

We hope you will enjoy this new publication to keep you in the loop with the going on in the committee with work projects, education, and news from around the country—in little snippets for you to share with your teams. Share it, print it for your tea rooms, let us know if you have anything we can include it to share. *It's for everyone.*

From the Chairperson...

Haere Mai, Welcome to Our New Newsletter

The last quarter of the 2024 year has been very busy for the committee.

As we explained in the previous newsletter there were a number of government papers that were requiring a response and we have worked hard on getting our views back to influence where we can. Marg Bigsby (our Professional Nursing Advisor) and myself attended Parliament and I made an oral submission to the Health Select committee in September on the “Inquiry into the aged care sector's current and future capacity to provide support services for people experiencing neurological cognitive disorders”.

Sarah McIntosh and myself attended the NZNO AGM and conference and represented the College's views. It was also a great opportunity to network with the other College and Section members and to hear how the Industrial part of NZNO are also supporting all of our members.

Importantly it made me think about the poor representation of union members within the aged care sector. A lot of RN's and caregivers are from overseas, they feel that their employer provides them with indemnity coverage. This is only the case if staff have adhered to policy and procedures, should there have been a breach whether knowingly or not staff may not be covered. This is the value of a union and personal indemnity, there is no blame only working for the best outcome for the member. Those from overseas are vulnerable as their visa may be reliant on their job, they may be sending money home to family members etc. Yes there is a cost to being a union member, but it is more of an insurance policy and the benefits outweigh costs. Please talk with your colleagues and explain the importance of union membership, any union Some feedback indicated that there was some feeling that our biennial conferences are too focused on aged care rather than the whole sector who are involved with older people. My challenge to everyone is to submit an abstract or a poster and let us know what fabulous work is going on in your area of practice.

Our conference planning is continuing and our website now has an updated programme. We are continuing to call for abstract submissions and perhaps if you have a spare few minutes over the next month or so please consider making one.

We are continuing to work on the updated knowledge and skills framework and hope to launch it at conference in May, we are fortunate to have Kerri Nuku's input as part of this process.

From myself and the committee, we wish you a happy, healthy and successful 2025.

Bridget Richards, Chairperson

Your committee now consists of

Bridget Richards—*Chair*

Anna Carey—*Treasurer*

Gayleen Watkins—*Secretary, Membership*

Aloha Sison—*Committee Member, Social
Media*

Christy Reedy—*Committee Member*

Sarah McIntosh—*Committee Member*

Regan Gilchrist, *Committee Member,
Newsletter*

Marg Bigsby—*Professional Nursing Advisor,
NZNO*

We last met in November in person, and have our next meeting in Christchurch in February.

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IQN Support

The Committee has been exploring ways that we can support our IQN workforce, particularly ones that will need to take the OCSE to gain registration. This will be an ongoing piece of work the Committee will pick up at our next meeting, but we are happy for any ideas or feedback about what support could look like, as well as speaking to an IQN who have been through the process.

2025 Committee

We were fortunate enough to have three Observers attend our November meeting to understand more of the College, and what is involved. Thank you to these three ladies for their time, involvement in discussions and interest in the College and work of the Committee.

The College will be calling for nominations later this year, and we would love to hear from anyone who has an interest in gerontology.



Active Ageing Consultation

The College have recently contributed to consultation on 'Unlocking the Potential of Active Ageing' through the Ministry. Some of the feedback provided included that active ageing is a critical topic to explore for planning services, facilitating optimal engagement for older people in society. The main risks of enabling active ageing included failure to plan for an increase. Health promotion and other strategies that help active ageing included ensuring public transport is safe, accessible, runs frequently and uses routes that meet the needs of older people, as well as affordable and safe housing.

An area of focus supported by the College is supporting active ageing in the workforce (such as ensuring safe staffing levels, examining rostering practices, increasing flexible employment, ensuring older nurses are valued in the workplace.

