

## CoNNO Meeting Minutes – Friday 1 May 2015

### 1. Welcome

Members were welcomed to the meeting by Christopher Cliffe, Chair of the Coalition of National Nursing Organisations (CoNNO).

### 2. Attendance

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Tracy Clarke        | Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia                            |
| Marija Juraja       | Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control             |
| Megan Collins       | Australasian Hepatology Association                                   |
| Leigh Arrowsmith    | Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association                          |
| Joanne Perks        | Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Assn Inc                    |
| Paul McLeish        | Australia and New Zealand Orthopaedic Nurses Association              |
| Karen Simunov       | Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Nursing               |
| Wendy Sansom        | Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses                       |
| Jacqui Burton       | Australian College of Children and Young People's Nurses              |
| Suzy Ladanyi        | Australian College of Critical Care Nurses                            |
| Kim Ryan            | Australian College of Mental Health Nurses                            |
| Helen Gosby         | Australian College of Nurse Practitioners and CoNNO Deputy Chair      |
| Debra Thoms         | Australian College of Nursing   |
| Kathleen McLaughlin | Australian College of Nursing   |
| Shelley Reid        | Australian College of Neonatal Nurses and CoNNO Councillor            |
| Jed Duff            | Australian College of Operating Room Nurses and CoNNO Councillor      |
| Sally Holmes        | Australian Dermatology Nurses Association and CoNNO Councillor        |
| Toni Rice           | Australian Diabetes Education Association                             |
| Michelle Girdler    | Australian Nurse Teachers Society                                     |
| Fiona Stoker        | Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council                |
| Julianne Bryce      | Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation and CoNNO Secretary       |
| Lee Thomas          | Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation                           |
| Elizabeth Foley     | Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation                           |
| Julie Reeves        | Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation                           |
| Mark Staaf          | Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Victorian Branch          |
| Julianne Badenoch   | Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Assn and CoNNO Councillor       |
| Alexis Hunt         | Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association                     |
| Stephanie Jeremy    | Australian Student and Novice Nurse Association                       |
| Linda Oliver        | Australian Women's Health Nurse Association                           |
| Julie Calvert       | Cancer Nurses Society of Australia                                    |
| Rosemary Bryant     | Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer                        |
| Janine Mohamed      | Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives |
| Janie Thompson      | Continenence Nurses Society of Australia                              |
| Rhonda Griffiths    | Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery                             |
| Christopher Cliffe  | CRANaplus and CoNNO Chair   |
| Tarja Saastamoinen  | Department of Health  |
| Karen Cook          | Department of Health  |
| Jennifer Harland    | Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia                                |
| Genevieve Brideson  | Flight Nurses Australia   |
| Lynn Rapley         | Gastroenterological Nurses College of Australia                       |
| Julian Grant        | Maternal Child and Family Health Nurses Association                   |
| Tanya Vogt          | Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia                              |
| Jocelyn Small       | Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia                              |
| Camilla Preston     | Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia                              |

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Marian Linnane  
Tracey Nicholls  
Kym Griffin  
Elizabeth Hore  
Tamika Townsend  
Andrew Cashin  
Marie Heartfield  
Alison McMillan

Nursing Informatics Australia  
Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Nurses Group  
Palliative Care Nurses Australia  
Renal Society of Australasia  
Reconciliation Australia  
Southern Cross University  
Southern Cross University  
Victorian Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer

## 2.1 Apologies

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Claire Kennedy           | Australian Day Surgery Nurses Association                    |
| Joanne Ramadge           | Australian Diabetes Education Association                    |
| Linda Starr              | Australian Forensic Nurses Association                       |
| Amanda Wylie             | Australian Ophthalmic Nurses Association                     |
| Terry Swanson            | Australian Wound Management Association and CoNNO Councillor |
| Thelma De Lisser-Howarth | Discharge Planning Association                               |
| Margaret Tabone          | Flight Nurses Australia                                      |
| Regina McDonald          | Psychogeriatric Nurses Association                           |

## 3. Confirmation of agenda

## 4. Minutes of the previous meeting – 5 September 2014

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 September 2014 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

## 5. Business arising from the previous meeting

All action items from the previous meeting have been addressed.

## 6. Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer Update

The meeting noted that Dr Rosemary Bryant AO had been the Chair of CoNNO (or National Nursing Organisations as it was then known) between 2000-2008.

