Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa
NEW ZEALAND NURSES ORGANISATION

Professional Nursing Adviser Report

College of Child and Youth Nurses – Tapuhitia ngā Mokopuna mō Apopo NZNO

Annual General Meeting 6 November 2026

I am grateful to the committee for your continued dedication to the College of Child and Youth Nurses – Tapuhitia ngā Mokopuna mō Apopo (CCYN). I thank outgoing co-chairs Donna Burkett and Jo Clark Fairclough for leading the college and ensuring the voices of child and youth nurses are present in Aotearoa's health system. Thank you for your ongoing commitment, leadership, and professional engagement. I thank the committee members who ensured that CCYN continued to advance its objectives and engage widely on behalf of CCYN members. I thank the leaving committee members for their promotion and advancement of child and youth health nursing practice in NZ. After Donna's and Jo's six years each on the committee, the last three spent as co-chairs, your generous contributions will be missed. And Ellyn, outgoing secretary, you have been a passionate advocate for prioritising the needs of rangatahi with cancer. Your leadership across all of CCYN's activities will also be missed. None of the college's objectives would have been achieved without the dedication of the whole committee.

In March 2025, the Ministry of Health released a consultation document called "Putting Patients First – modernising the health workforce." This document proposed changes that undermine the nurse's role, prioritising political mandates over public safety and replacing the profession's core values with government priorities. NZNO objected to this attack on health workforce regulation. The Ministry of Health's analysis of submissions in September 2025 revealed political overreach in regulating health practitioners. The Minister introduced the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Amendment Act to the House of Parliament before the House rose for this election cycle. All nurses should note the potential issues that may emerge from the proposed new legislation regulating nurses.

I appreciate the committee's responsiveness in engaging with national issues, including the Nursing Council of NZ's consultation requests, and NZNO activities that have influenced the nursing profession, as well as media statements advocating for the needs and interests of children and youth (outlined in the co-chairs' report).

NZNO's Maranga Mai strategies and initiatives are progressing well. The comprehensive Maranga Mai! campaign aims to secure political support and resources to permanently resolve the nursing crisis across the entire health sector. Maranga Mai! is a rallying cry for every nurse and the wider community to "rise up" and support our cause. https://maranga-mai.nzno.org.nz/

The NZNO 2025-2026 Annual Report is available on the NZNO website, accessible within the member login area.

Here are some of the activities of the Professional Nursing Adviser (PNA) team of NZNO over the last year, interspersed with some related activities of the wider professional and industrial services staff:

1. **Care Capacity Demand Management (CCDM):** All PNAs are involved with Te Whatu Ora CCDM programmes, working with organisers and member delegates to identify resources required for and barriers to achieving safe staffing in inpatient settings.

2. **Providing advice to lawyers and NZNO staff**—such as organisers—on risks to nursing practice and patient outcomes. All NZNO members are required to seek advice on statements, investigations, and inquiries related to patient care. It is also strongly recommended that nurses carry indemnity insurance.

3. Nursing advisers continue to **assist members with workplace change proposals and provide support on professional matters**, including performance improvement plans, ethical dilemmas, and breaches of standards.

4. **The implementation of the College and Section forums and orientation** sessions has been successful, enabling members to connect and share expertise. NZNO funds attendance at these meetings, with the 2026 and 2027 meetings linked to Employment Relations Education Leave (EREL). The annual NZNO college and section forums and induction meetings are now central to our activities, and participation is vital.

5. The PNA team has also distilled **members and key stakeholders' views on what professional nursing success looks like** creating a vision which was presented to NZNO governors in October. A further piece of work currently underway is looking at what professional nursing success looks like from a Māori perspective. These documents will inform the direction of professional support for NZNO members in 2027 and beyond.

6. NZNO has announced the **appointment of Ryan McLane to the position of Director of Nursing and Professional Services**, who will commence in the role from 30 November. The PNA team look forward to working with the new director.

I look forward to meeting the new college members joining the committee from today's AGM. Please show them your support as they combine their knowledge, skills and interests to further the college's objectives.

Marg Bigsby
Professional Nursing Adviser
November 2026