

New Zealand Hepatology Nurses Annual Report

New Zealand Society of Gastroenterology Annual Scientific Meeting

Hamilton 30 November 2024

Committee: Judith McLaughlin (Chair), Bridget Faire (Secretary), Jessica Southall (NZgNC liaison), Jacqui Stone (NP Representative), Susan Gale

It has been a challenging year for most of us working in healthcare and hepatology nursing has been no exception as we attempt to maintain our standard of care while often balancing increased demands with less resources. One of the challenges going forward is to capture the large amount of unseen work we do.

Our focus in 2024 has continued to be the education of our hepatology nurses and raising the profile of our group. The day before conference last year we met with hepatology nurses to review the Knowledge and Skills Framework. It was then reviewed by the NZNO Cultural Policy Analyst before being forwarded to the New Zealand Society of Gastroenterology (NZSG) at the beginning of this year. Unfortunately, due to unanticipated delays in reviewing this document, we have not yet received feedback. After discussion with the New Zealand Gastroenterology Nurses College (NZgNC) and receiving their support, we have decided to publish the Knowledge and Skills Framework and I am excited to announce today that it is now on the NZgNC website to view. We are looking forward to feedback on how it is being used and feedback generally on the usefulness, or otherwise of the document. It is hoped that it can be used in conjunction with hepatology guidelines that are to be developed by the NZSG. While we had planned to develop nursing guidelines, we realised that this would create a lot of duplication of work, and our time is better spent working with the NZSG to develop national guidelines.

Continuing with our education focus, we have again supported the professional development of our members and funded 12 nurses to attend the Australasian Hepatology Association's course on nursing patients with advanced liver disease. We have also continued to fund our committee member's membership to the Australasian Hepatology Association.

We have some changes to the committee to announce this year. After being a member of our Hepatology group since its formation, Jacqui Stone, our Nurse Practitioner representative, is stepping down from the committee this year and Nicola Caine has accepted this role. Nicola has the added benefit of being a member of the AHA Committee, so we look forward to building a closer relationship with them. On the topic of building relationships, committee member Susan Gale attended the annual Gastroenterological Nurses College of Australia (GENCA) Conference in May where she spoke about hepatology nursing in New Zealand. Hepatology nurses throughout the motu were also very active in raising awareness about hepatitis on World Hepatitis Day in July.

In the year ahead, we plan to coordinate regular opportunities to meet as a group online to discuss cases or issues related to hepatology nursing and hope to organise a face-to-face meeting around the middle of next year.