

Secretary Report – 2026 AGM

College of Respiratory Nurses NZNO

May 2026

Tēnā koutou katoa,

It is a pleasure to present the Secretary's report for 2026 on behalf of the College of Respiratory Nurses. As Secretary, I have the privilege of supporting our committee's work and ensuring that our communications, records, and processes are clear and well-organised.

My first thanks go to Chairperson Jacquie Westenra for her leadership, thoughtful direction, and steady encouragement throughout the year. I also extend my appreciation to Katherine Waters, who has provided consistent and careful financial oversight as Treasurer.

I am grateful to committee members Sharon Phillips, Raquel Jordan, Sascha Noble, Teresa Chalecki, and Lisa Mason for their energy, expertise, and willingness to take on key pieces of work. Each of you brings a unique perspective that strengthens the mahi of our College.

I also acknowledge the ongoing support of Annie Bradley-Ingle, Professional Nursing Advisor; Elisabeth Auchinvole, National Office Administrator; Stuart Durston, Management Accountant; and Mairi Lucas, Director of Nursing and Professional Services. Your guidance and NZNO support are fundamental to the smooth running of our committee.

Supporting Our Mission

The College continues to promote excellence in respiratory nursing in Aotearoa New Zealand, with a strong emphasis on Te Ao Māori, equity, and the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Our 2025/2026 Annual Plan guides our work and is available on the NZNO website for members to read.

As Secretary, I have helped ensure that our submissions, correspondence, and internal communications are timely and clearly recorded so that our advocacy on workforce, services, and equity for people with respiratory conditions remains coherent and impactful.

Meetings with Government and Key Stakeholders

A key highlight this year is our upcoming meeting with the Minister of Health, **Simeon Brown, on 31 May 2026**. This meeting provides an important opportunity for the College to express the importance of respiratory health in Aotearoa and to advocate for:

- A stronger, better-supported respiratory nursing workforce
- Equitable access to primary and specialist respiratory care
- Adequate funding for vaccines, housing, and smoking/vaping initiatives
- Improved commissioning and standardisation of respiratory services

We will also emphasise the urgent need to address inequities in Māori respiratory health and the importance of upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi in policy and service planning. The College will use this meeting to reinforce that respiratory health is a public health priority requiring sustained investment and action.

Over the past year, the committee has also been involved in advocacy through government submissions, letters to Ministers, and engagement with key stakeholders. This included supporting national initiatives such as the BREATHE Strategy and the development of a stronger respiratory service framework.

We also attended the New Zealand Respiratory Conference and maintained a College presence through a promotional stand, networking opportunities, and public endorsement of the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation NZ “Train the Trainer” programme for rangatahi.

In addition, the College supported an open letter to the Government regarding the importance of preventing asbestos-containing materials from entering our homes, schools, and workplaces. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to public health and safe environments.

Symposium and Communications

Preparations are underway for our bi-annual Symposium and AGM on **1 May 2026 in Wellington**, themed “*New, New, New*”. This event will feature expert speakers, opportunities to hear about our work, and time to connect with colleagues working in respiratory health.

As Secretary, I have supported the coordination of event communications, minutes, and correspondence to keep members informed about College activities. I also acknowledge the important role of the *Airways* newsletter in sharing updates, resources, and member contributions throughout the year.

Framework Review and Professional Development

A significant focus this year has been the review of the **Adult Respiratory Knowledge and Skills Framework**. The updated framework aligns with the Nursing Council of New Zealand’s Standards of Competence (6 Pou) and has been revised to better reflect everyday practice and professional development pathways.

The committee recognised that the KSF was previously under-utilised, so the review aimed to make it more accessible and relevant to respiratory nurses working across different settings and levels of experience. The 2026 KSF will be presented at the Symposium, and we welcome feedback from members who use or plan to use it in PDRP or portfolio development.

Membership and Joining the Committee

Membership of the College offers access to a range of professional development opportunities, including education grants, the bi-annual Symposium, and the *Airways* newsletter. These resources help to connect and support respiratory nurses across Aotearoa.

We are currently seeking new committee members to strengthen our team and ensure the continuity of our work. Being involved offers the opportunity to contribute to advocacy, framework development, symposium planning, and ongoing engagement with NZNO and national respiratory initiatives.

Nomination forms are available via the NZNO website, and further information can be requested by contacting the College at nznorespiratory@gmail.com.

Final Acknowledgements

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of respiratory nurses across the country. Your commitment to patients and their whānau underpins everything the College seeks to achieve.

Ngā mihi nui,

Mikayla Neil

Secretary

College of Respiratory Nurses NZNO