

CoNNO Meeting – Monday 20 October 2008

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Welcome

Members were welcomed to the meeting by Kim Ryan, Chair of the Coalition of National Nursing Organisations (CoNNO) Council.

2. Attendance

PRESENT

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| Linda Worrall-Carter | Australasian Cardiovascular Nursing College |
| Deborah D'Arcy | Australasian Hepatology Association |
| Jo Perks | Australasian Sexual Health HIV Nurses Association Inc |
| Sue Monaro | Australia and New Zealand Society for Vascular Nurses |
| Elizabeth Ruschena | Australian Association of Maternal Child & Family Health Nurses |
| Cecelia Randles | Australian Association of Maternal Child & Family Health Nurses |
| Lesley Everingham | Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses |
| Wendy Sansom | Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses |
| Amanda Rischbieth | Australian College of Critical Care Nurses |
| Kim Ryan | Australian College of Mental Health Nurses |
| Shelley Reid | Australian College of Neonatal Nurses |
| Vicky Jackson | Australian College of Operating Room Nurses |
| Sue Scott | Australian Confederation of Paediatric & Child Health Nurses |
| Tracy Aylen | Australian Diabetes Educators Association |
| Fiona Armstrong | Australian Nursing Federation (CoNNO Secretariat) |
| Julianne Bryce | Australian Nursing Federation |
| Anne Sargent | Australian Nurses for Continence |
| Grace Smith | Australian Nurses for Continence |
| Jacqui Guy | Australian Nurse Teachers Society |
| Belinda Caldwell | Australian Practice Nurses Association |
| Marg McLeod | Australian Rural Nurses and Midwives |
| Mignon Aistrope | Australian Women's Health Nurses Association |
| Jan Rice | Australian Wound Management Association |
| Gabrielle Prest | Cancer Nurses Society of Australia |
| Toni McCallum Pardey | College of Emergency Nursing Australasia |
| Robyn Coulthard | Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses |
| Bev O'Connell | Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery |
| Lyn Hinspeter | Council Remote Area Nurses Australia |
| Margaret Tabone | Flight Nurses Australia |
| Lynn Rapley | Gastroenterological Nurses College of Australia |
| Shannon Tassell | Geriaction |
| Robyn Cook | Nursing Informatics Australia |
| Cathie Pigott | Palliative Care Nurses Australia |
| Stephanie Fox-Young | Royal College of Nursing Australia |
| Elizabeth Foley | Royal College of Nursing Australia |
| Mark Smith | Royal District Nursing Service |
| Tracey Osmond | The College of Nursing |

OBSERVERS

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Yvonne Chaperon | ANF Victorian Branch |
| Mark Staaf | ANF Victorian Branch |

GUESTS

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| Belinda Moyes | Australian & New Zealand Council of Chief Nurses |
| Eithne Irving | Department of Health and Ageing |

2.1 Apologies

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| Cynthia Smyth | Australian Infection Control Association |
| Lynda Hardy | Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses |
| Andrew Cashin | Australia and New Zealand Urological Nurses Society |
| Christine Ashley | Australian Nurse Practitioners Association |
| Garry Fehring | Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council |
| Desley Hegney | Australian Rehabilitation Nurses Association |
| Rosemary Bryant | Australian Rural Nurses and Midwives |
| Roslyn Lockhart | Chief Nursing & Midwifery Office |
| Yvonne Aggett | Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses |
| Wafa El-Adhami | Department of Health and Ageing |
| Amanda McKnight | Department of Health and Ageing |
| Maryanne Craker | Gastroenterological Nurses College of Australia |
| Christine Bennett | National Enrolled Nurses Association |
| Sandra Campbell | National Health & Hospitals Reform Commission |
| | Renal Society of Australia |

3. Confirmation of Agenda

4. Minutes of the previous meeting – 2 May 2008

Change sought re reference to community nurses; and request to spell out all membership names; otherwise the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 May 2008 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, with changes amended and approved.

5. Business arising from the previous meeting

List of action items from the previous meeting have been addressed.

