



Tōpūtanga Tapuhi
Kaitiaki o Aotearoa

NEW ZEALAND NURSES
ORGANISATION

What does Professional Success look like for NZNO

And what needs to be done to achieve that



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Historical context

Early Development (1800s–early 1900s)

- Early colonial hospitals were basic and often run by untrained women in challenging conditions.
- Wellington Hospital was established in 1847, marking the beginning of formal healthcare services.
- Trained nurses began replacing untrained carers from the 1880s, with education introduced by 1888.
- New Zealand led the world by introducing **state nurse registration** with the **Nurses Registration Act 1901**, the first legislation of its kind globally.



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Historical context

Professionalisation and Reform (1900s–late 20th century)

- Nurses trained through specialty pathways (general, obstetric, psychiatric, psychopaedic) as the profession grew in scope.
- The Carpenter Report (1971) recommended shifting education from hospitals to tertiary institutions, a transition completed by 1989.
- Historical accounts also highlight that early nursing narratives often excluded Māori voices and knowledge systems, an inequity now being addressed.

source: Te Ara



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Discussion

Questions:

1. What does being the “professional lead voice in health” mean to you?
2. Where do you see our greatest strengths as an organisation?
3. What challenges most limit our ability to lead effectively?
4. What voices or perspectives are we not hearing enough from?
5. What would help us be more influential, visible, and impactful?



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Discussion

“What are the five key challenges NZNO faces in being the professional lead voice in health?”

“What are key professional goals we need to set to be that lead voice in health?”



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Have we considered.....

Upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Clinical Excellence and lifelong learning

Equity and health system advocacy

Leadership and professional influence

Supporting and growing the nursing workforce

Supporting and growing Māori and Pacific nursing workforce