

Chief Nursing Officer update to Nurses across Aotearoa July 2020

Tēnā koutou katoa,

A lot has happened since my last update over a month ago. We have all been adapting to the 'new normal', inside and outside of work. Reflecting on this, and the continued changeability in the world, New Zealand and our health sector, my team and I have decided that at this time, rather than return to the previous Chief Officer quarterly updates, I will provide a monthly update. This will ensure we can all stay well connected and up-to-date on developments within and across the health sector.

Nga mihi o te tau hou Māori – over June and July we celebrated the dawning of a new Māori new year, I hope that you had a chance to join in the various acknowledgements and celebrations over the past few weeks.

Zoom webinar series - Matariki

On Thursday 16 July 2020, we held our third zoom webinar for the year, continuing to celebrate nursing in Aotearoa, New Zealand as part of International Year of the Nurse 2020.

The theme was, "Matariki; a time of renewal and change" and provided some valuable insights into Maramataka – working by the Māori lunar calendar, Whakamaua, the Māori Health Action Plan that is soon to be released and the revitalisation of cultural competence and its measurement. This was a timely response of the change needed and where nursing can impact to make considerable progress towards achieving health equity for Māori.

I wish to thank again our guest speakers; Jade Kameta -Te Arawa Whānau Ora, Clyde Smith and Sam Austin - Ministry of Health and Professor Denise Wilson - Auckland University of Technology.

The webinar was recorded and will be available soon to view.

Whakamaua: Maori Health Action Plan 2020-2025

On the 31st July Minister Henare joined the MoH Matariki breakfast to launch Whakamaua: Māori Health Action Plan 2020-2025.

He acknowledged the significant moment for Māori health and wellbeing "because Whakamaua is the first step forward in attaining pae ora, healthy futures for Māori"

Whakamaua lays out a pathway forward to achieving better health outcomes for Maori. The action plan will give effect to He Korowai Oranga: Māori Health Strategy by setting out a suite of outcomes, objectives, and priority areas for action that will contribute to the achievement of pae ora – healthy futures for Māori.

Whereas He Korowai Oranga is the overarching framework that guides the Government and the health and disability sector, Whakamaua is all about action, said Minister Henare.

"Whakamaua means, 'to secure, to grasp, to take hold of, and to wear'. Its use for this plan conveys a sense of taking action to lay hold of the future we want for our people – a healthy future."

Whakamaua is underpinned by the Ministry of Health's new Te Tiriti o Waitangi framework – which provides a tool for the health and disability system to fulfil its stewardship obligations and special relationship between Māori and the Crown. Te Tiriti o Waitangi not only describes Crown obligations

and Māori rights, but is also a key improvement tool for achieving health equity and wellbeing for Māori.

Whakamaua will be a living document with the ability to evolve in collaboration with Māori and the health and disability sector to ensure it meets existing and emerging needs and is well placed to achieve better health outcomes for Māori. The Ministry of Health will measure and report progress regularly as the plan moves forward.

COVID-19 Māori Health Response Action Plan

The Updated COVID-19 Māori Health Response Plan is now live on the Ministry's website, and can be read online [here](#). The updated Plan builds on the progress made by the [Initial COVID-19 Māori Response Action Plan](#), responds to feedback from the sector and provides an updated framework to protect, prevent, and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 within Māori communities.

This Plan also makes an important contribution to the all-of-government response to COVID-19 in mitigating the social impact of COVID-19 on Māori communities.

The updated plan will guide the health and disability system action throughout the COVID-19 response – building on the activity to fight the virus and cushioning the blow, while beginning to position for longer-term recovery.

Pou Tikanga announcement

I am pleased to announce that Rachael Hetaraka has been appointed to the newly created leadership role of Pou Tikanga for the Child and Community Health group at the Ministry of Health. This role will be instrumental in progressing the current review of the Well Child Tamariki Ora services to improving services for whānau and tamariki.

Rachael has over 20 years of experience in the New Zealand Health and Disability System spanning secondary and primary care, which includes working at Manaia PHO and most recently as the Child Health Integration Leader at Northland DHB. Rachael joins the Ministry on 10 August 2020.

The Safe Staffing Accord (the Accord) update

The Accord Operations Group is continuing to meet regularly to progress and implement the agreed actions from the Accord.

The Accord partners are continuing to raise the profile of nursing as part of the 2020 International Year of the Nurse. This includes profiling nurses in their diverse roles on websites, hosting webinars, postcard messaging from leaders (you can find these on our website [here](#)), and supporting development of young nurse leaders as part of the Nursing Now campaign.

Keep a look out on the Ministry's website for further updates on the work being undertaken regarding the Accord.

Nursing Workforce data

The nursing workforce has increased by more than 10% from 2017 to 2020 in New Zealand. Numbers of nurse practitioners have increased by 90%. There are 5,750 more nurses with current Annual Practising Certificates than in 2017.

According to the Central Technical Advisory Services (TAS) workforce data the DHB employed nursing workforce has increased at a similar rate.