6. Report by Nick Blake

Australian Nursing Federation Industrial Officer, Nick Blake reported on the award modernisation campaign. New industrial laws and review of all existing federal awards and some state. Part of fundamental review being undertaken by the federal government. Government agenda to simplify system of 3 categories, core group of minority awards, health sector awards and balance of awards. The Australian Industrial Relations Commission has invited parties to put forth submissions due by 31 October. This will be finalised in June 2009 and take effect January 2010.

Importance and urgency of the issue for nurses. Request to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission to make new awards along industry lines. Occupational awards most suited to nurses. If nurses have industry awards, it will damage the profession, fragment the profession and undermine the profession. Industry awards will see nurses remunerated according to each sector and will vary widely. May create circumstances where some sectors will become less attractive for nurses.

Prior experience shows where there is pressure on workforce industry awards, may result on the industry area moving to a non-nursing workforce. The Australian Nursing Federation considers there should be a safety net award to ensure a minimum set of wages and conditions.

The Australian Nursing Federation wrote to CoNNO members a month ago, providing information and inviting them to write a letter to the commission in support of the Australian Nursing Federation position.

ACTION: Nick to resend to email to members asking their support for the ANF campaign.

7. Report by Belinda Moyes

Report by Chair of the Australia & New Zealand Council of Chief Nurses, Belinda Moyes. There is a chief nurse in every state & territory including New Zealand. Rosemary Bryant the new Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer, Fiona Stokes is the secretary, 2 year term.

Currently the Council has working groups with the Council of Deans of Nursing & Midwifery, research and workforce. Research group meeting with Peter Brooks on his work. Workforce group looking at skill mix, ENs and enhancing capacity, training and safety & quality.

Work going on with the advanced diploma. Struggling to meet Commonwealth targets for nursing numbers to be brought back to the profession. Not many want to come back to the workforce and have to have a practicing certificate, can't be out of profession for long time. Staffing and workload, NHPPD in some jurisdiction need more depth and clarity, doesn't reflect complexity or allow determining staffing & costs. Organising a roundtable on workforce, issue based discussion to identify where work should be directed.

Council has written to the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council & the Council of Deans of Nursing & Midwifery regarding concerns with IELTS. Availability & accessibility to testing system and incongruence between expectations of the tests & nursing perception. Discussing the appropriateness of tests and if we need new tests.

Met with Peter Carver, National Health Workforce Principal Committee to discuss issues on prescribing, access to MBS & PBS, role of advanced practice. Discussion re opportunities for Advanced Practice Nurses as opposed to Nurse Practitioners.

Chief nurse positions to be filled in ACT & WA. Have endorsed the EdCAN Cancer Nursing framework. National health workforce taskforce looking at clinical placements, funding for membership capacity building, mapping of clinical places being undertaken in a number of jurisdictions, discussion on the establishment of a national clinical agency to relieve burden on NUMS and education capacity in health services needs to be developed.

8. Address by HESTA

HESTA Nursing Awards (the "Oscars" for nurses) on Thursday 14 May 2009 to be held at the Crown Casino in Melbourne. Hosted by Kym Watkins, band is Bjorn Again, 3 course dinner.

Nominations will open mid November and close 29 February 2009. Over 700 nominations for previous awards. 3 categories include Nurse of the Year, Innovative Nurse of the Year and Graduate Nurse of the Year.

www.hestanursingawards.com.au or www.hesta.com.au

9. Member Reports

Australian Confederation of Paediatric Child Health Nurses – name change to Australian College of Children and Young Peoples Nurses. 450 members throughout Australia. Only one state has elected not to move to the new organisation. Next biannual conference in Hobart 2010 (see written report).

Geriaction – virtual office is run out of Brisbane, secretariat no longer running out of NSW. Looking at national incorporation including state bodies (see written report).

Australian Practice Nurses Association – 1500 members. Planning national conference in 2009. 520 CPE scholarships and 20 PC scholarships. Involved in development of National Primary Health Care Strategy.

Australian Wound Management Association – meet 4 times a year. National conference in Darwin in March 2009. 2600 members. Members in each state and territory. Currently lobbying government for wound products to go on PBS for health care holders, campaign called 'Elephant in the Room'.

