



## Report of the NZ IBD Nurses Group (NZIBDNG) as sub-committee to NZgNC

NZgNC Annual General Meeting Hamilton November 2024

### Committee:

Marian O'Connor (Chair)

Kirsten Arnold (Co-chair)

Nideen Visiesio (Education lead)

Donna Howe (Secretary)

Lisa Griffiths (incoming committee member)

Samantha Wilkinson (incoming committee member)

Sarah Cook (incoming committee member)

**Report Date:** November 2024

**Prepared By:** Kirsten Arnold

**Reporting Period:** Nov 2023 – Nov 2024

### EDUCATION:

- The annual NZIBDNG education day was held in Hamilton 4/5<sup>th</sup> October (two half days). We received generous funding from Pharmaco and had 28 attendees from around New Zealand. There was a networking dinner, kindly sponsored by Jacqui and Tim Stone, on the Friday evening which was very enjoyable and gave everyone a chance to network. Feedback has been very positive with lots of good ideas for next year's topics. We are looking into cheaper venues and plan to book flights through NZNO in order to remain within budget. We may also approach other pharmaceutical companies for sponsorship and could offer them the opportunity to attend during the breaks or to set up a stand with information for the participants.

### GENCA & IBDNA

- Carly Bramley is a former committee member now living and working on the Gold Coast. She is the acting chair of IBD Nurses Australia (IBDNA).
- Nideen Visiesio has replaced Carly Bramley as the education lead for this group. She and Carly continue to work together to provide a valuable link for NZ nurses with the IBNA.

- Marian continues as a board director of GENCA and encourages you to join using the reduced membership rates for New Zealand nurses. Membership of GENCA provides access to online education and access to educational grants. The national GENCA conference is held annually and is an excellent conference for gastro nurses. It will be next held in Adelaide in May 2025.
- GENCA IBD Foundation school was available in May this year and we are hoping that it will be offered again in 2025. Information will be emailed to the group when available.

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

- The NZIBDNG Focus group continues to meet 6-8 weekly. There is not a lot of progress in this difficult Te Whata Ora environment so any input/ideas will be welcomed!
- We want to collaborate with NZSG, CCNZ, and other interested stakeholders to address the issues with recruitment, and more importantly, retention of IBD nurses. CCNZ are keen to help and we are discussing a nationwide petition that can be delivered to parliament. Merrilee Williams is the chair of the NZgNC and she raised our concerns/issues at a 2024 NZgNC executive committee meeting in Wellington. She was able to talk to the committee and representatives of Pharmac who were present, about the workload issues which have been further complicated by management of the new biologics.
- The focus group have collected all workload data from units for the first 3 quarters of 2024 (January to September). **This information is vital for our efforts to highlight the lack of resource and FTE that impacts on our IBD nursing workforce in NZ.**
- **Please keep collecting workload data (specifically patient helpline contacts - phone/email/text/face to face). Once you have collected the data for each quarter, please pass that on to Donna Howe. Her email is [Donna.Howe@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:Donna.Howe@northlanddhb.org.nz)**

#### **NZSG IBD MEDICATION WORKING GROUP**

- This group continues to meet sporadically. Dr James Fulforth is the new chair and is establishing a meeting day and time that suits the majority. Kirsten Arnold represents the NZIBDNG on this committee.
- Dr Estella Johns, the past chair of the group, was able to discuss IBD medications with Pharmac representatives at a 2024 NZSG exec meeting. Special authority criteria and improving access to dose escalation were discussed. The group is pursuing funding for Upadacitinib, specifically patients in whom all funded biological therapies have failed to induce remission. Pharmac has asked for more information about the number of patients in this situation.

#### **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