

## CoNNMO Meeting Minutes – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019

### 1. Welcome

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

### 2. Attendance

Tracy Hawes	Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia Inc.
Suzanne Shephard-Law	Australasian Hepatology Association
Phillip Newton	Australasian Cardiovascular Nursing College
Marilyn Cruickshank	Australasian College of Infection Prevention and Control
Jeanne Barr	Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association
Joanne Perks	Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association & CoNNMO Councillor
Sally Kane	Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine
Sandra Code	Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine
Sally Sara	Australia and New Zealand Urological Nurses Society
Leonie Ballantyne	Australian Association of Nurse Surgical Assistants
Jacquie Burton	Australian College of Children and Young People's Nurses
Rose Jaspers	Australian College of Critical Care Nurses
Megan Cooper	Australian College of Midwives
Luke Williamson	Australian College of Midwives
Shelley Reid	Australian College of Neonatal Nurses & CoNNMO Councillor
Margaret Nicholson	Australian College of Nurse Practitioners
Carolyn Stapleton	Australian College of Nursing
Fiona Newman	Australian College of Perianaesthesia Nurses
Rebecca East	Australian College of Perioperative Nurses
Inga Perks	Australian Dermatology Nurses Association
Angela Ryan	Australian Digital Health Agency
Karen Simunov	Australian Nurse Teachers Society & Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Nurses
Margaret Gatling	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council
Annie Butler	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
Julianne Bryce	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation & CoNNMO Secretary
Samantha Moses	Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association
Anne Smart	Australian Women's Health Nurse Association
Lucy Gent	Cancer Nurses Society of Australia
Jemma Still	Cancer Nurses Society of Australia
Lorelle Malyon	College of Emergency Nursing Australia
Liza Edwards	Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Office
Vicki Patton	Contenance Nurse Society of Australia
Sally Robertson	Council of Deans of Nursing & Midwifery
Katherine Isbister	CRANaplus
Amelia Druhan	CRANaplus
Colleen Blums	Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia & CoNNMO Councillor
Jennifer Holmes	Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia
Louise Burton	Flight Nurses Australia
Lynn Rapley	Gastroenterological Nurses College Australia
Creina Mitchell	Maternal Child and Family Health Nurses Australia
Louise Wightman	Maternal Child and Family Health Nurses Australia
Louise Dearman	National Enrolled Nurses Association & CoNNMO Councillor
Steve Morris	NPS MedicineWise
Petrina Halloran	Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
Marian Linnane	Nursing Informatics Australia & CoNNMO Chair
Tracey Nicholls	Otorhinolaryngology Health and Neck Nurses Group & CoNNMO Deputy Chair
Marianne Cummins	Psychogeriatric Nurses Association Australia
Thomas Buckley	University of Sydney
Jen Bichel-Findlay	University of Technology Sydney

### 3. Apologies

Deidre Widdall	Australasian Rehabilitation Nurses Association
Lisa Wilson	Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses
Dianne Chamberlain	Australian College of Critical Care Nurses
Kim Ryan	Australian College of Mental Health Nurses
Leanne Boase	Australian College of Nurse Practitioners
Kylie Ward	Australian College of Nursing
Claire McNally	Australian Day Surgery Nurses Association
Michelle Girdler	Australian Nurse Teachers Society & CoNNMO Councillor
Fiona Stoker	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council
Melissa Cromarty	Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association
Kristy Punch	Medical Imaging Nursing Association
Brett Holmes	NSW Nurses and Midwives Association
Tanya Vogt	Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
Kym Griffin	Palliative Care Nurses Australia
Kathy Hill	Renal Society of Australia

### 4. Confirmation of agenda

### 5. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 3 May 2019 were confirmed and accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### 6. Business arising from the previous meeting

All actions from the previous meeting have been addressed.

### 7. Commonwealth Chief Nurse and Midwifery Office update

An update was provided by Liza Edwards, Principal Nursing and Midwifery Adviser.

The Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer (CNMO) position is still vacant. The Independent Review of Nursing Education - *Educating the Nurse of the Future* report was finalised in September and the report has now been submitted to the Federal Health Minister. The plan is for the four literature reviews, commissioned by the Department of Health and undertaken by the University of Wollongong, on work readiness; clinical skill acquisition; factors influencing nursing as a career choice; and factors influencing the future of health care delivery, to be published alongside the report. The report will be considered by Government prior to public release. As there is no fixed date for the release of the report, review the website for progress. The MBS review nurse practitioners and midwives reference groups work has drawn to a close with final reports submitted to the taskforce. The Taskforce will be aligning the recommendations for primary care before submitting them to the Federal Health Minister by the end of the year. The CNMO is working on a national strategy for nursing titled *Toward 2030* which will be released for public consultation. The National Strategic Approach to Maternity Services will go to AHMAC for approval in November. *Australia's Long Term National Health Plan* has been released in August 2019. The four pillars of this national plan include: guaranteeing Medicare and improving access to PBS; supporting hospitals and private insurance; prioritising mental and preventative health; and investing in health and medical research.

The Chief Nurse and Midwifery Office's presentation is available on the CoNNMO website.

### 8. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia update

An update was provided by Petrina Halloran, Policy Manager.

The revised Decision Making Framework has been finalised and will be released in November 2019, to take effect from 3 February 2020. The Board will be reviewing the Recency of practice registration standard, early next year. The NMBA, in partnership with four other Boards, is consulting on *Guidelines for registered health practitioners and students in relation to blood-borne viruses*. At the next renewal the NMBA will be required to ask nurses and midwives if they perform exposure prone procedures and, if they do, whether they know their blood borne virus status. Earlier this year, at the direction of Health Ministers, there were some changes passed to National Law in relation to mandatory reporting. The revised *Guidelines for mandatory notifications* are currently out for consultation. AHPRA is also currently consulting on the draft proposed *Supervised practice framework* and the revised *Guidelines for advertising a regulated health service*.

The NMBA are preparing a regulatory impact statement for the Office of Best Practice Regulation in relation to the proposed *Registration standard for designated registered nurse prescribing*. A Fact sheet has been developed for those that hold dual registration as a registered nurse and paramedic. The new model of outcomes based assessment for Internationally Qualified Nurses and Midwives (IQNMs) will be commencing in January next year. Pilots for the behavioural component, the OSCE, are being conducted this week. The NMBA will be providing further communication about the new model over coming months.

Please visit the NMBA website for further information: [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au)

## 9. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council update

An update was provided by Margaret Gatling, Director Accreditation Services.

There are over 100 education providers offering just over 200 programs in Australia that are accredited by ANMAC and approved by the NMBA. They are currently finalising the review of the ANMAC *Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards*. Have moved to a five standard format instead of nine to reduce duplication and for consistency with other accreditation councils. An evidence guide has been developed to provide assistance to education providers on the minimum evidence required when seeking accreditation. The second round of stakeholder consultation for the review of ANMAC *Midwife Accreditation Standards* will commence mid-October. ANMAC encouraged CoNNMO organisations to promote the on-line survey and the opportunity to complete a written submission to their members. The ANMAC *Re-entry to practice for enrolled nurse standards* have been updated and are awaiting approval by the NMBA. The ANMAC Assessor Training Program, consisting of on-line modules, is in development. There is a shortage of clinicians applying to undertake the assessor role. CoNNMO members were encouraged to apply for these volunteer positions if they're interested. ANMAC is moving to an on-line portal for accreditation document submission. They also now have Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Please visit the ANMAC website for further information: [www.anmac.org.au](http://www.anmac.org.au)