Royal College of Nursing Australia – Rosemary Bryant appointed to Chief Nursing Midwifery Officer. Held annual conference in Perth, feedback excellent, showcasing Australian speakers. Signed MOU with the College of Nursing. Joining with other groups in opposing Bachelor of Nursing in TAFE. New Chief Executive Officer is Debra Cerasa and she will be starting in December.

Australian Rural Nurses & Midwives – Currently 1800 members. Proposal for ARNM to become a faculty of the Royal College of Nursing Australia as the Department of Health and Ageing has indicated it will no longer provide previous levels of funding. 83% of members voted in support of the faculty model, to be confirmed at the AGM next month, with the proposed merger to commence 2nd February 2009. The Annual Conference is to be held in Adelaide in November. ARNM no longer able to be a member of CoNNO as a separate entity, but Kim Ryan suggested the RCNA rural faculty could become an observer.

Congress of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Nurses – 100 members, audited by Department of Health and Ageing, increase in funding this year, conference held in Adelaide in September, revised constitution. Offering assistance to education providers with development of indigenous health, history, culture and nursing curriculum content. Bringing Nurses Back into the Workforce for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander being undertaken by Congress of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Nurses. Need for improved collection of data on aboriginal health workforce numbers.

Council of Deans of Nursing & Midwifery – looking at rankings for specialty journals, attended Bachelor of Nursing in TAFE forum, increase in undergraduate nurses, no clinical placement available. (see written report)

Australasian Cardiovascular Nursing College – working with Heart Foundation, have endorsed healthy heart workbook (see written report).

GENCA – funds being spent on education tools, source of dissension within membership. Upgrading infrastructure. Moved to company limited by guarantee. Running successful workshops on infection control issues. Membership is down. 30 year anniversary this year. Post Graduate course at University of Technology Sydney, 15 people in course this year. Queensland University of Technology also run Post Graduate course for GENCA. In discussion with industry reps to develop education tools.

Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses – 100 point Continuing Professional Development, credentialing process. 100 members registered to undertake Continuing Professional Development. Credentialing period to increase from 3 to 5 years. Next national conference in Perth March 2009.

Royal District Nursing Service – change to report in previous CoNNO May 2008 minutes.

Palliative Care Nurses Australia – conference in Adelaide, 350 delegates. New committee following conference (see written report).

Nursing Informatics Australia – participated in national e-health strategy with Deloittes. Successful conference in Melbourne. International study of nurses IT in acute care, 1000 responses. Involved in Australian Nursing Federation / Queensland University of Technology project on IT competencies.

Australasian Hepatology Association – developing competency standards. Launch of website, over 600 hits in a month. Development of national qualifications a priority. Changed logo. Finalising strategic plan. Need for mentoring program. Consultancy for Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council.

Australian Nurse Teacher Society – Now have 250 members. Interested in working with other CoNNO members to link services. Sub branches being established to run educational seminars. National nurse education conference in September in Sydney. Reviewing nurse teacher competencies, as they are 10 years old. Reviewing constitution. Looking for resources/information about publishing & marketing competencies. Working on the website for more discussion based chat rooms to engage members, www.ants.org.au. Looking at the possibility of developing an electronic nursing education journal.

Australian Nurses for Continence – working on website. Wrote page in the national ANZ Continence Journal. Developed 1st position statement on reuse of catheters and catheter bags with background information, available on website. Working on the Constitution. Committee members have undergone governance training. Specialisation status for continence nurses – seeking any advice and support from members. Process to follow to attain status? Successful strategies? Australian College of Critical Care Nurses suggested developing Continuing Professional Development program to identify /outline unique body of knowledge. Australian Institute of Health & Welfare identified specialties are more to do with available education.

Australian Diabetes Educators Association – Membership has grown by 11%. Additional staff in Canberra. Introduction of professional indemnity insurance. 609 credentialed diabetes educators. Medicare consultation rates have increased, now 2500 consultations being funded per month. Piloting diabetes self managed education. Commissioning systematic reviews. Conference in September 2009 (see written report).

