

Chief Nursing Officer update to Nurses across Aotearoa

December 2020

Tēnā koutou katoa,

This is my final pānui for 2020 and as the Chief Nursing Officer. I leave the Ministry to return home to Te Tai Tokerau at the end of the year. Having accepted the role of CEO for Hauora Hokianga has been somewhat bittersweet. Those who know me well know that I have long awaited the to be considered for this role, and with John Wigglesworth retiring this was a once in a 20year opportunity not to be missed.

I want to acknowledge all the amazing people I have worked with over the last couple of years in nursing profession, the Ministry, and the wider health sector. It has been an honour and a privilege to have been the Chief Nurse of Aotearoa.

Inside this newsletter

This newsletter is a bit of a bumper edition with a range of items to cover, a quick preview of the contents:

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Changes to the Office of the Chief Nurse

The recruitment for a new CNO is well underway, and while the outcome is being determined the CNO office has had some interim changes.

Pam Doole who came on board recently has agreed to be the Acting Chief Nursing Officer until the new CNO is appointed.

I am also delighted to announce that Emma Hickson has joined the team on secondment from Capital Coast District Health Board as a Clinical Chief Advisor to lead the Infection Prevention and Control team and COVID-19 nurse related response till the end of March.

Pam and Emma will be supported by Jane Bodkin, Kathy Glasgow, Ramai Lord, Jill Wilkinson and Debra Begg. I feel like I'm leaving the office in good hands with these very competent wahine toa, as nursing leaders who know the sector and so well supported by our 'pou' Debra Begg.

Below is the structure as of January 2021 of the amazing team who will be continuing the mahi until the new CNO is appointed.



National nursing strategy

The Ministry (Office of the Chief Nursing Officer) is supporting the development of nursing's first national strategy (the Strategy) that will set the future direction of nursing in New Zealand for the next 10 years. The strategy articulates nursing's commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and contribution to Pae ora for Māori and all New Zealanders.

This work is being led by the National Nurse Leaders group (NNLg), a collective forum of nurse leaders including Māori nurse leaders from New Zealand's key stakeholder nursing organisations of employers, professionals' bodies, education, Nursing Council and the Ministry of Health.

The development of the strategy has drawn from Whakamaua: Māori Health Action Plan 2020-2025 to inform the foundation of the strategy that will be pivotal in aligning to a national nursing action plan (to be developed) and other organisational action plans from the key stakeholder nursing organisations. The Ministry will also provide ongoing support to NNLg in the coordination and monitoring of a national action plan.

The eight priority areas for action: Māori-Crown relationships, leadership, workforce, sector development, cross agency action, quality & safety, Insights & evidence and, performance & accountability; are broad, interdependent and relevant to all professions including nursing. The strategic objectives from Whakamaua have been adapted to focus nursing's attention and coordinate efforts across the priority areas on issues that are relevant to nursing and to Māori health.

Consultation on the draft will be held during February to March 2021 through the NNLg members to stakeholder organisations and via an online survey for the wider sector.

Consultation on proposed amendments to the specified prescription medicines list for designated registered nurse prescribers in primary health and specialty teams

The Nursing Council of New Zealand has recommended 60 prescription-only medicines it considers appropriate for designated registered nurse prescribers in primary health and specialty teams. The Ministry of Health, on behalf of the Director-General, is consulting on the proposed prescription medicines before making a legal change by Gazette notice.

The proposed amendments include new medicines for diabetes, respiratory conditions and antiviral medicines. Submit your feedback on the proposed amendments to:

<https://consult.health.govt.nz/nursing/proposed-amendments-to-the-specified-prescription>

Submissions close on **Wednesday 27th January 2021**.

Unapproved Medicines (Section 29) and global supply of medicines

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected global supply chains and increasing numbers of medicines are being classified as Section 29 as New Zealand approved medicines need to be substituted with non-approved medicines to maintain medicines supply to New Zealanders.

The Ministry is aware of the challenges that disruptions to the medicines supply chain cause non-medical prescribers, and the impact on patient care and access to medicines. The Ministry (including Medsafe and Medicines Control) is working with PHARMAC to better understand and manage the issues and minimise disruptions to the availability of funded medicines in New Zealand. The policy team is working on a range of strategies to try to minimise the impact for patients and prescribers.

Mātanga Tapuhi – new ingoa for Nurse Practitioners

I attended the celebration and launch of the Mātanga Tapuhi title for Nurse Practitioners at Te Herenga Waka Marae, Victoria University, Wellington on Thursday 5th November 2020.

During the past few years, Nurse Practitioner New Zealand (NPNZ) has been collaborating and engaging with Māori to determine the Maōri title for the Nurse Practitioner. They are delighted that Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori Language Commission have given Nurse Practitioners the title Mātanga Tapuhi.