## 10. Nursing Now Campaign

Annie Butler, Federal Secretary of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) gave an update on the Aged Care Royal Commission and the Nursing Now Campaign. In September 2018, the Prime Minister announced a Royal Commission into aged care quality and safety. ANMF have been campaigning on aged care for many years. Commissioners were appointed in December 2018. The Commission commenced formally in January this year with hearings beginning in February. Annie gave evidence in the first week of hearings in Adelaide. The ANMF's key issue is mandated staffing levels and skills mix for aged care. The Commission has conducted a series of hearings/chapters with each one focussing on a specific topic – aged care in the home, community care, dementia in residential care, Indigenous people and access to care, person-centred care, advance care planning and palliative care services, younger people in residential aged care, and diversity in aged care. Aged care workforce hearings are coming up in October. The Commission are also holding public community forums around the country. The Royal Commission has been extended for a further six months due to the complexity so the interim report is now not due until next year. The ANMF and the Australian Medical Association have a joint statement/agreement calling for legislated staff ratios in aged care.

Nursing Now is a global health campaign run in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Council of Nurses (ICN). The campaign's aim is to improve the status and profile of nursing worldwide, thereby improving the status of women and health outcomes for all. This three-year campaign is due to conclude in May 2020, with May 12th being the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. The campaign focuses on five core areas: ensuring nurses have a more prominent voice in health policy-making; encouraging greater investment in the nursing workforce; recruiting more nurses into leadership positions; conducting research that helps determine where nurses can have greatest impact; and sharing of best nursing practice. The Nursing Now campaign is based on the findings of the Triple Impact Report which identifies three major benefits of investing in nursing and empowering nurses: improved health globally; increased gender equality (as most nurses are women); and stronger economies. One of the problems in Australia is that there is no political commitment and investment in nursing currently. CoNNMO's first objective as per the strategic plan is to 'promote recognition of nursing and midwifery as essential to the health and wellbeing of the Australian Community'. CoNNMO provides a perfect forum to conduct some Nursing Now activities. Next year is the International year of the nurse and midwife. Annie proposed to CoNNMO members that their next meeting be held at Parliament House in Canberra, May 2020, with invitations to politicians to attend. This will create an opportunity to influence

policy and address the aims of the Nursing Now campaign. This proposal was supported by CoNNMO member organisation representatives present. CoNNMO Council agreed to discuss the details and commence planning.

Please visit the Nursing Now website for further information: <https://www.nursingnow.org/>

*Action: CoNNMO members present agreed in principal to hold the May Member Meeting in Canberra.*

#### **11. Nursing Informatics and digitalisation in health**

Dr Jen Bichel-Findlay from the University of Technology, Sydney and Chair of Nursing Informatics Australia presented on nursing informatics and the roles of Nursing Informatics Australia (NIA) and Health Informatics Society of Australia (HISA). The Nursing Informatics International Congress, NI2020, will be held in Brisbane 27-29 July 2020.

Jen Bichel-Findlay's presentation is available on the CoNNMO website.

#### **12. Medicare Review**

Associate Professor Tom Buckley from the University of Sydney and Chair of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce provided an overview of the Medicare review process and the recommendations of the Medicare Review Nurse Practitioner Reference Group (NPRG). The Taskforce focused on affordable universal access, best practice health services, value for the individual patient and value for the health system. The Taskforce also reviewed over 7,000 MBS items. When established in 2018, the NPRG was given three months to review the in-scope items and to make long term recommendations. The NPRG recommendations were grouped into four overarching themes: support for comprehensive and coordinated care for people with long term health conditions (in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples); enabling NP care for all Australians; addressing system inefficiencies caused by the current MBS arrangements; and improving patient access to telehealth services. Following the public consultation, the NPRG reconvened in 2019 to discuss the feedback. As Chair of the NPRG, Tom presented to the Taskforce in July 2019. There was a lot of discussion about NP scope of practice which was not under review. NPRG recommendations highlighted to the Taskforce: that patients will benefit; the focus is on long term primary health care management and the location and duration of care; NPs will have access to MBS item numbers that already exist; there will be reduced duplication and fragmentation of care that will be cost neutral; there is enough evidence that collaborative arrangements are anything but collaborative; NP telehealth services are restrictive and don't include the GP; and there will be accurate representation of the NP scope of practice in the MBS. The recommendations are focused heavily on the consumer. The Taskforce is in the process of consolidating all the Primary Care Reference Groups reports and recommendations before making final recommendations to the Federal Health Minister.