Further information on this document and consultation can be found here: [Unlocking the Potential of Active Ageing | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

Knowledge & Skills Framework

The College is still working on our KSF Framework and hope to consult with members later this year.

This has been a significant piece of work for the College. We have been continuing to work with a Technical Writer and are in the process of making final adjustments.

#THE NURSE WE NEED

NZNO Aged Safe Campaign—Maranga Mai—Rise Up!

NZNO's Industrial Advisor for aged care, Louisa Jones, is leading the Age Safe Campaign to achieve safe staffing throughout Aged Residential Care facilities. The Age Safe campaign is modelled on the campaign in Australia led by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) that contributed to the Australian Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, conducted between 2018 and 2021. (One of the recommendations was around the legislation of minimum 'care minutes' to be provided to residents in ARC facilities, and by a specified ratio or mix of staff (Registered and enrolled nurses and caregivers).)

Activities planned and underway for the Age Safe Campaign in Aotearoa include:

Establishment of an Age Safe National Oversight group to inform the campaign. Some NZNO members were approached to attend an initial meeting in July 2024 and the plan in 2025 is to seek expressions of interest and for group representatives to be elected. The group will comprise members from a range of roles (Nurse practitioner, RN, EN, caregiving), working in a range of ARC facilities, from different localities in Aotearoa, so that the widest range of experiences are given voice.

Research project.

Interviews: A researcher has been appointed to conduct interviews as part of the campaign's research project that is modelled on that completed by the ANMF. Sixty NZNO members who work in a range of roles work in a range of ARC facilities, in different localities in Aotearoa are sought for the project. If you would like to participate in the interviews, please contact me (email address above) for information and to express interest.

Survey: A survey is planned for all NZNO members working in ARC facilities. The survey is to gain an understanding of experiences from a wider group than can be interviewed. Survey findings will be collated and supplement the interview findings in the research report.

Aged Care staffing concerns report: A report has been developed that members who hold concerns about staffing in their facility can complete. Members with staffing concerns are still expected to complete workplace incident reports, to log health and safety concerns with their employer. However the NZNO form is a way of bringing those concerns to NZNO's attention for collation and inclusion in the research report as well. The link to the report is: <https://www.jotform.com/242737043711856/> and it is found on the Age Safe campaign web page

So there are up to four ways that college members can engage in the campaign:

Logging an expression of interest to join the national oversight group

Expressing interest in being interviewed for the research project

Completing and returning the online survey when it is sent to you in 2025

Submitting a staffing concerns report any time that you hold concerns about staffing in your facility.

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member of NZNO's College of Gerontology Nursing. Thanks for your participation! Please encourage your colleagues to join the college if they are not members already.

NZNO members can also seek election as workplace delegates and as Health and Safety Representatives (HSR). Both those roles give members additional opportunities to raise any concerns on behalf of colleagues, and training (in paid work time) is provided for both roles. Please contact the NZNO organiser for your workplace for information about becoming a delegate or a HSR.

I look forward to hearing from any of you who would like to contribute to the Age Safe Campaign.

Marg Bigsby

NZNO Professional Nursing Advisor

margaret.bigsby@nzno.org.nz

College Membership Survey 2024 Results

Thank you to all Members of the College who participated in our recent survey. It has provided the Committee with a lot of good insights.

- **52% of survey respondents do not work in Aged Residential Care**
 - **77% of participants work directly with Older Adults**
 - **Main survey respondents were Registered Nurses**
- **20% of survey respondents were Internationally Qualified Nurses**
- **Great feedback on benefits—i.e. Information and Resources, training opportunities, part of special interest groups**
- **Good feedback around what we can do differently—these themes are explored below.**
- **75% of survey respondents think that we are raising the profile of Gerontology Nursing and contributing to health policy.**
- **57% were not aware of the research we support, e.g.—Wintec Design Factory, Michal Boyd, Waitemata Health RN Care Guides**
 - **18 respondents are interested in helping the Committee**
- **30% have attended a previous conference, and are planning to attend again**
- **58% agreed that the College was recognized as the professional voice for gerontology nursing.**



Winner of Prezy Card

A massive congratulations to Nicola Ryniker-Doull, the successful winner of the Prezy Card. Thank you again to all survey participants! Your feedback is invaluable to the Committee.

