



CoNNMO

Coalition of National **Nursing & Midwifery** Organisations

Chair and Secretariat Report

May 2024

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CoNNMO Council Members

Joanne Perks (Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association), CoNNMO Chair
Sam Moses (Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association), CoNNMO Deputy Chair
Julianne Bryce (Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation), CoNNMO Secretariat
Meredith Cummins (Cancer Nurses Society of Australia)
Sally Sara (Australian and New Zealand Urological Nurses Society)
Julia Morphet (College of Emergency Nursing Australasia)
Alison Weatherstone (Australian College of Midwives)
Anita Taylor (Australian and New Zealand Orthopaedic Nurses Association)
Jen Bichel-Findlay (Nursing and Midwifery Digital Health Network)

The CoNNMO Council meets by videoconference four times a year, and as required. Council have met twice since the last member meeting.

Council elections

In February 2024, the Australian College of Perioperative Nurses informed the CoNNMO Secretariat that their new President would be their CoNNMO representative. This completed Rebecca East's term on Council. The Secretariat and Council thanked Bec on behalf of CoNNMO members for her engagement, commitment, and dedication to CoNNMO both as a member representative and a member of Council. It has been a pleasure to work with Bec. At this time, Meredith Cummin's also completed her term on Council but was eligible to re-nominate. As CoNNMO Council had two vacancies, the Secretariat sought nominations from eligible member representatives in February 2024. Three nominations were received and subsequently an election was held. Meredith Cummins from the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia was re-elected, and Jen Bichel-Findlay from the Nursing and Midwifery Digital Network was elected. Many thanks to all three nominees for their nominations. The ballot was incredibly close. Congratulations to Meredith and Jen on their appointments to Council. Nominations for two Council positions will be sought by the Secretariat in November 2024. The Council members currently holding these positions will both be eligible to re-nominate. CoNNMO member representatives that have attended a minimum of two member meetings, as a representative or observer, are also encouraged to nominate.

CoNNMO Council Meetings

CoNNMO Council meetings were held by zoom on Wednesday 20 December 2023 and Monday 4 March 2024 to review the previous and plan for the next CoNNMO member meeting. At the meetings, Council welcomed new Council members, finalised the Terms of Reference, Strategic plan and National priorities documents for the website and discussed Council positions, CoNNMO funding, the new member application and the agenda for the upcoming member meeting. CoNNMO member body reports from the last meeting were reviewed. Invited guests and potential speakers for the member meeting were discussed and agreed. The next CoNNMO Council meeting is scheduled to be held online in June 2024.

Progress Report 3 was submitted to the Department of Health and Aged Care at the end of November 2023. The CoNNMO Secretariat also held two National Nursing Workforce Strategy consultations in November 2023, hosted by Karen Cook from the Department of Health and Aged Care and two focus groups in November 2023 and April 2024 for the review of the NMBA Guidelines for privately practising nurses, hosted by Sarah Fagan, NMBA Senior Policy & Project Officer.

New Member Application

The CoNNMO Secretariat received a new member application from the Nurses Collective on 9 October 2023. CoNNMO Council considered this application at their meetings on 20 December 2023 and 4 March 2024. Following the December meeting, the Secretariat was asked to clarify their governance and membership structure. As the Nurses Collective is a free online hub/platform rather than a national nursing or midwifery organisation, the Council has recommended not to accept the Nurses Collective's application for CoNNMO membership.

Action Items from October 2020

There are no outstanding items from the October 2023 CoNNMO Member Meeting.

Communications

The CoNNMO website is maintained by the Secretariat. Many enquiries for information are received via the contact page and responses provided by the Secretariat. The CoNNMO Secretariat has continued to circulate a range of emails broadly relevant to CoNNMO member organisations. These emails relate to: events, media releases, meetings, newsletters, projects, submissions, consultations, research, surveys and information. Some require CoNNMO member involvement, some are for the purpose of information only, and others require further circulation to our member organisations' respective memberships. The CoNNMO website provides information about the on-going work of CoNNMO and our respective CoNNMO member organisations. Please remember to review your organisations details on the CoNNMO website at www.connmo.org.au to ensure it remains up to date and contact the CoNNMO Secretariat with any changes.

Funding

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) Federal Office is responsible for the CoNNMO Secretariat. The CoNNMO Secretariat team is based in the ANMF Federal Office located in Melbourne. Since 2007, the ANMF Federal Office has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Health to undertake the Secretariat operations of CoNNMO. In October 2022, the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care funded the ANMF Federal Office to conduct the operations of CoNNMO for a further three years, until 30 June 2025. A three-year contract for the operations of CoNNMO was signed on 26 October 2022. Sitting fees for attendance at CoNNMO member meetings are now available to eligible members as part of the new funding agreement. The sitting fee application form is available on the CoNNMO website.

Secretariat Team Overview

The Secretariat team consists of: Julianne Bryce, ANMF Senior Federal Professional Officer; Sotiria Stefanis, ANMF Federal Finance Officer; and Anastasia Shianis, Administrative Officer for the ANMF Federal Professional Team. Anastasia Shianis organises the CoNNMO member and Council meetings, attends to agendas and minutes, maintains CoNNMO files, coordinates email traffic, provides information technology support, formats reports, submissions and surveys, maintains the CoNNMO website, and accommodates the requests of CoNNMO members and Council. Julianne Bryce coordinates member and Council meetings, responds to enquiries, drafts documents, manages the funding agreement and prepares reports to the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. In addition to the CoNNMO Secretariat role, Julianne Bryce, in her position as ANMF Senior Federal Professional Officer, is a permanent member of the CoNNMO Council. Sotiria Stefanis maintains accounts, financial records and prepares balance sheets and invoices for the Department and the external auditors.

Upcoming CoNNMO Meetings

The next CoNNMO member meeting will be held online on Friday 4 October 2024.