Tapuhi is originally the verb used 'to nurse' or 'to tend' to. But has been redefined to mean 'a nurse' a noun. Mātanga means 'knowing, experienced person' or 'specialist'.

The title Mātanga Tapuhi will be followed by the area of specialisation, e.g. Mātanga Tapuhi Piripoho for Neonatal Nurse Practitioner.



Nurse Practitioner Training Programme (NPTP) and Supported Placements for Nurse Practitioners and Enrolled Nurses

The University of Auckland is working closely with partners University of Otago, Victoria University of Wellington, and Mahitahi Hauora PHE and the Fono, to develop both the NPTP and the Supported Placements which will have a strong focus on equity. Applications for the NPTP for the 2021 cohort have now closed and 50 NP trainees will commence the programme in February. For more information on the NPTP see here.

<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/fmhs/business-employers-community/continuing-education/national-nurse-practitioner-training-programme.html#:~:text=The%20Ministry%2>

Expressions of interest from health providers, NPs, and ENs, are being sought for early 2021 to establish NP and EN positions delivering mental health and addiction services in primary health care settings. Funding will target priority health care groups and communities. For further information, contact Dr Sue Adams s.adams@auckland.ac.nz. The Ministry will be involved in the ongoing governance of the programme.

Targeted Training and Apprenticeship Fund (TTAF, also known as free trades training)

I am pleased to share that the Targeted Training and Apprenticeship Fund (TTAF; also known as free trades training) has recently been updated to include Enrolled Nurses. The TTAF will support learners to undertake vocational education and training without fees. The TTAF will cover fees from 1 July 2020 until 31 December 2022 and will be paid directly to tertiary education organisations (TEOs). This will enable TEOs to provide education and training without fees to learners.

The expanded target area list from January 2021 comprises of target areas and now also includes the expanded scope within community support, to specifically include enrolled nursing.

More details can be found via the following link: [https://tec.govt.nz/news-and-consultations/more-study-areas-included-in-free-vocational-education/ Targeted Training and Apprenticeship Fund \(free trades training\) | Tertiary Education Commission \(tec.govt.nz\)](https://tec.govt.nz/news-and-consultations/more-study-areas-included-in-free-vocational-education/Targeted%20Training%20and%20Apprenticeship%20Fund%20(free%20trades%20training)|Tertiary%20Education%20Commission%20(tec.govt.nz))

Māori and Pacific Health funds announcement

The 2021 application round for Māori and Pacific Support funding is now open. These funds are specifically to provide Māori and Pacific health and disability workers currently in training, with cultural and technical support relevant to their training programme. This can include access to mentoring, cultural supervision and cultural development activities. The Support Funding is open to any person who:

- is currently working and enrolled in a Ministry funded training programme; and,
- has whakapapa and cultural links to whānau, hapū and iwi; or,
- is of Pacific descent and has established cultural links to Pacific communities.

If you think you have people that would fit the criteria above, please get in touch via email - Vicki.Turnbull@health.govt.nz Applications close Monday 15 February 2021.

COVID-19 vaccine update

Plans are underway for delivery scenarios of COVID-19 vaccines in 2021 in New Zealand. Any vaccines the Ministry will distribute will be approved by Medsafe to ensure it meets strict health and safety requirements. There will be a sequenced roll out plan so that the appropriate vaccines are made available to people at the right time.

Ensuring equity of outcomes, including protection for Māori, Pacific peoples and our most vulnerable population groups, such as older people, disabled people, health workers, essential workers and border staff are some of the primary considerations in the availability of vaccines.

The Prime Minister has signalled we expect to be able to start to vaccinate the border and managed isolation & quarantine workforce and the health workforce at highest risk of exposure to COVID-19 in the second quarter of 2021 and then the general public in the second half of 2021. This is however dependent on the vaccines successfully gaining Medsafe approval as being considered safe and effective for use in New Zealand

More information about the vaccine planning can be found on the Ministry website <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-vaccine-planning>

Work is well underway to deliver a COVID-19 immunisation programme. More information will be available in the new year. To oversee the integral work of planning for and delivering the vaccines, a number of groups have been formed to offer strategic advice and guidance.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-vaccine-strategy/covid-19-vaccine-planning-and-delivery-groups>

National Measles Immunisation Campaign for 15-30-year olds

Please get behind the 'Guardians of the Future' campaign to improve measles immunity in 15-30-year olds, particularly among Māori and Pacific peoples. Measles is only a plane-ride away but with border restrictions in place, we have a good opportunity to prevent future outbreaks by acting fast and **immunising now**.

Many people born in the late 1990s and early 2000s are at increased risk of catching and spreading measles because they missed their vaccination as children. This can be a hard group to reach and knowledge about measles and the harm it can cause is very low. DHBs are leading campaigns in their region to offer immunisations in places where people work, live, learn and play.

It's going to take a collective effort to reach these teenagers and young adults so **don't let an opportunity to protect against measles go by**.

