



**National Council of  
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera  
Wahine O Aotearoa

National Office  
Level 4 Central House  
26 Brandon Street  
PO Box 25-498  
Wellington 6146  
(04)473 76 23  
office@ncwnz.org.nz  
www.ncwnz.org.nz

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**Submission on the  
Consultation on accreditation and monitoring of tertiary education  
programmes by the Nursing Council of New Zealand**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand, Te Kaunihera Wahine O Aotearoa (NCWNZ) is an umbrella group representing 283 organisations affiliated at either national level or to one of our 21 branches. In addition, about 260 women are individual members of branches. Collectively our reach is over 290,000 with many of our membership organisations representing all genders. NCWNZ's vision is a gender equal New Zealand and research shows we'll be better off socially and economically if we're gender equal. Through research, discussion and action, NCWNZ in partnership with others, seeks to realise its vision of gender equality because it is a basic human right. This written feedback on the draft strategy has been prepared by NCWNZ's Health Standing Committee and its contributing members.

NCWNZ welcomes the opportunity to participate in this consultation process regarding the accreditation and monitoring of tertiary education programmes by the Nursing Council of New Zealand.

**1. Consistency amongst training providers**

1.1. NCWNZ believes there must be consistency of training of nurses throughout New Zealand. We appreciate that all tertiary institutions are assessed by the New Zealand Nursing Council (NZNC) to review the content of their programme and that this includes participation by the relevant industry that they align with, in order to ensure that the programmes meet the standards required by NZNC. However, this does not stop tertiary institutions presenting different nurse training syllabuses and to a certain extent, it is important to ensure that health needs of the community the tertiary institution sits in are reflected in the method of training.

**2. Mental health**

2.1. We believe the tertiary education programme for Mental Health has become fractionalised and that work needs to be done to ensure a standardised curriculum is offered by all tertiary training providers throughout New Zealand.

2.2. Currently all graduate nurses who wish to work in Mental Health are employed under the Nurse Entry to Specialist Practice (NESP) programme. They are required to complete a full component in Specialty Practice Mental Health in their first year. They must also complete 20 hours of Professional

Supervision. NCWNZ's concern is that the government may choose to stop the NESP programme as it is an expensive programme to run. If this programme is stopped, Mental Health services will be significantly affected and the role of Mental Health nurses will be devalued in a complex setting.

- 2.3. Nurse Entry to Practice (NETP) is a far cheaper option and is funded through HWNZ. Its focus is for nurses starting out who are working in other areas including the community and primary care as well as in hospitals. Currently this training programme only includes one psychiatric paper. Some District Health Boards do not have a psychiatric component, which means registered nurses, when first employed, have had very little in-depth training. We believe either a far greater psychiatric component should be included in basic nurse training, or a post-graduate certificate in the psychiatric field should be introduced.
- 2.4. The content of training programmes is limited around Mental Health knowledge and skills. For some training institutes this is not seen as a priority, while others do have it as a key learning area.
- 2.5. Mental Health is a specialised area and we consider Nurse Practitioners (NP) should be encouraged to specialise in this area. We understand the first NPs have been appointed and that there are others starting the pathway. This is definitely a specialty area which should be encouraged.

### **3. Nurse practitioners**

- 3.1. The introduction of Nurse Practitioners has proved to be very successful. The Nurse Practitioners are making a real difference to health care in New Zealand. We believe their role should be broadened to ensure they are fully utilised

### **4. Code of conduct and guidelines for checking social media**

- 4.1. Safeguards for checking credentials through social media, has made an enormous difference when employing staff by ensuring employed staff are authentic and thereby eliminating fraud.

### **5. Levels of nurse training**

- 5.1. There are many people who make fantastic nurses and yet do not have the ability to do a degree course. Enrolled Nurse training is offered by a limited number of tertiary institutions. Whilst we realise there are currently limited opportunities for employment for this group of nurses, we support this level of training as we believe there is still a need for this role.

### **6. Family friendly training**

- 6.1. It is important that nursing training is 'family friendly' and that people are not disadvantaged by having breaks in their training due to family matters.

Rae Duff  
National President

Ailsa Stewart  
Convenor, Health Standing Committee