



## **Women's Health College, NZNO Chair's Annual Report 2022**

As I look back at my two previous Annual Reports, I thought 2020 and 2021 were challenging years. I am at a loss to find the right words for 2022! I feel especially for our colleagues who work and reside in the upper North Island. "Annus Horribilis" meaning disastrous or unfortunate year might spring to mind for many. COVID-19 has ruled our lives for the last two years, and staff shortages have made a difficult situation truly challenging.

The Women's Health College (WHC) Committee has only managed to meet once, face to face, over the past year. There have been meetings where those who live below Waikato attended in person, and those in the north of the North Island have zoomed in when their work commitments allowed.

Jill Lamb, Emma MacFarlane and Lauren Moore have worked hard to finalise the Nurse Hysteroscopy Standards and Training Guidelines, with Ara Institute of Canterbury working alongside this group to develop a university course to cover the academic requirements. These requirements have been based on the Bradford University course in the UK, which has run successfully for many years. Hopefully, we have reached the final stage and will present the completed work at the college AGM this year.

WHC are currently working on their submission to the Midwifery Council of New Zealand on the proposed revised Midwifery Scope of Practice.

WHC committee made changes to Education Fund applications. We:

- removed the need to be a member for two years before applying,
- took away the limit to the number of times you can claim,
- increased the Education Fund from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per year, and
- increased the maximum to \$450 per applicant.

The idea behind this is to be able to fully fund conference registration, ensuring college members are more supported in their professional development aspirations.

We thought about our Life Members and wondered what advantage there is to be one. In light of that, we decided to offer our two current Life Members the opportunity to have a funded conference registration, which they both took up.

This is my last conference as WHC's Chair. It has been my privilege for the last six years to be WHC's Chair and to work alongside the amazing women who made up the committee over that time. In the future, I look forward to watching WHC continue to improve women's health outcomes in New Zealand.

Denise Braid,  
Chair,  
Women's Health College, NZNO