



Women's Health College (NZNO)

1. NAME

- 1.1 Women's Health College (NZNO)

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. To be the recognised professional organisation of all women's health nurses in New Zealand.
- 2.2. To recruit nurses and associated health care members practising, identifying with, and/ or interested in women's health care to belong to the Women's Health College (WHC), (NZNO).
- 2.3. To operate within the protection, partnership and participation principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- 2.4. To develop and disseminate women's' health standards of practice for nurses.
- 2.5. To provide a communication network for all members, including regular newsletters, conferences and disseminate information on issues pertaining to women's health nursing.
- 2.6. To liaise with appropriate authorities on social and health issues relevant to women's health nursing and community health.
- 2.7. To encourage, promote and/ or develop and provide educational programmes/ seminars for women's health nurses and those interested in women's health care.
- 2.8. To encourage and support research into women's health nursing issues.
- 2.9. To actively facilitate the ongoing strategic and professional development of women's health nurses in conjunction with the New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO), and appropriate health authorities.
- 2.10. To promote women's health nursing and increase the profile of women's health nurses.
- 2.11. To communicate and liaise with other women's health organisations at a national and international level.
- 2.12. To support the objectives, policy and activities of NZNO.

3. MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

3.1. Full Member

- 3.1.1. Any person who is a qualified nurse or midwife practising in women's health who is a financial member of NZNO.
- 3.1.2. Full members will pay any levy to the WHC set by the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

3.2. Associate Member

- 3.2.1. Qualified nurses, midwives and health care assistants interested in women's health nursing, but not necessarily in practice.
- 3.2.2. Qualified nurses, midwives and health care assistants must be financial members of NZNO unless they meet the criteria for retired nurse member.
- 3.2.3. Student nurses and midwives who are NZNO members may become associate members.
- 3.2.4. Allied health professionals' interested in women's health care.
- 3.2.5. Allied health professionals are not required to be a financial member of NZNO, but may belong to Health Professionals NZ
- 3.2.6. Members of consumer groups interested in women's health care who are not eligible for NZNO membership.
- 3.2.7. Associate members will pay any levy to the WHC set by the AGM.
- 3.2.8. Associate members may not hold office, propose nominations or motions or have voting rights.

3.3. Honorary Members

- 3.3.1. Honorary membership may be conferred from time to time and shall be proposed by the national committee and ratified at an AGM.
- 3.3.2. The WHC may grant honorary membership to any NZNO member or ex-member in recognition of their contribution to the college or to women's health nursing.
- 3.3.3. Honorary members are not required to pay the college levy.
- 3.3.4. The name and addresses of honorary members shall appear in the register of members and have all the rights and responsibilities of a full member.
- 3.3.5. Honorary membership of the WHC does not confer honorary membership of NZNO.

3.4. Retired Nurse Members

- 3.4.1. The national committee may allow, on individual application, retired nurse membership to a college member who has retired permanently from nursing and any other employment position
- 3.4.2. The retired members will pay any levy to the WHC set by the AGM.

- 3.4.3. Retired members may not hold office, propose nominations or motions or have voting rights.
- 3.4.4. The name and address of retired members shall appear in the register of members.

4. ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1. Any person described in clause 3 shall be deemed to be a member, when an application for membership is received by the Secretary or Treasurer or a member of the national committee, or the NZNO membership office.
- 4.2. Such persons shall pay any levy set by the AGM from the date of joining.

5. RESIGNATION

- 5.1. A member shall cease to be a member of the college in the event of:
 - 5.1.1. Resignation in writing;
 - 5.1.2. Any levy being unpaid for three (3) months in which event she/he shall automatically cease to be a member; or
 - 5.1.3. Ceasing to be a member of NZNO.

