

**Professional Nursing Adviser Report
Respiratory Nurses Section, NZNO
AGM 13th April 2018**

Thank you to the national committee. You have shown strong strategic leadership, dedication and professional engagement. NZNO relies on the selfless work of volunteers as a membership organisation and acknowledges the huge commitments made to College of Respiratory Nurses NZNO by the committee over and above the personal and professional commitments each of these members hold. The systems, networks, external collaboration, and participation continue to be highly regarded and valued by NZNO.

The Chairpersons report has outlined the achievements of the 2017 year and the future plans for this well recognised and respected national College.

This past year each has seen the core of the Committee stabilise and consolidate with Mary showing real strength in her role as Chair and Treasurer Sharon and Secretary Laura have brought ingenuity and flair to roles that are let's face it usually staid and challenging. The new/seconded members Eileen Hall, Dawn Acker have brought new ideas and enthusiasm and are settling to Committee life. In all the Committee from my view is proactive, energetic and looking forward to professional and educational challenges for 2018. As the Chair reported we will very very sadly farewell Sharon and Michelle post AGM. Michelle's work within the Committee and with the 2016 Hamilton symposium particularly has been entirely professional and her tireless work constructing the College Magazine quarterly has been vital. You will be sorely missed, Michelle. As will you Sharon –after stepping in to the Treasurers role at short notice and with a good degree of trepidation you have gracefully and capably continued it with real skill. I would like to personally say thank you Michelle and Sharon- great colleagues who epitomise the words “True grafters....” The newest members to join the Committee will be announced formally later in the proceedings.

NZNO would like to extend formal and sincere thanks for all the selfless (and wise) work you – the Committee, contributed during 2017 and will contribute over the coming months.

The Chairpersons report has already outlined the achievements of 2017 year and the future directions for this well recognised and respected College so I will speak more generally about NZNO and nursing in New Zealand.

2017 was another challenging year for nursing in New Zealand. Newly released Treasury figures show the previous Governments Health spending at 6.1% of GDP was the lowest since 2008 and consolidated DHB deficits totalled \$114 million. The health and broader social impacts of the low spend and deficits are evident to us all. NZNOs 2017 national conference had an obvious focus of the broader aspects of the nation's health with two of their key speakers highlighting the profound impact of poverty through low wages (half of NZ adults earn less than 35k), poor housing and inadequate basic healthcare and education on NZs people. They highlighted the nursing professions unique position in society and urged nurses to be more socially and politically aware and active. 2017 saw little gain in securing employment in a recognised NEtP programme for all nursing students post graduating. This remains a key goal for NZNO to help achieve, according to CEO Memo Musa at the conference.

2017 also saw NZNO highlight the midwifery short staffing and even with tragic events continuing to occur and ongoing publicity 2017/2018 has seen little respite or change for the good for the plight of mental health workers and their clients in NZ. It is good to note that the new Government has committed to reviewing pay equity for MH nurses. Perhaps this will signal improved patient outcomes and staff satisfaction, retention and recruitment in this vital area of health. NZNO continues to work with their Union partners to support these members.

On a much more positive note, this year NZNO and PSA members have celebrated making huge gains in pay equity for healthcare workers particularly. It is hoped that these gains made to the unregulated workforce will lead to increases to regulated healthcare worker's wages and salaries also...and as mentioned above we are starting to see this already in the Mental Health sector.

More positively....NZNO Activity for 2017 and plans for 2018

- 2017 was an election year and all the NZNO teams worked to promote its Shout Out for Health Campaign throughout the country. Hundreds and hundreds of members (ordinary nurses – ordinary people) felt strongly enough to raise their voices and call for better health funding to allow nurses and healthcare workers to be resourced sufficiently to provide the level of care they believed their patients and clients deserved. There was no specific political party favouritism – just a call for health funding to be prioritised, for health funding to be adjusted to meet the approximately 2 billion dollar health funding shortfall. Even with a change of Government, NZNO will continue to lobby hard for health funding at a level needed to provide high quality care at the right place, at the right time by the appropriately qualified people.

- Changes to the Medicines Act 1981 and Prescribing Regulations during 2016 have ensured rising numbers of prescribing NPs and Registered Nurse Prescribers. The law changes (amongst other things) are helping to allow and encourage nurses to continue to expand their working environments and skill sets competently and confidently, pushing boundaries to provide easily accessible, efficient and effective expert care in a timely way. I need of course to note our own Committee member Carol George very recently being awarded NP status- huge congratulations Carol. Due to the generally long term chronic nature of respiratory disease nurses in your specialised field are perfectly positioned to adapt current or develop new service models around NP roles. This is a very exciting thought going forward.
- NZNO's Student Unit has seen a marked increase in numbers joining -25% gaining over 700 more members this last year. NZNO reported an overall increase of membership of 2.2% this year.
- The Professional Services (PS) team recently completed the highly successful 2018 Medico-Legal forums covering Informed Consent.
- Components of NZNOs Visibility of Nursing Campaign were revealed at the 2017 NZNO conference and work continues on this project. As part of this campaign a book of absolutely beautiful poems from nurses has been produced .It is called "Listening with my Heart". Please take time to find a copy and read it. It is likely you will relate to many of the poems and you will know at least one of the authors.
- NZNOs Nursing Strategy is out for consultation. Work to finalise the Strategy is well under way but your input is still required.
- NZNOs research team annually publishes its flagship Journal "Kai Tiaki Nursing Research" which showcases excellence in New Zealand nursing research. Nursing research is vitally important. To subscribe to the journal please check the NZNO website for details.
- The Industrial Services (IS) teams and delegates have worked to secure 60 plus collective agreements covering over 550 employer parties during 2017. Negotiations of the huge DHB MECA continue for 2018. All this whilst they continue to support individual members to resolve workplace issues.

- Both the PS and IS NZNO teams continue to work together to keep a focus safe staffing and healthy work places via Care Capacity Demand Management (CCDM), its “Care Point” strategy. 2017 saw NZNO and the Safe Staffing Health Workplaces Unit grow in its influence. The national CCDM Council strengthened its reporting requirements, raising the awareness of CCDM’s legal ramifications with DHB CEOs and calling them to account for CCDM activities (or lack of) within their DHBs via the MECA.
- NZNO teams continue involvement with presentations to select committees, submissions to Parliament, publications, research and policy development. A special thank you to all of you who have contributed to these by sending in your feedback. Your feedback is highly valued and often influences outcomes for nurses, patients and their communities. Please continue to watch your emails for the calls for input/feedback to submissions and position statements and do respond as not only is it your democratic right but it is your obligation to use your professional and clinical knowledge to help inform New Zealand Health (and social policy). NZNO values its continued collaborative relationship with you, its members and acknowledges your dedicated and immeasurable input on submissions, policy, position statements and processes. We wish to thank those of you who have and continue to give time to review and comment on these.

The 2017 NZNO Annual report provides highlights from the past years activities and is available on the NZNO website.

Finally and again, NZNO congratulates and thanks the College of Respiratory Nurses for their work through 2017 and wishes them success in their goals for the forthcoming year. Personally I look forward to working with the Committee and all of the College of Respiratory Nurses members through this year to achieve their goals.

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