

CoNNMO Meeting Minutes – Friday 8th May 2020

1. Welcome

Members were welcomed to the meeting by Marian Linnane, Chair of the Coalition of National Nursing and Midwifery Organisations (CoNNMO).

2. Introductions

Annie Butler, Federal Secretary of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) acknowledged the traditional owners and custodians of the land where member representatives were participating in the meeting and introduced the speakers. Annie also took a moment to reflect on the global pandemic and acknowledged that Australia, and in particular nurses and midwives, have been truly remarkable in responding to COVID-19.

3. Attendance

Tracy Hawes	Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia Inc.
Sally Watkinson	Australasian Hepatology Association
Phillip Russo	Australasian College of Infection Prevention and Control
Marian Linnane	Australasian Institute of Digital Health & CoNNMO Chair
Jen Bichel-Findlay	Australasian Institute of Digital Health
Dianne Lear	Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association
Deidre Widdall	Australasian Rehabilitation Nurses Association
Joanne Perks	Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association & CoNNMO Councillor
Shannon Woodward	Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association
Sally Sara	Australia and New Zealand Urological Nurses Society
Sally Kane	Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine
Sandra Code	Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine
Sue Monaro	Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Nurses
Leonie Ballantyne	Australian Association of Nurse Surgical Assistants
Lisa Wilson	Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses
Karen Sanders	Australasian Cardiovascular Nursing College
Jacquie Burton	Australian College of Children and Young People's Nurses
Rose Jaspers	Australian College of Critical Care Nurses
Alison Hodak	Australian College of Critical Care Nurses
Ruth King	Australian College of Midwives
Shelley Reid	Australian College of Neonatal Nurses & CoNNMO Councillor
Leanne Boase	Australian College of Nurse Practitioners & CoNNMO Councillor
Kylie Ward	Australian College of Nursing
Suzie Hoftink	Australian College of Nursing
Rebecca East	Australian College of Perioperative Nurses
Sonia Jones	Australian Day Surgery Nurses Association
Jen Lewis	Australian Diabetes Education Association
Angela Ryan	Australian Digital Health Agency
Lee Woods	Australian Digital Health Agency
Michelle Girdler	Australian Nurse Teachers Society & CoNNMO Councillor
Fiona Stoker	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council
Annie Butler	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
Julianne Bryce	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation & CoNNMO Secretary
Julie Reeves	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
Tara Nipe	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
Naomi Riley	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
Elizabeth Reale	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
Anne Smart	Australian Women's Health Nurse Association
Lucy Gent	Cancer Nurses Society of Australia
Jemma Still	Cancer Nurses Society of Australia
Julia Morphet	College of Emergency Nursing Australasia
Alison McMillan	Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Office
Karen Cook	Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Office
Frances Rice	Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Office
Darius Everett	Commonwealth Department of Health

Maria Shaw	Commonwealth Department of Health
Melanie Robinson	Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives
Joan Ostazkiewicz	Continence Nurse Society of Australia
Lisa McKenna	Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery
Katherine Isbister	CRANaplus
Colleen Blums	Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia & CoNNMO Councillor
Louise Burton	Flight Nurses Australia
Catherine Conway	Gastroenterological Nurses College Australia
Creina Mitchell	Maternal Child and Family Health Nurses Australia
Louise Dearman	National Enrolled Nurses Association & CoNNMO Councillor
Petrina Halloran	Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
Tracey Nicholls	Otorhinolaryngology Health and Neck Nurses Group & CoNNMO Deputy Chair
Kurt Barben	Palliative Care Nurses Australia
Marianne Cummins	Psychogeriatric Nurses Association Australia
Andrew Cashin	Southern Cross University
Marion Eckert	University of South Australia/Rosemary Bryant Research Centre
Rosemary Bryant	University of South Australia/Rosemary Bryant Research Centre

4. Apologies

Lynne Gillam	Australian Government Department of Health
Inga Parks	Australian Dermatology Nurses Association
Fiona Newman	Australian College of Perianaesthesia Nurses
Antonia Van Loon	Australian Faith Community Nurses Association
Amanda Wylie	Australian Ophthalmic Nurses Association
Melissa Cromarty	Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association
Margaret Gatling	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council
Tanya Vogt	Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
Kym Griffin	Palliative Care Nurses Australia

5. Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Office update

An update was provided by Alison McMillan, Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer (CCNMO).

