

NEWS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Council Activities

The Council has had a busy year during 1995 with its regular meetings, its committee meetings and disciplinary hearings. It has addressed its governance role, and reviewed its governing and management operational policies.

In line with its governance role a mix of committees and portfolios have been established to review and monitor the governing policies. The committees are: Preliminary Proceedings Committee, Health and Disability Committee, Examination Setting and Candidate Review Committees and Pre-registration Committee. The portfolios are: Corporate, Education, Examination, Finance, Registration and Staff. Overarching the Council's governing policies is its commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi.

The Council and the staff of the Nursing Council attended a two day Treaty of Waitangi workshop. Council members and staff now work from the same knowledge base in relation to Treaty issues. The Council as an agent of the

Crown is starting to address issues within the partnership model.

The Council adopted a new logo in June 1995. The translation is "to tend in sickness and distress".

Council members also attended a Legal Skills Workshop. All the work of the Council is considered within its legal framework.

Strategic Direction

The Council has reviewed its strategic direction and the Strategic Plan 1 April 1994 - 31 March 1997.

In considering its business the Council is taking into account public safety, its leadership role, its legislative responsibilities and the new MMP political environment.

At the 1 February 1996 Council meeting the critical strategic issues in the Strategic Plan will be reprioritised.

Critical Strategic Issue 2, "Need to resolve Treaty of Waitangi issues" has been reworded "To give life to

the Treaty of Waitangi within the operations of the Nursing Council of New Zealand".

Critical Strategic Issue 6, "Need to resolve the role and function of New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) and Council" has been removed. The Council acknowledges the separate but complementary roles and functions of NZQA. The Chief Executive Officer and the staff at the Nursing Council have developed a working relationship with NZQA.

The non-prioritised Critical Strategic Issue, "Opportunity for increased Council input into legislation and Ministerial advice" has been removed. The Nursing Council has been active during the year in making submissions on legislation and providing advice. This is now part of the Nursing Council's ongoing work.

The non-prioritised Critical Strategic Issues, "Opportunity to raise the Council's public profile" and "Need to establish effective relationships with other related organisations, stakeholders and community groups" have been

merged under "Further develop the leadership role of the Council for nursing, midwifery and health care workers".

Work continues on the other critical strategic issues.

The Council's new structures encourage participation from nurses and midwives and your input is welcomed.



Elaine Pappa

Council Membership

The Council will have four vacancies as at 1 April 1996. One Council member is ineligible for reappointment and two Council members are not seeking reappointment.

The Nursing Council records with regret the death of Christine Smith in October 1995. Christine was appointed to the Council on 7 March 1994 in terms of section 4(1)(e)(i) of the Nurses Act, one of five persons nominated by the New Zealand Nurses Organisation, who is the most senior nurse employed by a licensed hospital within the meaning of the Hospitals Act 1957.

Michael MacPherson will have served three terms on the Council and is ineligible for reappointment. Michael was appointed under section 4(1)(e), one of five nurses nominated by the New Zealand Nurses Organisation.

Michael has served two terms as Deputy Chairperson and been a member of all of the Council's

committees. At present he holds the Registration portfolio. Michael has demonstrated his commitment to nursing throughout his 9 years on the Council.

Isabelle Sherrard will have served two terms on the Council and is not seeking reappointment. Isabelle was appointed under section 4(1)(e)(ii), one of five persons nominated by the New Zealand Nurses Organisation, who is employed to teach in a school of nursing or a licensed hospital within the meaning of the Hospitals Act 1957 or a Department of Nursing of a tertiary institution.

Isabelle has convened the Preliminary Proceedings Committee and the Health and Disability Committee, and in these roles has been required to have frequent communication with the Registrar. Isabelle has used her wisdom and judgement as convener of the committees.

Jackie Gunn will have served one term on the Council. Jackie was appointed under section 4(1)(h), a registered midwife appointed on the nomination of the New Zealand College of Midwives.

Jackie has served on the Professional Standards Committee and the Examination Setting and Candidate Review Committees. Unfortunately, Jackie's work commitments mean she cannot seek reappointment.

Centenary of Nursing Registration - 2001

The Nursing Council will be celebrating 100 years of nursing registration in the year 2001. The celebration will reflect on the past 100 years of protecting the public

through safe nursing practice and project into the future for the next 100 years.

A working party will be set up in 1996 to plan the celebration. Any ideas for the celebration will be welcomed.

Documentation Standards

The Ministry of Health has drawn attention to the fact that it is involved with inquiries and complaints about nurses, midwives and doctors. It has noted that documenting medical and nursing practice is poor. There are gaps in whole periods of care where nothing is documented and no one knows what has happened.

Nurses and midwives are reminded of their legal requirements to document care.

Regulatory Bodies Meeting

In June the Chief Executive Officer attended a meeting in London of representatives from 30 nursing and midwifery regulatory authorities. The Nursing Council was able to make a valuable contribution to the discussions on conduct, registration and culture.

The CEO visited the UKCC and saw how employers can verify through the voice response system that nurses and midwives hold current registration, and the processing of "Prep and You", the programme monitoring current practice for re-registration.

Cultural Safety

The Council has adopted the eight recommendations in the report from the Committee Reviewing and Evaluating Cultural Safety. The Council will report to the Education and Science Select Committee on the implementation of the recommendations by 31 July 1996.