Australian College of Operating Room Nurses – new board and executive commence in November. Held conference in May on the Gold Coast. Developing national database for membership. Resource packages available to members at low cost. 2009 conference in Perth.

Australia & New Zealand Society for Vascular Nursing – new member. National annual conference with surgeons held in Adelaide, 120 nurse delegates. Crossover between other specialty areas. Working on website, Constitution, and increasing membership.

Cancer Nursing Society of Australia – Ed Can project endorsed by Australian & New Zealand Council of Chief Nurses, still developing PG packages, funded by Cancer Australia. Public statement that cancer nurses are best placed to coordinate care for patients with cancer. Active at an international level, the international society has 3 Australian nurse representatives, president is Sancha Aranda.

Council of Remote Area Nurses Australia – conference & AGM was held in September in Palm Cove. Rewritten constitution, 50% membership voted with overwhelming support for changed constitution. Internal restructuring following an external review. Membership extended to other allied health workers. First indigenous health worker on board of management. Expanding first line emergency care courses, looking at different modes of delivery, supply outstrips demand. Revising website. 2009 conference in September in Alice Springs. Retaining name CRANA (Council of Remote Area Nurses Australia) despite membership change.

College of Emergency Nurses Australia – revised competency standards. Conference & AGM. 2009 conference in Brisbane in October. Relaunching website, to go live in November. Finalised new strategic plan. Working on governance issues. Drafting fellowship criteria for membership. Revised constitution.

Australian Association of Maternal Child Family Health Nurses – 2009 conference in April in Adelaide. National framework for child services. Involved with Beyond Blue perinatal mental health resource. Looking for assistance / information about public liability & professional indemnity. Suggestion of contacting local law society for advice. The College of Emergency Nursing Australia have insurance for individual board members but not professional indemnity. Expansion of some nursing groups at the detriment of other nursing groups.

Australasian Sexual Health Nurses Association – name change to Australasian Sexual Health HIV Nurses Association and merger. Now have 200 members. Website updated to reflect merger. Scholarship won by a WA nurse, nurse led clinic for women’s sexual health. Inaugural nurses prize presented at the national conference. 2 new nurse practitioners authorised. We now have 5 sexual health nurse practitioners, only one is in a position that is recognised as a sexual health nurse practitioner.

Australian Women’s Health Nurses Association – website update, newsletter. Governance training for executive. Distributed financial audit to members. Planning day in 2009 to look at strategic direction. Women’s health post graduate education with Queensland University of Technology. Reviewing national competencies. Evaluation of continuing professional development, 40 hours of continuing professional development is the target. Redeveloped newsletter and now have editorial support. 80% of women’s health nurses are in rural & remote areas. Considering credentialing. Workforce development survey, position paper re specialist status.

Australian College of Neonatal Nurses – website update. National conference in Darwin on 19 April 2009 (see written report).

Australian College of Critical Care Nurses – operating for 30 years, company limited by guarantee, 2000 members. Launched new website, no success with chat room, considering email. Scientific conference had 1500 delegates; national clinical meeting had 500 delegates. Partnering with the College of Emergency Nursing Australia on education program. Involved in committee on organ & tissue donation. Complex issues regarding financial reporting.

College of Nursing – annual report available on website, AGM, annual oration 27th November.

Flight Nurses Australia – International Society of Aeromedical Services (ISAS) and Flight Nurses Australia (FNA) 2008 joint conference in Adelaide. Scholarship funding available for a flight nurse to attend a forum (\$5000) in memory of Kay Milnith. 3rd draft of competencies. Final draft of governance framework.

Australian College of Mental Health Nurses – new constitution. AGM & conference. New board. Mental health nurse of the year. Sponsored a nurse from developing region to attend conference. Working with World Health Organisation to promote mental health nursing internationally. Conducting standard review to look at scope of practice. Medicare item number has increased credentialing program to 280. Chat room didn’t work, members preferred email network.

Australian Nursing Federation – (see written report).

ACTION: Change to previous minutes as per RDNS request

ACTION: Chair to email members re the ACMHN survey.

