing "Nursing Now" is just being launched in the UK.

Jill also reflected on the legislative changes to the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act that have enabled Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners (NP) to perform activities that were previously only for Medical Practitioners. These changes have allowed nurses to develop their roles and provide increased access to healthcare, an example being able to provide sickness certificates.

Later Carolyn Reed, Chief Executive/Registrar and Pam Doole, Director of Strategic Programmes from the Nursing Council of New Zealand joined the meeting.

Carolyn advised that Nursing Council is starting their 5 yearly strategic review cycle. A comprehensive review was undertaken of Nurse Practitioner roles with the result that no longer will NPs be restricted to specific areas of practice. Instead they will practice within their area of

competence and experience. There are now 187 Registered Nurse Prescribers across NZ, with the community nurse prescribing evaluation from Counties Manukau DHB starting this month.

Future work for the Council will include reviewing how best to prepare internationally qualified nurses. Looking at language, culture, competency assessment and transitioning to the NZ health system. Of the 3,000 newly registered nurses in 2017, half were NZ graduates. The majority of the internationally qualified nurses were from the Philippines or India and overall 27% of the nursing workforce is internationally qualified.

The Council will also review how to register a nurse for the future including education preparation, 1st year of practice and ongoing competencies. The executive asked if there would be a review of the number of competencies required for ongoing PDRP or audits and were advised this is on the table but not immediately.

The HPCA Act is in the process of being reviewed, with some changes expected to regulatory bodies and changes to the way data is collected for the Ministry of Health.

Primary health care nurses knowledge and skills framework

The Professional Practice committee acknowledged the amount of work that has been done in bringing this document to fruition and thanked the author Yvonne Stillwell for her commitment to the project. The consultation process has been completed. We have provided feedback to the MidCentral DHB team and look forward to releasing the updated version in the near future.

Health Workforce New Zealand

A link has been added to the College webpage under the 'Resources' tab. If wondering how to access nursing education funding for the NETP or post-graduate studies check out this page, with a list of all the DHB study fund co-ordinators.

Document Reviews

Work is progressing on updating the "Maximising the Nursing Contribution to Positive Health Outcomes for the New Zealand Population." It has been agreed that this document needs a thorough update and is on the 2018 work plan. The Electronic Resources has been updated and due to be on the webpage by the end of April.



Back L-R. Cathy Nichols, Emma Hickson, Irene Tukerangi, Annie Tyldesley, Bronwyn Boele van Hensbroek-Miller, Linda Reihana, Tasha Morris

Front L-R. Yvonne Little, Tegan Jones, Wendy King, Celeste Gilmer (Chair), Angela Clark and Kelly McDonald-Beckett