College of Child & Youth Nurses (CCYN) | Tapuhitia Ngā Mokopuna Mō Apōpō

Co-Chairs AGM Report 2026

Kia ora, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakaalofa atu, Namaste, Salam Alaikum to all our members!

As your outgoing college co-chairs, it gives Jo Clark-Fairclough and Donna Burkett the pleasure of providing this report for the 2026 CCYN | Taphuhitia Ngā Mokopuna Mō Apōpō Annual General Meeting. Our apologies for not being able to be there in person to deliver this report, as we have both moved onto new roles in our nursing career, with Donna now working in an Undergraduate Emirati Nursing Programme in Dubai and Jo having commenced an exciting new role in Northland.

College of Child and Youth Nurses Tapuhitia Ngā Mokopuna Mō Apōpō (CCYN) continues to remain committed to child & youth health and the child & youth health nursing workforce. The committee's hard work and dedication throughout the year ensures alignment of college activities with the NZNO Strategic Plan – Maranga Mai! This ensures the college outputs advocates for change in the current dynamic and challenging nursing climate alongside the membership of NZNO as a whole. Members can read the NZNO annual report to explore further the specific activities the college is engaging in to hold ourselves accountable to our mahi.

2026, as with previous years before, continues to be a challenging time to be a nurse, with healthcare a political football once again. Government decisions to cut health spending, not invest in areas where needs are greatest whilst failing to prioritize investment in the nursing workforce remains a constant challenge. We continue to be encouraged to see so many of our NZNO members standing united in strike action across the motu this year to advocate for improved safe staffing and working conditions in the interests of nurse and public safety. This has drawn positive public attention to health service provision, the unsafe working environment for nurses and other key health workers as well as poor retention of our nurse graduates. Morale in the nursing community continues to be low and we in the college, stand with you all in the campaign to bring about positive change.

Despite these challenges, our college has continued to lobby the Government on important matters that directly affect our tamariki & rangatahi as well as the nursing workforce that dedicates their careers to caring for them. We have been active in providing written submissions and supporting our key stakeholders in their attempts to bring about change. Our submission portfolio led by Donna Burkett & Mikey Brendorffer has been extremely busy this year. We have submitted in response to the following:

- Strengthening Child Protection

- Survey for ED and MH nurses

- Paediatric, Adolescent & Young People Palliative Model of care

- Definition of Man and Woman Amendment Bill

- Guidance for Trans-Inclusive Nursing Education

- Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act revision

- CCYN response to Starship Oncology nursing shortage

Positively, the college membership numbers continue to grow, reaching approx. 530 members, an increase of 50 over the past year. Our social media channels also reach over 800 followers and we are encouraged by the growing numbers interested in the mahi we are engaging with and promoting. We proudly awarded two scholarships to members enabling them to attend professional development opportunities this year. Our connections with key stakeholders that

intersect with children and young people across Aotearoa have continued to strengthen with our database now nearly at 100 organisations. We regularly promote and engage our mahi with these stakeholders and in turn promote their work to ensure awareness of the work of the College is visible.

Alongside this, we have welcomed two new appointments to the committee this year, Julia Laing & Kirsty Ure. Both these wāhine bring a wealth of expertise and knowledge in the area of child & youth nursing and we are thrilled to have them on board. We are looking forward to welcoming four new members to the committee and nominations for these positions close for end of October. We invite all our members to consider a nomination to add to the future direction of the college and to add your expertise to this space.

With this however, sadly we are bidding farewell to Jo Clark-Fairclough & Donna Burkett, the college co-chairs at this AGM, having both completed six years of service on the committee. We also bid farewell to Ellyn Proffitt who has served 18 months on our committee bringing great expertise, robust conversations, advocacy and secretarial support to the college. Thank you Ellyn for your mahi, you have been a wonderful addition to our mahi and we wish you well moving forward.

Donna & Jo as our outgoing co-chairs for three of their past six years, have formed a wonderfully warm and respectful working relationship and have aimed to deliver and role model a true bicultural approach to the college mahi. They are proud of the outputs achieved and continue to be humbled by the breadth and strength of the committee that support them in their role.

Jo's dedicated service to her role on the college committee has been instrumental in the gifting of our college Māori name back in 2023, a name we are all very proud of. Alongside her tireless mahi and advocacy in bringing attention to the issues she faced in her youth health prescribing advanced nursing role and her academic teaching role in the BN Māori Nursing programme based in Northland, Jo leaves a lasting legacy. She has been instrumental in lobbying for change throughout her tenure, and Jo's candid and professional approach to highlighting our college mahi at a national level with Te Poari and other key stakeholders has brought such strength to our college. She will be sorely missed and we wish her well on her biggest and most exciting role ahead, being a Nanny to her first moko due later this year! Enjoy every precious moment Jo and thank you for your service to Tapuhitia Ngā Mokopuna Mō Apōpō.

Looking ahead to 2027, the college continues to endeavour forging ahead and continuing our important mahi. Remember this mahi relies on you, our members engaging with us, keeping in contact with us and better still, joining our committee so our momentum can continue. Our social media platforms continue to be a positive way to engage with our members so if you haven't already join us on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn. You can also keep up to date our latest news via the NZNO CCYN website via: www.nzno.org.nz/groups/colleges_sections/colleges/college_of_child_youth_nurses

Don't underestimate the mahi you do in providing care to tamariki & rangatahi everyday, we appreciate you all.



Wishing all our members and their whānau a safe and healthy festive season ahead.

Ngā mihi nui,

Donna Burkett & Jo Clark-Fairclough, Co-Chairs,
College of Child and Youth Nurses (CCYN) |Tapuhitia Ngā Mokopuna Mō Apōpō, NZNO