ACTION: AAMCFHN to send questions to CoNNO for circulation to members.

ACTION: Reporting template should include “what can your organisation assist CoNNO with”.

ACTION: Proposal to invite someone to talk on data collection eg. AIHW or NHWT.

ACTION: Change ASHHNA website details.

10. CoNNO committee reports

Research Committee – Chair, Stephanie Fox-Young.
Report on the National Nursing Research Symposium held in August.
Discussion on CoNNO research agenda. 85% of research never published.
Nurses poor writing skills.

Ehealth Committee – Chair, Robyn Cook.

Policy Committee – Chair, Fiona Armstrong. Draft health policy on indigenous health.

ACTION: Committee to work on research agenda and progress recommendations from symposium and strategic plan.

ACTION: Council to write to NMRAs to suggest that funds available go to nursing research.

ACTION: Meet with Rosemary Bryant CNMO to discuss the recommendations from the CoNNO National Nursing Research Symposium.

ACTION: Write to Belinda Moyes ANZCCN re. national research strategy and cc CDNMM.

ACTION: Committee research to write to Loiuise Morauta re jurisdictional funds for research and cc CDNMM.

11. Council report

11.1 Governance framework – endorsement of changes

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| Clause 4.1.1 – | Moved: Tony McCallum Pardey | Seconded: Gabrielle Prest |
| Clause 4.4.2 – | removed. | |
| Clause 5.1 – | Moved: Belinda Caldwell | Seconded: Lynnette Hinspeter |
| Clause 5.3 – | Moved: Margaret Tabone | Seconded: Stephanie Fox-Young |
| Clause 5.7 – | Moved: Anne Sargent | Seconded: Marg Mcleod |
| Clause 7.4.5 – | Moved: Tracy Aylen | Seconded: Jacqui Guy |
| Clause 11 – | Moved: Deborah Darcy | Seconded: Stephanie Fox-Young |

ACTION: When reviewing framework in future – change of format to list old clause, new clause, then recommendation.

11.2 Travel policy – revised version tabled.

11.3 Membership form – revised

ACTION: include definition of organisation as an organisation is a membership organisation.

11.4 Media policy – new policy tabled.

11.5 Reporting template – new format tabled.

11.6 Budget and funding – report by Secretariat. Funding for another year was approved by DoHA. Symposium was cost neutral. Still have funds available for governance training.

ACTION: Council to discuss new format for financial reporting.

12. Primary Health Care

Report by Australian Nursing Federation Professional Officer, Julianne Bryce. Roundtable held June in Canberra. Literature review for nurses in primary care.

ACTION: Julianne Bryce to send primary health care discussion paper to CoNNO members

ACTION: Council to discuss.

13. Australian Nurses for Continence – specialty status

See member report.

14. Correspondence

14.1 National Health & Hospitals Reform Commission reply

ACTION: Invite NHHRC to May 2009 meeting.

14.2 National Prescribing Service (NPS) nomination

14.3 Fertility Nurses of Australasia – resignation from CoNNO

14.4 Australasian Sexual Health Nurses Association – name change to Australasian Sexual Health HIV Nurses Association

15. Application for membership from Royal Flying Doctor Service

Consideration of new membership application by the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Nursing specialty for this group is the Flight Nurses Australia. The RFDS is not a specialty group with members but are an employer.

Unanimous vote by CoNNO members at the meeting not to allow RFDS as a member.

ACTION: Chair to contact RFDS on their application.

ACTION: Suggest amendment to definition of membership to further define organisation.

ACTION: Council to look at observer status definition.

16. Other business

ANF encouraged all CoNNO members to contribute to current initiatives for reform e.g. NHHRC; Maternity Services Review; National Preventative Taskforce; National Primary Health care Strategy – to make submission where possible to highlight the unique role played by nurses and the value and capacity of nurses in contributing to better health outcomes.

16.1 Future meeting dates

16.2 Next meeting – Friday 8 May 2009, Sydney

ACTION: Council to decide on future meeting dates and change next meeting date around the HESTA Nursing Awards. Email members of decision.