Alison has been in her new role since the 11 November 2019. Since commencing she has been dealing with the management and impact of the bushfires and now the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These unprecedented disasters have provided the opportunity for the nursing and midwifery professions to work with Government to meet the challenges they have posed. Alison and her team have been working closely with three Ministers, Greg Hunt, Minister for Health; Mark Coulton, Minister for Regional Health; and Richard Colbeck, Minister for Aged Care. Alongside the Chief and Deputy Medical Officers, Alison has been providing government updates through mainstream and social media daily. The public are finding these updates by trusted health officials highly beneficial. Collaboration and cooperation at a political level for the response to COVID-19 has been excellent.

Currently Australia has 6,899 confirmed cases with 96 deaths and is leading the way with restricting transmission and testing. Predominantly transmission is from overseas acquired cases (approximately 63%), with community transmission quite low. The national medical stockpile has been reconfigured and currently we have more than one hundred million masks. Seven million masks have been distributed to Primary Health Networks (PHN's) and two million to jurisdictions. The Commonwealth has also sourced ventilators. Since the 3rd of March, there have been 8.2 million telehealth services delivered to 4.9 million people. Australia has increased testing capacity with over 723,000 tests conducted to date.

The Government has funded Medcast and Critical Care Education Services \$4.1 million dollars to upskill 20,000 registered nurses already working in acute care to work in critical care areas. This workforce is required to staff our increase in ICU bed capacity to 7,500. Approximately 27% of registered nurses enrolled in the Medcast online education have already completed the course. The Australian College of Nursing have also been given \$2.5 million dollars to provide refresher programs for registered and enrolled nurses to enable them to return to working in acute care. The Black Dog Institute received \$3 million dollars in funding to provide mental health services to all health professionals. The AHPRA Pandemic Response Sub-Register has been established to enable experienced and qualified nurses and midwives to quickly return to practice should there have been a surge in demand. As the expected surge has not been required there will now be an increase in elective surgery going forward. The COVIDSafe App was launched on the 26th of April. More than 5.3 million people have downloaded and registered for the App.

The CCNMO is continuing to work on the Government's commitment to the National Nursing 2030 Strategy including consideration of the recommendations of the *Educating the Nurse of the Future Report* published in December 2019.

Alison's presentation is available on the CoNNMO website.

6. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia update

An update was provided by Petrina Halloran, NMBA Policy Manager.

Petrina reminded members that nursing and midwifery registration renewals are due by the end May. Renewal is progressing well. About 30% of registrants have renewed already. The Board has introduced a financial hardship plan this year to allow registrants to pay the fee in two installments (one in May and the other in October). Only a small number of registrants have applied for this payment plan to date. There is more information about the criteria to be eligible for the plan on the Board's website.

At the request of Government, AHPRA established the Pandemic Response Sub-Register (PRSR) at the beginning of April. The PRSR included nurses, midwives, doctors and pharmacists who previously held general registration, and either moved to non-practising registration or left the Register in the past three years. These people were notified by email that they had been placed on the Register and were given the opportunity to opt out. This Register will be in place for 12 months, then there will a process of review. PRSR practitioners are identified by a different colour on the Public Register. Currently there are 22,000 nurses and 3,000 midwives on the PRSR. CoNNMO members were encouraged to visit the AHPRA and NMBA websites for more COVID-19 related information and resources.

