



Women's Health College, NZNO Annual Report - April 2021

Women's Health College (WHC) was unable to hold its annual conference and AGM in Dunedin in May 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. The conference and AGM planning are well underway to be held in Dunedin, on 20 -22 May 2021.

2020 was an unsettling and challenging year for us all. The preparation for potential influx of COVID-19 positive patients was intense and stressful for all people working within the health sector whether in Primary, Secondary or Tertiary services.

Despite all the uncertainty, WHC has been active and forging ahead with new projects.

WHC has been working on training standards and guidelines for Nurse Hysteroscopist training in New Zealand (NZ). This role has been in place in the NHS for many years. It is an enhanced practice role and can fit well into the Nurse Practitioner role.

We are adapting the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (RCOG) guidelines from the UK to fit the NZ health setting and population. One of the drivers for this is the access and equity aspect for women needing investigations for abnormal uterine bleeding or post-menopausal bleeding, both with the possibility of endometrial cancer as an outcome. During this development phase we have met with Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (RANZCOG) representative and Acting Chief Nurse, Ministry of Health.

WHC has had discussions with Otago University Medical School and Ara Institute of Canterbury about bringing the Bradford University academic programme to nurses wanting to be Nurse Hysteroscopist.

One of our WHC Committee members is a Nurse Practitioner at Waikato DHB and undergoing a pilot Nurse Hysteroscopist training programme.

WHC participated in the review of the Contraception's guidelines. WHC meet with the new Regulatory Assurance Team at the Ministry of Health set up to monitor Abortion Services in NZ. WHC will be involved in the process of setting up and looking at the roles of Nurses and Midwives working in Abortion Care in New Zealand.