Issues raised by Rosemary for updating of information:

- Recently announced Australian Government *Review of the Medicare Benefits Schedule* (MBS) – critical for nurse practitioners, midwives and registered nurses to be involved in the review.
- The recently released Mental Health Commission Report – this report highlights the value of mental health nurses to the community and therefore the need to expand funding mechanisms.
- National Health Medical Research Council (NHMRC) – Rosemary will be vacating the position she has held on the Council for two terms, in June. There will therefore be a ‘nurse’ position available on NHMRC. There has been an Increase of 13% in research projects funded overall, but a low percentage of these are nursing and midwifery research projects. This area needs development.
- Australian Health Protection Principles Committee (AHPPC) – there is representation from all jurisdictions on this Committee, which covers a range of issues including those relating to disaster management such as the natural disasters in Vanuatu and Nepal; and, public health emergencies such as flu epidemics/pandemics, SARS, and the Ebola crisis in West Africa. Alison McMillan (Chief Nurse, Victoria), who is also a member of the Committee, recently travelled to Vanuatu to provide assistance; and, two doctors were sent to Nepal. Rosemary acknowledged the immense contribution of nursing to containing and controlling the spread of the Ebola virus (including some Australian nurses). She also noted that during the flu pandemic of 2009, a GP roundtable group was established

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with the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) and the Australian Practice Nurse Association (APNA – as it was then titled) as co-opted members, to assist the deliberations of the AHPPC.

- Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) for Privately Practising Midwives (PPMs) – the insurance company Vero has withdrawn from the insurance market of providing PII for midwives engaged in private practice. This will affect about 120 midwives currently insured with Vero. This will mean these PPM's will not have PII cover for antenatal and postnatal care once their current policy with Vero expires. The Australian Government's exemption of PII for PPM's for the provision of intrapartum care during home births has been extended until 2016.

## 7. Australian Government Department of Health Update

Tarja Saastamoinen, Assistant Secretary, Health Workforce Reform Branch provided this update.

With the inclusion now of the work of the former Health Workforce Australia, the Health Workforce Reform Branch has six key priorities: mental health, e-health, Aboriginal and Torres Islander health, population health, aged care and workforce.

Issues raised in Tarja's update included:

- Minister Sussan Ley has announced there will be 28 Primary Health Networks (PHN) to replace the Medicare Locals. Each PHN will have a Community Advisory Committee and a Health Professional Advisory Committee. PHNs are in early phases of establishment.
- Medicare Review – as Minister Ley wants to engage with health professionals it is expected the nursing and midwifery professions will be involved in the Medicare Review. The newly forming Primary Health Care Advisory Group will be chaired by Dr Steve Hambleton.
- As a result of the Mental Health Commission Report there will be targeted stakeholder consultation forums on mental health over the next 12 - 18 months. There are a number of mentions in this report of the value of mental health nurses.
- Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP) – this program of funding commenced 1 January 2012, to expand and enhance the role of nurses in general practice. Currently there are 4,341 practices receiving this incentive funding. The completed evaluation of the PNIP is with the Minister.
- As mentioned, the work of HWA has been transferred to the Health Workforce Reform Branch. Reports published by the former HWA were posted to the Department of Health website on 17 December 2014. HWAs work highlights that without reform, the nursing workforce will be facing a significant shortfall of nurses. If no action is taken now to reverse this shortfall, the HWA predicted there would be a shortfall of 85,000 nurses in 2025 and 123,000 in 2030.

Tarja gave acknowledgement of Rosemary's valuable contribution to the Department over the last 7 years, on behalf of the Commonwealth.

## 8. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) Update

This update was provided by Tanya Vogt, Executive Officer Nursing and Midwifery, Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Updated information was provided on:

- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) Registration standards have all been reviewed and finalised – these include: Criminal History, Professional Indemnity Insurance, Recency of Practice, and Continuing Professional Development.
- The Rural and Isolated Practice Registered Nurse (RIPRN) endorsement standard has enabled registered nurses to be endorsed to administer scheduled medicines and prescribe by protocol, in rural and remote areas of Australia. A Discussion paper, proposing the withdrawal of the endorsement, will be issued within the next couple of months.

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- The Board is currently ensuring that standards for practice are aligned in terms of format across those for: Registered nurses; Enrolled nurses; Nurse Practitioners, and, Midwives. Release of the enrolled nurse standards for practice is therefore delayed until completion of this process for those standards. Public consultation will open shortly for the registered nurse standards for practice; and, the midwife standards for practice will be reviewed in 2016.
- NMBA is undertaking a significant piece of work with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) concerning aligning processes for communication with nursing and midwifery applicants for skilled migration and those eligible for registration.
- The Branding and Communication project has been completed.
- The Specialist recognition project was undertaken to consider the Board's regulatory role in recognition of specialist qualifications. The subsequent policy statement outlines the position that there is no need for further regulation by the Board in relation to specialty practice. The NMBA Specialist Recognition position statement can viewed here: [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Position-Statements/Specialist-recognition.aspx](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Position-Statements/Specialist-recognition.aspx). This position statement refers to the AHWMC *Guidance for National Board submissions to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for approval of specialties under Section 13 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law- 29 July 2014* <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/About-AHPRA/Ministerial-Directives-and-Communiqués.aspx>, as the basis for the NMBA's decision not to regulate specialist nursing practice.
- Scheduled upcoming review of the Codes of Professional Conduct for nurses and for midwives, the Codes of Ethics for nurses and for midwives (joint development with ANMF, ACN, and ACM), and the Professional Boundaries document.
- For further information about the NMBAs communications go to: <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/>

## 9. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC)

The ANMAC update was provided by Fiona Stoker, who has been in the Chief Executive Officer role since November 2014.