6. LEVIES

- 6.1. The college will not charge a membership subscription, however annual or intermittent fees to support particular activities may be levied on members.
 - 6.1.1. Any levy for particular activities will be reviewed annually by the national committee and shall not be raised with respect of core activities.
 - 6.1.2. Proposed changes will be circulated to all members at least thirty (30) days prior to the AGM.
 - 6.1.3. Any proposed changes in levies will be discussed and voted on at the AGM by a majority of members present.
 - 6.1.4. The date for any agreed levy will take effect from the beginning of the next financial year.

7. FINANCE

- 7.1. The financial year shall be from 1 April to 31 March.
- 7.2. The college's finances will be centralised in the NZNO national office and are included in the annual financial statements of NZNO and audited with the national office accounts. Annual college financial reports shall be forwarded to the NZNO Business Services Manager by May and incorporate a record of the financial position of any regional college(s). No separate audited account shall be produced for the college and regional divisions/ colleges.

- 7.3. College accounts shall be subject to random and detailed audit by NZNO's external auditors.
- 7.4. The college Treasurer shall keep accounting records in accordance with current accounting practice and NZNO requirements.
- 7.5. Financial statements and accounts for payment shall be presented at all committee meetings and recorded in the minutes.
- 7.6. The national committee shall appoint persons to sign authorities for payment of invoices, expenses etc., being no less than two signatories from the national committee, one of whom will be the Treasurer.
- 7.7. The annual financial reports will be presented at the AGM.
- 7.8. Any regional colleges of the national college shall have their financial accounts recorded within the national college accounting records. This information shall be forwarded to NZNO for recording in the NZNO annual financial statements.
- 7.9. Any surplus funding from college conferences (after returning any seeding monies) shall be administered by the national committee. The college may develop standing orders regarding the distribution of profits between the organising group and any other body and the college and this distribution is predetermined by the members at an AGM. Such monies should be noted as an extra source of income on the income side of the balance sheet and be banked in the college's account.
- 7.10. The committee shall draw up an annual budget to be presented and approved at the AGM. A copy shall be sent to the Business Manager of the NZNO (Inc.).

8. NATIONAL COMMITTEE

8.1. Membership

- 8.1.1. The national committee shall consist of no more than eight (8) elected people with a wide geographical representation.
- 8.1.2. At the first meeting following the AGM the committee shall, from amongst its members, appoint the following officers.
Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity & Communications Coordinator
- 8.1.3. The term of office shall be three (3) years with right of re-election for a further three (3) years. Members shall be re-eligible for re-election after a break of two (2) years.
- 8.1.4. The newly elected members of the national committee shall hold office from the conclusion of business of the AGM of the WHC, (NZNO) until the conclusion of business at the end of their term of office, at which time their successors assume office.
- 8.1.5. Any honoraria or like payment to members of the national committee shall be decided at the AGM.

9. MEETINGS

- 9.1.1.** There shall be three meetings per year plus the AGM. This does not exclude the possibility of teleconference or video link or other electronic means. Face-to-face meetings are to be kept to a minimum in the interests of sound resource and time management with most work being conducted electronically and by teleconference. In the annual application to NZNO for funding to support core activities the annual plan will be reviewed against the funding request and the number of planned face-to-face meetings will need to be justified and may be challenged.
- 9.1.2.** The quorum shall be fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the elected committee.
- 9.1.3.** Committee members are expected to attend committee and AGMs and if unable to attend the Chair must be notified.

9.2. Powers

The committee shall have the power to:

- 9.2.1.** Govern the college in accordance with any guidance from the AGM and conduct the business between AGM.
- 9.2.2.** Through its office holders, manage the business of the college in accordance with its objectives
- 9.2.3.** Fill any vacancies occurring in the committee by appointing a specific person to hold office until the next elections
- 9.2.4.** Co-opt or form sub-committees as necessary for any special project or activity. Where a person who is co-opted is not a full member of the college, they shall not have voting rights in the national committee or any of its sub-committees. The outgoing Chair may provide a support role to the incoming Chair for six (6) months under this rule.
- 9.2.5.** The national committee has the power to call a Special General Meeting in extraordinary circumstances as may be required.