Membership

The College currently has 423 member across Aotearoa.

Remind your colleagues that as an NZNO Member they can join up to three Sections, and we would love for more membership in our College!



Social Media

The College now has an active presence on social media which includes Facebook and LinkedIn. the activity of the College.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063928788474&mibextid=ZbWKwL>



LinkedIn:

https://www.linkedin.com/in/ontologynursing-nzno?profile&utm_medium=android_app



ger-

Click the below link to Join:



What should deprescribing recommendations look like?



Are you a **medical doctor, pharmacist or nurse** (or a **student** in these professions who has completed at least one clinical placement)?



You are invited to participate in an **anonymous international online survey** to share your perspectives on the language, content and format of deprescribing recommendations in guidelines.



You will be able to enter a prize draw to win one of ten (**AUD\$30 equivalent**) **digital gift cards** as a token of appreciation for your time.

<https://redcap.link/deprescribing> 



Nursing Research—Blood Transfusions

Kat Hodgson, Transfusion Nurse Specialist is completing some research, 'Exploring Knowledge and Decision Making of Registered Nurses Across the Process of Blood Transfusion and the Risks to Patient Safety'.

Blood transfusions are commonly administered by nurses, who play a critical role in ensuring transfusions are safe for patients. However, there is a lack of research in New Zealand on this topic, and given the risks associated with gaps in knowledge and decision making, further investigation is essential to safeguard patient safety.

The goal of this research is to identify strategies and improvements to support nurses in this area.

My name is Kat. I am a **Registered Nurse** undertaking a study investigating the **knowledge and decision-making of Registered Nurses when administering a blood transfusion and the risks to patient safety.**



Are you an RN administering Blood?


Your participation is **anonymous and confidential** and requires you to complete an **online questionnaire.**

Completing the survey takes approximately 10-12 minutes

If you would like to participate, please scan the QR code.

For more information, contact: Katerina Hodgson, RN, khod291@aucklanduni.ac.nz

Approved by the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee on 01/11/2024 for three years.
Reference number



MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Contact Kat
khod291@aucklanduni.ac.nz

2025 Conference



3RD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2025

THE SILVER TSUNAMI:
SURFING THE WAVES OF AGEING

WWW.GERONTOLOGYNURSING.ORG.NZ

19-20 MAY 2025
WAIPUNA HOTEL
AUCKLAND



The Committee has been busy preparing and organising all things Conference. The theme for this conference, is **“The Silver Tsunami: Surfing the Waves of Ageing”**. This reflects the challenges and opportunities of an aging population and workforce in the health and social sector. The conference aims to showcase the latest research, best practice and innovations in gerontology nursing across all settings and disciplines. We are pleased to be able to confirm date and venue for this conference, as well as confirmation of our keynote speaker, Victoria Traynor (pictured)

We encourage all members to start thinking about attendance, discussing with your manager and organisation around your professional development, and attend.

We have confirmed the Waipuna Hotel in Auckland, across two busy days of 19th and 20th May, 2025.

This year, as a Committee, we discussed having an healthcare assistant stream, which was supported by all members of the Committee.

We are still finalising the run of speakers, so if you have any suggestions, please contact us!

Updates on the conference will be posted across social media, as well on our website:

<http://www.gerontologynursing.org.nz/>

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Professor Victoria Traynor

Conference details available:
WWW.GERONTOLOGYNURSING.ORG.NZ



We hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of our Newsletter. We look forward to connecting with you all, and hearing from you throughout the year. Till next time, take care and thank you all for the hard mahi you all do to support our older people.

Bridget on behalf the COGN Committee

Send feedback, ideas for stories etc to:
Regan Gilchrist, Committee Member at nznogerontology@gmail.com