In March, the NMBA moved to a new model of outcomes based assessment for internationally qualified nurses and midwives (IQNM's). The model is progressing well, however, there will be delays due to testing centre closures for COVID-19. The NMBA has developed an orientation program for IQNM's as part of the new model.

The NMBA is working with education providers for both nursing and midwifery approved programs with regard to requirements for clinical placement hours. The Board is currently reviewing the *Registration Standard: Recency of practice* and the *Nurse Practitioner standards for practice*. These revised documents will be circulated for public consultation in June. CoNNMO members were reminded that nurses and midwives can call the Nurse and Midwife Support Service if they require assistance. The details for this service are available on the NMBA's website.

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

7. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council update

An update was provided by Fiona Stoker, ANMAC Chief Executive Officer.

ANMAC staff are working from home and continuing to deal with applications for accreditation as they arise. Accreditation teams have been unable to do site visits due to COVID-19 but have been working around this challenge using technology, photos, videoconference and teleconference meetings with education providers. ANMAC are preparing for the impact of the required follow up with education providers which will likely extend to 2021. Nursing and midwifery courses are continuing and ANMAC is working closely with the NMBA and the Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery to monitor progress and respond to any issues. The main concern is undergraduate student placement. ANMAC has requested that priority be given to placement for students in the final year of their course. ANMAC are currently reviewing the Midwife Accreditation Standards with the assistance of the Professional Reference Group for this review. The ANMAC Colloquium, to be held in partnership with the Australian Pharmacy Council, has been rescheduled to the 6th of May 2021.

Please visit the ANMAC website for further information: www.anmac.org.au

8. Australian Digital Health Agency update

An update was provided by Angela Ryan, ADHA Chief Clinical Information Officer and Lee Woods, ADHA Digital Health Officer.

The ADHA is supporting the national response to COVID-19 and working closely with the Australian Government Department of Health to fast track the electronic prescribing program. This program is scheduled for deployment by the end of May 2020 and will allow an SMS token to be sent to a consumer's phone instead of using a paper prescription. The ADHA are accelerating support for prescribers, dispensers and consumers to adopt this digital alternative to paper prescriptions. The Agency has launched a COVID-19 webpage, which provides an interactive guide to dealing with COVID-19 and a healthier future

through digital technology. They have also launched the Innovation Challenge, which is seeking submissions from industry to support the national COVID-19 effort and champion digital health innovation across Australia. The three themes for the challenge include: digital clinical care; digital social care; and digital health population management and future preparedness. Visit the website at <https://innovation.digitalhealth.gov.au/> for more information on the challenge.

The ADHA has also developed the National Digital Health Workforce and Education Roadmap resource and the National Nursing and Midwifery Digital Health Capabilities Framework, the first of its kind in Australia and for the clinical professions. The Framework outlines the core digital health skills, knowledge and behaviours required for professional practice across five domains (digital professionalism; leadership and advocacy; data and quality information; information-enabled care; and technology) and three capability levels (formative; intermediate; and proficient). It can be used as a resource to guide individuals, employers and educators in their work and professional development planning. The Framework was developed in collaboration with the Australasian Institute of Digital Health and an Advisory Group chaired by the ANMF and including the NMBA, ANMAC, CATSINaM, APNA, the Digital Health CRC, a consumer representative, the CNMO's, ACM and ACN. It is due to be released in August 2020.

Angela and Lee's presentation is available on the CoNNMO website.

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

9. Australasian Nursing and Midwifery Clinical Trials Network

Dr Rosemary Bryant AO provided an overview of the Rosemary Bryant Research Centre (RBRC), which was established in 2016, by the ANMF SA Branch and the University of South Australia. The Centre's work is funded by the Rosemary Bryant Foundation and the University of South Australia. The governance structure includes a Steering Committee and Research Advisory Committee. They have developed a comprehensive Strategic Plan. Their mission is to lead high impact nursing and midwifery research and apply evidence into practice across the health care system for the benefit of communities and society. The Centre has had considerable success in gaining research funding.

