

(Acting) Chair's Report
prepared for the
Infection Prevention and Control Nurses College (IPCNC), NZNO
Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2022

Since our last AGM, the world has changed. IPC has become more visible in health and within the general population.

I was asked to take over the acting Chair role from Carolyn, and I would like to acknowledge Carolyn's drive and energy while she was Chair of this college. Some of the activities Carolyn drove included

- Development of the Fundamentals programme
- Planning for the new IPCNC website
- IPC practitioner's voice at the COVID-19 TAG group and
- A series of meetings with the Chief Nurse at the Ministry of Health, to highlight the concerns many IPC college members had around the inconsistency of roles IPC nurses undertook, within the Strategic and operational response to COVID-19.

There were also a million other small, and not so small actions that kept the IPC College involved at a national level.

Since 2020, we have provided a member voice in the draft Ministry of Health Strategic IPC plan. One of the drivers for the strategic plan were the themes that arose from meetings with the Chief Nurse. I am keen to see the final version released, as this will provide a national and local framework.

The college received funding from ACC to continue the Fundamentals of IPC programme. By the end of this year (2022), there will be 37 new practitioners who completed the course. We already have a wait list of new practitioners ready to start in 2023. The Fundamentals programme is seen as an important way to support those new to IPC, and the college is actively pursuing funding in the form of sponsorship, to continue to run this programme. Thanks need to go to Ruth Barrett and Jo Baigent who have been the coordinators for the programme. Thank you also to the experienced college members who put their hands up to be mentors to the cohorts.

The new website is nearly complete to the first stopping point. There have been delays to its development with competing priorities for those involved. The website now has a functional forum, membership pages, and document library. Thank you to Jane Medima for being the key contact for this work.

Looking forward, we have been passed the challenge by NZNO to embed the five Marangi Mai principals into the college's work. Other plans include

- looking into how we can support members who work outside Te Whatu Ora hospitals - where they may be sole practitioners

- to review job descriptions of committee members to keep them relevant and achievable, and
- to get the most out of our new website.

This AGM, we farewell Carolyn Clissold and Jo Stodart from the committee. I want to personally thank them for their direction and support, and thanks also to my other committee members for their passion and dedication.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge Dr Wendy Blair, our NZNO Advisor for the college who, while supporting us during the pandemic, completed her PHD, extended her family with son-in-law and grandchild, and managed to keep smiling while doing it.