

CoNNMO Meeting Minutes - Friday 4 June 2021

1. Welcome, acknowledgement of country and introductions

Members were welcomed to the meeting by Marian Linnane, Chair of the Coalition of National Nursing and Midwifery Organisations (CoNNMO). Marian also acknowledged the traditional owners and custodians of the land where member representatives, invited guests and observers were participating in the meeting.

2. Attendance

Mary Brunton	ACT Health - CNMO
Marian Linnane	AIDH Nursing and Midwifery & CoNNMO Chair
Cedar Yin	AIDH Nursing and Midwifery
Mark Staaf	ANMF Victorian Branch
Carol Pontil	ANMF Victorian Branch
Elizabeth Muir	ANMF Victorian Branch
Tracy Hawes	Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia Inc.
Philip Russo	Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control
Anne Craigie	Australasian Hepatology Association
Joanne Perks	Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association & CoNNMO Councillor
Sandra Code	Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine
Sally Kane	Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine
Sue Monaro	Australia and New Zealand Society of Vascular Nursing
Amanda Hill	Australia and New Zealand Urological Nursing Society
Fiona Bolton	Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses
Rose Jaspers	Australian College of Critical Care Nurses
Alison Hodak	Australian College of Critical Care Nurses
Emma Williams	Australian College of Critical Care Nurses
Shelley Reid	Australian College of Neonatal Nurses
Leanne Boase	Australian College of Nurse Practitioners
Carolyn Stapleton	Australian College of Nursing
Fiona Newman	Australian College of Perianaesthesia Nurses
Jennifer Lewis	Australian Diabetes Education Association
Melanie Gray Morris	Australian Diabetes Education Association
Vandana Chandnani	Australian Digital Health Agency
Jane Lloyd	Australian Government Department of Health
Julie Sartor	Australian Government Department of Health
Fiona Stoker	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council
Annie Butler	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
Julie Reeves	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
Julianne Bryce	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation & CoNNMO Secretariat
Samantha Moses	Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association
Anne Smart	Australian Women's Health Nurse Association
Lucy Gent	Cancer Nurses Society of Australia
Julia Morphett	College of Emergency Nursing Australia
Alison McMillan	Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer
Frances Rice	Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office
Alyson Sweeney	Continence Nurses Society of Australia
Tracey Moroney	Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery
Katherine Isbister	CRANAplus
Adam Searby	Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia
Louise Burton	Flight Nurses Australia
Petrina Halloran	Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
Claudia Viridun	Palliative Care Nurses Australia
Sue Easton	Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia
Grace Ongley	Psychogeriatric Nurses Association Australia
Anne Garrahy	QLD Health
Jocelyn Toohill	QLD Health
Jan Williams	Refugee Nurses Australia
Edward Zimbudzi	Renal Society of Australia
Jennifer Hurley	SA Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer
Marina Buchanan-Grey	TAS CNMO

3. Apologies

Anthony Dombkins	ACT Chief Nursing & Midwifery Officer
Sally Sara	Australia and New Zealand Urological Nursing Society
Rebecca East	Australian College Of Perioperative Nurses
Inga Parks	Australian Dermatology Nurses Association
Michelle Girdler	Australian Nurse Teachers Society & CoNNMO Councillor
Lisa McKenna	Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery
Colleen Blums	Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia & CoNNMO Councillor
Tanya Vogt	Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
Jacqui Cross	NSW Chief Nursing & Midwifery Officer
Tracey Nicholls	Otorhinolaryngology Health and Neck Nurses Group & CoNNMO Deputy Chair
Nathan Wilson	Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia
Marianne Cummins	Psychogeriatric Nurses Association Australia
Francine Douce	TAS Chief Nurse and Midwife

4. Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer update

An update was provided by Alison McMillan, Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer. The federal budget was handed down in May with an enormous focus on aged care. In particular there was a commitment made to mandating RN hours in residential aged care. There will be a significant investment in growing the workforce both in residential aged care and home care. There will be additional financial support for aged care workers already in the system, particularly nurses. There will also be more opportunity and money for transition to practice in aged care. These changes demonstrate an understanding and support for the importance of nursing leadership and the professional role registered nurses play in aged care supporting aged care workers. The CCNMO has commenced the development of the National Nursing Strategy and work continues on a supply/demand study. The Department of Health will be establishing a working group with key nursing and medical stakeholders to oversee the development of a Nurse Practitioner 10 Year Plan with short, medium and long term goals. The plan is to hold the first meeting by the end of June. Alison extended her congratulations to those key nursing stakeholder representatives who met with the Minister for Health to bring about this outcome. There will be amendment to MBS access for privately practicing midwives. These changes will enhance birthing on country. Work on the Mental Health Workforce Strategy is continuing with a strong focus on mental health nursing. The CCNMO is continuing to provide input into the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan. Responses to the consultation are due shortly. There is a strong push for the plan to be multi-disciplinary. The Australian Government is implementing the National Still Birth Plan. This is of particular importance for First Nations women where the rates of still birth are higher than the average. Alison is the co-chair of the Infection Control Expert Group and is working with the Clinical Evidence Taskforce to revise the advice for the use of face masks for protection from COVID-19. The updated guidelines will be published next week. Vaccine rollout work continues with 4.6 million doses delivered to date. There are only six aged care facilities in Australia where residents have not had their first dose. All aged care facilities will be fully vaccinated very shortly. Three are due today with the other three next week.

5. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia update

An update was provided by Petrina Halloran, NMBA Policy Manager. All members were reminded to renew their registration if they have not already done so. This year's registration renewal included new questions regarding exposure prone procedures. The National Boards and Ahpra will be emailing registrants to encourage them to get vaccinated. The NMBA is undertaking work to enable students to assist with the vaccination roll out under supervision. The public consultation for the English Language Skills Registration Standard will be conducted in the coming months. The NMBA is commencing work with ANMAC on the review of the Nurse practitioner standards for practice and the Registration standard for endorsement as a nurse practitioner. The NMBA will be releasing a discussion paper on a national student assessment tool, to address a recommendation from the *Educating the Nurse of the Future Report*. The NMBA is also reviewing the approach to return to practice for nurses and midwives who have left the Register. This year the NMBA will also be working on the review of Registration standard for endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives as well as the RN and EN standards for practice.

Please visit the NMBA website for further information: www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au

6. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council update

An update was provided by Fiona Stoker, ANMAC Chief Executive Officer. ANMAC will be collaborating with the NMBA on the review of the Nurse practitioner standards for practice and the Registration standard for endorsement as a nurse practitioner. Accreditation work and monitoring of education providers is continuing. ANMAC is in discussions with the NMBA regarding the development of explanatory notes for undergraduate clinical placement. The team at ANMAC are involved in a Canadian research project exploring nurse's work and contribution during the COVID-19 pandemic. Once the report has been finalised, ANMAC will pass it on to the CoNNMO Secretariat for distribution to member organisations. The Diploma of Nursing qualification has been ratified for the Health Training Package. It has been agreed to extend the transition period to the new curriculum to 31 December 2021.

Please visit the ANMAC website for further information: <https://www.anmac.org.au/>

7. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Aged Care update

An update was provided by Annie Butler, ANMF Federal Secretary. The Royal Commission handed down its final report at the end of February and the report was released to the public 1 March, with 148 recommendations. The ANMF focused on five key issues: mandated minimum staffing levels and skills mix, the need for clinical governance, looking for increased transparency and accountability, guaranteeing workforce capability with better conditions, education and training and finally registration for personal care workers/assistants in nursing. The government recognised the importance of staff ratios. At the May federal budget, government announced millions to go to the aged care sector. The government will put in legislation for the first time mandated minimum staffing requirement of 200 minutes per resident of care per day, with 40 of these minutes to be delivered by a registered nurse. The government did not take this further, as per the Royal Commission recommendation, to legislate for a registered nurse 24 hours 7 days per week. This is a good start but more work needs to be done. The ANMF will continue our national campaign to make sure that what they have committed to do will get done. The government has also committed to using a new funding tool, replacing the ACFI with the AN-ACC. This assessment will be independent with incentives to keep people well. These are good positive measures but the ANMF want to see them improved.

Please visit the ANMF website for further information: www.anmf.org.au

8. Australian Digital Health Agency update

An update was provided by Vandana Chandnani, ADHA Manager of Provider Adoption, Workforce and Education. The National Nursing and Midwifery Digital Health Capability Framework was launched in October 2020. The agency worked with a number of key stakeholders, including professional bodies, government and researchers to develop the Framework. The next phase involves the development of an action plan for digital health. This is now underway and will be finalised by the end of June. The five domains covered in the Framework include: digital professionalism; leadership and advocacy; data and information quality; information enabled care; and technology. The ADHA will also consult with nursing and midwifery organisations working across a range of settings to seek feedback on a self-assessment tool and resources. These actions are intended to progress the adoption, application and awareness of the Framework. Vandana's presentation is available on the CoNNMO website.

