

Key Messages from NNLg Meeting, 11 August 2021

NNLg met with Angela Beaton from Te Pūkenga (combined former polytechnics) to discuss the development of a national curriculum for nursing within the new entity. Margareth Broodkoorn joined the discussion as the recently appointed independent chair for the steering group. There is a significant amount of work to be done to align the nursing programmes across the new sector and the time line for this is optimistic and ambitious. Concern was raised from NNLG membership regarding the amount of work required and the timeframes allocated to do so. There was also concern raised regarding the consultation and communication from Te Pūkenga with key stakeholders.

Helene Carbonatta and Deborah Roche attended from the Transition Unit (TU) overseeing the current health reform process. They provided an initial update of high level work programmes and then spoke about the development of support work being undertaken to support the transition to the new entities. High level planning with regards to operational and commissioning models. The transition unit are employing to key positions and these are advertised on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website.

The TU work includes the development of an interim health plan. Deborah mentioned that she would appreciate support from the sector for system-wide views to contribute to this and welcomed the NNLG to submit names of 2-3 nurses that would be suited to support this system-wide perspective. NNL is working on those nominations.

Re COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme; Loretta Roberts and Fiona Michel (MoH) talked through the ongoing programme implementation and workforce options that are being deployed to support successful delivery of the programme.

Dr France Hughes then led a session regarding Aged Care staffing and the inequities within the current system exacerbating recruitment and retention issues. The situation is widely regarded as in crisis. She also noted the challenges for sustainability and lack of visibility of aged care in the proposed health reforms. NNLg discussed options for change but all options are of necessity both urgent and long term in nature.

Ramai Lord presented ongoing work on the National Nursing Strategy. She highlighted some recent amendments. The NNLG agreed to review the changes and provide feedback within the week so that we can get the document finished and out to nursing and the wider health sector. Acknowledgement was given to the staff and stakeholders that have created this document signalling the place of nursing in our health system, and our contributions to health and well-being throughout Aotearoa/NZ.

Kathy Holloway raised the issue of health workforce specifications with a focus on NETP and Post Graduate study. There was additional discussion around future options particularly for NETP and how this might be adjusted to better support the nursing pathway from study through to practice. More detail will follow once this has been explored further.

Brenda Close
Co-Chair NNLg

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