If someone's not sure if they've been immunised, it's okay to have it again. Download the campaign material to share on your networks and display in your clinic via this link:

<https://www.hpa.org.nz/campaign/guardians-of-the-future>

- Website: [ProtectAgainstMeasles.org.nz](https://www.protectagainstmeasles.org.nz)
- Questions? Email: measles.campaign@health.govt.nz



Health and disability services Standards 8134:2021 - Public Consultation Reminder and Next Steps

NZS 8134: 2008 – Health and disability services standard has been reviewed and is out for consultation until 13 January 2020.

This revised standard reflects shifts towards more person-and whānau-centred health and disability services. People are empowered to make decisions about their own care and support in order to achieve their goals, with a stronger focus on outcomes for people receiving support.

Some of the key changes include strengthening Māori health with Pae ora and Te Tiriti standards and guidance, strengthening Ola Manuia of Pacific Peoples in Aotearoa, strengthened governance standards, quality improvement, informed consent and medication/blood products management, infection control and seclusion and restraint.

Extensive work has been undertaken on the standards and this is your last opportunity to have your say. You may access the draft standard and provide comment through Standards New Zealand's online consultation platform by following this link:

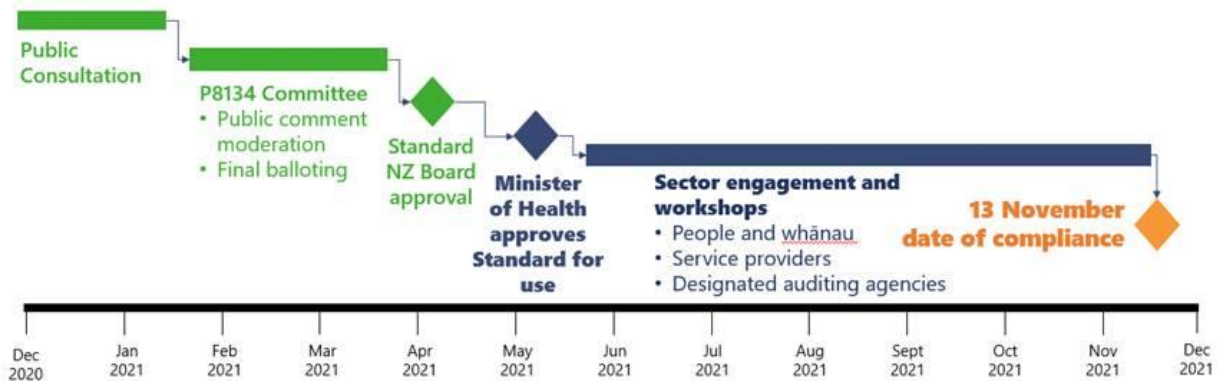
<https://shop.standards.govt.nz/default.htm?action=browseDrafts&draftTypeId=1&mod=drafts>.

Implementation and indicative timeline

Implementation planning has started within HealthCERT section of the Ministry. They will be developing workshops and tutorials on what the new standards mean for health services and professions.

Indicative Implementation timeline

Health & Disability Services Standard (NZS 8134:2021)



International Year of the Nurse zoom webinar series

On Thursday 10 December 2020, the fifth zoom webinar for the year was held to celebrate nursing in Aotearoa New Zealand as part of International Year of the Nurse 2020.

The theme of the webinar was *Ka mua, ka muri: Walking backwards into the future*. It's a proverb that describes the importance of looking to the past to inform the future. Over 60 people joined the webinar and it was great to see so many participate.

A special thank you to our guest speakers who contributed to the webinar. They included New Zealand's first nurse practitioner, Dr Deborah Harris, enrolled nurse Melissa Peterson who works in primary care at Te Hiiku Hauora in Kaitaia, and Ramai Lord from the Chief Nurses Office who talked about the National Nursing Strategy that is being developed by the National Nurses Leaders group. I also provided an overview of a year in retrospect highlighting the past 12 months of 2020.

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

Margareth's key messages

I want to acknowledge everyone for your hard work and dedication during such a difficult year. I especially want to acknowledge those who are working on our border, managed isolation and quarantine facilities and in testing and contact tracing teams. Nursing has during 2020 responded effectively to a global pandemic that has tested many and will continue to demonstrate its valuable contribution to the health and wellbeing of all New Zealanders.

As I depart the MoH CNO role, I want to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and happy New Year 2021 in this beautiful safe place we call home. If you are able to have a break, then I am sure you don't need any encouragement to enjoy. If you are having to work through the Christmas season, then a very big thank you for providing the continuity of care in your community. Please continue to be kind to each other, which is now and more-so ever important that we look after each other, be tolerant and be kind. And if I can borrow a few words from our Director General Ashley Bloomfield – slip, slop, slap, sanitise (and wash hands) and scan.



Nāku noa,

Margareth Broodkoorn

Chief Nursing Officer

Ministry of Health