

Key Messages from NNL Meeting, 28 April 2021

We met with a representative of Health Workforce to discuss strategic workforce projects . NNL provided a clear message that there has been little concerted focus on the issues of critical importance to nursing workforce development despite consistent advice about what is needed. In particular postgraduate education remains underfunded, Maori workforce development and the workforce for elder care settings have not received focused attention as advised and there is limited investment in nurse leadership development.

Margaret Dotchin (ADHB) and Rebecca Kay (TAS) updated NNL on the comprehensive work they are doing on the nursing workforce pipeline. It was noted that statistics regarding the pipeline work has reflected little change in the ability to ensure successful attraction and graduation for Maori and Pacific nurses.

The National Nursing Strategy continues to be shared and discussed with sector groups. It was recognised that the strategy needs to be determined with urgency to ensure there is a national nursing platform to support and secure nursing's contribution to developments across the health sector. The bicultural partnership and commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi is imperative in any future state for nursing leadership and reflects the intention of the reforms proposed by the Minister of Health. We plan to launch the strategy formally in late June/early July.

NNL were extremely disappointed in the response provided by Stephen Town (Te Kupenga) to the concerns raised related to the ROVE project. Our concerns will be updated and restated in a further letter of concern.

Mathew Parr, GM Immunisation (MoH) met with NNL and provided an update on the Covid Immunisation role out. The current process has created significant barriers around the COVID vaccination programme compromising logistic implementation. NNL noted that messaging from the team frequently overlooks the substantial contribution that nursing makes to any immunisation campaign and we stressed the need to have nurses present at all levels of decision making to ensure that policy aligns with practice realities.

Stephen McKernan and Martin Hefford from the Transition Committee briefed NNL on the current announcements re planned restructuring of the Health System following the Health and Disability System Review. The NNL took the opportunity to remind the team that nursing is well placed to contribute to any programme, advocating the role of nurses in knowing and leading nursing and health. Nursing is especially concerned to see change which ensures access to health and services for all New Zealanders.

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