Professor Marion Eckert, Director of the RBRC and Professor of Cancer Nursing at the University of South Australia, spoke about the establishment of an Australasian Nursing and Midwifery Clinical Trials Network. This network was set up to facilitate a coordinated approach to clinical research across Australia and New Zealand. It was identified that nursing and midwifery-led research was potentially losing a large amount of research funding to medical research counterparts due to the inability to conduct "public good" research at the same scale via a network. Research conducted by networks are more successful at attracting public good health and medical research funding than trials that aren't supported by a network. They can identify important questions and design large trails to answer them. The network can support unbiased research, provide high-quality scientific evidence of the effectiveness or cost effectiveness of interventions, and foster clinical research. Collectively there would be more success in coming together to progress research endeavour, rather than going it alone.

In Australia there are over 70 clinical trials networks. Of the 200 grants funded between 2004 and 2014, only nine have gone to nursing and midwifery research. Clinical Trials Networks received 25% of all clinical trials competitive grant funding, in this period. This jumps to 50% for grants greater than \$1 million dollars. To date, the founders have linked with the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance and support networks to establish the Network and have identified that the three key components important for success are: engaged partners, infrastructure and sustainability. They have reached out to universities and formed a working group. The foundation of the Australasian Nursing and Midwifery Clinical Trials Network have been laid and they would now like to build on the membership. The Network would add significant benefit to the research, development, dissemination and implementation of nurse- or midwife-led research in the region. It would provide research leadership opportunities, including trial education and assist with cross-fertilisation of ideas, increase collaborators and reduce research waste. To establish the network, the founders need the support of multiple parties. CoNNMO members were invited to contact Marion for further information on the Network.

Marion's presentation is available on the CoNNMO website.

Please visit the RBRC website for further information: www.unisa.edu.au/research/Health-Research/Research/RBRC/

10. NDIS Funded Information, Linkages and Capacity Building National Project

Professor Andrew Cashin, Southern Cross University provided CoNNMO members with an overview of a new national project funded by the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) under their mainstream capacity building grant scheme. Southern Cross University, along with two other universities and five

professional nursing organisation's were successful in securing the grant to build the capacity of nurses to deliver mainstream hospital and community based health services to people with intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder (ID/A). The consortia includes members representing: Southern Cross University, Western Sydney University, the University of New South Wales, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF), the Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia (PANDDA), the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses (APNA), the College of Emergency Nurses Australia (CENA), and the Australian College of Critical Care Nurses (ACCCN).

The three year national project began in March. Following an online survey for registered nurses, the project research team will develop and promote an on-line learning resource for nurses to build their knowledge of the NDIS and post-discharge nurse-led referral pathways to improve access to, and outcomes from, mainstream health services for people with ID/A and their carers. Morbidity and mortality rates are worse for people with ID/A. The key message for the project is that caring for people with ID/A is every nurses business. When completed, the full suite of online learning resources, will be housed on the PANDDA website.

11. Questions

Annie Butler facilitated member questions.

12. Member reports

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

Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia Inc.

Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control

Australasian Hepatology Association

Australasian Institute of Digital Health Nursing and Midwifery (formerly Nursing Informatics Australia)

Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association

Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association Inc.

Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Nurses

Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine

Australian and New Zealand Urological Nurses Society

Australian Association of Nurse Surgical Assistants

Australian College of Neonatal Nurses

Australian College of Nursing

Australian College of Midwives

Australian Diabetes Educators Association

Australian Faith Community Nurses Association

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation

Australasian Rehabilitation Nurses' Association

Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives

College of Emergency Nursing Australia

Continence Nurses Society of Australia

CRANaplus

Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia

Psychogeriatric Nurses Association of Australia

The reports are available on the CoNNMO website.

13. Next meeting

The next CoNNMO member meeting will be held on 8 October 2020 at Parliament House, Canberra (to be confirmed).