Numbers of nurses with a current Annual Practising Certificate in New Zealand

Scope	2017	2020	Number change	% change
Registered Nurses	52,399	58,084	+5,685	+10.8%
Nurse Practitioners	242	459	+217	+89.6%
Enrolled Nurses	2,648	2,496 ¹	-152	-5.7%
Total	55,289	61,039	5,750	+10.4%

Nursing Council of New Zealand, March 31, 2020

TAS DHB employed Nursing Headcount/FTE

	2017 (March)	2020 (March)	Number change	% change
Headcount	26,864	29,699	+2,835	+10.6%
FTE	21,676	24,202	+2,526	+11.7%
Mean FTE	0.80	0.81		

TAS, March 31, 2017, March 31, 2020, 'snapshot' on 31 March. NB numbers vary from month to month according to many factors including seasonality, leave etc

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

IPC and PPE guidance continues to be updated on the Ministry's website. I urge you to encourage your networks to check the Ministry's website regularly, particularly the PPE guidance page [here](#).

Nurse Practitioner Training Programme (NPTP) and Supported Placements

It was announced on the 22nd July that the University of Auckland will be leading the NPTP and supported placements for nurse practitioners (NPs) and enrolled nurses (ENs), working with consortium partners the University of Otago, Mahitahi Hauora and The Fono. The key partners will work closely with many other stakeholders across the sector including Nurse Practitioners New Zealand, Te Rau Ora and Te Ao Māramatanga.

The programme will begin in 2021 and will replace the existing NPTP pilot due to finish at the end of this year, and will support growth of the NP workforce across the country. As well as increasing the number of NPs over the next four years and a focus on attracting more Māori and Pacific, the

¹ Note this is a small increase from 2019 (2490)

programme will work with health providers across the country to support transition into employment for NPs and ENs into primary health care settings.

This initiative includes showcasing ENs as part of the new workforce in primary mental health. It will provide funding for a small number of ENs to be supported with education training, supervision and support to work in primary mental health roles in primary care.

More information can be found on the Ministry's website [here](#). Keep an eye out for more updates on this exciting new initiative.

Nurse Practitioner pathway between Southern Institute of Technology (SIT) and Victoria University Wellington (VUW)

SIT has announced new nurse practitioner and nursing prescribing pathways between SIT and VUW. Students can take their SIT Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate into a VUW Master's programme. For more information, contact Cassie Carstensen (Postgraduate Studies Programme Manager – School of Nursing at SIT) at cassie.carstensen@sit.ac.nz.

Āwhina app

I would like to remind you about the Ministry of Health's app, Āwhina.

Health workers can use Āwhina to stay up to date on the latest information relevant to the health and disability sector, and receive notifications when content is added or updated. Āwhina was developed initially to make COVID-19 information easily accessible to health workers, and we are now in a position to begin using Āwhina for other important information. The app is currently used by over 4,000 people.

Āwhina lets health workers access information from the Ministry of Health and other trusted sources on a mobile device. Content can be saved on the app to allow quick access to it again later.

Āwhina is free to download on from the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store. More information can be found on the Ministry's website [here](#).

The Ministry developed the app with feedback from people working in the health sector, and we'll continue to review and improve its functionality based on feedback. You can provide feedback about the app or its content using the feedback function within the app or by emailing: Awhina.info@health.govt.nz.

Contact tracing app

An update to the Government's NZ COVID Tracer app was released on 10 June 2020 to provide more functions for users. The updated version allows:

- users to choose to be notified if they've visited a venue at the same time as someone who subsequently developed COVID-19
- users to choose to send their digital diary to contact tracers if required
- a vibrate mode when scanning QR codes to assist those who are visually impaired.

The app will automatically update to include these features unless updates have been disabled on the user's phone.

More detailed information about the app can be found at the Ministry's website [here](#).

There are also email addresses to contact our team if people need help. These are tracingapp-feedback@health.govt.nz for app feedback, and app@tracing.min.health.nz for businesses/organisations wanting assistance with QR codes.

Free vaccinator training course

A free influenza, MMR and potential COVID-19 vaccine administrator training course is now available thanks to the Immunisation Advisory centre (IMAC). This has come about just in time for a national measles immunisation campaign targeting rangatahi Māori and Pacific youth. This course is all online. It involves:

- four hours online learning, including an online assessment
- a vaccine administration seminar
- clinical peer review by an authorised vaccinator.

This is a great opportunity to increase our numbers of Māori and Pacific vaccinators, help us improve immunisation rates among our communities and expand the skill set of our workforce.

This course is available for any healthcare professional with a current Annual Practising Certificate (APC) and registered health science students – for example, pharmacists not already vaccinating, enrolled nurses, third-year student nurses, and fourth-year medical students.

To sign up or for more information go to: www.immune.org.nz/healthprofessionals/education-training

Feel free to get in touch with IMAC if you have further questions at: imacetadmin@auckland.ac.nz

I hope these updates continue to provide valuable information and an opportunity to connect. If there is anything you would like to be included in future updates, please email chiefnurse@health.govt.nz.

Thank you again for all the work you have done and continue to do to ensure that New Zealand's health services are delivered to the highest possible standard.

Nāku noa, nā

Margareth Broodkoorn

Chief Nursing Officer

Ministry of Health