#### **13. Review of National Prescribing Competencies Framework**

Steve Morris, CEO of NPS MedicineWise, gave an overview of their work which included their education programs, the resources available to nurses, and the review of the National Prescribing Competencies Framework. NPS MedicineWise is a not-for-profit organisation that has been operating for 20 years, largely funded by the Commonwealth. Their aim is to enhance and improve quality use of medicines by supporting health care professionals and consumers directly. Nurses are the largest user group of their education programs. Resources include webinars and online courses. The medicines line answers up to 12,000 calls a year. The NPS National Prescribing Competencies Framework was first published in 2012 to provide for consistent, safe and effective prescribing. This framework consists of seven standards and describes the required knowledge, skills and behaviours for prescribing. Five standards focus on prescribing function and two on professional practice and communication. Further consultation on the review of the National Prescribing Competencies Framework will occur in the New Year.

Steve Morris's presentation is available on the CoNNMO website.

Please visit the NPS MedicineWise website for further information: <https://www.nps.org.au/>

#### **14. Australian Digital Health Agency update**

Angela Ryan, Chief Clinical Information Officer presented on promoting awareness and understanding of the National Digital Health Workforce and Education Roadmap and associated goals. Angela provided an overview of the Roadmap findings to date and an overview of the National Digital Health Nursing and Midwifery Capability Framework. There will be opportunities for CoNNMO member organisation's to participate in consultations on both the Roadmap and the Capability Framework over coming months as these documents develop.

Angela Ryan's presentation is available on the CoNNMO website.

Please visit the ADHA website for further information: [www.digitalhealth.gov.au](http://www.digitalhealth.gov.au)

#### 15. Council report

The CoNNMO Chair and Secretariat Report was provided by Julianne Bryce from the Secretariat.

A new member application was received from the Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine (ANZSOM). As per the Terms of Reference, ANZSOM's application was considered by CoNNMO Council and a recommendation for acceptance was made to the CoNNMO membership. CoNNMO members confirmed and carried the recommendation. CoNNMO Chair, Marian Linnane welcomed the Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine, who were in attendance at the meeting as observers, to the membership of CoNNMO.

The Chair and Secretariat report is available on the CoNNMO website.

#### 16. Member reports

Written reports were provided by the following CoNNMO member organisation's (see attached):

Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia Inc.  
Australasian Hepatology Association  
Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association  
Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association Inc  
Australia and New Zealand Urological Nurses Society  
Australian Association of Nurse Surgical Assistants  
Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses  
Australian College of Children and Young People's Nurses  
Australian College of Critical Care Nurses  
Australian College of Neonatal Nurses  
Australian College of Nurse Practitioners  
Australian College of Nursing  
Australian College of Perioperative Nurses  
Australian Dermatology Nurses Association  
Australian Nurse Teacher Society  
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation  
Australian Women's Health Nurse Association  
Cancer Nurses Society of Australia  
College of Emergency Nursing Australia  
Continence Nurses Society of Australia  
CRANaplus  
Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia  
Flight Nurses Australia  
Gastroenterological Nurses College of Australia  
Maternal Child and Family Health Nurses Australia  
National Enrolled Nurse Association  
Nursing Informatics Australia  
Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Nurses Group  
Psychogeriatric Nurses Association of Australia  
Renal Society of Australasia

The reports are available on the CoNNMO website.

**17. Next meeting**

The next CoNNMO member meeting will be held on in May 2020 at Parliament House, Canberra (tbc).

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