Annual Report NZIBDNG, a subcommittee of NZgNC 2026

Committee: Samantha Wilkinson (Chair)
Donna Howe (stepped down from Chair September 2026)
Tania Fairbairn (Secretary)
Nideen Visesio (Education Lead, NZgNC rep)
Lisa Griffiths
Kelsie Stuart (joined committee September 2026)
Kirsten Arnold (resigned September 2026)

Report Date: November 2026	**Prepared by:** Donna Howe and Nideen Visesio
Reporting Period: November 2025 - November 2026, prepared for NZgNC AGM 19/11/26	

Education: Annual IBD Nurses Meeting 11th-12th September
Our annual NZIBDNG Education meeting and networking was held at Wellington Children's hospital. We received sponsorship from pharmaceutical partners AbbVie, Takeda, Johnson & Johnson and Pharmaco. This sponsorship along with the registration fee of $150 covered all expenses. The meeting was attended by 29 nurses throughout New Zealand that work as IBD nurses. We continue to receive positive feedback from the participants, and this has become a valuable learning platform that delivers IBD specific education directed towards advanced nursing practice in this field.

GENCA & IBDNA: NZIBDNG continue to hold representation and collaborations with these groups. Nideen remains on the IBD Nursing Australia committee. I am not aware of any NZ IBD nurses attending the annual GENCA conference this year. Our committee continues to encourage membership with GENCA and promote participation in the IBDNA Foundation School (10 online modules) and IBDNA Advanced School (couple of modules and one-day education day face to face). This year IBDNA have also launched further education addressing "Mental Health in IBD" (six online modules), registrations are currently open. The GENCA conference 2027 – 14-16 May, Darwin Convention Centre will focus on regional, remote and indigenous perspectives.

Reporting to NZgNC: A lot of work goes into sourcing funding and the logistics of putting on the annual IBD nurses Education Event. Communications with NZgNC has been challenging with respect to finances and budgets. Following an audit process there is ongoing communications to clarify both the budgets from 2025 and 2026. This is essential to enable our committee going forward to budget, plan and provide ongoing annual IBD Nurse Education Days.

NZ IBD Nurse Workforce Survey 2026: This year we ran a survey to evaluate IBD nurse FTE, scope of practice within the workforce, future changes to IBD services / workforce as well as attempt to gauge the number of people living with IBD that are managed by Gastroenterology services throughout NZ. The results have been summarised in a presentation poster at NZSG conference this year.

Submission to Pharmac: On behalf of the New Zealand Inflammatory Bowel Disease Nurses Group (NZIBDNG), we have written to strongly support extending the funded access criteria for ustekinumab in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), so that it can be used as a first-line biologic treatment option for appropriate patients with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis

Links with CCNZ: The NZIBDNG also supports links with CCNZ – Kirsten Arnold has been the IBD Nurse Representative on the CCNZ committee for many years and is also regular attendee and supporter of Camp Purple. As Kirsten has stepped off this committee another IBD nurse will be moving into this role next year. The role is primarily to provide insight into the current IBD nursing landscape in New Zealand, contribute to discussions, and occasionally participate in projects undertaken by the group.