Issues discussed included:

- Finalisation of the Nurse Practitioner accreditation standards, and, Accreditation standards for programs leading to endorsement for scheduled medicines for Midwives.
- Review of Re-entry to the register midwife accreditation standards – these are currently out for public consultation; plus consultations forums are scheduled to be held in Melbourne (May) and Perth (June).
- International Qualifications for Nurses and Midwives (IQNM) Project – the aim is to ensure skilled migration applicants for registration as nurses or midwives are very clear about the registration requirements.
- The ANMAC website is being updated.

## 10. NMBA Registered Nurse Standards Project Update

Professor Andrew Cashin from Southern Cross University gave an update on the review of the NMBA *Competency Standards for the Registered Nurse* project. The 'competency standards' will be revised to 'standards for practice'. The project team will talk with registered nurses about their standard for practicing (what is done and what is the standard), and, talk with consumers about their expectations regarding standards for practice of the registered nurse. Public consultation to be announced 11 May 2015.

This presentation is available on the CoNNO website.

## 11. Role of Australian International Council of Nurses (ICN) Member

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Deb Thoms, CEO, Australian College of Nursing and Lee Thomas, Federal Secretary, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, gave a presentation of the role of two organisations as the joint member for Australia of the International Council of Nurses.

## 12. ICN Leadership Programme

Jed Duff, Australian College of Operating Room Nurses representative to CoNNO, gave a presentation of his participation in the ICN leadership programme. This programme aims to prepare nurses and other health professionals for leadership roles in nursing and the broader health sector during these challenging times of health system change and reform. The programme was of a six day duration, and covered media training, campaigning, policy, governance and site visits.

## 13. 'Recognise' Program and Reconciliation Action Plan

Janine Mohammed, CEO, Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM) gave an insightful presentation on health inequities between Indigenous Australians and Non-indigenous Australians. She used these startling statistics to demonstrate the need for greatly increasing the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives, their retention in the health workforce; and, for the need for increased awareness of cultural respect and safety to be inculcated in the practice of all nurses and midwives.

Janine paid tribute to the support of Dr Rosemary Bryant AO in the operations of CATSINaM and assistance with the securing of funding in recent years.

Tamika Townsend from *Reconciliation Australia* presented to the meeting on the need for, and benefits to be gained from, organisations developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The meeting was alerted to the fact that Reconciliation Week is from 27 May-13 June 2015.

Janine and Tamika talked about the 'Recognise' program and the importance for nurses and midwives to be informed about this program and share this information with colleagues.

Information on programs and RAPS can be found at <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/>

Information about the Recognise Program can be found at <http://www.recognise.org.au/>

## 14. Council Report

This was a combined report from the CoNNO Chair and Secretariat.

The Chair, Christopher Cliffe welcomed our new council member Kathleen McLaughlin (ACN representative), who was elected after Lis Herbert (NIA representative) resigned from the CoNNO Council as she is taking up employment overseas for 12 months.

Christopher read the Objectives from the CoNNO Strategic Plan for the benefit of new members. The Terms of Reference document has been finalised and is now available on the CoNNO website, replacing the former CoNNO 'Governance Framework' and 'Constitution' documents.

Regarding CoNNO funding, the ANMF - as the Secretariat for CoNNO - has made a submission for funding to the Department of Health. The outcome is pending.

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See attached Chair and Secretariat Report.

## 15. New Business

There was a brief discussion of processes for donation by CoNNO member organisations to disaster situations.

## 16. Member Reports

Written reports were provided by the following 34 member organisations (see attached):

Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia Corporation  
Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control  
Australasian Hepatology Association  
Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Assn Inc  
Australian and New Zealand Orthopaedic Nurses Association  
Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Nursing  
Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses Inc  
Australian College of Children and Young People's Nurses  
Australian College of Critical Care Nurses  
Australian College of Neonatal Nurses  
Australian College of Operating Room Nurses  
Australian Dermatology Nurses Association  
Australian Diabetes Educators Association  
Australian Faith Community Nurses Association  
Australian Forensic Nurses Association  
Australian Nurse Teachers Society  
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation  
Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association  
Australian Student and Novice Nurse Association  
Australian Women's Health Nurse Association  
Australian Wound Management Association  
Cancer Nurses Society of Australia  
Continence Nurses Society of Australia  
Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery  
CRANaplus  
Discharge Planning Association  
Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia  
Flight Nurses Australia  
Gastroenterological Nurses College of Australia  
Maternal Child and Family Health Nurses Australia  
Nursing Informatics Australia  
Otorhinolaryngology, Head & Neck Nurses Group Inc  
Palliative Care Nurses Australia  
Renal Society of Australasia

## 17. Next Meeting

### 17.1 Items for Agenda

Proposed agenda items for the next member meeting were:

- Update on RN Standards for practice
- Update on EN Standards for practice
- Issues related to credentialling.

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## 17.2 Date and venue

Friday 2 October 2015, NSW Nurses and Midwives Association, 50 O’Dea Avenue, Waterloo, NSW (tbc)

DRAFT

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