On 15 January 1996 Heads of Schools of Nursing and Midwifery, or their representatives, met to discuss the documentation identified in the review committee's report as needing to be written or rewritten.

Ian Revell MP, Chairman of the Education and Science Select Committee, talked with the group about the select committee inquiry. The group had a frank discussion with Mr Revell about the political implications of the inquiry, which is on hold.

After the Nursing Council reports to the select committee in July 1996 the committee will deliberate and either continue its inquiry or report to Parliament.

The draft documentation will be sent to interested parties by the end of February 1996 so that full consultation can take place. The documentation relates to guidelines for cultural safety, good teaching practice, the curriculum, Komiti Kawa Whakaruruhau, assessment of students and evaluation of courses and tutors.

The Chief Executive Officer and Professor Paul Spoonley and Dr

Erihapeti Murchie of the Review Committee discussed the recommendations with students, tutors and where possible polytechnic Chief Executive Officers.

The implementation of the recommendations is critical to nursing and nursing registration. Nurses have the opportunity to work with politicians at the highest level to advance what the nursing and midwifery professions are all about - safe nursing and midwifery practice.

The report of the Committee reviewing and evaluation cultural safety is available from the Nursing Council for \$25, including GST.

State Examinations

In November 1995, 1162 candidates sat the comprehensive nursing papers, with a pass rate of 99.57 percent. Thirty candidates sat the direct entry midwifery papers with a pass rate of 97 percent. Ninety one candidates sat the midwifery papers with a pass rate of 92 percent. The two candidates who sat the general and obstetric and psychiatric nursing papers were successful.

Additional Qualifications

Section 24(1) of the Nurses Act 1977 states that nurses may apply to have any degree, certificate, diploma, licence or other

qualifications inserted in the register or roll.

The application for the annual practising certificate for the year commencing 1 April 1996 provides for nurses and midwives to apply.

Competence To Practise

A requirement for nurses and midwives to demonstrate their current competence to practise is expected in any future legislation for health professionals.

The Nursing Council is seeking input from nurses and midwives on criteria for demonstrating competence and how it can be linked to the issuance of an annual practising certificate, as signalled in critical strategic issue 5 of the Nursing Council's Strategic Plan.

Ten percent of current practising certificate holders have a questionnaire included with their application for a practising certificate for the 1996-97 year. The survey is being conducted to collect data from up to 4,500 nurses and midwives on how to implement performance based practising certificates.



News From The Chief Executive Officer

After my appointment as Chief Executive Officer on 31 January 1995 my early assessment was that my work fell into three categories: providing the organisation with modern systems to provide service; doing the daily work; and raising the profile of the Nursing Council with interested parties and the public.

The staff have supported me through the change to a modern organisation providing service. They have come up with many of the solutions needed to move the Nursing Council into the 21st Century.

Simple changes in the registration area mean there is more flexibility in assessing the requirements for overseas nurses and midwives seeking registration or enrolment in New Zealand. Nurses who do not meet the requirements are informed about how they can obtain the experience needed to be registered or enrolled.

All overseas applicants receive a copy of the Code of Conduct for Nurses and Midwives with their provisional registration or enrolment certificate, and their attention is drawn to practising in a manner that is culturally safe.

All staff members have been involved in career development through the introduction of new computer programmes, attending the Kiwi Host course, the Treaty of Waitangi workshop and ongoing changes in service delivery.

The staff take every opportunity to speak with nursing and midwifery students, tutors, practitioners, health related groups and the public about the work of the Nursing Council and the strategic directions for nurses and midwives.

Staff

Chief Executive Officer:

Colleen Singleton

Registrar / Legal Adviser:

Belinda Greer

Investigations Officer:

Clare Prendergast

Education Officer:

Kathryn Wilson

Projects Co-Ordinator:

Allison Chappell

Registration Officer:

Pauline Climo

Business Manager:

Hugh McRandle

Receptionist / Telephonist:

Beverley Quinn

Overseas Registration support staff:

Kath Mitchell,

Julie Overduin

CEO / Registrar support staff:

Ngaire Deans,

Barbara McGlinchey

Education support staff:

Maria Senio-Ah-Hi

Register / Roll:

Fergie Hopmans,

Suzette Taingahue

Business support staff:

Pauline Flavell

Staff who have left the Nursing Council during the year:

Marie Burgess, *Registrar*; Chris Sanders, *Nurse Adviser*; Helen Catlow, *Nurse Adviser*; Norma Roberts, *Examinations Clerk*, Angela Hewitt, *Secretary / Personal Assistant*; Patti Loughheed, *Secretary*.

The Council's regular meeting will be held on the second Thursday of each month during 1996. It will also meet for three days in most months to deal with disciplinary matters. Issues raised by nurses and midwives that need the Council's consideration should be received by me by the beginning of the month for inclusion in the meeting agenda.

It is a privilege for me to work with the public and with nurses and midwives.

This office handles diverse inquiries, from complex legal issues to what nurses and midwives can do. The skills I obtained while working for another regulatory body help me deal with the inquiries.

The changes taking place in our society provide us all with new and exciting challenges, and the staff at the Nursing Council will certainly meet the challenges for 1996.

I wish all nurses and midwives the best for their professional and personal endeavours during 1996.



Colleen Singleton