



Women's Health College (WHC), NZNO 2020 Chairperson's Report

Written 06 April 2020

I am writing this while the country is in lockdown for COVID-19, and it's hard to remember all the good things that have happened in the past year.

- We, as in Women's Health College, have achieved a lot with the PHARMAC decision to fund Mirena IUS for contraception. At this time of lockdown, there will be many women in the country that also do not have to worry about the supply of menstrual products, as by now hopefully their Mirena's are reducing their periods or they have amenorrhoea.
- Surgical Mesh Forum is at the conclusion of the restorative justice process. WHC Chair Denise Braid, represented NZNO. New Zealand Nursing Council (NZNC) and NZNO were invited to attend by Chief Nursing Officer, Margareth Broodkoorn, as a nursing voice was missing from the Hui that had been carried out across the country.
- WHC supported Sarah Donovan's proposal for PHARMAC to fund menstrual products, which was disappointingly declined. Good news on this front, as the Government has put aside some funding in the budget for the Ministry of Education to help address this issue.
- Made written and oral submissions to the Abortion Law reforms, which we are very pleased was passed on 24 March 2020. Abortion Services will move from being under the Justice Department umbrella to Ministry of Health.
- The AGM and Conference planned for May 2020 in Dunedin has been cancelled. It is hoped to be able to offer a very similar programme in Dunedin in May 2021.

Written 26/ May 2020

Well, we made it through lockdown and are now sitting in Level two. It has been challenging times for people working in the health sector. PPE availability seems to have made this whole experience much harder than it needed to be, and hopefully the MOH and DHB's have got that right for the future, should we need it.

I am the Charge Nurse of Women's Clinics and the Te Mahoe unit, and compared to some areas we have been lucky not to have had any cases through the department. We have been adapting the way we care for women. We have been carrying out a lot of Virtual

appointments by telephone, but with gynaecology and obstetrics we have also had to see a lot of women face to face. We are looking at using telephone or Zoom for some consultations in the future. Most of the women we have seen have been happy with these changes. So I guess there are some positives to come out of COVID-19.

Like most health professionals who have been working through this time, I am sure we all could do with six weeks off.

Denise Braid

Chairperson

Women's Health College

NZNO