A self-sustainable, fully utilised nursing workforce
NZNO calls for long-term planning for a self-sustainable nursing workforce, that is clinically and culturally competent, reflects the communities we serve, and meets New Zealanders’ health needs. We need nurse-entry-to-practice positions for all new graduates, and post-registration training, education and employment opportunities to enable the continuous development of nursing skills and leadership across all areas of practice. Aligned workforce strategies are needed to maintain a balance between workforce supply and demand.

Investment in public health
NZNO calls for sustainable investment in public health to ensure care is available, accessible and affordable for all New Zealanders, including implementation of a public health model of care that encompasses both empowerment and social responsibility at all levels. We want secure long-term funding for integrated health and social services and regulation to support safe, cost-effective public health interventions, such as fluoridation.

A primary health care approach to population health improvement
NZNO calls for interdisciplinary models of care that prioritise primary health care (PHC) approaches to health and disability care in all settings, and that are not confined to disease prevention and treatment, but include the promotion of individual and community health and equity. Flexible funding schemes are needed to facilitate community-based initiatives, including nurse-led care, to address unmet need, and to maintain established services that provide regular opportunities for early intervention at key moments throughout the ‘life journey’ of New Zealanders.

Safe clinical environments
NZNO calls for all health settings to have the right number and skill mix of staff with the right resources to ensure quality patient care and the health and safety of staff. That means care capacity demand management in all DHBs, mandatory minimum safe staffing levels and skill mix in aged-care and mental health services.

Safe and fair employment
NZNO calls for a living wage, safe workplaces, access to collective bargaining and collective agreements and equal pay for equal work. We want international conventions on human rights and the prevention of discrimination against women, indigenous peoples and vulnerable persons upheld.

Social and health equity
NZNO calls for action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to improve equity within and between countries. We want a more equal society where there are no systemic barriers to people being able to reach their health potential. We want policies that reduce poverty and improve the lives of the most vulnerable citizens. We want integrated policies to address the global challenges of climate change, antimicrobial resistance and unfair work, trade and migration patterns.

Oranga tamariki – the well-being of children and young persons
NZNO calls for strategies that give children the best start in life, including 26 weeks’ paid parental leave and culturally appropriate, wrap-around social, education and health services for all tamariki, families and whānau. These include integrated, accessible midwifery and PHC services, nurses in schools and a strong public health nursing workforce.
Our Voice Matters

Health care is central to the length and quality of our lives, supports our economy through participation and productivity and is one of the largest and fastest growing areas of government spending.

Nurses provide the key components of health interventions that prevent and treat illness and empower people and their whānau to be active in the management of their own health and well-being.

The upcoming General Election gives us a choice about the values and future direction of Aotearoa New Zealand. Your vote can help shape those values and that direction. NZNO members make up about half the health workforce and have significant power in the polling booth.

Our voice matters to the health of New Zealanders

Our seven priorities for nursing and public health have been identified through discussion and work with members and staff.

They’re a great tool to use when you are deciding who and what to vote for.

You can use them to compare political parties’ policies, as a basis for questioning politicians and for talking about health issues with colleagues, family and friends.

For more, see the full manifesto, including a list of specific policy actions for the next government at

www.nzno.org.nz/nursing_matters_2017