9.3. The committee shall not have the power to:

- 9.3.1.** employ staff on a permanent, part-time, contractual or temporary basis
- 9.3.2.** enter into contracts
- 9.3.3.** “endorse” on behalf of NZNO or authorise use of the NZNO logo without permission of the Board of Directors (BOD).

9.4. Register of Members

- 9.4.1.** NZNO membership staff shall maintain the register of the WHC. This register is to include name, address, college membership status, including financial NZNO membership number (if applicable) and the date of joining.
- 9.4.2.** The committee shall notify NZNO membership staff of any new members making application directly to the college, and NZNO

membership staff shall notify the college of registration for membership made directly to NZNO at least bi-monthly.

- 9.4.3. The committee shall inform NZNO membership staff of members who have resigned or are no longer eligible for college membership at least bi-monthly.
- 9.4.4. The committee shall review the currency of the register biennially and notify the NZNO membership of changes.
- 9.4.5. Membership information is kept confidential to the college and NZNO.

10. ELECTIONS OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE

10.1. Nominations

- 10.1.1. Nominations will be called for by the Secretary, from the college members, in sufficient time for all members to be notified with information about the candidates circulated with the official voting paper. All full members are entitled to vote.
- 10.1.2. The official form shall be used for all nomination.
- 10.1.3. If number of nominations does not exceed the number of vacancies, then those nominated will be considered duly elected.
- 10.1.4. The national committee shall appoint a returning officer who shall be responsible for the conduct of the ballot, provided that the officer shall not be a potential candidate for office.
- 10.1.5. Closing date and time for the return of postal ballots will be one (1) week prior to the AGM.
- 10.1.6. The candidate with the highest number of valid votes shall be declared elected. Provided that, in the event of more than one (1) vacancy, candidates shall fill vacancies in descending order of the number of votes received per candidate until all vacancies are filled.
- 10.1.7. The announcement of the newly officers shall be made before the closing of the AGM.

11. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 11.1. There shall be an AGM, led by the Chair of the college. If the Chair is unable to attend, then the national committee shall appoint a Chair from amongst its own members.

12. An AGM shall be conducted by face-to-face, video link or other electronic means as recommended by the national committee and agreed to by the AGM in approving the forthcoming Annual Operational and Business Plan. In the event that the previous AGM did not make a decision on this issue, the national committee shall decide. **Powers of the Annual General Meeting**

The powers of the AGM shall be

- 12.1.1. The AGM is the highest decision-making authority of the college, subject only to the outcome of a ballot of full members of the college
 - 12.1.2. Establish the Policy of the WHC.
 - 12.1.3. Consider and decide upon all remits forwarded for its consideration in accordance with these rules
 - 12.1.4. Receive and consider:
 - The Annual Report as presented by the Chair.
 - Audited statement of Income & Expenditure and Annual Balance Sheet.
 - Proposed budget for the next financial year
 - 12.1.5. Set any levy to support specific college activities
 - 12.1.6. Report the results of the elections.
 - 12.1.7. Determine any honoraria to be paid.
 - 12.1.8. The AGM may delegate to the national committee any matter, and may direct the national committee, as it sees fit.
 - 12.1.9. Receive, discuss and decide upon any other matter which the AGM agrees to put on the agenda.
 - 12.1.10. Decide the location and timetable for the next AGM, provided that consideration is given to location, with preference to alternating geographical areas
- 12.2. The effect of every decision made at the AGM is to bind every member of the national committee and financial members of the college to that decision.
- 12.3. A representative of NZNO (Inc.) shall be invited to the AGM.

13. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

- 13.1. The national committee may call a Special General Meeting (SGM) at a time and place of its choosing.
- 13.2. A SGM shall be conducted by face-to-face, video link or other electronic means as recommended by the national committee and agreed to by the AGM in approving the forthcoming Annual Operational and Business Plan. In the event that the previous AGM did not make a decision on this issue, the national committee shall decide.
- 13.3. All members shall receive notification of date, time and place not less than one (1) month before the date of the SGM.
- 13.4. Any notice given under this rule shall state the business to be transacted at the SGM and no business other than that specified in the notice shall be transacted at the meeting.

14. MEETING PROCEDURES OF THE COLLEGE INCLUDING AGM AND SGM

- 14.1.** Meetings will be conducted according to accepted meeting procedure (refer to the NZNO College & Section Handbook)
- 14.2.** Members are entitled to attend national committee meetings but have speaking rights only.
- 14.3.** The quorum for the AGM shall be five per cent (5%) of full members
- 14.4.** All full members in attendance have voting rights.
- 14.5.** With the exception of the postal election ballot, all matters will be voted on by a show of hands, unless any member requests a secret ballot.
- 14.6.** All resolutions will be decided by a majority of votes.
- 14.7.** The Chair is entitled to a casting vote.
- 14.8.** No proxies are permitted at meetings.
- 14.9.** The Secretary is to forward copies of all national committee minutes and Newsletters to NZNO, and the appropriate college Representative on the NZNO membership committee

NB: Postal Ballots – If the college uses a postal ballot system rules are to be developed in conjunction with the Professional Nursing Adviser and are to be based on NZNO Constitution

15. RULE CHANGES

- 15.1.** Proposed changes to the rules shall be forwarded to the Secretary thirty (30) days prior to the AGM. The proposed changes shall be circulated to all members in a reasonable time before the AGM.
- 15.2.** Voting on these proposed changes shall take place at the AGM.
- 15.3.** Any changes to the rules are to be approved by the NZNO BOD.

16. REGIONAL COLLEGE DIVISIONS

16.1. Establishment of a Regional College Division

A region/division consists of the members working or living within a geographical area defined by the national committee. The national committee will give consideration to having the same regional boundaries as NZNO

16.2. Functions and Powers

The regions/divisions are established in order to achieve the objectives of the national committee. Their purposes are:

- 16.2.1.** To unite members within the region and to provide opportunities for them to discuss, educate, consult and co-operate with each other
- 16.2.2.** To ensure free communication with individual members and colleges within each region and with national committee by establishing an effective communication system.

16.3. Governance

- 16.3.1.** Regional college Divisions shall have rules in consistent with the college rules and the NZNO Constitution Schedule 7.
- 16.3.2.** Levies to national committees' Individual regions/divisions will be responsible for forwarding any members levies to the national committee by 30 June annually.
- 16.3.3.** Financial Reporting The financial status of the region/ division will be reported in the college annual accounts.

17.NZNO ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE

The delegates to the NZNO Annual General Conference shall be the Chair or a deputy and one other committee member. (NZNO Constitution Clause 27)

18.OBLIGATIONS

- 18.1.** Only the national Chair or his/ her delegated representative shall speak on behalf of the college.
- 18.2.** The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the NZNO will be informed prior to communication with external organisations or the media.
- 18.3.** Communication with national or international organisations or government departments shall initially be through NZNO's CEO.
- 18.4.** The NZNO will be promoted through the college.
- 18.5.** The college will be identified as a part of NZNO clearly in the college logo, communications and publications.

19.INTERPRETATION

- 19.1.** The rules of the college are subject to confirmation by NZNO, whose BOD may from time to time require changes in the interests of good governance of NZNO.
- 19.2.** Where any matter is not provided for in these rules, the NZNO Constitution shall apply to the extent of the powers of relevant colleges outlined in Schedule 7 outlined in the NZNO Constitution.

20.WINDING UP

In the event of the college's dissolution, the administration of all the assets, liabilities and properties etc shall be transferred to NZNO BOD.

Rules ratified at WHC AGM, May 2017
Rules ratified at NZNO BOD meeting, October 2017
Amendment at WHC AGM 2023 ratified May 2023