



## Report of the NZ IBD Nurses Committee as sub-committee to NZgNC

### Committee:

Marian O'Connor (Chair)

Kirsten Arnold (Co-chair)

Nideen Visiesio (Education lead)

Donna Howe (Secretary)

**Report Date:** October 2023

**Prepared By:** Marian O'Connor

**Reporting Period:** April 2023 - October 2023

### EDUCATION:

#### IBD Nurses Meeting

- The NZ IBD Nurses meeting took place on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 at the Novotel Taunia Hamilton with 25 nurses attending.
- The agenda for the meeting was developed on the feedback from the 2022 meeting and provided presentations on the new biologic's medications (Ustekinumab & Vedolizumab), transition, psychological services, nutrition, and the acute clinic at Christchurch hospital. There were also case studies on pregnancy and transition and a presentation on the lived experience from David Snell whom talking candidly about his experience of Crohn's disease and mental health
- The feedback from the study day is currently being analyses and this will be shared directly with the committee and NZgNC for future education day planning
- The committee are very grateful to NZgNC and Pharmaco for educations grants which allows us to financially support this event.
- A presentation was made at the end of the meeting to our committee members who has recently stepped down. Jacqui Stone (outgoing chair) & Carly Bramley (outgoing education lead) were both presented with a letter of appreciation from Merrilee Williams (Chair of NZgNC) and a small gift to acknowledge their work for NZIBDNG. Karen Murdoch (outgoing secretary) was not present at this meeting and therefore her gift and letter was posted directly to her.
- The committee are working on our 2024 NZIBD Nurses Education Day and will email the membership (and publish it in the here in the TUBE) soon with a *save the date*

## **GENCA & IBDNA**

- Carly Bramley has left her role in Timaru to move with her family to Australia. She has recently been elected as the chair of IBDNA, so the connection with IBDNA will remain albeit Carly is no longer part of our committee.
- IBDNA has just ran their Advanced IBD Nurse School in Brisbane (sept 2023) – report likely to follow as part of the next GENCA journal
- Marian continues as a board director of GENCA and encourages you to avail yourself of the reduced membership for kiwi's which provides access to online education and the national conference (planned for Brisbane in May 2024)

## **CALL TO ACTION / FOCUS GROUP**

- To re-cap the call to action was published (May 2022 - TUBE) and then resulted in a joint letter between NZSG, NZgNC and NZIBDNG which was sent to Te Whatu Ora (Nov 2022) highlighting the issues with low numbers of IBD Nurse nationally.
- Since my last update here (April 2023), we have not achieved much further progress with this issue.
- As a committee we discussed this openly with nurses present our Education Day in August and have now set-up a **Focus Group** so that we can lead on this issue as a group nationally. The first zoom meeting of this group was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October and was very productive. Jacqui Stone indicated that she may be able to lead this group. Kirsten Arnold will liaise with CCNZ through her role on the IBD National Working Group Committee.
- We have had previous support from NZSG and more recently also from CCNZ and we are keen to collaborate with them both and other interested stakeholders to attempt to address this issue

## **NZSG IBD MEDICATION WORKING GROUP**

- We have approached NZSG and asked to have nursing representation on their medication working group which they have agreed to. Kirsten Arnold has agreed to be our representative and will feedback on this report in due course.

## **COMMITTEE**

- The NZIBDNG committee continues to meet every 4-6 weeks virtually (via zoom), on your behalf and welcome contact from any new IBD nurse with any issues that you think need addressing