Please visit the ADHA website for further information: www.digitalhealth.gov.au

9. Registered nurse prescribing discussion

Petrina Halloran, NMBA Policy Manager provided an update on prescribing for registered nurses. The Board has undertaken a literature review, written a discussion paper, developed a registration standard and guidelines and consulted extensively with key stakeholders. The Office of Best Practice Regulation has been informed of this work and has requested a regulatory impact statement. This statement has been submitted and the Board is waiting for approval. Revisions have been made. When finalised, there will be public consultation in the coming months. This process is taking longer than first anticipated. It has been 18 months to date. The Board will be seeking responses from both organisations and individuals to a structured question set. Feedback can be provided by written submissions or completing an online survey. The Board would like stakeholders to provide examples and data on where nurse prescribing could benefit the community particularly in aged care, outreach for the homeless, community and primary care nursing. The purpose of

this change is for people to have access to services at the right time and place to improve health outcomes and safety.

10. Nurse practitioner panel discussion and questions

Leanne Boase, President of the ACNP, Katherine Isbister, CEO of CRANApplus and Annie Butler, Federal Secretary of the ANMF gave an update on the meeting with the Health Minister Greg Hunt MP on 26 May 2021. Attendees at the meeting included Leanne Boase ACNP, Katherine Isbister CRANApplus, Annie Butler ANMF, Karen Booth APNA, and Kylie Ward and Chris O'Donnell ACN. This meeting was sought to discuss the recommendations of the MBS Review Taskforce as they relate to nurse practitioners. The Taskforce rejected all 14 recommendations made by the expert Nurse Practitioner Reference Group. At the meeting the nursing stakeholders presented a document they had prepared to the Minister which proposed steps to be taken in order of priority. The Minister was supportive of undertaking further work towards an outcome. The role of nurse practitioners in other countries and concerns about Australia being behind the rest of the world in utilising their knowledge and skills were discussed. The Minister was interested in the pipeline for nurse practitioners. Training, scope of practice, remuneration and models of care were discussed. Rural and remote, primary care, mental health, aged care, palliative care and AACHO's were highlighted as areas of most need. The Minister proposed development of a Nurse practitioner 10 Year Plan with short, medium and long term goals with a six week timeline. This work will align with the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan. The Minister remains unclear about nurse practitioner scope of practice and requested that the nursing representatives work with his office and medical peak bodies to improve understanding. The organisations involved are already gathering data and working together to prepare for the development of the proposed NP 10 Year Plan. The ACNP are undertaking a national peer review project for nurse practitioners. The meeting with Minister Hunt was positive and a significant step for nursing. The ACNP has been overwhelmed by the support of their nursing colleagues.

11. Questions

Marian Linnane and Julianne Bryce facilitated questions from CoNNMO representatives about the meeting with the Minister and next steps.

A question was raised about whether the current exemption for privately practicing midwives (PPMs), due to expire in December, will be extended. Concern was expressed that unless the exemption is extended or a PII product becomes available then PPMs will not legally be able to continue providing homebirth, leaving women without access to a midwife to attend their homebirth.

Action: Frances Rice, Senior Nursing and Midwifery Adviser from the Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office will seek further information and respond to CoNNMO member representatives.

12. Other business

Nominations for two CoNNMO Council positions will be sought this month.

13. Member reports

Written reports were provided by the following CoNNMO member bodies (see attached):

Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia Inc.

Australasian Hepatology Association (AHA)

Australasian Institute of Digital Health - Nursing and Midwifery Community of Practice

Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association Inc.

Australia and New Zealand Urological Nurses Society (ANZUNS)

Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine

Australian and New Zealand Society of Vascular Nursing (ANZSVN)

Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses

Australian College of Critical Care Nurses

Australian College of Neonatal Nurses

Australian College of Nursing



Australian College of Perioperative Nurses
Australian Day Surgery Nurses Association
Australian Diabetes Educators Association
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
Australian Women's Health Nurses Australia
Cancer Nurses Society of Australia
College of Emergency Nursing Australia
Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery
Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia
Flight Nurses Australia
Gastroenterological Nurses College of Australia
Palliative Care Nurses Australia
Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia
Psychogeriatric Nurses Association of Australia
Renal Society of Australasia

14. Next meeting - TBA