



Nurses: Working, Living, Giving

Chairperson's Report 24 May 2019

Welcome to our 3rd Women's Health College Conference.

The business for becoming a College has driven us over the last couple of years and last year we were involved in a lot of oral and written submissions. We seemed to set ourselves quite a pace to being with. This last year has been one of finishing off projects that we had previously started and waiting for results of written and oral submissions. Things move slowly in the hallowed halls of power in some cases.

We are pleased that the legislation was passed to allow victims of family violence 10 days paid leave from work. This is a huge step to be able to help these people be able to have some time to start putting things in place for themselves and their family without missing out on salary or wages or using up annual leave.

PHARMAC has said they will not fund Mirena for contraception which is very disappointing. General Practitioners, Family Planning, Royal Australasian College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RANZCOG), along with Women's Health College of NZNO all put submissions forward requesting this to happen. There is a petition from Orna McGinn, in circulation at present which is asking the House of Representatives to urge PHARMAC to fully fund Mirena IUS for all women who request it. This closed on the 30th of May 2019

We are awaiting the outcome of the Law Commissions review on whether Abortion becomes a Health Issue and is removed from the Crimes Act 1961. Ann Simmons presentation has brought us up to date with that.

The "Standards for Nurse Colposcopist Training and Clinical Training Programme Recommendations", are finally ready to be signed off at this AGM. Dianna Morrison, Jill Lamb and I meet with Dr Gary Fentiman at the Ministry of Health last year to get National Cervical Screening Programmes and RANZCOG's approval for the document. This has been a huge project and I once again thank Dianna & Jill for their time and effort with this.

This last year was challenging in the health industry with industrial action from nurses, midwives and junior doctors. As I am writing this we are gearing up for a week of junior doctors strike action. The positive from all of this is that NZNO and MERAS have both settled and nurses and midwives will receive pay increases. Roll on December for the Pay Equity settlement for NZNO members.

In closing who would have thought that we in New Zealand would be subjected to a horrific terror attack of the likes of what happened in Christchurch on 15th March 2019. My thoughts go to the Muslim Community for their loss and to the Nurses, Doctors, Police and Ambulance staff that were there as first responders, caring for the wounded and dead.

Denise Braid
Women's Health College Chairperson